

HOCKING HERITAGE + ARCHITECTURE

# East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery Conservation Management Plan December 2022

## Cover Image

*Portion of Cancelled Public Plan Cockburn Sound 21, 1842-53. State Records Office of WA, Cons 3869.*

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| Rev No | Author                      | Date           | Reviewer  | Date          |
|--------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|---------------|
| -      | Prue Griffin<br>Gemma Dewar | July 2022      | City of Rockingham<br>Metropolitan Cemeteries Board | August 2022   |
| A      | Prue Griffin<br>Gemma Dewar | September 2022 | City of Rockingham                                  |               |
|        |                             |                | City of Rockingham                                  | December 2022 |

HHA Job No. 2022-09



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This conservation management plan has been prepared to guide routine maintenance and planned development works for this place with reference to the cultural heritage significance of the place.

### Statement of Significance

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery first surveyed in 1866 for use by the small community at East Rockingham, is a cemetery consisting of traditional burials, lawned burials and niche walls. It has cultural heritage values for the following reasons;

It is a rare surviving example of a metropolitan cemetery established in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century which is still in use for its original purpose;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is associated with the development of the Rockingham district as an agricultural area and is all that survives of the small nucleus of public buildings which once defined the hub of the East Rockingham settlement. The Cemetery also displays the shift away from that small, nineteenth century settlement to the wider development of the district.

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery: has a wide variety of headstones which reflect the mason's art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is associated with many of the first settlers who moved to East Rockingham during the 1840s to establish their farms and with the second wave of settlers who consolidated the small community established by those earlier settlers;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is valued by the people of the Rockingham district as demonstrated by the efforts of the community over the years to ensure the retention and maintenance of the place;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery demonstrates changing burial practices through the presence of the traditional burial area, lawned area and the Columbarium niche walls;

The East Rockingham Cemetery; has land mark qualities as it is one of the largest man made features along this section of Mandurah Road; and,

the place has associations with the Spanish flu epidemic which swept around the world at the end of 1918 through the burial of eleven soldiers who died at Woodman Point from this illness.

The toilet block and gazebos on the site, have no significance.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This conservation management plan has been prepared for the City of Rockingham to provide guidance for the future management of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery. The cemetery is now managed by the City of Rockingham with some administrative and operational tasks relating to interment activities undertaken by the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board. This document will assist all stakeholders understand the heritage values of the cemetery.

Prior to 2007, the cemetery was known as the East Rockingham Cemetery and was subsequently renamed to the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery. This later name will be used throughout this document unless it is a direct quotation.

### 1.1. Location

The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is located on the east side Mandurah Road, south of the intersection with Office Road. It is designated as Reserve 20292 on Lot 503 on Deposited Plan 52694.

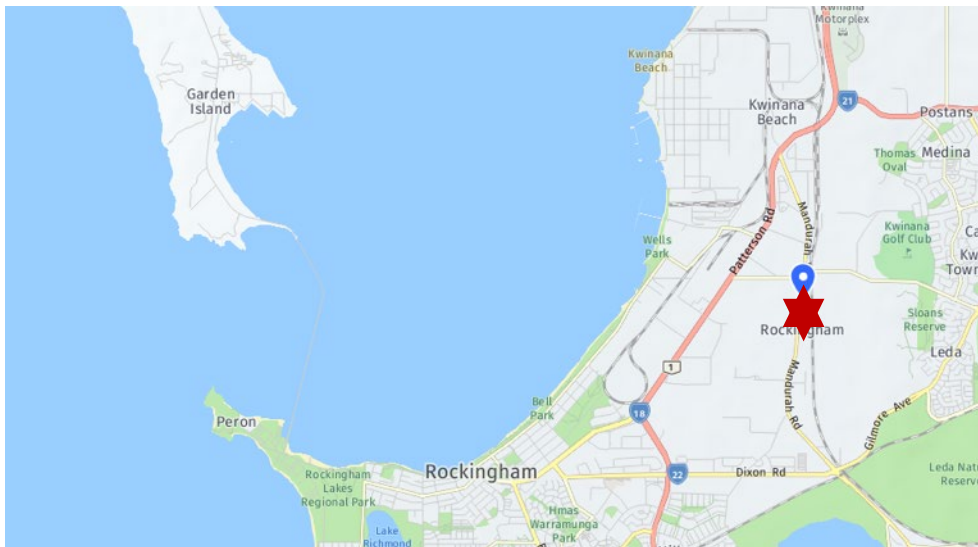


Figure 1 Regional location with reference to Rockingham townsite

COURTESY GOOGLEMAPS

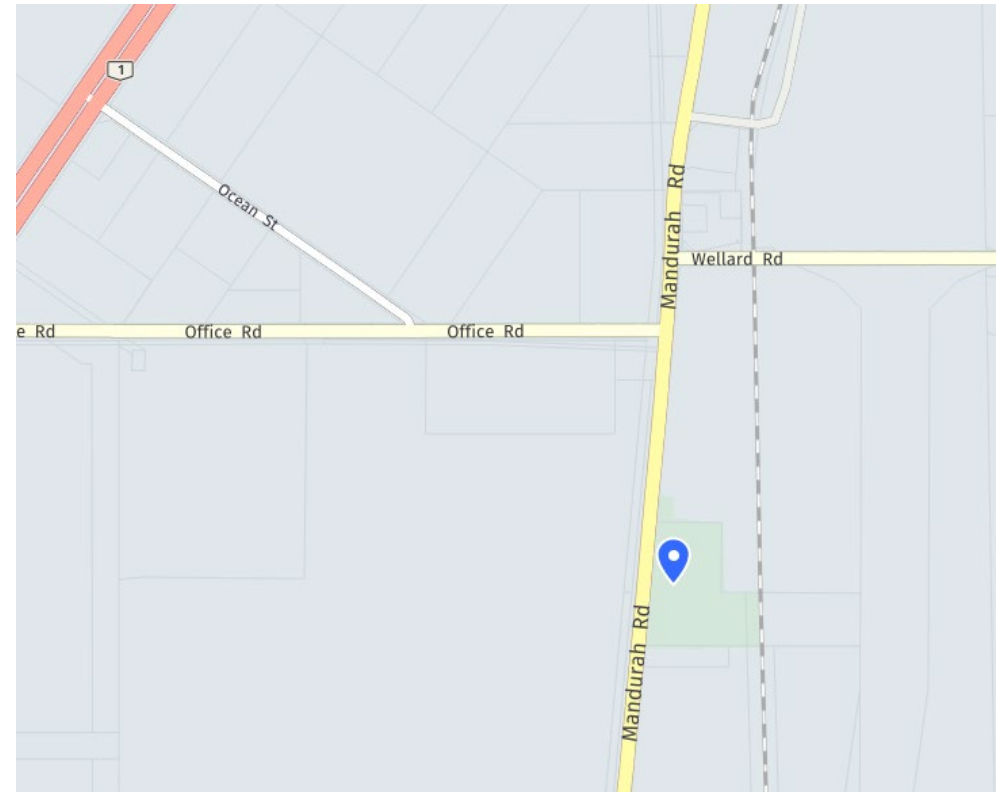


Figure 2 Plan showing the location of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery

COURTESY NEARMAP 2022



Figure 3 Aerial view with lot boundaries of Reserve 20292.  
COURTESY NEARMAP 2022

## 1.2. Heritage Listing

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery, designated as place number 3145 on the DPLH inherit database is subject to the following heritage listings:

| Heritage Listing  | Status               | Date          |
|---|----------------------|---------------|
| City of Rockingham<br>Local Heritage Survey                             | Category A           | 24 April 2018 |
| City of Rockingham<br>Heritage List                                     | Adopted              | 24 April 2018 |
| Register Heritage Places  | To be assessed       | 19 April 2013 |
| Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry<br>System. Place 3689<br>(Legacy ID SO2240) | Other Heritage Place |               |

## 1.3. Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations are acknowledged for the information and assistance they have provided in the preparation of this CMP:

- Gail Wells, City of Rockingham
- Mike Ross, City of Rockingham
- David Waller, City of Rockingham
- Michael Wilson, City of Rockingham
- Adam Johnston, City of Rockingham
- Andrea Duff, Metropolitan Cemeteries Board
- Wendy Durant, Rockingham District Historical Society
- Dr Fiona Bush, author of the 2004 Conservation Plan for the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery
- David Whiteford, State Records Office of Western Australia



## 1.4. Methodology

This Conservation Management Plan has been prepared to provide guidance for the future planning and maintenance of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and has been prepared utilising the guidelines for preparing conservation management plans published by the State Heritage Office of Western Australia.<sup>1</sup> Whilst this document is not a conservation management plan, the cultural heritage significance of the place must be taken into consideration when considering future works and the guidance adopted in that document has relevance to this report.

The report follows the approach recommended by Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites). It applies the principles set out in *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter); Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance; Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Conservation Policy; and Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Procedures for Undertaking Studies and Reports.*<sup>2</sup>

The report has also been prepared in accordance with principles of *The Conservation Plan*<sup>3</sup> and Criteria of Cultural Heritage Significance for Assessment of Places for Entry on to the State Register of Heritage Places.

The documentary research included the use of primary and secondary sources and includes a concise history of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery as well as the social and contextual history that relates to the use and development of the place. A complete bibliography of all sources is provided at 10.0.

Physical evidence has been prepared following site visits in July 2022.

The conservation and management policy has been formulated to assist with the retention and enhancement of the identified and documented

cultural heritage significance of the place as determined in this research, with reference to the current condition of the place.

## 1.5. Ownership

The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is owned by the Department of Planning Lands and Heritage and under a management order to the City of Rockingham.

## 1.6. Study Team

- Prue Griffin, BA Hist, Post Grad Dip Pub Hist, M App Cult Heritage Studies. M.ICOMOS.
- Gemma Dewar, BSc (Hons) Surveying, MSc Hist Cons, Post Grad Dip Historic Building Cons, Post Grad Dip Planning Law. M.ICOMOS
- Marlene Del Campo, Architectural Technician

<sup>1</sup> State Heritage Office, An Information Guide to Conservation Management Plans and Standard Brief, January 2013 <https://www.dplh.wa.gov.au/getmedia/4826138d-a744-4ef9-9b85-1d3c71fa2efc/HER-Guide-to-Conservation-Management-Plans>

<sup>2</sup> Peter Marquis-Kyle & Meredith Walker *The Illustrated Burra Charter: Making Good Decisions About the Care of Important Places*, Australia ICOMOS, Sydney 1994. The Burra Charter and Guidelines are available from [www.icomos.org/australia](http://www.icomos.org/australia)

<sup>3</sup> James Semple Kerr, *The Conservation Plan: A Guide to the Preparation of Conservation Plans for Places of European Cultural Significance*, National Trust NSW, Sydney, 1990, 5<sup>th</sup> Edition



## 1.7. Terminology

The terms used in this Conservation Management Plan are those employed in the ICOMOS Burra Charter.

**Adaptation** means modifying a place to suit the existing use, or a proposed use

**Association** means the special connections that exist between people and a place

**Burra Charter** The Australia ICOMOS charter for places of cultural significance

**Compatible Use** means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance

**Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place, so as to retain its cultural significance

**Cultural significance** means aesthetic, historic, scientific/research, social or spiritual values, for past, present and future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects

**Fabric** means all the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents and objects

**HERCON** means the Heritage Convention model criteria developed at the National Heritage Convention in Canberra, 1998.

**HCWA** the Heritage Council of Western Australia

**ICOMOS** International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites

**Interpretation** means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place

**Maintenance** means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place and should be distinguished from repair.

**Meanings** denotes a place significances, indicates, evokes or expresses

**Place** means the site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views

**Preservation** means maintaining the fabric of a place, in its existing state, and retarding deterioration

**Reconstruction** means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from **restoration** by the introduction of new materials into the fabric

**Repair** involves the restoration or reconstruction of a place

**RHP** Register of Heritage Places administered by HCWA

**Related Objects** means an object that contributes to the cultural significance of a place but is not actually at that place

**Related Place** means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place

**Restoration** means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions, or by reassembling existing components, without the introduction of new material

**Setting** means the area around a place which may include the visual catchments

**Use** means the function of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at such a place

## 2.0 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The following information has been compiled with the invaluable assistance of the City of Rockingham and the Rockingham District Historical Society. The Conservation Management Plan prepared by Dr Fiona Bush provides the basis for this revised document. Thanks are extended to the author of that document.

Additional information has been drawn from primary source material where possible and supplemented by secondary source material. No responsibility is taken for the accuracy of the secondary source material.

### 2.1. Chronological Summary

The events included here generally relate to the physical development of the place and direct events or works are in **Bold Font**. The contextual history has been included where there has been an impact on the physical form of the cemetery.

| Date              | Event  |
|-------------------|--|
| 60000BC – present | Binjareb-Nyoongar occupy Gnarlal Karla Booja, the land now named the City of Rockingham.   |
| 1829              | Establishment of the Swan River Colony and exploration of the region. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November, exploration of the Peel region by Dr Alexander Collie and Lieut William Preston.</li> <li>December, arrival of Thomas Peel and party of settlers</li> </ul> |
| 1830              | Thomas Peel granted 250,000 acres south of Woodman's Point   |
| 1842              | Marshall McDermott purchases Lots 18 and 19  |
| 1847              | Hillman surveys the Town of Rockingham<br>3 June, town lots are available for selection<br>Lot 50 set aside as a Cemetery (note: not the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery)   |
| 1848              | Surveyor Austin surveys country inland to determine the best tram route between the hills and the harbour at Rockingham. The plans for a port didn't eventuate at this time.   |
| 1854              | First settlers in East Rockingham  |

| Date    | Event  |
|---------|--|
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>William Mead gains title to 10 acres of land at East Rockingham. Property named 'Lealholm'.</li> <li>John and Mary Ann Thorpe take up 10 acres of land at East Rockingham.</li> <li>Edward Key Snr take up 10 acres of land at East Rockingham</li> <li>Edward Key Jnr also takes up 10 acres of land East Rockingham</li> <li>Thomas Smirk takes up land in East Rockingham</li> </ul> |
| 1855    | Hymus and Bell families arrive in East Rockingham.<br>James Herbert establishes a wayside inn on Mandurah Road at East Rockingham  |
| 1857    | James Herbert renames wayside inn 'The Rockingham Arms'  |
| 1858    | William and Susan Day settle in East Rockingham  |
| 1860s   | James and Annie Thomas settle in East Rockingham   |
| 1865    | Construction of a single room school at East Rockingham  |
| 1866    | Site for <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> surveyed.   |
| 1867    | October, Joseph Broughton buried in <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> .  |
| C1869   | Small jetty built at Rockingham.   |
| 1869    | Cemetery is blessed by Bishop Matthew Blagden Hale   |
| 1871    | T.D. Wanliss, James Service and Peter Lalor granted timber lease in Jarrahdale area.   |
| 1872    | May, timber mill constructed at Jarrahdale<br>Railway line (with timbre rails) built between Jarrahdale and Rockingham and jetty built at Rockingham by the timber company.  |
| 1874    | Timber company reformed as Rockingham Jarrah Timber Company.   |
| 1878    | Railway line upgraded with rails. No permanent settlement at Rockingham.   |
| 1882    | David Law upgrades jetty at Rockingham.  |
| 1887    | 14 names listed in W.A. Almanac for Rockingham.  |
| 1890s   | Worker's houses and basic facilities gradually constructed at Rockingham. School established (teacher moved between East Rockingham and Rockingham)  |
| 1893    | Government railway line opens between Perth and Bunbury.   |
| 1895/96 | William Day builds Rockingham Inn on Day Road  |
| 1897    | Inner harbour at Fremantle opened.   |

| Date  | Event  |
|-------|--|
|       | Rockingham Road District formed.<br>33 names listed at Rockingham in Wise's Post Office Directory.   |
| 1898  | Jetty at Rockingham extended for the third time.<br>Agricultural Hall built in Rockingham at Kent Street.<br>Danny and Fanny Hymus build additions onto Rockingham's Port Hotel. |
| 1900  | Thomas and Jane Hanretty built 'Stone House'.  |
| 1902  | Large ships unable to enter Rockingham port due to halt to dredging operations.  |
| 1903  | School and quarters built on beach front in Kent Street.   |
| 1905  | Roads Board Office built on corner of Office and Mandurah Roads.<br>Appointment of nine Trustees for <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b>                                     |
| 1907  | James Snr and Jane Bell celebrate their diamond anniversary at Rockingham.   |
| 1908  | Last year trading ships enter the port of Rockingham. Rockingham Beach starts to decline, school closes and remaining children attend East Rockingham.                           |
| 1909  | Rockingham Road board given control of <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> .   |
| 1914  | Outbreak of Works War I, many local men volunteer to serve in the Australian Imperial Forces.  |
| 1918  | Several soldiers die of Spanish flu on board the troop ship 'Boonah'.<br>The soldiers were buried in <b>the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> .                               |
| 1920s | Rockingham begins to attract summer tourists.  |
| 1920  | State government establishes Soldier Settlements on the norther portion of Peel's Estate Mandogalup and Baldivis.  |
| 1921  | Returned soldiers begin to take up land at Mandogalup. Group Settlers also offered land in the Soldier Settlement area.  |
| 1922  | Eight 'Groups' settled in Peel Estate Group Settlement area.<br>Hall built in early years of settlement of Mandogalup Road at Mandogalup.  |
| 1923  | End of this year 15 new 'Groups' in Peel Estate Group Settlement area.   |
| 1924  | Formation of two more 'Groups' in Peel Estate.<br>School at East Rockingham changes name from 'Rockingham' to 'East Rockingham' as the beach settlement becomes larger.          |

| Date  | Event   |
|-------|---|
| 1925  | Many of the Group Settlement farms abandoned due to the poor soil.  |
| 1929  | Survey done of <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> at least 25 graves identified.<br>Agreement between the Army and Rockingham Roads Board to maintain military graves.   |
| 1930s | New young couples begin to move into Rockingham.  |
| 1930  | As with the Mandogalup and Baldivis areas, many of the farms in the Peel Estate Group Settlement area abandoned due to poor soils.  |
| 1933  | Original Roads Board Office in East Rockingham leased by Education Department and Council rents premises in Rockingham.   |
| 1934  | New school building constructed next door to the Roads Board Office at East Rockingham.<br>Old school used as a community hall.   |
| 1935  | New school built in Rockingham in Bayview Street.   |
| 1936  | Formation of a CWA branch at Rockingham.  |
| 1937  | Quarters built at East Rockingham School.<br>Burial register starts for <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b>   |
| 1940s | Loss of the timber trade leads to the gradual decline in the Rockingham jetties. By the end of the decade all the jetties are gone.   |
| 1941  | Methodist Church constructed in Rockingham  |
| 1945  | Consecration of the Anglican church of St Nicholas in Rockingham  |
| 1946  | New Roads Board Office built in Rockingham  |
| 1953  | Construction begins on the Kwinana Oil Refinery.<br>Formation of Shire of Kwinang, many of the homesteads from the early settlers came under the jurisdiction of this Shire.<br>Catholic Church built in Rockingham |
| 1955  | Construction of purpose-built Post Office in Rockingham.  |
| 1956  | New By-laws and fees for <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> gazetted.<br>Timber company's railway line removed.  |
| 1959  | Agricultural Hall in Kent Street, Rockingham removed.   |
| 1961  | Alcoa begins construction of aluminium refinery at East Rockingham.   |
| 1965  | CSBP establishes fertilizer factory at Kwinana  |

| Date       | Event   |
|------------|---|
| 1966       | Fire damages the original school building at East Rockingham.   |
| 1971       | Proposal to a new cemetery due to expansion of railway line. Land on eastern side of Cemetery resumed by government and 5 graves re-sited.  |
| 1975       | School at East Rockingham closes and buildings removed from the site.<br>Co-operative Bulk Handling constructs grain terminal at Kwinana.   |
| 1979       | Church of St Nicholas sold and new church constructed in Council Avenue.  |
| 1992       | <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> increased in size by addition of land on the southern side.   |
| 1993       | Development of lawn cemetery section at the <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March - First interment in the lawn cemetery</li> </ul>  |
| 1995       | Friends of Rockingham Cemetery formed to develop improvement plans for cemetery.<br><b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> included on the Municipal Heritage Inventory.   |
| Late 1990s | Establishment of the lawn cemetery and construction of the first niche wall.  |
| 2004       | Conservation Plan prepared for the <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b>  |
| 2007       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening of the Rockingham Regional Memorial Park in Baldivis</li> <li>Formal naming of the <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b></li> </ul>  |
| 2009       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closure of the cemetery to interments except for those lots already allocated.</li> <li>Joint management of the cemetery by the City of Rockingham and the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board.</li> </ul> |
| 2010       | Construction of public toilets on the site.   |
| 2022       | Revision of the <b>East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</b> Conservation Management Plan  |

## 2.2. Historical Context

### 2.2.1. Aboriginal Occupation

The Aboriginal peoples who occupied the lands in the south west corner of Western Australia are collectively known as the Nyoongar peoples.<sup>4</sup> The future City of Rockingham falls across the areas of the Whadjuk and Binjareb dialectical groups.<sup>5</sup> It is completely encompassed by the Gnaala Karla Booja Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) area of the South West Native Title Settlement (SWNTS).

The site of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is identified in the Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System as an 'Other Heritage Site' as a burial site for many Aboriginal people.<sup>6</sup>

The lands adjacent to what became known as Mangles Bay were inhabited by the Nyoongar for the access to the ocean and swamps which offered plentiful supplies of fish and birdlife.

The City of Rockingham continues to be Nyoongar land despite radical changes to the landscape and a history of conflict and disempowerment experienced in all regions of Western Australia. The connections between the land and the Whadjuk Nyoongar are kept alive by an oral tradition.

In the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, the City of Rockingham have undertaken significant steps to recognise the Nyoongar community of the past and the present and have developed Reconciliation Action Plans in 2011, 2014 and 2021.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Nyoongar means 'a person of the south-west of Western Australia', or the name of the 'original inhabitants of the south-west of Western Australia'. Rockingham sits within this region. There are several ways of pronouncing Nyoongar and this is reflected in multiple spellings being used. The approved City spelling is Nyoongar.

<sup>5</sup> South West Aboriginal Land & Sea Council, 'Connection to Country', Kaartdijin Noongar – Noongar Knowledge website, accessed March 2017.

<sup>6</sup> Place 3689 East Rockingham Cemetery, Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System. [Aboriginal Heritage Inquiry System \(dph.wa.gov.au\)](https://dph.wa.gov.au/Aboriginal-Heritage-Inquiry-System)

A Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) is a formal document, which provides a way forward and acknowledges the gap in the health and wellbeing between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and other Australians.

### 2.2.2. Early Development of East Rockingham (1850s-1860s)

The area currently designated as East Rockingham was part of the land grant of wealthy settler Thomas Peel. Peel was allocated a large parcel of land south of Fremantle with a frontage on the Murray River and an anchorage point on Cockburn Sound. Peel proposed establishing a townsite, 'Clarence', to serve as his administrative capital.<sup>8</sup>

Peel and a party of 400 settlers arrived in early 1830 but due to problems with his financial backer, inadequate supplies of food, the general infertility of the soil near the coast and the length of time it took to layout his large grant into parcels, Peel's people were eventually released from their indentures and the area around Clarence was abandoned.<sup>9</sup> Peel had also established a small settlement at Mandurah and by the end of 1830 had concentrated his remaining servants in this area. The following year Peel attempted to gain government interest in establishing a town on near Safety Bay which could take advantage of the safe anchorage to be found there. He hoped to establish a whaling base at this point and a port for the export of timber

<sup>7</sup> Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) April 2021-2023, City of Rockingham, 2021, <https://rockingham.wa.gov.au/forms-and-publications/community/community-support/reconciliation-action-plan-2021-2023> accessed May 2021.

<sup>8</sup> Fitch, V., *Eager for Labour, the Swan River Indenture 1829 -1832*, Hesperian Press, Carlisle 2003, p. 119.

<sup>9</sup> Richards, R., *The Murray District of Western Australia, a history*, Shire of Murray, 1978, p 41.



which grew in the nearby foothills. While initial plans for the new town and port were commenced the project eventually failed.<sup>10</sup>

Although the coastal strip remained undeveloped, during the 1840s settlement did slowly commence along a fertile strip of swampy land approximately five kilometres inland, parallel with the coast. The earliest settler was Marshall McDermott who obtained title to several parcels of land in the future area of East Rockingham in 1842.<sup>11</sup>

Plans to develop a timber trade were revived in 1846, with Peel once more pushing his site forward. However, when Governor Captain James Stirling and Surveyor General Septimus Roe surveyed Peel's harbour they were not convinced as to its suitability and instead chose a site for the port further to the north at Mangles Bay, at the site of the future town of Rockingham.

The town was laid out by Assistant surveyor Alfred Hillman in April 1847 and the town of Rockingham was gazetted in June 1847, with lots available for purchase. Lot 50 was allocated as the burial reserve and gazetted on the 27 August 1847.<sup>12</sup> The lots in the new townsite did not sell and the proposed tram line to carry timber from the hills area proved to be too costly for the government.<sup>13</sup>

Despite the lack of government infrastructure in the district, settlers took up land in the 1850s to farm this productive strip of land. These settlers included the Mead, Thorpe Key, Hymus, Smirk and Herbert families.<sup>14</sup>

These pioneering families constituted the small settlement of East Rockingham at the beginning of the 1860s. Most were quite young and just

starting their families, with the exception of Phoebe Hymus who settled there with her ten children. After the arrival of these first families, others soon followed, several marrying into these pioneering families.

The nucleus of the settlement was centred around the junction of Mandurah Road, which ran north - south and Wellard Road which ran east - west. It was in this location in 1865 that a small stone school house was built by the local residents with assistance from the government. The school was also used regularly for church services.<sup>15</sup>

A survey of the East Rockingham area at Figure 4 shows these and other early land allocations, including the burial reserve.

<sup>10</sup> Taggart, N., *Rockingham Looks Back, a history of the Rockingham district 1829 - 1982*, Rockingham District Historical Society (Inc.), 1984, p. 37.

<sup>11</sup> Reference supplied by Wendy Durant, from information obtained from DOLA.

<sup>12</sup> Taggart, N., pp. 39 - 40; *Government Gazette* 27 August 1847.

<sup>13</sup> Taggart, p. 42.

<sup>14</sup> Taggart, pp 48 - 49.

<sup>15</sup> Taggart, N., pp 54- 55.

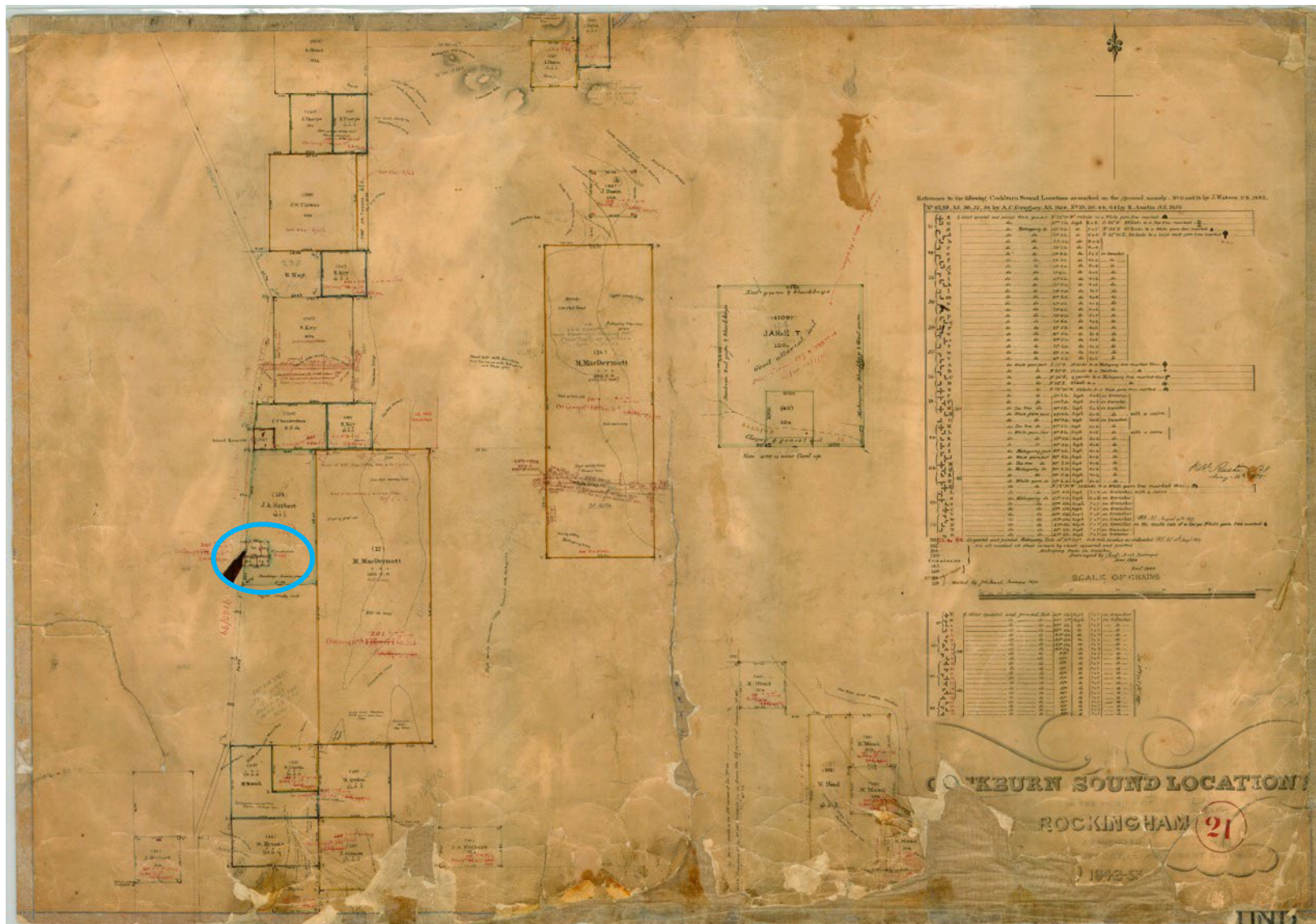


Figure 4 Land allocations in Rockingham, 1842-53. Cemetery circled.

Courtesy SROWA Cons 3869 Cockburn Sound 021

### 2.2.3. East Rockingham Families

Several of the families listed below started their farming life working on established farms as labourers. While they worked they saved their money until able to purchase their own farms. One farm in particular, 'Lowlands,' employed many of the East Rockingham settlers. 'Lowlands' on the Serpentine River was owned by John Wellard.<sup>16</sup> Wellard continued to employ many of the men after they had purchased their farms in East Rockingham.<sup>17</sup>

Henry Mead and his brother Thomas (together with their wives) arrived in Western Australia in 1842. The brothers originally settled near Northam before Henry moved south to purchase land at Whitby Falls and in 1857, he purchased land in East Rockingham. Their younger brother William arrived in Western Australia in 1850. He finally settled in East Rockingham in 1860, farming the land purchased by Henry at East Rockingham.<sup>18</sup> William and his wife Frances developed the property which they named 'Leaholm'. They later purchased additional land in 1878. The couple had four children. Frances died in 1866 and was buried at Fremantle. Their eldest child Sarah married her cousin Charles Mead (son of Thomas) and the couple continued to farm at 'Leaholm'. They had eight children.<sup>19</sup> Six members of the Mead family are buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery, the majority of whom are descendants of Charles and Sarah Mead.<sup>20</sup> (See Appendix 1)

John Thorpe arrived in Western Australia with his parents in 1831. He married Mary Ann Barry in 1854 and the couple settled at Rockingham. They built 'The Pines' and raised ten children.<sup>21</sup> Both John and Mary Thorpe were buried in

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery, together with six of their children and their spouses. (See Appendix 1)

Edward and Isabella Key arrived in Western Australia in 1842 settling first in the Murray district before moving to Rockingham with their four children. There they established 'Mona's Mount'. Edward Key (Junior) died in 1879 and his father only a few years later in 1882. Amelia, the sister of Edward (Junior), married into the Thomas family. Both Edward (senior) and Edward (Junior) were buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery. (See Appendix 1)

Frederick and Phoebe Hymus arrived in Western Australia in 1842 as members of Marshall Waller Clifton's settlement at Australind. After Frederick's death in 1852, Phoebe, together with her ten children purchased land in East Rockingham. Phoebe's eldest son William obtained the title deeds to the land in 1855. Five of her children remained in the district to raise families.<sup>22</sup> Daniel Hymus, Frederick and Phoebe's fifth child, and his wife Fanny Bell were buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery together with six of their children. (See Appendix 1)

James Bell arrived in Western Australia in 1845 and his wife Jane arrived in 1837. The couple married in 1847 and went to live in Mandurah. By 1855, the couple had four children and had saved enough money to buy land at East Rockingham. Four more children were born to the couple while they lived at East Rockingham.<sup>23</sup> James and Jane Bell were buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery; together with three of their children and a grandson. (See Appendix 1)

<sup>16</sup> Taggart, N., p. 44. Lowlands was a remnant of the extensive Thomas Peel grant retained by Peel after discharging all his debts in 1843. It was managed by his son, Thomas Peel Jnr until he was declared bankrupt in 1859.

<sup>17</sup> Taggart, N., p. 45.

<sup>18</sup> Erickson, R., *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829 - 1888*, Vol III, UWA Press, 1988, pp 2129 & 2131.

<sup>19</sup> Taggart, N., p. 64-65.

<sup>20</sup> William, Frances, Henry and Esther Mead were all buried at Fremantle Cemetery and after it's closure their headstones were placed in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

<sup>21</sup> Erickson, R., *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829 - 1888*, Vol IV, UWA Press, 1988, pp 3061.

<sup>22</sup> Erickson, R., *The Bicentennial Dictionary of Western Australians pre 1829 - 1888*, Vol II, pp 793, 1590-1591; Vol IV, UWA Press, 1988, pp 2844.

<sup>23</sup> Taggart, N., p. 50-51.

Thomas Smirk, an expirée, arrived in Western Australia in 1851 aboard the convict ship *Mermaid*. He worked initially at John Hartley's vineyard on the Swan before he married Eliza Hymus in 1855. After their marriage, the couple settled at Rockingham where they raised a family of thirteen children.<sup>24</sup> None of the family were buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

William Day married Susan Hymus in 1857. The couple moved to East Rockingham and had fifteen children. While William and Susan Day were not buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery, three of their children were buried in the Cemetery together with several of their grandchildren and great grandchildren.<sup>25</sup> (See Appendix 1)

Joseph Thomas and James Thomas, sons of Captain John Thomas and Elizabeth Cooper, moved to East Rockingham in the 1860s. Joseph married Amelia Key in 1867 and they had a family of eight children. None of this family appears to be represented in the Cemetery.<sup>26</sup> James married Annie Cashin in 1874 and they had nine children. While neither James or Annie were buried in the Cemetery, their eldest son, Ernest and his wife were buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.<sup>27</sup> (See Appendix 1)

John Chester purchased the 'Rockingham Arms' in 1876 and renamed it the 'Chesterfield Inn'. He and his wife Mary Ann Hodges (this was Mary's second marriage) raised a family of seven children, together with one child from Mary's previous marriage. Both John is buried in the Cemetery, together with a daughter and a grandchild.<sup>28</sup> Mary Chester is buried at Fremantle.<sup>29</sup>

Once these families became established at East Rockingham others soon followed, marrying into the original families.

George Sloan was employed at 'Lowlands,' he married the Smirk's eldest daughter Emma in 1880 and the couple settled at East Rockingham. They had nine children. Three of those children were buried at the Cemetery, although George and Emma were buried elsewhere.<sup>30</sup> (See Appendix 1)

Thomas Hanretty, like George Sloan, was employed at 'Lowlands' where he met John Thorpe. He met and married the Thorpe's eldest daughter Jane in 1878. After their marriage, Thomas and Jane lived near Rockingham beach with John continuing to work at 'Lowlands'. Both Thomas and Jane were buried in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery together with three of their children.<sup>31</sup> (See Appendix 1)

These are the main families represented in the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery; up until the 1960s when the names become more diverse, reflecting the rise of Rockingham in the 1880s and the gradual demise of the small community based around East Rockingham.

The sense that the cemetery was managed by the community can be seen when a letter was sent in 1908, from the Under Secretary for Lands requested the Rockingham Road Board to provide information as to whether any burials had taken place there. The Hon Sec for the Rockingham Road Board replied in December 1909;

*Sir, ... I have the honor to inform you that the old settlers tell me burials have taken place in this cemetery for the last forty years.*<sup>32</sup>

This information suggests that the knowledge of burials seemed to be largely held by the East Rockingham community and probably with the support of the local churches.

<sup>24</sup> Erickson, R. Vol. IV, p. 2844.

<sup>25</sup> Erickson, R. Vol. II, p. 793.

<sup>26</sup> Erickson, R. Vol. IV, p. 3041.

<sup>27</sup> Erickson, R. Vol. IV, p. 3039.

<sup>28</sup> Taggart, N., p. 286. Several other members of the Chester family may also be buried in the Cemetery in an unmarked plot next to John and Mary Chester.

<sup>29</sup> Information from the Rockingham and Districts Historical Society.

<sup>30</sup> Erickson, R. Vol. IV, p. 2839.

<sup>31</sup> Erickson, R. Vol. II, p. 1350.

<sup>32</sup> Letter from Rockingham Roads Board District to Lands Department, 9 December 1908, File Reserves Cemetery Reserve 841, Cons 1778, 1908/15486V1, unpaginated. SROWA.



Figure 5 Land allocations, 1873. Cemetery outlined.

Courtesy SROWA Cons 3869 Cockburn Sound 117





#### 2.2.4. Early Development of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery

The area of East Rockingham was first surveyed by assistant surveyor, Robert Austin in May 1855. The area re-surveyed in 1857, 1859, 1866 and 1869. In the 1866 survey, Austin's assistant James Cowle, laid out a cemetery on the eastern side of Mandurah Road, which was divided into four separate areas with a central path denoted as 'Roadway 25 links wide'.

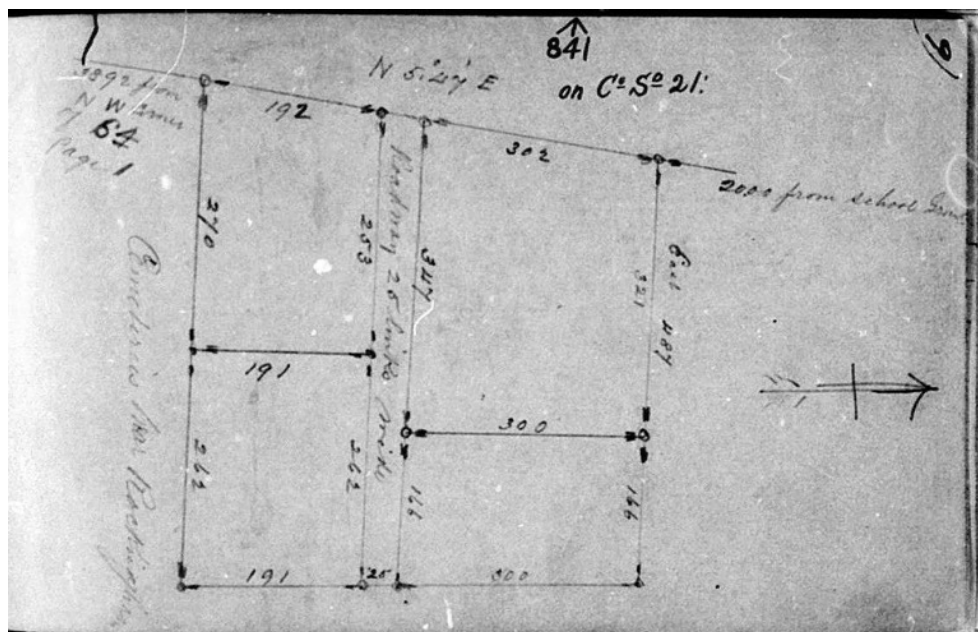
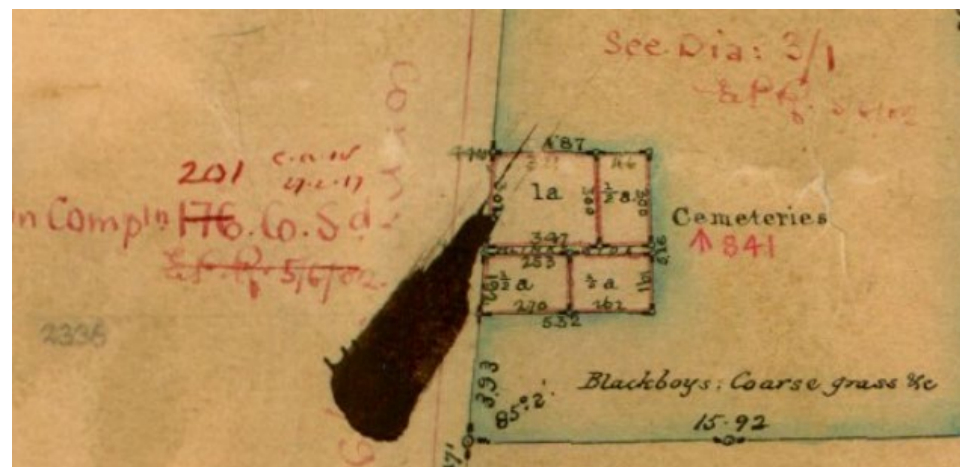


Figure 6 Page 9 from James Cowle Field Book, 1866.

Courtesy SROWA Cons 34.01 Item Cow.

The cemetery was declared a reserve and given the designation Reserve 841.<sup>33</sup>



The cemetery was re-surveyed in December 1869.

Strangely, the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery was not officially gazetted in the *Government Gazette* until 16 July 1909 when it was noted that the Rockingham Road Board had appointed Trustees for the Rockingham Public Cemetery, Reserve 841.<sup>34</sup> This gap in official status has meant that no official burials records were kept for the Cemetery until 1937.<sup>35</sup>

However, up until this date East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery had been in constant use with the first recorded burial noted as Joseph Broughton who died 13 October 1867 at the age of 72.<sup>36</sup> Joseph Broughton, together with his wife and five children, arrived in Western Australia aboard Peel's ship the *Hooghley* in February 1832. They settled in East Rockingham during the 1850s living on Wellard Road near the corner with Mandurah Road where he worked as a farmer and grazier.<sup>37</sup> Broughton's burial site is at the southwest corner of the Cemetery. During the construction of a limestone wall in the

<sup>33</sup> Cockburn Sound Locations, Rockingham, Plan no. 21. Copy of plan held by Rockingham and Districts Historical Society.

<sup>34</sup> *Government Gazette*, 16 July 1909, p. 2060

<sup>35</sup> Cons. 1778 Item 15486, 1908, Rockingham Cemetery, Vol. 1, State Records Office.

<sup>36</sup> This information is recorded on a plaque in the south west corner of the Cemetery and was erected by the Friends of Rockingham Cemetery (no date given).

<sup>37</sup> Taggart, N., p. 49. *The Inquirer and Commercial News*, 14 August 1867, p. 2.

early 2000s, his grave was disturbed, and it is possible that a portion of the grave lies either under the wall or just outside the confines of the wall.<sup>38</sup>

An item from *The Inquirer and Commercial News* in August 1869 refers to Bishop Hale performing a ceremony at the cemetery. It is not clear if this was a consecration of the cemetery but presumably not, as the land was not associated with the church.

ROCKINGHAM – On Wednesday, the 22<sup>nd</sup> ult., the Bishop held a Confirmation in the schoolroom. Seventeen candidates were confirmed, two of whom belonged to Fremantle. At the close of the Confirmation service, a service seriously and thoughtfully entered into by the congregation, the Bishop proceeded to the burial ground, about ½ a mile distant. The Bishop read, with those present, xxxix and xc Psalms in alternate verses, and offered up the Collects used in the Burial service, with such trifling verbal alterations, as rendered them appropriate for the purpose. The congregation, headed by the Bishop, moved in procession through the cleared part round the cemetery, as the Psalms were repeated. After singing a hymn, the congregation dispersed.<sup>39</sup>

This ceremony suggests that the cemetery was valued and used by the community.

As there is no known burial records from this period it is possible there are other burials from the 1860s onwards.

The next known burials are later than Broughton's and occur in the 1890s with the exception of two burials in the 1870s, William Bell in 1874 and Edward Key (Junior) in 1879 and one burial in 1884, Edward Key senior.<sup>40</sup> A study of the family trees from the main families living at East Rockingham at this time show that the only other deaths occurring in these families during the 1860s and 1870s was in the Mead family: Frances Mead in 1866 and her son Henry in 1874. Frances' was buried in Fremantle and when Henry died in 1874, it was not unexpected that William (her husband) would decide to bury their

son next to his wife in Fremantle. William was also buried in Fremantle (Skinner Street Cemetery) on his death in 1892.

The burials which took place in the 1890s belong to the Chester family. Eliza Chester, youngest daughter of Mary and John, who died in 1891.<sup>41</sup>

### 2.2.5. East Rockingham in the Twentieth Century

By the turn of the twentieth century the 'Beach' at Rockingham had developed into a port and gained greater prominence and was poised to take over as the regional centre. The port of Rockingham had developed slowly during the 1880s and 1890s through the export of timber. Rockingham was declared a Road Board district in 1897. While development at the 'Beach' had progressed, the older settlement at East Rockingham was still of considered to be the focus of the district and so it was there near the school, rather than at the 'Beach', that a Road Board office was constructed in 1905.<sup>42</sup>

The beginning of the twentieth century saw an increase in the number of burials in the Cemetery. Eight burials took place during the first decade of the twentieth century: Mary Ann Thorpe (1902), Sidney J. Hymus (1903), John Thorpe (1903), Annie Farmer (1904), William Thorpe (1908), Ebenezer Thorpe (1910) and Jane Bell (1909).<sup>43</sup>

It was also during the first decade of the twentieth century that East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery was rediscovered by the Lands Department. The Department wrote to the secretary of the Rockingham Road Board in December 1908 to determine whether the cemetery, which they found marked on their plans as reserve 841, had in fact been used. The Road Board wrote back in the affirmative, noting in their letter that the cemetery had

<sup>38</sup> Conversation with Wendy Durant, 8/9/2003, as stated in the East Rockingham Cemetery Conservation Plan 2004, p. 10.

<sup>39</sup> *The Inquirer and Commercial News*, 11 August 1869, p. 3.

<sup>40</sup> Information obtained from headstones in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

<sup>41</sup> Information obtained from headstones in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and family trees compiled for this study.

<sup>42</sup> Taggart, N., p. 99.

<sup>43</sup> Information obtained from headstones in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and family trees compiled for this study.

been used for the last forty years.<sup>44</sup> In May 1909, the Department again wrote asking if the cemetery was still in use and, if this was the case, then the cemetery should be proclaimed as a public reserve as certain procedures governing the use of the cemetery were required. It took the Road Board a couple of months to reply that yes the cemetery was still in use and that it would be fine with them if the Lands Department officially gazetted their cemetery.<sup>45</sup> Here then is the answer as to why East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery was not formally gazetted until July 1909, the Lands Department had accidentally mislaid it.

Control of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery was formerly given to the Rockingham Road Board and they were required to appoint trustees and draw up by-laws (as required under the *Cemeteries Act* of 1897). At this stage it is not known who had the care of the Cemetery prior to the formation of the Road Board in 1897.

At the time of the gazettal, nine trustees were appointed by the Road Board: George Mead, Ebenezer Thorpe, John Chester senior., James Bell jnr., Francis Murphy, John Bell, Frederick Postans, Thomas Smirk and Daniel Hymus senior. The gazettal of the by-laws took somewhat longer for although the Road Board sent them in for approval in January 1910, they were mislaid by the Department for several months and when found it was discovered that they were inadequate and were sent back to the Road Board for amendments in July 1910.<sup>46</sup> There the matter rested until May 1920 when 'Rockingham Cemetery's' By-Laws were gazetted. At the same time, eight new trustees were listed: David Mitchinson (Chairman), AR. Farrington (Secretary), A.A Dowden, Samuel Dvoretzky, Andrew H. Mead, James Thorpe, Daniel Smirk and John Bell.<sup>47</sup>

### 2.2.6. Consolidation of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery

During the 1910s and 1920s, the Lands Department were concerned about the lack of a separate cash book for the Cemetery and a burial register. In return, the Road Board requested that the Lands Department carry out a survey of the Cemetery. According to the Lands Department this was not a departmental policy and the Road Board would have to fund the survey themselves. When Acting Premier Mr. Colebatch visited the Rockingham district in 1922, the Road Board approached Mr Colebatch to forward their case for a survey of the Cemetery by the government. The Lands Department were unmoved, and replied to Mr Colebatch that the Road Board had previously been told that it was not departmental policy to survey local cemeteries. In January 1928, the Auditor General recorded that he had audited the books for 'Rockingham Cemetery' and that while their cash book was in order the Cemetery remained unsurveyed.<sup>48</sup>

While the official status of the Cemetery was under scrutiny, the number of burials increased during the second decade of the twentieth century. The majority of these were burials for soldiers who died from the Spanish flu contracted while aboard the troopship *Boonah*. These soldiers had been on their way home when they became infected. The ship was made to anchor offshore and quarantined until a decision was made to permit the sick soldiers to land at Woodman Point which operated as a quarantine post at that time. Eleven soldiers from this ship died and were buried at East Rockingham: Private A.H. Sayers, Private G.V. Morrison, Private H. S. Knott, Private B.D.R. McAdam, Lance Corporal H.M. George, Trooper M.J. Green, Private J. Tutton, Private J.L. Fuge, Private J. Haggerty, Private W.H. Laffen and Private J.H. Williams.<sup>49</sup> Eight burials were also recorded from local residents: Thomas Hanretty (1911), James Bell (1911), Jane Hanretty (1913),

<sup>44</sup> Cons. 1778, Item 15486, 1908, East Rockingham Cemetery. Vol. 1. SROWA.

<sup>45</sup> Cons. 1778, Item 15486, 1908, East Rockingham Cemetery. Vol. 1. SROWA.

<sup>46</sup> Cons. 1778, Item 15486, 1908, East Rockingham Cemetery. Vol. 1. SROWA.

<sup>47</sup> *Government Gazette* 28 May 1920, p. 1046.

<sup>48</sup> Cons. 1778, Item 15486, 1908, East Rockingham Cemetery. Vol. 1. SROWA.

<sup>49</sup> Taggart, N., pp 113-114.

Raymond Hametty (1913, died in France), Fanny Hymus (1913), George Day (1916), Douglas Sloan (1916) and John Chester (1918).<sup>50</sup>

The Board sought advice from Lionel Boas, secretary of the Karrakatta Cemetery Board, early in 1929 for advice on surveying the Cemetery and developing it into sections and lots. Boas agreed to visit the Cemetery with a surveyor and the Board arranged for John Bell to meet with Boas so that he could assist with information on burial locations. Mr Bell replied that 'earlier burials were irregular and almost not noticeable.'<sup>51</sup> Boas noted in his report that the Cemetery was fenced with a cleared area that contained approximately 45 graves, with the possibility of a few more in the Anglican section which were no longer visible. He pegged out and submitted a plan to the Board. He also sent them plans showing various cemetery layouts.

One of the layouts showed the main paths lined with trees. The plantings which currently line the main east - west and north - south walls may have been planted around this time. Boas recommended that the Board obtain a set of by-laws (although these were gazetted in 1920), a burial register and provide metal number plates at the base of each grave. He also suggested a range of fees that would enable the Board to make a profit providing them with money to maintain the Cemetery, in particular the fencing.

Henry Day was asked to assist with clearing the Cemetery and pegging out the sections and grave lots. The Board applied to an ironmonger for fees for a range of plates and then filed the returned information. When the auditor general went through the books in January 1937, he noted the presence of a Burial Register and a plan which had been marked off.<sup>52</sup> The plan indicated that the Cemetery had been divided in various denominational

sections: two Anglican, two general, a Catholic, Wesleyan and Presbyterian. A section for Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints was added later.<sup>53</sup>

In July 1929, an agreement was made between the Rockingham Road Board and the Commandant of the 5th District Base on behalf of the Defence Board, to maintain ten of the war graves. Lance Corporal Harry M. George was not included in this list, presumably as his parents had erected a headstone over his grave.<sup>54</sup> Privates F.W. Sinclair and W.J. Hymus were added to this list in 1930 and 1933 respectively.<sup>55</sup> In November 1947, the Imperial War Graves Committee proposed erecting headstones on the military graves in the Cemetery. They would all be of a standard design: 2'8" high, 15" wide and 3" thick. The Board agreed to waive the fees normally required to erect a headstone in the Cemetery.<sup>56</sup> A photograph held by the Rockingham and Districts Historical Society shows an Anzac Day service with wreaths placed on top of granite headstones. The graves themselves were marked out with wooden boards.

During the 1920s and 1930s there were only eleven recorded burials with all except one of these coming from the original settler families. During the 1940s and 1950s the number of burials rose to 26 and by this stage new names had begun to appear in the Cemetery.<sup>57</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Information obtained from headstones in East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.  
<sup>51</sup> City of Rockingham files on Rockingham Cemetery. File 91 (28/5/20 -15/12/1937).  
Information from Rockingham and Districts Historical Society states that the Broughton grave was shown on the Boas map.  
<sup>52</sup> City of Rockingham, File 91 (28/5/20 -15/12/1937).  
<sup>53</sup> Original plan currently held by the City of Rockingham.

<sup>54</sup> City of Rockingham, File 91 (28/5/20 -15/12/1937). This represents the oldest file held by the City.  
<sup>55</sup> City of Rockingham, File 91 (28/5/20 -15/12/1937).  
<sup>56</sup> City of Rockingham, File 91 (28/5/20 -15/12/1937).  
<sup>57</sup> Information obtained from headstones.



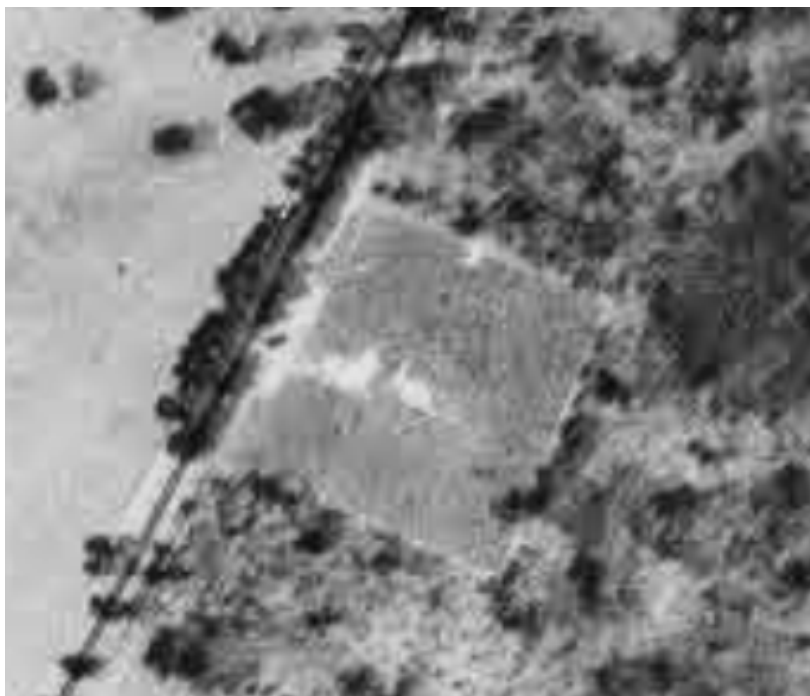


Figure 7 Aerial photograph 1942, showing central locations of burials.  
Courtesy Commonwealth Govt Mapping.

An aerial photograph of the site taken in January 1942, although the photograph is not of high resolution, it indicates that the trees on the main axis were not planted by this time. The extent of the surrounding uncleared scrub around the cemetery shows the potential for expansion of the cemetery.

The Department of Lands and Surveys requested that the Trustees submit new by-laws for the Cemetery in February 1947. New by-laws were finally gazetted in February 1948. The by-laws were revised again in June 1956.<sup>58</sup>

<sup>58</sup> Government Gazette, 20 February 1948, p. 434; 8 June 1956, p. 1412.

It is likely that these changes in management lead to greater controls at the cemetery. Aerial photographs indicate that a small shed was built adjacent to the southern boundary of the cemetery some time prior to 1961. By 1965, linear plantings were visible alongside the major pathways in the original b



Figure 8 Aerial photograph 1965 showing the current outline of the cemetery.  
Courtesy Landgate

### 2.2.7. Later Developments

The growth of Rockingham during the 1950s and 1960s led to concerns that the Cemetery would be too small to meet the future needs of the district.



Burial numbers rose during the 1960s with the majority of these burials representing families from all over the Rockingham district. The original families became outnumbered by the newer arrivals.

The future of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery came into question during 1968 when the West Australian Government Railways Commission indicated that they wished to expand the marshalling yards at Kwinana further to the south. This move would require the land occupied by the Cemetery. Applications from the Shire of Rockingham and the Rockingham and Districts Historical Society were successful in preventing the loss of the Cemetery with the Commission taking only 30 metres from the eastern area of the Cemetery. This necessitated the removal and re-interment of five graves and the re-allocation of a plot for a reserved grave.

The graves were all moved to a general section in the Cemetery<sup>59</sup> and belonged to:

- Rachel Mason (moved to Lot 12),
- reserved grave for G.J. Mason (moved to Lot 13),
- Ethel Colgrove (moved to Lot 14),
- John Fletcher (moved to Lot 15),
- Simon Gentle (moved to Lot 27)
- Jean and John McLlhagga (moved to Lot 11).

All of the original interments occurred during the 1960s.<sup>60</sup>



Figure 9 Aerial photograph September 1970 showing the current outline of the cemetery and railway line to the east.

Courtesy Landgate

In April 1971, there was a proposal to re-locate the Cemetery to a new location within the Shire of Kwinana. By November, Kwinana Lot 167 (108a) was set aside as a cemetery and gazetted as cemetery reserve 31102.<sup>61</sup>

<sup>59</sup> Section 5 according to the numbering used in this Report.  
<sup>60</sup> Letter from Westrail to Wendy Durant, 4 May 1995. Held by Rockingham and Districts Historical Society.

<sup>61</sup> *Government Gazette* 26 November 1971, p. 4900.

However, the decision to move the Cemetery was revoked and in 1992 East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery was increased in size to 2.2340 hectares.<sup>62</sup>

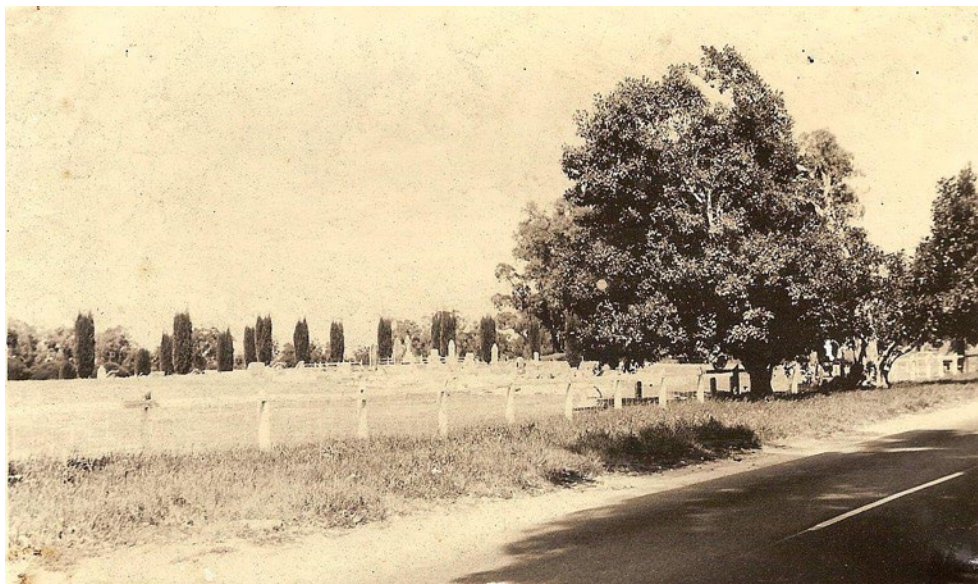


Figure 10 View of the Cemetery, 1988. Note the timber post and rail fence.  
Courtesy Rockingham Museum

The enlargement of the Cemetery also saw a move away from the traditional burial ground to that of a lawn cemetery. The first burial in this section took place in March 1993.<sup>63</sup> Not all of the new cemetery was lawn cemetery as Section 8 is dedicated to the traditional style with a slab, or some sort of boundary, marking the burial lot.

The Rockingham and Districts Historical Society became concerned about the neglected state of the original cemetery, and in April 1995 the inaugural meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery was held. The minutes from this first meeting requested that the City of Rockingham investigate the provision of mobile bins and trimming roots back from the fence line. They also noted that four concrete seats were being repaired and that plans were proceeding for a niche wall that would include a rose garden.<sup>64</sup>

The committee also organised clean-ups of the Cemetery and lobbied the City Council for approximately five years to allocate money to carry out improvements to the Cemetery. Out of this lobbying a plan was developed for upgrading the Cemetery.

In 1996, a new limestone wall with wrought iron panels was constructed along the western boundary and along a portion of the northern boundary. Gazebos were constructed at two points along the southern boundary, the paths were paved and given names from the original settler families. A row of Norfolk Island pines was planted along the southern boundary.

The Cemetery was placed on the City of Rockingham's Municipal Inventory in December 1998.

In 2004, a conservation plan was prepared by Dr Fiona Bush to guide the future management of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

#### 2.2.8. Metropolitan Cemeteries Board

In 2007, the City of Rockingham opened the Rockingham Regional Memorial Park in Baldivis to cater for the needs of the growing population in the region. To further differentiate the cemeteries, the East Rockingham Cemetery was formally named the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.<sup>65</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Government Gazette 5 June 1992, p. 2305.

<sup>63</sup> Information obtained from City of Rockingham, 23 December 2003.

<sup>64</sup> Minutes of Inaugural meeting of the Friends of the Cemetery, 15 April 1995, held by the Rockingham and Districts Historical Society.

<sup>65</sup> Document K231755, 19 June 2007, as shown Reserve Report 841, Landgate.

The City of Rockingham and the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board discussed the future of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery, and it was resolved to enable future interments at the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery under certain circumstances. Burial Policy for the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery was approved on 3 September 2009 and the overarching Policy Statement is as follows.

*Policy Statement*

*Whilst acknowledging the new Rockingham Regional Memorial Park (Memorial Park), has recently opened, the Council still wishes to allow for families to be reunited by allowing for burials at the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery when requested, where they are an immediate family member of persons interred prior to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009 or they were a grant holder at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009.<sup>66</sup>*

Since 2009, the cemetery has been managed and maintained by the City of Rockingham with some administrative and operational tasks relating to interment activities undertaken by the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board (MCB).<sup>67</sup>

The financial arrangements are that the City continued to bill the funeral directors and collect the income for interments, and at the end of each financial year MCB send an invoice to recoup the charges for that year's services. The City retains all income from Monumental works, to offset the cost of maintenance to the grounds of the cemetery.

When the City of Rockingham managed interments, each lot would be dug to a standard depth of 2.4m to enable the accommodation of three coffins. Following closure of the cemetery in 2009, MCB as per the MCB's existing policy and with respect for grave safety, dug gravesites to 1.8m, with an additional charge to dig deeper than 1.8m.

The MCB also took over the placement of ashes at the cemetery when it was previously conducted by a City of Rockingham officer. Information in the

Burial Register indicates that most ashes placements since 2007 have been into family gravesites.

Over the years the MCB have changed the size/shape of their ashes containers and by early 2000's they could no longer be fully accommodated within the niches built in the 1990's.<sup>68</sup>

The City of Rockingham have provided the following breakdown of burials since 2007.

| INTERMENTS CONDUCTED AT ERPC |         |       |                     |
|------------------------------|---------|-------|---------------------|
| Fiscal year                  | burials | ashes | notes               |
| 2007/2008                    | 32      | 4     | 3 into gravesites   |
| 2008/2009                    | 31      | 3     | all into gravesites |
| 2009/2010                    | 38      |       |                     |
| 2010/2011                    | 29      |       |                     |
| 2011/2012                    | 34      |       |                     |
| 2012/2013                    | 32      |       |                     |
| 2013/2014                    | 25      |       |                     |
| 2014/2015                    | 16      |       |                     |
| 2015/2016                    | 25      |       |                     |
| 2016/2017                    | 20      |       |                     |
| 2017/2018                    | 23      |       |                     |
| 2018/2019                    | 38      |       |                     |
| 2019/2020                    | 24      |       |                     |
| 2020/2021                    | 15      |       |                     |
| 2021/2022                    | 22      |       | to 18 May 2022      |

The grounds of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery have not been significantly changed since the transition to new management apart from the construction of a toilet block within Section 10 in October 2010.

<sup>66</sup> 'East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery Burial Policy dated 3 September 2009', reproduced in a letter from Sam Assaad, Director Engineering and Parks Services, City of Rockingham, to Tim Halls, Director Planning and Operations Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, dated 20 July 2020.

<sup>67</sup> See all policies relating to cemeteries at the City of Rockingham at [Local laws, Council policies and delegations - City of Rockingham](#)

<sup>68</sup> Information provided by Gail Wells, Business Support Officer – Parks Services, City of Rockingham, email to Prue Griffin, 19 May 2022. The ashes containers have changed to accommodate larger volumes of ashes retrieved after the new cremation process. Retained ashes containers in stock which were able to be accommodated in the niche walls. This was also the practice for older/earlier niche walls built by the MCB. (information from Andrea Duff MCB, August 2022).



## 3.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

### 3.1. Introduction

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is located on the eastern side of Mandurah Road in the Rockingham Industrial Zone. Remnants of early settler development can be found at various points along Mandurah Road and whilst the majority of land around the cemetery is still natural bush, industrial development is beginning to shape the character of the area with the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery becoming an anomaly in the landscape.

An interpretative plaque on a rock to mark the first Rockingham Road Board is located on the other side of Mandurah Road, close to the junction with Office Road slightly to the north of the cemetery. The restored Hymus House and the ruins of Bell Cottage are immediately to the south of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

Mandurah Road is a main roadway which extends predominantly on a north-south axis connecting Rockingham Road/Patterson Road to the north to Gilmore Avenue in the south.

The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is approximately 6.5kms from Rockingham CBD and approximately 4kms from Kwinana town centre and is located in the heart of the early East Rockingham settler area.



Figure 11 View north along Mandurah Road





Figure 12 View south along Mandurah Road



Figure 13 View of rock and plaque marking the former East Rockingham Road Board on the opposite side of Mandurah Road



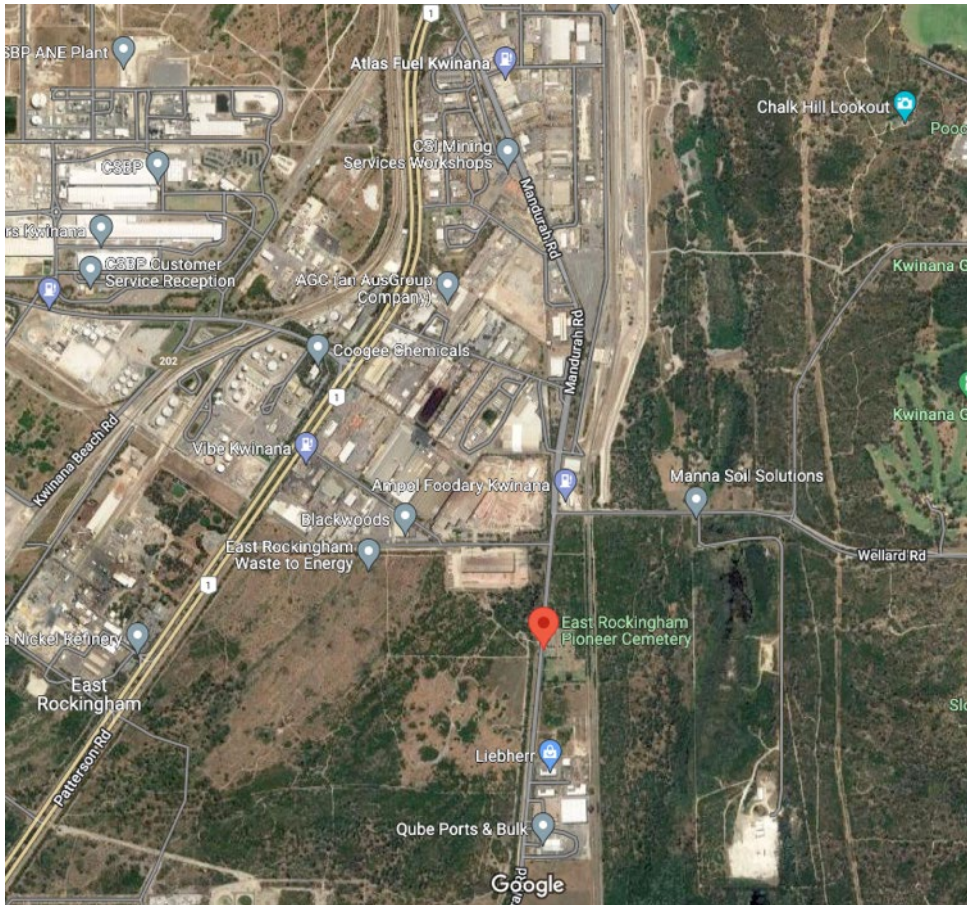


Figure 14 Aerial view of Mandurah Road and the adjacent industrial area  
Courtesy Google Maps, 2022

### 3.2. Context

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is located on the eastern side of Mandurah Road with direct vehicular access to a car park at the northern end of the cemetery. Further vehicular access is provided via Pioneer Drive from Mandurah Road which traverses through the cemetery terminating at the car park.

Pedestrian access is also provided through openings from Mandurah Road at the western end of Day Walk and Smirk Walk. Although there are no gates at these entry points, palisade panels have been erected to prevent unauthorised vehicle access.

The cemetery is enclosed along the western boundary and part of the north boundary across the car park by a more recent limestone pier and dwarf wall with metal palisade panels.

Just inside the west boundary wall are a number of trees including Moreton Bay Figs (*ficus macrophylla*), olive trees (*olea europaea*) and Norfolk Island Pines (*araucaria heterophylla*).

The limestone boundary fence incorporates a break in the panelling to accommodate the wide trunk of the Moreton Bay Fig.





Figure 15 Boundary fence along Mandurah Road



Figure 16 Break in the limestone fence for the Moreton Bay Fig





Figure 17 Street signage for East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery outside the cemetery along Mandurah Road

There is a deep grass verge between the road and the boundary wall adding to the green setting of the cemetery.

Other boundaries around the site are timber post and rail fences and timber and wire fences, which are in keeping with the immediate bushland setting of the cemetery. There are sections of the cemetery where the boundary treatments are in failing condition.

A simple sign on the verge advises of the cemetery and a further sign on a limestone piers sets out the regulations for the maintenance of the plots.

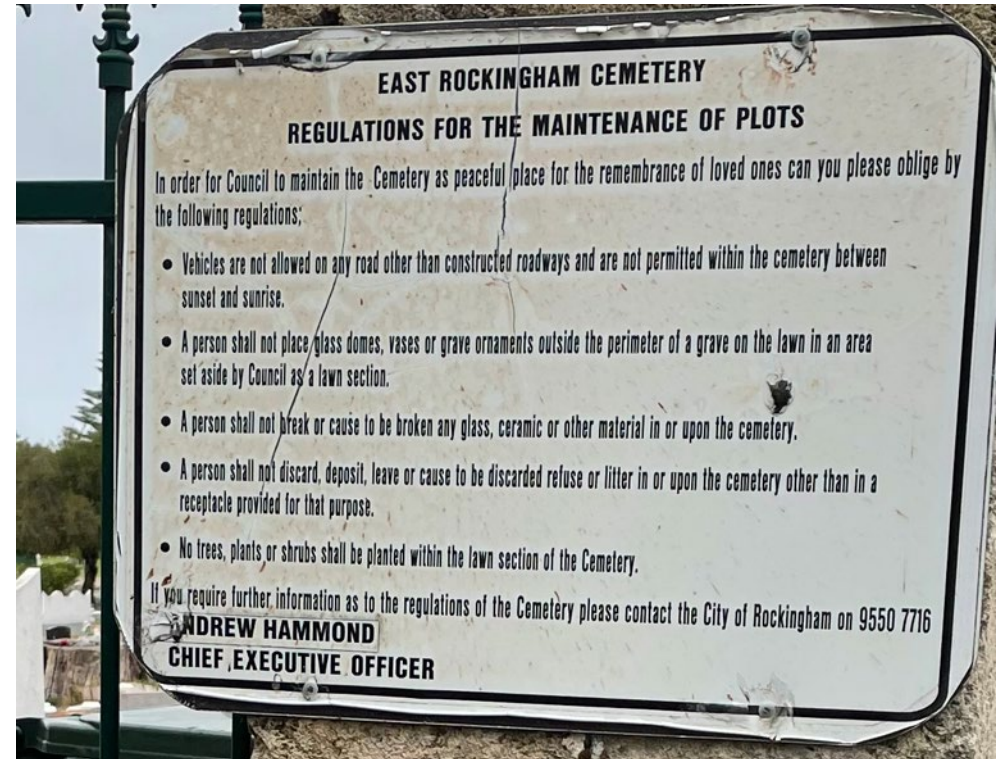


Figure 18 East Rockingham Cemetery – Regulations for the Maintenance of Plots mounted on one of the limestone piers to the west boundary wall along Mandurah Road





Figure 19 Post and rail fences



Figure 20 Wire boundary fence





Figure 21 View of East Rockingham Cemetery from Mandurah Road



Figure 22 View of boundary trees along Mandurah Road

### 3.3. Site

Figure 23 Site Plan



The cemetery is divided into a neat grid plan, with the earliest burials taking place in sections 1-6. The later sections are to the south of Day Walk, Thomas Walk and Sloan Walk. Burials have occurred in all sections apart from 9 and 10 with sections 8 and 11 only being half full.

The north-south and east-west pathways through this section of the cemetery are named after some of the early pioneer families including Day, Smirk, Thorpe, Bell and Hymus. All these families had houses nearby.





Figure 24 Pathway signage



Figure 25 Pathway signage

The pathways are of red brick paving arranged in a herringbone pattern, edged by the lot flat face of the pavers. Contrasting patterns mark the cross points of the paving. Additional wayfinding markers are inserted into the paving identifying the section and the plot numbers.



Figure 26 Various patters in the red brick paving



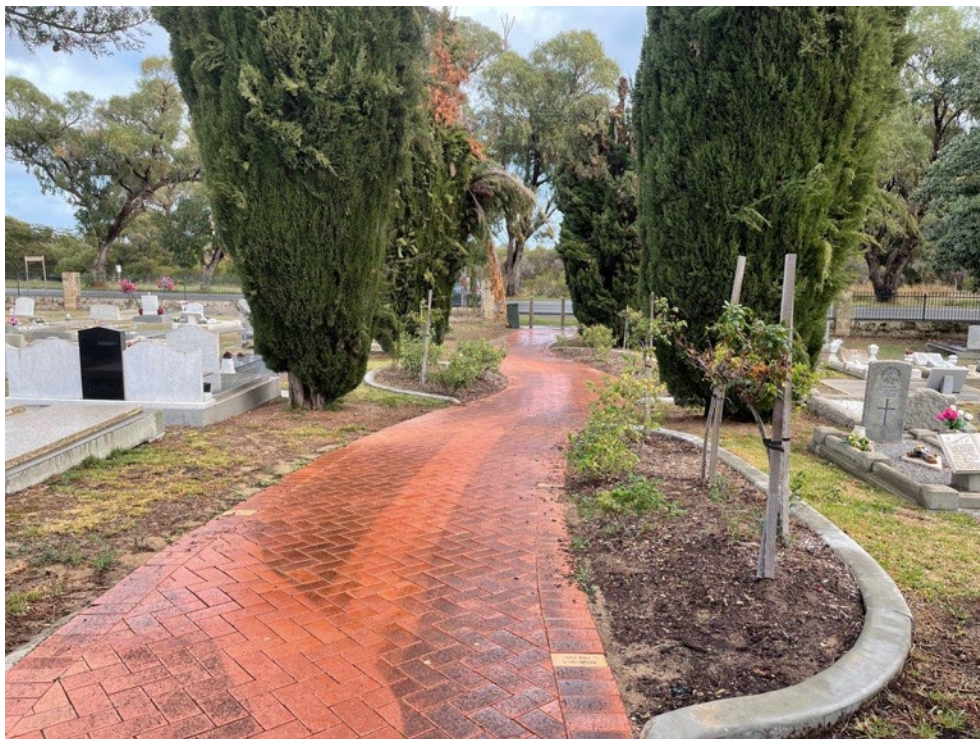


Figure 27 View along internal pathways

Pioneer Drive, Day Walk, Smirk Walk and Bell Walk are lined with pencil pines, *Cupressus sempervirens*, which creates a formality along the narrow avenues.



Figure 28 Additional wayfinding in the paving

The earliest sections of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery are located in the northern half of the cemetery in sections 1-6. This part of the cemetery has a more traditional arrangement with the majority of the plots having raised graves, some with decorative cast iron surrounds and the majority with the headstones. The graves are laid in an east-west direction with the headstones at the western end pointing east.

Sections 1 and 2 contain many graves from the early settler families including the Thorpe, Sloan, Mead, Day, Hymus and Bell families.



Joseph Broughton died on 13 October 1867 with his grave being one of the oldest in the cemetery located in the north west corner. The construction of the limestone wall along the western and north-western boundary disturbed the grave. As a result, the Friends of Rockingham Cemetery erected a simple limestone plinth with plaque commemorating Joseph Broughton.



Figure 29 Joseph Broughton Plaque



Figure 30 Location of Joseph Broughton's plaque in the north west corner of the cemetery

The majority of graves are well maintained though showing signs of age, whilst others are in a failing condition. A number of the graves, especially ones closer to trees, are showing signs of sinking where the ground conditions have changed and the graves stones are sinking into the ground. This uneven character of the gravestones adds to the overall aesthetic of the place.



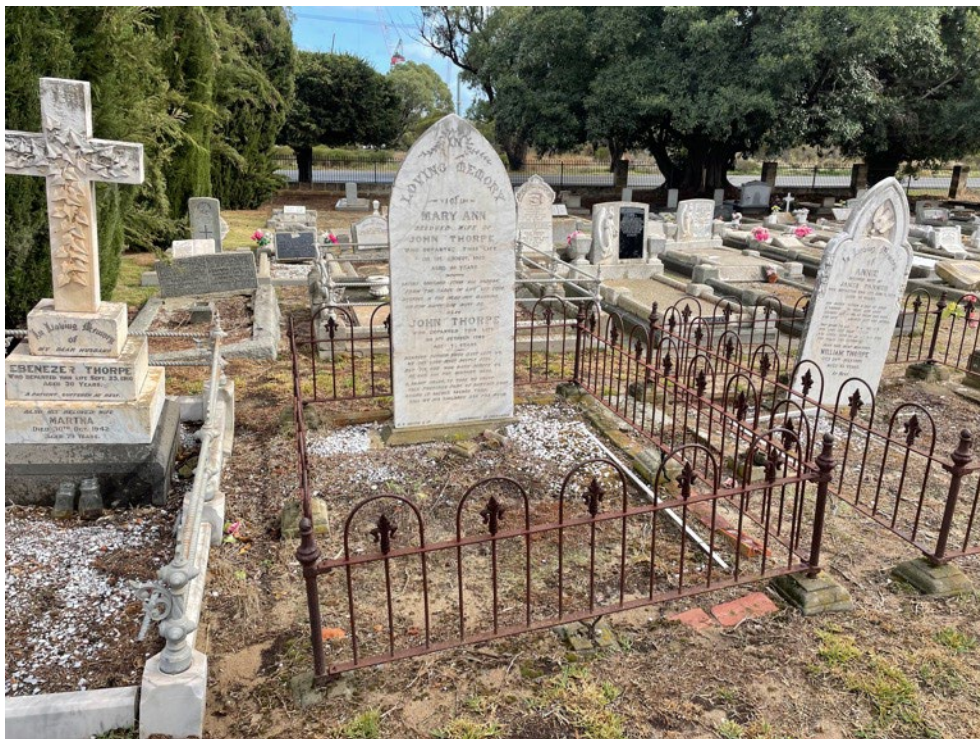


Figure 31 Grave of Mary Ann Thorpe (1836-1902) and John Thorpe (1832-1902)



Figure 32 Grave of Charles Frederick Dixon (1919-2005) husband of Amelia Olga Dixon-Pugh (1933-2021), Olga Petrovna Pugh (1902-1972) wife of David Harmer Pugh (1900-1992)





Figure 33 Gravestone of Charles George Mead (1851-1917) and his wife Sarah Hannah Mead (1851-1927)



Figure 34 Gravestone for the Mead family

Aerial views clearly illustrate the formality of the arrangement of the early graves. The graves are laid out in regular rows, with the first three rows along the western edge being on an angle following the alignment of Mandurah Road.





Figure 35 Gravestones following the alignment of the road  
Courtesy Nearnmap, 2022

Although the northern section of the cemetery is the oldest, there are still gaps in the layout. A number of the vacant plots have been reserved by families for future use including plots reserved by the Bell and Hymus families. Other seemingly vacant plots are occupied but do not have formal grave markers, some just containing a simple cross (Jean and James Day) or a simple plaque.

In the north west corner of section 6, there is a group of graves belonging to soldiers of the Australian Imperial Forces dating from 1918. The headstone

contains the name, rank, number and date of death as well as bearing the badge of the Australian Imperial Forces. The headstones are vertical roughly hewn granite slabs which sit on top of a granite slab grave. Three of the headstone are identical with a fourth grave bearing a plaque on a concrete headstone. The information contained on the fourth headstone is the same as the others.



Figure 36 Australian Imperial Forces Gravestones from 1918

There are additional headstones of similar design to these belonging to soldiers who died at later dates scattered throughout the cemetery.





Figure 37 Australian Imperial Forces Gravestones from 1925

Whilst the majority of the planting in the northern section of the cemetery is limited to the trees along the walkways or cemetery boundaries, there are a few trees and other plants interspersed amongst the graves, including a small rose garden.

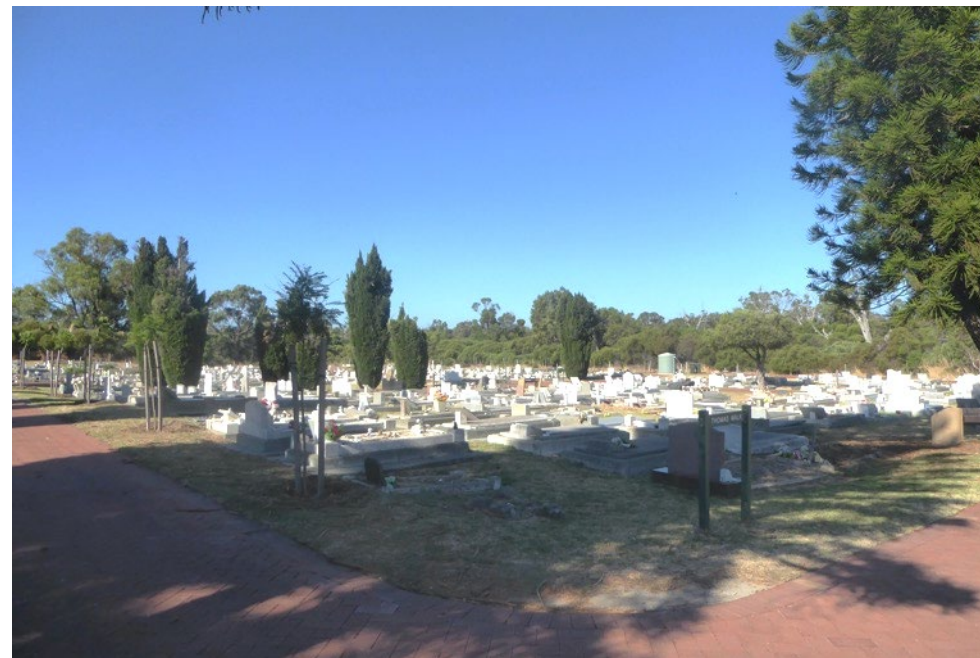


Figure 38 View across section 5 illustrating how planting has been interspersed with the gravestones.

Although the cemetery has been divided into a number of segments based on a grid pattern, the sections are not of equal size with the largest sections being Section 1 and Section 2 at the northern end of the cemetery.



| Section | Date   | Rows                 |
|---------|--|----------------------|
| 1       | 1867 – 1990s   | 8                    |
| 2       | 1866 – 1990s   | 11                   |
| 3       | 1980s – 2000s  | 4                    |
| 4       | 1990s – 2000s  | 4                    |
| 5       | 1920s – 2000s  | 10                   |
| 6       | 1970s – 1990s<br>Plus the Australian Imperial Forces graves dating from 1918 | 10                   |
| 7       | 1990s – 2000s  | 12                   |
| 8       | 1990s – 2000s  | 6                    |
| 9       |  | Empty                |
| 10      |  | Empty                |
| 11      | 1990s – 2000s  | 6<br>Remainder empty |
| 12      | 1990s – 2000s  | 10                   |
| 13      | 1990s – 2000s  | 12                   |

The southern section of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery takes on a different aesthetic. The cemetery is still laid out in a grid pattern but the form of memorial has changed.

Sections 7, 11, 12 and 13 of the cemetery are regarded as being a lawn cemetery with rows of concrete beams extended in a north-south direction with the headstone memorials attached to the beams. The headstones face both east and west. Due to the provision of the concrete beams, there is a much more rigid appearance to the layout of the graves.



Figure 39 Lawn cemetery with concrete beams and headstones

Courtesy Nearmap, 2022

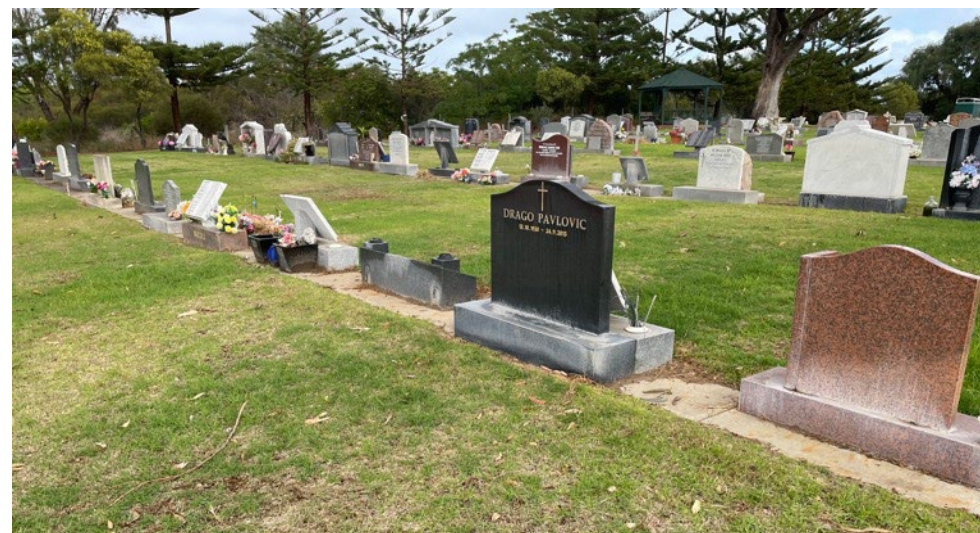


Figure 40 Concrete beams with east and west facing headstones



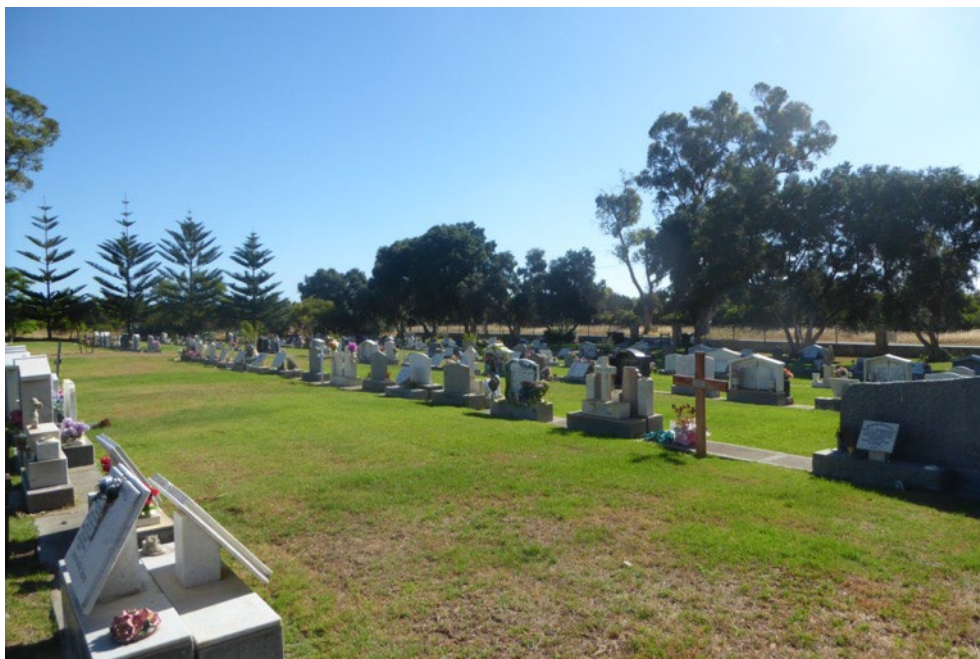


Figure 41 Concrete beams with east and west facing headstones

In addition to the headstones, there are three columbarium niche walls. The granite walls contain individual resting places for ashes which are then enclosed by a commemorative plaque. The columbarium niche walls are located in the north west corner of section 12, adjacent to Chester Walk.



Figure 42 Columbarium niche wall



Figure 43 Columbarium niche wall



Apart from the gravestones, other structures within the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery include:

- A shelter constructed from metal frame with fibro cladding located along the western boundary to the south of Smirk Walk in section 6
- Water tank at the eastern end of Broughton Walk
- Toilets constructed at the eastern end of Sloan Walk
- Open sided timber gazebo at the southern end of Herbert Walk in section 11
- Open sided timber gazebo at the southern end of Chester Walk in section 12



Figure 44 Shelter in Section 6



Figure 45 Niche Walls with Timber Gazebo at end of Chester Walk





Figure 46 Timber gazebo



Figure 47 Public toilets





Figure 48 Water tank

### 3.4. Condition

The condition of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is generally good. The grounds are well maintained, and the newer structures are in fair to good condition.

The older headstones are beginning to show signs of age and deterioration. The inscriptions in many instances are becoming increasingly difficult to read as the stones continue to weather.

Stone ledgers (the top of the grave) have cracked in some instances, the kerbing/edging around the graves has been chipped and cracked and the stone topping so graves without ledgers has been lost.



Figure 49 Cracked ledger stone (note this headstone moved from Fremantle Skinner Street Cemetery).





Figure 50 Cracked stone edging around the grave and rusted palisade fencing around the grave

The cast iron surrounds around many of the earlier graves are also beginning to show signs of deterioration. The metal is rusted and corroding with sections missing in place so there is no longer a complete surround to some of the graves.

A number of the headstones and graves are suffering from subsidence and beginning to sink, creating a listing aesthetic to the grave. The reason for the subsidence should be investigated. Some of these stones including the Ebenezer Thorpe grave, are adjacent to trees where the root structure may be undermining the ground around the graves.



Figure 51 Graves suffering from subsidence adjacent to trees

Lichen and moss growth is visible on some stones, particularly where the stone has started to delaminate and collect water.





Figure 52 Moss growth in cracks on headstones



Figure 53 Moss growth in limestone

The limestone wall along the western boundary is in good condition. The timber and wire and timber and post fences to the other sides of the cemetery are in failing condition and need to be repaired. There is no need to erect a boundary fence of the same style all around the cemetery, a more rustic post and rail fence to the north, south and east boundaries is acceptable and in keeping with the more natural setting of the adjacent bushland.





Figure 54 Broken post and wire fence to northern boundary

As more industrial development occurs or if the cemetery is prone to vandalism a more secure type of fencing may need to be considered. As a public cemetery, and a cemetery where burials are still occurring, it is imperative that access is granted. Locked gates can cause a management issue but these may be necessary if conditions change.

3.5. Sequence of Development


| DATE  | EVENT  |
|-------|--|
| 1866  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survey of the cemetery</li></ul>   |
| 1960s | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Formal plantings alongside paths and roadways and construction of a shed on the site.</li></ul>  |
| 1992  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Extension of cemetery and creation of the lawn cemetery south of the original cemetery</li></ul>   |
| C1996 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction of first niche wall</li><li>• Construction of two gazebos</li><li>• New limestone and metal railing fence</li><li>• Norfolk Island pines planted on southern boundary</li></ul> |
| c2008 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Construction of additional niche walls</li></ul>   |
| 2010  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public toilets constructed</li></ul>   |

3.6. Sequence of Aerial photographs showing development

Images courtesy of Landgate, Nearmap and Commonwealth Aerial mapping. The red outline is the extent of the current reserve.


**1942**

- Shows the original extent of the Reserve and undeveloped scrub around the cemetery.
- Burials located in the centre of the cemetery and a small group on the northern boundary.




**1953**

- Pathways are more evident




**1961**

- Small shed present to the south of the original reserve boundary.



**1965**

- First evidence of formal plantings alongside pathways.
- Railway line constructed to the east.





1970

- Extent of burials still confined to the centre of the cemetery



1977

- Significant increase in burials throughout the 1970s and 1980s



1989

- Original cemetery has minimal area for new burials.



1995

- Lawn cemetery interments have commenced with extension of reserve in 1992



2007

- Increases in interment in the lawn cemetery



2010

- Cemetery closed to all interments in 2009 unless previously allocated or through family association.



## 4.0 ANALYSIS OF EVIDENCE

*Excerpt from the 2004 CMP by Dr Fiona Bush.*

The documentary evidence indicates that the Cemetery was first registered as a cemetery reserve in 1866 and then re-surveyed in 1869. Oral tradition and a plan prepared in 1929 under the direction of Lionel Boas, records that Joseph Broughton was the first to be buried at East Rockingham in 1867, although apparently there is no documentary evidence for this belief. The physical and documentary evidence provided by the headstones shows that the Cemetery was used by the local families who first settled in the district as early as 1874 (William Bell), although there are interesting gaps in the record.

Isabella Key (wife of Edward snr.), died two years after Edward in 1884, however her name was not marked on Edward's headstone. The Cemetery plan shows quite a large burial plot for the Key family so it is possible that Isabella was buried next to her husband, together with her son Thomas who died in 1885. Edward jnr.'s wife Hannah had to raise a young family after her husband's death and in 1898 she sold Mona's Mount to Sam Dvoretzky and went to live with relations from the Thomas family.

A fairly large omission from the Cemetery is that of the Smirk family (Thomas and Eliza). While the couple raised a family of thirteen children (one of whom died at the age of three) and several of their children stayed in the district, no Smirks were buried in the Cemetery.

While it has been possible to determine the names of many of the early settlers buried in the Cemetery through their association with the early families, there must have been persons who were not associated with these families (such as labourers), who may have died in the district and were buried in the Cemetery. The relationship of some of the early burials to members of the settler families is also not known.

While there are several plots which remain unmarked and the person (or persons) buried there is unknown, the majority of the burials which belong to the period prior to the commencement of a burial register in 1937 appear to have been located towards the southern side of Section 1 and the southern side of Section 2.

The move away from a traditional Cemetery, with headstones and grave surrounds, to a lawn cemetery format was developed in c.1993. Further upgrading of the Cemetery occurred in 1996 when a new wall was erected, paths paved, and two gazebos erected near the southern boundary.

## 5.0 COMPARATIVE EVIDENCE

*Excerpt from the 2004 CMP by Dr Fiona Bush.*

During the early years of colonial development, cemetery reserves were laid out for many of the colony's towns. Sometimes these reserves were centred around the local Anglican Church rather than gazetted as separate reserves. The survival of cemetery sites is directly related to their proximity to later development. Those towns which had cemetery sites placed on the edge of the town boundaries have had a greater retention of their burial grounds to the present day, than cemeteries that were associated with churches.

Two instances of the loss of this type of cemetery can be seen in the first cemetery at York, which was associated with St. John's Anglican Church (constructed 1848) and Dr. Giustiniani's small Anglican Church which he built in 1836 in East Guildford. As with St. John's Church, this Church also had an associated burial ground. In both instances the burial grounds have been



built on, although the surviving headstones have been placed in a memorial setting.<sup>69</sup>

Cemetery sites located on the edge of towns appear to have had a greater survival rate in rural Western Australia. Albany Memorial Park Cemetery is a good example of a gazetted cemetery reserve which has survived intact (and in use) to the present day. The first burial took place in 1848. Northam's Cemetery on the north eastern side of the town has also survived and remains in use. This cemetery was first used in 1856.

The survival rate of early cemetery reserves within the Perth Metropolitan area has not been high. Those which have survive include the East Perth Cemetery (1830 – 1899), the Kenwick Pioneer Cemetery (1866) and the Kelmscott Cemetery, St Mary in the Valley Church and Cemetery (1875). Those which have been lost and built over are the Fremantle Cemetery at Alma Street (1829 - 1895) and the Skinner Street Cemetery (1852-1899).

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is one of those rare surviving metropolitan cemeteries which was established in the colonial era and is still in use. The headstones, when compared with stones of similar age in either the Busselton, Albany or Northam cemeteries, are similar in style and representative of their time.

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<sup>69</sup> Bourke, M., *On the Swan, a history; of the Swan District.*, UWA Press, 1987, pp. 122, 138; W.A. Heritage Committee, York Heritage Trail, 1988, p.13

## 6.0 ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

### 6.1. Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history;

The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is associated with the development of the Rockingham district as an agricultural area and is all that survives of the small nucleus of public buildings which once defined the hub of the East Rockingham settlement. The Cemetery also displays the shift away from that small, nineteenth century settlement to the wider development of the district.

The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is associated with many of the first settlers who moved to East Rockingham during the 1840s to establish their farms and with the second wave of settlers who consolidated the small community established by those earlier settlers. Many of these settlers are buried in the Cemetery along with their descendants.

The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery has associations with the Spanish flu epidemic which swept around the world at the end of 1918 through the burial of eleven soldiers who died at Woodman Point from this illness.

### 6.2. Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage;

The Perth Metropolitan area had several cemeteries which were used from colonial occupation up until the end of the nineteenth century. All of these early cemeteries have since closed. East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery appears to be the only cemetery in the Perth Metropolitan area which dates back to colonial times and is still in use.

### 6.3. Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery demonstrates changing burial practices through the presence of the traditional burial area, lawned area and the Columbarium niche walls.

### 6.4. Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is a rare surviving example of cemeteries established in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. Other cemeteries from this period have not all survived and this example is valuable for further study.

### 6.5. Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is valued by the people of the Rockingham district for social, cultural and religious reasons. This value is shown by the efforts of the community over the years to ensure the retention and maintenance of the place.

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery contributes to the community's sense of place through the presence of the community's earliest settlers. This contribution was acknowledged by the inclusion of the place in the City's Local Heritage Survey.

East Rockingham Cemetery; continues to play an important role in the local community through the continued use of the place by residents in Rockingham area and through the continued internment of persons who are descendants of the original settlers.



#### 6.6. Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;

The East Rockingham Cemetery; has a wide variety of headstones which reflect the mason's art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Some of the headstones are particularly fine examples of their time.

The East Rockingham Cemetery; has land mark qualities as it is one of the largest man made features along this section of Mandurah Road. However, the mature trees on the western boundary together with those in the Cemetery, serve to soften the impact of the place in what is essentially a natural environment.

#### 6.7. Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;

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#### 6.8. Its importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement;

East Rockingham Cemetery has the capacity to reveal archaeological information about the health and societal customs of those persons buried in the Cemetery.

### DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### 6.9. Condition

In general, East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is in good condition and is well maintained. Some of the headstones and grave surrounds are in poor condition and the issue of ongoing legibility of some of the headstones will need to be addressed.

#### 6.10. Integrity

The original layout of the Cemetery has remained intact as the new paths simply follow existing paths. It not known when the Cemetery was first fenced or what materials were used, although several styles appear to have been used over the years. The changes to the fence have not however affected the place's integrity. Many of the original headstones and metal surrounds are intact. The Cemetery has retained a high degree of integrity.

#### 6.11. Authenticity

A large majority of the original headstones have been retained within the Cemetery. While changes have been made to the fence, this has not detracted from the Cemetery's overall level of authenticity. The place has a high degree of authenticity.

## 7.0 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery first surveyed in 1866 for use by the small community at East Rockingham is a cemetery consisting of traditional burials, lawned burials and niche wall. It has cultural heritage values for the following reasons;

It is a rare surviving example of a metropolitan cemeteries established in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century which is still in use for its original purpose;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is associated with the development of the Rockingham district as an agricultural area and is all that survives of the small nucleus of public buildings which once defined the hub of the East Rockingham settlement. The Cemetery also displays the shift away from that small, nineteenth century settlement to the wider development of the district.

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery; has a wide variety of headstones which reflect the mason's art of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is associated with many of the first settlers who moved to East Rockingham during the 1840s to establish their farms and with the second wave of settlers who consolidated the small community established by those earlier settlers;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is valued by the people of the Rockingham district as demonstrated by the efforts of the community over the years to ensure the retention and maintenance of the place;

East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery demonstrates changing burial practices through the presence of the traditional burial area, lawned area and the Columbarium niche walls;

The East Rockingham Cemetery; has land mark qualities as it is one of the largest man made features along this section of Mandurah Road; and,

the place has associations with the Spanish flu epidemic which swept around the world at the end of 1918 through the burial of eleven soldiers who died at Woodman Point from this illness.

The toilet block and gazebo on the site have no significance.



## 8.0 ZONES AND ELEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The purpose of this section is to identify and discuss zones, sections and elements of the place that have varying degrees of significance. The grading of the levels of significance is considered in relation to the physical and documentary evidence and assessment of significance of the place discussed in the above sections. All aspects of the study area including landscape, archaeological potential, setting, building/s, physical features and elements are taken into consideration.

Generally a five tier grading system is used to identify those parts of the place that are of:

- Exceptional significance
- Considerable significance
- Some significance
- Little or no significance ie zones or elements that neither contribute not detract from the significance of the place
- Intrusive elements ie zones or elements considered to detract from or have an adverse effect on the significance of the place

The above grading system is considered in a State context and all five tiers need not apply to the significance of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

### 8.1. Zones of Significance

| Level of Significance            | Zone   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Exceptional Significance</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No areas of exceptional significance</li></ul>   |
| <b>Considerable significance</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sections 1-6 forming the earlier section of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery</li></ul> |
| <b>Some significance</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The newer sections of the cemetery (sections 7-13)</li></ul>                               |
| <b>Little or No significance</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Car park</li></ul>   |
| <b>Intrusive Aspects</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No intrusive zones</li></ul>   |



Key

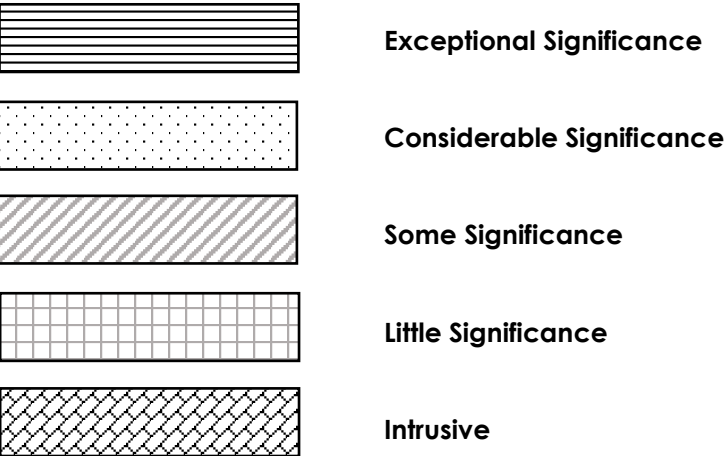


Figure 55      Zones of Significance



## 8.2. Elements of Significance

| Level of Significance            |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Exceptional Significance</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No elements of exceptional significance</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Considerable Significance</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grave stones belonging to the early settler families</li> <li>Mature plantings</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Some Significance</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remainder of grave stones</li> <li>Columbarium niche walls</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Little or no significance</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limestone boundary wall</li> <li>Western boundary shelter in section 6</li> <li>Two gazebos</li> <li>Public toilets</li> <li>Car park</li> <li>Paving throughout the cemetery</li> </ul> |
| <b>Intrusive Elements</b>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No intrusive elements</li> </ul>   |

## 9.0 CONSERVATION POLICY

### 9.1. Introduction

The following conservation policies have been developed on the basis of the preceding assessment of the cultural heritage significance, zones and elements of heritage significance and the statement of heritage significance for East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

The policies have been drafted with awareness of the physical environment of the site, sufficiently flexible to recognise any constraints and requirements on the site and of its owners, managers and users, and to enable the heritage significance of the place to be retained and enhanced.

In this context the conservation policy aims:

- to provide guidance to the owners of the place, regarding significance of the structure;
- to provide advice to ensure retention of the significance of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery;
- to provide practical recommendations for conservation of significant fabric;
- to illustrate practical means by which the significance of the place can be presented through appropriate interpretation; and,
- to provide advice on the approval process for any proposed development,

The assessment of significance and recommendations for conservation should be viewed not only as constraints but also, more importantly, as opportunities.

### 9.2. Guide to Conservation Policy

The policies recommended for the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery are based on the need to conserve it as a place of aesthetic, historic and social significance. The conservation of this structure should take account of the physical changes that have occurred over time, and which reflect the historical development of the place.

It is recommended that the conservation of the place be carried out in accordance with the principles established in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter).

A useful reference for the management and care of Cemeteries is the National Trust *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation*, 2009.<sup>70</sup>

### 9.3. Key Policy Statements

- Policy 1.1** The assessed significance of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan should be adopted by the owners and managers of the place, as well as relevant authorities, as a guiding document for decisions about management, maintenance and future use.
- Policy 1.2** The conservation of significant elements should be carried out in accordance with the principles outlined in the Australia ICOMOS charter for the conservation of places of cultural significance (the Burra charter). These principles are fundamental to the Asset Management Plan.
- Policy 1.3** The Conservation Management Plan should be reviewed periodically to consider the continued applicability of the policies and to assess the manner in which they have been implemented.
- Policy 1.4** All work undertaken to conserve or adapt the place should be appropriate to the assessed significance of the place and

<sup>70</sup> National Trust *Guidelines for Cemetery Conservation*, The National Trust of Australia (New South Wales) acknowledges the support of the NSW Department of Planning,

Heritage Branch, Second Edition 2009. [NATIONAL TRUST GUIDELINES FOR CEMETERY CONSERVATION](#) accessed July 2022.



should be guided and supervised by experienced conservation practitioners.

#### 9.4. Policies Arising from the Cultural Heritage Significance of the Place

The Assessment of Significance (Section 5.0) and Statement of Significance (Section 6.0) define the cultural significance of the place in terms of aesthetic, historic, scientific and social significance, and in terms of its condition, rarity and representativeness.

The significance of a place must be capable of being observed in the fabric of the structure and other elements of physical evidence in order that the conservation of these preserves the documented cultural heritage significance.

- Policy 2.1** The future conservation and use of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery should take account of the assessed significance of the place.
- Policy 2.2** All the elements assessed as being of cultural heritage significance of the place should be retained and conserved in their original locations.
- Policy 2.3** Site features assessed as being of little significance or intrusive elements may be retained or removed on the basis of the requirements of use.

#### 9.5. Requirements Arising out of the Burra Charter

The conservation policy for the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery recommends the conservation and interpretation of the existing building in accordance with the principles of the Burra Charter. (Policy 1.2)

The Burra Charter indicates certain principles, which should guide conservation. Generally, original fabric is considered to be of greatest significance and the principles of the Burra Charter focus on the means of

conserving this in order to preserve the authenticity of the heritage place. Where fabric has deteriorated to the point where it is no longer viable, reconstruction should be carried out using replacement material that matches the original as closely as possible. However, since the greatest value is placed on authentic material dating from the period of construction, conservation of this is of the highest priority and replacement should only be carried out when all means of conserving the original fabric have been investigated.

Conservation of existing fabric does not require that the fabric appear as new. Part of the understanding of a place of heritage significance includes the patina of age resulting from minimum interference with original fabric. Generally, conservation practice requires owners and users to maintain places of cultural heritage significance as part of their day-to-day use.

All the principles of the Burra Charter are relevant to the conservation of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

The following Articles 8, 9 and 16 are highlighted for their association to this place. (Refer to the text of the Burra Charter for exact definitions and explanatory notes for each article)

**ARTICLE 8:** Conservation requires the maintenance of an appropriate visual setting: eg form, scale, colour, texture and materials. New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

**ARTICLE 9:** A building or work should remain in its historical location. The moving of all or part of a building or work is unacceptable unless this is the sole means of ensuring its survival.

**ARTICLE 16:** The contributions of all periods to the place must be respected. If a place includes fabric of different periods, revealing the fabric of one period at the expense of another can only be justified when what is removed is of slight cultural significance and the fabric which is to be revealed is of much greater cultural significance.

Where later fabric is harmful to original or earlier fabric, this should be carefully removed following the advice of an experienced heritage architect.

## 9.6. Policies Arising out of the Burra Charter

**Policy 3.1** The definitions and principles of the Burra Charter should be used to guide all considerations for the future conservation, development and use of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and any associated requirements for physical works. (Refer 9.9 Policies Arising from the Physical Condition of the Place)

## 9.7. Policies Arising out of Graded Zones and Elements of Significance

The following recommendations for the different graded zones of significance are based on those outlined in the Heritage Council of Western Australia's 'Conservation Plan Study Brief,' and have been adapted to suit the specific requirements of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery. (Refer Section 7.0 Zones and Elements of Significance).

### Exceptional Significance

**Policy 4.1** The fabric of structures or elements of exceptional significance should be retained and preserved, restored or reconstructed as appropriate.

There are no zones or elements of exceptional significance.

### Considerable Significance

**Policy 4.2** The fabric of structures or elements of considerable significance should be preserved. Old, weathered and damaged graves do not necessarily need cleaning or repairing.

The earlier sections of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery, sections 1-6, which contain the oldest graves, many of which belong to the early settlers of the area, are of considerable significance.

These gravestones are in poor to good condition. They tell the story of early occupation of the area and often the condition contributes to this narrative. Naturally weathered/aged stones presenting with imperfections contributes to the understanding of age and contributes to its significance.

**Policy 4.3** The potential archaeological deposit of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is of considerable significance. Any further ground disturbance should recognise the archaeological potential and take the appropriate action.

See the Archaeological Policy section below for more detail.

**Policy 4.4** The mature plantings around and within the cemetery contribute to the aesthetic, historic and social significance of the place and should be retained.

The plantings of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery should be assessed by a professional to determine their significance and their condition. Any planting regarded as being of considerable significance should be retained and carefully managed.

Plantings and landscaping treatments add to the aesthetic, historic and social values of a cemetery. They may also demonstrate potential scientific value.



If additional planting is to be undertaken, the type and placement of the plants should be carefully considered to ensure they are appropriate for the cemetery, the locality and will not cause damage to the gravestones.

### Some Significance

**Policy 4.5** The fabric of gravestones that are considered to be of some significance should be retained and preserved.

The general policy is that fabric of structures or elements identified as being of some significance should ideally be preserved, restored or reconstructed as appropriate. Whilst there is a little more flexibility in the approach to elements of some significance, their retention is encouraged. Any works or changes to these elements should not harm zones or elements of greater significance or the significance of the place as a whole.

The more recent gravestones and the lawn cemetery are of some significance. These elements still contribute to the story of life in the local area and are reflective of the time in which the burials were undertaken. Any changes to these graves should be carefully considered and the impacts on the other gravestones assessed prior to works being undertaken. Changing a headstone based on changing tastes is not recommended.

### Little Significance

**Policy 4.6** Zones or elements of little significance may be altered or removed depending on use requirements. The removal or alteration of these elements should not harm the zones and elements of greater significance.

The car park is of little significance. Changes to this area may be appropriate so long as they do not disturb or impact on the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

The later additions to the cemetery eg. the timber gazebos, public toilets and the fibro shelter can be retained or replaced. Any replacement

elements should be carefully designed to ensure the aesthetic qualities of the cemetery are not harmed. The placement of any new/replacement structures should be carefully considered and should not harm any existing grave or element of greater significance.

### Intrusive Zones or Elements

**Policy 4.7** Zones and elements regarded as being intrusive may be removed depending on user requirements. The removal of such should not harm zones and elements of greater significance.

There are no intrusive zones or elements.

## 9.8. Policies Arising from the Physical Setting of the Place

The setting of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery contributes to the significance of the place. The cemetery was the first cemetery in the area and tells part of the story of the early settlers. At the time of their arrival, the area was bushland which they gradually cleared to create homes and livelihoods for themselves and their families. The extant bush around the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery contributes to this story and provides an appropriate setting to the place.

This area of Rockingham has been designated as an industrial zone and as such, the landscape is changing from an undeveloped bushland to a landscape full of large industrial units which will create a setting that is at odds with the peaceful nature of the cemetery.

**Policy 5.1** Surrounding development should not encroach on the landmark values of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery boathouse.

**Policy 5.2** Investigate an appropriate buffer around the cemetery based on professional advice to ensure that future development along

Mandurah Road does not adversely impact on the significance of the place.

**Policy 5.3** Any changes to the boundaries of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery to protect it from the impacts of future development should be carefully considered and be appropriate in terms of style and material to the age and character of the cemetery. High, visually impermeable fencing should not be erected around the cemetery.

### 9.9. Key Policies Arising from the Physical Condition of the Place

The condition of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and all its components is generally fair to good. The older headstones are showing signs of age and weathering with a number of them becoming difficult to read. A number of the graves are also presenting with a degree of subsidence.

Unlike buildings and other structures, the repair of graves and headstones can be harmful to the significance of the place. The patina of age, the weathering and slight damage to the graves forms part of the story, especially in old cemeteries such as East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery. Repairing the graves to make them look new can impact on the aesthetics of the place and distort the story the cemetery and the gravestones tell. As the first cemetery in the area, some of the gravestones are over 100 years old and naturally show signs of age and deterioration.

Where graves are in a dangerous condition that could be harmful to visitors of the cemetery or have been broken through age, vandalism or structural issues, repairs may be appropriate. Any repairs must be fully considered and appropriate experts should be engaged to undertake the works.

The grounds of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery are of significance. The grounds form an appropriate setting to the gravestones and should be conserved. Not all elements of the cemetery demonstrate the same level of significance and therefore there is greater flexibility in how these elements are conserved. As the cemetery as a whole demonstrates considerable or some significance, any works or changes within the grounds must not harm the significance of the place.

**Policy 6.1** The conservation works identified in this report should be undertaken within the timeframe specified to prevent harm occurring to the place. The identified works should form part of the on-going conservation and maintenance planning for the place.

**Policy 6.2** All original fabric should be retained wherever practicable. Where this is not possible due to condition, new fabric may be introduced to match on the advice of experts ensuring that all new work can be read as new. Where possible replacement fabric should be on a like-for-like basis.

**Policy 6.3** The original use of the place is of great significance and should be retained. As a cemetery, there are few (if any) alternative uses that are appropriate. Although the cemetery is no longer open to new burials, family members of those already buried in the cemetery are allowed to still be buried in the cemetery and therefore the original use does continue in part.

**Policy 6.4** Unless there are exceptional reasons to do so, the gravestones within the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery should not be relocated to an alternative cemetery to make way for industrial development. The cemetery is intrinsically linked with East Rockingham and the Mandurah Road location, moving the gravestones to a new location would distort the story of the development of East Rockingham. Conservation of the cemetery in its current location is the best form of conservation of the place.

### 9.10. Conservation of The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery

The cemetery should be retained as a cemetery open to the public. The place has been assessed as being of significance and therefore the elements that combine to create the cemetery should be retained and conserved.



- Policy 7.1** All fabric to the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery should be inspected on a routine basis for structural adequacy, cracking and deterioration of materials that may be of danger to the visitors of the cemetery. Where issues are known to exist, these should be remediated by appropriate professionals and/or monitored for further deterioration.
- Policy 7.2** Where replacement of original fabric is required, new fabric may be introduced to match the originals upon the advice of experts in the field of gravestone restoration.
- Policy 7.3** Inspection of the trees is recommended to ensure they are in good, safe condition and appropriately maintained.
- Policy 7.4** Undertake repairs to the boundary fences. Do not erect the limestone wall around the entire cemetery. Timber fencing that reflects the natural setting is appropriate.
- Policy 7.5** Any further alterations to the function or layout of the cemetery or further structures are being considered, should be the subject to a heritage impact statement prepared by a heritage professional.
- Policy 7.6** Further development or additions to the cemetery should not distort the understanding of the place as a pioneer cemetery nor harm the significance of the place.

### 9.11. Policies Arising from the Physical Condition of the Place

Although City of Rockingham own the site, the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board (MCB) are responsible for preserving and maintaining the cemetery in a safe and clean condition. It is the responsibility of the individual families to maintain the graves and plaques with authority from the MCB.

The MCB complies with the Cemeteries Act 1986 and the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board By-law 1992 with regard to the upkeep and responsibilities of monuments (graves) within cemeteries.

The MCB adopt a cautious approach to the management of headstones. The MCB recommend that dangerous headstones are attended to either by repair or by being laid down but do not generally recommend that the

stones are restored. Where headstones are to be repaired or restored, the following approaches should be followed.

Cleaning the headstones and graves to present in a 'newer' condition is not recommended as this can not only damage the fabric of the monuments but also distort the understanding of the story.

If any of the graves have been subjected to graffiti, this should be carefully removed by experts. Harsh acidic cleaning solutions should not be used. Hard bristle brushes, wire brushes or abrasive cleaning pads should not be used. High pressure washing should not be used.

Repair can be undertaken in a cautious manner. Expert advice should be sought prior to any repair being undertaken.

Do not use steel wire brushes on the decorative iron fencing around graves. Bronze or brass wire brushes are softer and cause less damage. Prior to cleaning, the reason why they are being cleaned should be understood and the impact of cleaning them determined.

Headstones often lose the clarity of the inscription over time due to age and weathering. It is not generally recommended that the inscription is re-engraved as this can further damage the fabric. Where the decision is taken that the message should be re-engraved, it should only be done so by an expert engraver. The re-engraved message should read the same as the original and should not be altered.

A written and photographic record of the monument and its inscription should be made before it becomes too hard to read. Where no record of the inscription exists and the original wording can no longer be read, the monument should be left in its current condition and not be re-engraved.

The cause of the subsidence should be investigated, particularly if public safety is being compromised as a result of the subsidence. If this is caused by tree roots etc, the plantings may need to be removed. Where a monument is being compromised due to subsidence, it is the owner of the monument who is responsible for investigating and rectifying the issue. Where subsidence is occurring in areas of the cemetery where there are no monuments or in the lawned areas, it is the MCB's responsibility to address the issue.

**Policy 7.7** Maintenance and restoration of gravestones and headstone may not always be appropriate due to the damage these works may cause to extant fabric and meaning of the graves. The impact and method of all works should be fully considered by experienced professionals prior to any works being undertaken.

**Policy 7.8** Any conservation works should be undertaken to help maintain and conserve the significance of the place. The works should be guided by a qualified heritage experts as well as experts in the field of gravestone/cemetery restoration.

**Policy 7.9** Consider the reason why headstones may be cleaned, its impact and whether it is necessary.

**Policy 7.10** If any headstones are to be cleaned, do not proceed without obtaining expert advice on methods of removal and products that can safely be used that will not harm the fabric of the headstones.

**Policy 7.11** Appoint engineers to investigate the cause of subsidence where public safety is at risk and take the appropriate remedial action.

**Policy 7.12** Where headstones are leaning and are becoming a public safety hazard, removing and laying the stone down may be required until such time the monument can be repaired.

**Policy 7.13** Where the stones are to be re-engraved, this must only be done after careful consideration of the impact it will have on fabric, integrity and significance.

**Policy 7.14** All engraving must be undertaken by professional stone engravers and must copy the existing text, no alternative text can be added.

**Policy 7.15** Broken gravestones should be repaired not replaced with advice taken from experienced professionals.

**Policy 7.16** The iron surrounds to the graves should be retained and conserved where these are the originals. Professional advice should be sought prior to any works being undertaken.

**Policy 7.17** Do not paint any ironwork that was previously unpainted. Treat with fish oil or other natural preservative to clean and protect the metal.

**Policy 7.18** Any ironwork that was previously painted should be carefully cleaned to remove all loose rust back to its natural state. Prep with a rust retardant and undercoat prior to repainting.

**Policy 7.19** All new fencing around graves should comply with MCB's grave marker and fence policies. Grave markers and fencing may be removed if they do not comply with the policy requirements.

**Policy 7.20** Remove weeds and other invasive vegetation from within and around the graves.

## 9.12. Policies Arising from the Archaeological Potential of the Place

**Policy 8.1** The archaeological potential of the site must be taken into consideration when considering any works that may require ground disturbance works. A professional archaeologist must be appointed. Future graves in the newer section of the cemetery do not need archaeological input but any landscaping or structural works around the site will need to consult an archaeologist.

**Policy 8.2** The bones in the existing graves, particularly the early settler graves, are considered to be of archaeological significance. The ground around the early graves may also be a potential archaeological resource.



### 9.13. Requirements for Interpretation

The interpretation of a place of assessed of cultural heritage significance involves the way in which the significance is conveyed to the users of the place including visitors and the general public. Interpretation is also used as an educational tool at a variety of levels. It should be engaging and cater for a wide range of users and provoke an array of responses and emotions from its audience.

Interpretive material may include signs, plaques, displays and other material as a means of explaining the history or reflecting the era of significance of the cemetery. Interpretive material is used to integrate the story of the history of the place with ongoing practical use.

A signage strategy for the place should be developed. The style of the signs may be unique to the cemetery and complement the historic nature of the place or they be based on existing signage strategies adopted by the City of Rockingham. Signage should include wayfinding signs which clearly inform visitors where each section of the cemetery is and where additional facilities within the cemetery are located. Wayfinding signs should be clearly visible and ideally located at the main entry points into the cemetery and at main pathway intersections. Signs demarcating each section of the cemetery should be clearly identifiable.

A heritage trail could also be considered which will add to the storytelling and navigation of the cemetery.

**Policy 9.1** Copies of the conservation management plan should be available through the owners, State Heritage Office and City of Rockingham library.

**Policy 9.2** Ensure that the conservation of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery as the fundamental component of its interpretation.

**Policy 9.3** Encourage the development of an Interpretation Strategy for East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery including interpretive material that illustrates the story of the cemetery and the early development of East Rockingham area connected to the pioneers.

**Policy 9.4** Encourage the protection and maintenance of the archive collection of materials held by the Rockingham and Districts Historical Society detailing the history of the cemetery and those who are buried there.

**Policy 9.5** Develop a signage strategy that will identify the form and location of signage around the cemetery. Wayfinding signage should clearly direct visitors around the site and at a minimum be located at the entry points to the cemetery as well as at main intersections within the cemetery. In addition, each section of the cemetery should be clearly identified/marked. The style of signage can be unique to the cemetery or follow existing City of Rockingham signage guidelines.

**Policy 9.6** Consider the introduction of a heritage trail around the site.

### 9.14. Policies Arising from External Requirements

A number of requirements must be taken into consideration when considering future management of the place. City of Rockingham own the site of East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and have certain responsibilities regarding the management of the place. The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board also have responsibilities for maintaining the place in a safe and functional manner. MCB should be consulted in the management of the place.

**Policy 10.1** Policies of MCB for managing cemeteries must be considered.

**Policy 10.2** Generally, any development of the place should comply with statutory constraints including building and health requirements administered by the local authority.

**Policy 10.3** A copy of this conservation management plan should be provided to the following agencies for their information and guidance.

- Heritage Council of WA
- Battye Library of WA
- City of Rockingham
- Rockingham and District Historical Society

### 9.15. Requirements of Heritage Listings

The East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery benefits from protection under the City of Rockingham Local Heritage List.

All proposed works will need to take account of the City's heritage policy and will require a heritage impact statement.

**Policy 11.1** A heritage impact statement is to be submitted with a development application, prepared by a heritage professional. Information from gravestone conservators must form part of the heritage impact statement.

### 9.16. Requirements of Statutory Authorities

Fire safety regulations, Health Acts, the Australian Building Code regulations, Disability Discrimination Act and other constraints operating on any property apply and the future use of the place may be influenced by these requirements.

Appropriate procedures for approval should be followed for any proposed works or future change of use of the place, however all applications should be accompanied by a statement indicating the heritage significance of the place.

All applications should involve a process of negotiation in order to ensure that requirements are met with minimum interference to significant fabric and other heritage values.

**Policy 11.1** Where elements have been assessed as having significance, any works arising from requirements to comply with statutory regulations should be evaluated against this conservation policy to ensure minimum impact on significant fabric. Professional advice should be sought to ensure that both safety and conservation issues are fully assessed.

### 9.17. Requirements of Owners and User of the Place

The requirements of the owners and users of the place will depend upon issues of practical ongoing use. The requirements of the owners and users of the place are to conserve the place in an appropriate manner.

**Policy 12.1** Current and future owners and users of the place should be made aware of this document and any alterations to accommodate new development should be mindful of the significance of the place and the levels of significance of the elements within the place.

### 9.18. Future Site Development

There should be no development or intrusive changes to the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery.

If further change is proposed, these changes should not harm the documented significance of the place.

The setting of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is changing due to the area being zoned for industrial use which may have a harmful impact on the significance of the place. It is recommended that a buffer of natural bushland is retained around the cemetery to provide an appropriate setting for the place which is indicative of its early existence.



**Policy 13.1** Any further development being considered to the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery should not irreversibly harm or distort the original design intent and function of the place.

**Policy 13.2** A buffer of natural bushland should be retained around the cemetery to provide an appropriate setting for the place and to prevent the industrial development from overpowering the cemetery and harming the significance of the place.

fabric and should only occur in areas of little or no significance.

**Policy 14.4** Interpretation of the changes and any information they reveal should be implemented as part of the recommended interpretation policy and strategy.

**Policy 14.5** Significant fabric, details and other elements should be conserved as part of the adaptive reuse process.

### 9.19. Policies Relating to Use of the Place

The original use for which a place was constructed for is the preferred ongoing use. The cemetery use of the place is continues as a memorial to those who have been buried there and for a select group of family members related to those already buried who have permission to be buried there in future.

It is recommended that the cemetery use continues even though the place no longer functions as an open cemetery.

There are no alternative uses for the place. The cemetery use is very specific and the elements of the place ie. gravestones are an intrinsic element of the place that narrate part of the story of the early development of East Rockingham. Alternative uses of the space are likely to require the removal of the gravestones or a change to setting of the gravestones which would have a detrimental impact on the heritage significance of the place.

Where the original function becomes unsustainable and an alternative use for the place is being considered, the following principles should be taken into consideration.

**Policy 14.1** The original cemetery use should continue.

**Policy 14.2** Alternative uses should not result in substantial alteration of the place and loss of original fabric.

**Policy 14.3** Where adaptations or new development are required to accommodate a new use, these should not harm original

### 9.20. Policies Relating to Renewable Energy

Renewable energy systems are encouraged in heritage places however careful placement of infrastructure is required to ensure that the heritage significance of the place is not harmed through these additions. Ideally, the introduction of these elements should be in areas of lesser significance or areas that cannot be readily seen from the public realm. Refer to the Heritage Council publication *Renewable Energy Systems in State Registered Places* for further information.

**Policy 15.1** Renewable energy contributes to the sustainability of the environment and can be considered appropriate for heritage places. Careful consideration should be given to the types of systems proposed and their impact on original fabric and the significance of the place must be taken into account. A heritage impact statement will be required to accompany any application for the installation of these systems.

## 10.0 POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

### 10.1. Introduction

This section is concerned with implementation of the conservation policies set out in Section 8. It is intended to identify those who should be responsible for the implementation of the various policies, when the policies should be implemented and also suggest how these policies might best be implemented. The aim is to ensure the maintenance, and where applicable, the improvement of the cultural significance of the place. This includes ensuring that the fabric of the structure is properly cared for, that adequate financial provision is made for its care and maintenance, and that adequate interpretation for the understanding of the place is put in place and then maintained.

### 10.2. Implementation and Future Management

Primary responsibility for the implementation of the conservation policy for the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery lies with the current owners of the place.

Any further development of the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery and the site around the place should take account of the recommendations established in the management and conservation policy section of this conservation management plan.

It is the responsibility of the owners/managers of the site to provide copies of the conservation management plan to the State Library of Western Australia, Heritage Council and to any future owners or leaseholders of the place, for their use as a guide to the future management of the place.

The present owners are responsible for ensuring that any future owners of the place are fully briefed regarding their responsibilities for the implementation of the conservation management plan and any Heritage Agreements that may exist. The current owners should provide any future owners or leaseholders with a copy of the conservation management plan for their information and guidance.

### 10.3. Management Guidelines

All works for the East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery should be undertaken in accordance with this conservation management plan which is to be adopted by the owners and managers. Long term management of the cultural heritage significance of these structures should commence with the adoption of this conservation management plan.

The City of Rockingham is primarily responsible for the implementation of the policies within this conservation management plan with assistance from the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board. It is recommended that any existing management and maintenance programs that may be in existence for the place be reviewed by the current owners with reference to the Management and Conservation Policies, Building Condition Assessment and schedule of works contained within this document.

Any future management for the place should seek to address all the issues raised in this document and any other pertinent issues that may arise. It should also seek to establish protocols for decision making in order to achieve the objectives and strategies established in this document.



## 10.4. Maintenance Plans

### Generally

- Check the condition of the walkways, gazebos and all other structures on the site to ensure they are in good condition and pose no hazard to the users of the place.
- Remove graffiti on all elements when it is reported. Expert advice will be required for the removal of graffiti from the graves.
- Repair roof structures on report of any damage.
- Monitor the on-going subsidence of the gravestones. Appoint experts where necessary to provide advice.

### Monthly or Per the City of Rockingham's Existing Regime

- Maintain the landscaping elements of the cemetery

### Quarterly

- Ensure all paving is in good condition, addressing any potential trip hazards.

### Long term

- Full roof and structure inspection every 2 years and report any damage.

## 10.5. Conservation Works

The following conservation works should be carried out by the owners or, through agreement, the families with authority from the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board. Any repairs should be undertaken in accordance with conservation policies, informed by this plan and with appropriate specialist advice from professionals skilled in conservation work. The schedule of works has been prepared based on an inspection of the place carried out in August 2021, which provides general conservation works to the place.

### Immediate Attention Works within 12 months

- Investigate the cause of subsidence near graves if this is a cause for public safety.
- It is the families' responsibility to maintain the headstone but where they are in a potentially dangerous condition, the headstones should be laid down.
- Repair the fences around the cemetery boundary.

### Urgent Works Within 1-2 Years

- Where a decision is taken to repair the iron surrounds professional advice should be sought. Rusted iron surrounds should be treated and cleaned. Repair where necessary. Any replacement elements should match the original in terms of fabric and design.

### Medium Term Works Within 3 Years

- Families undertaking repairs to damaged gravestones, where appropriate and utilising the services of experienced professionals.
- Families reinstating the gravel top to those graves where this is an original design element.

### Long Term Works Beyond 3 Years

- Improve signage and interpretation around the site.

### Ongoing Monitoring

- Ground maintenance to ensure vegetation does not impact negatively on the monuments. Landscaping maintenance will be based on the City's normal regime.
- The responsibilities for policies in this Conservation Management Plan may change based on agreement between the Metropolitan Cemeteries Board and the City of Rockingham.

## 10.6. Implementation of Interpretation Policy

The implementation of the interpretation policy for East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery is the responsibility of the current and future owners of the place. The main component of interpretation of the place is however the continued conservation of the place in accordance with the recommendations of this Conservation Management Plan.

## 10.7. Adoption of the Policy

The owners should adopt the Conservation Management Plan for East Rockingham Pioneer Cemetery for their use as a guide to the future management and conservation of the place.

## 10.8. Review

The Conservation Management Plan should be reviewed every five years, or sooner if major changes to the place occur, by an appropriately qualified heritage consultant. It is the responsibility of the owners to commission the review of the plan.

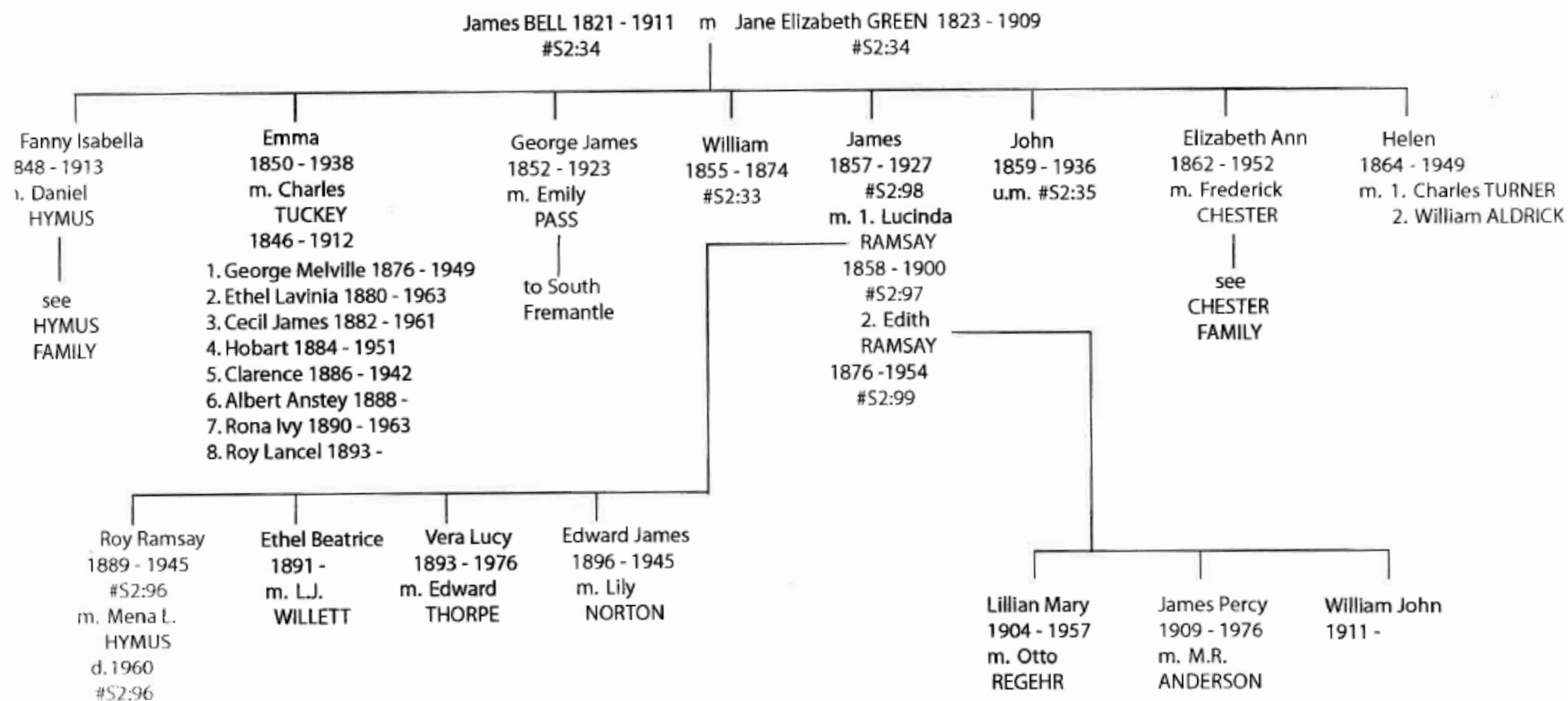


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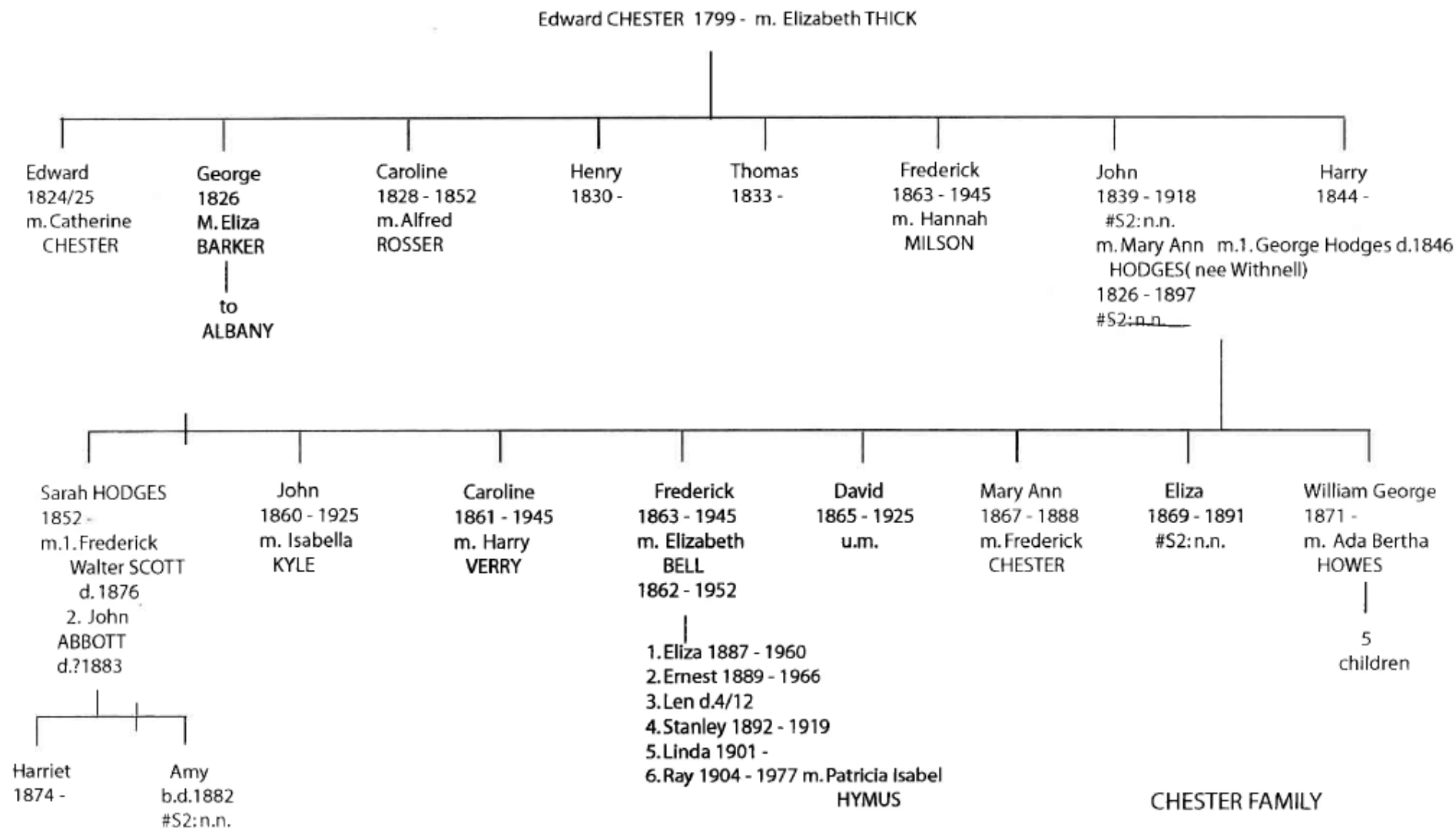
APPENDIX 1 – FAMILY TREES

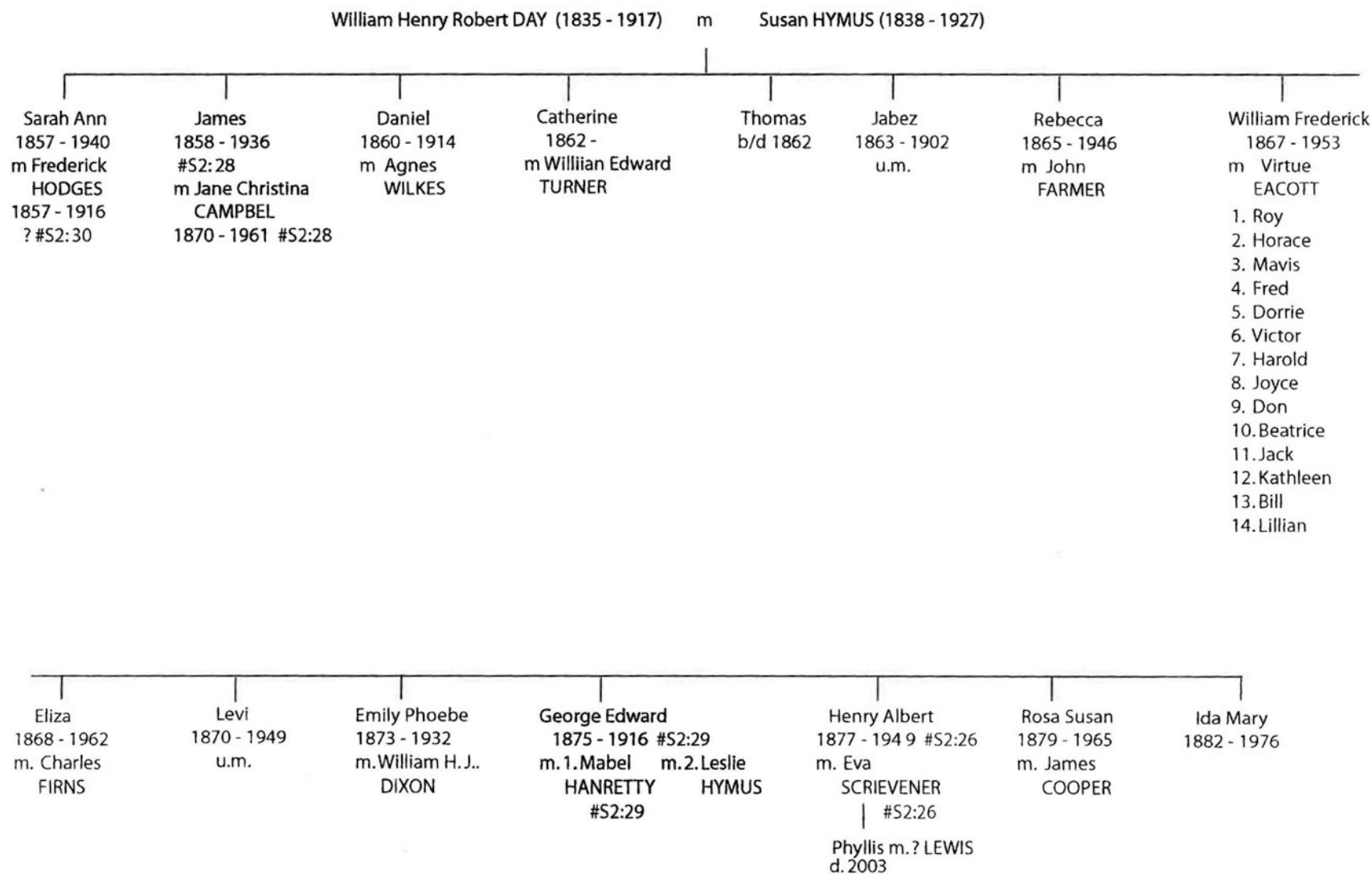




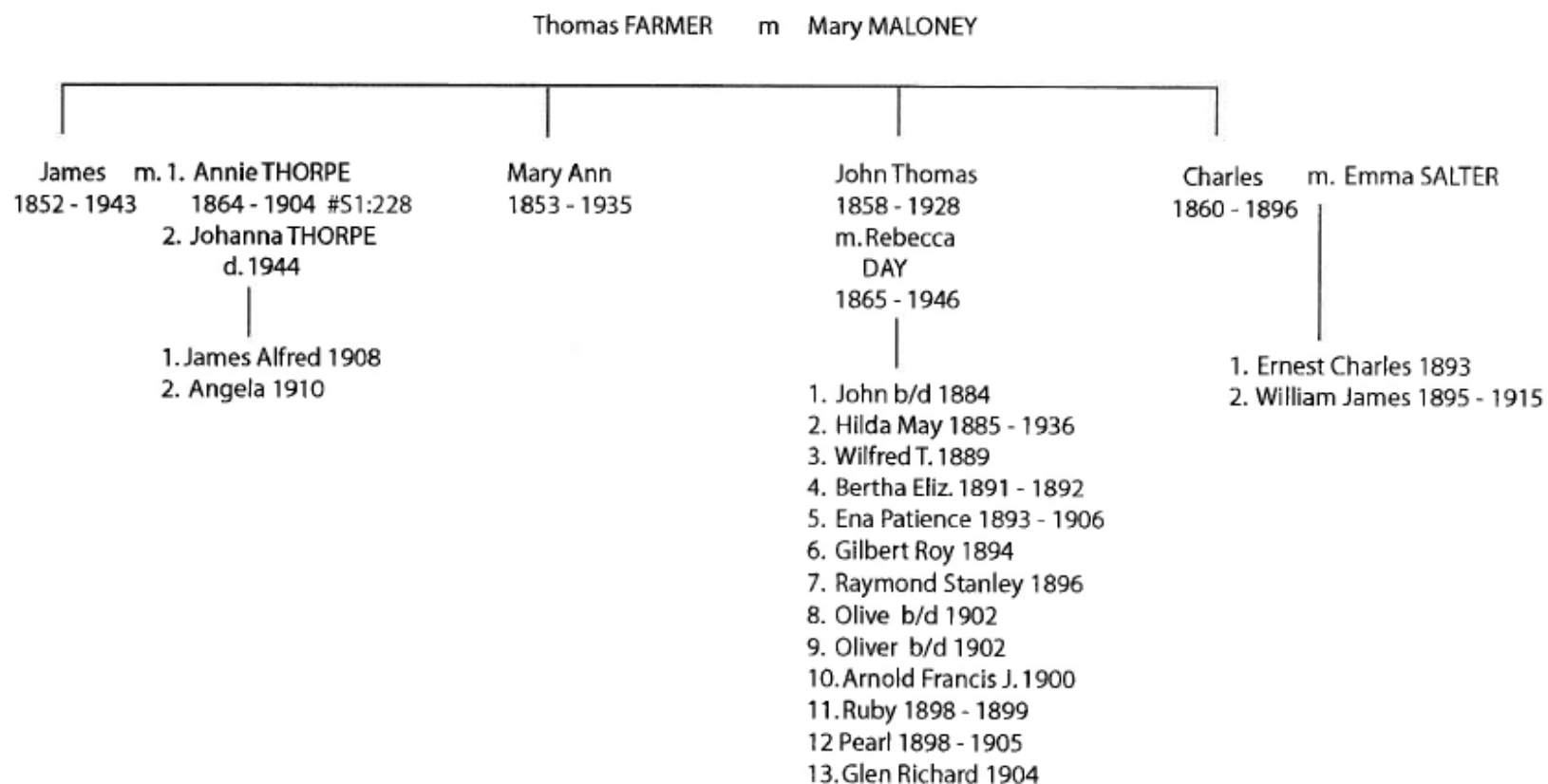
BELL FAMILY



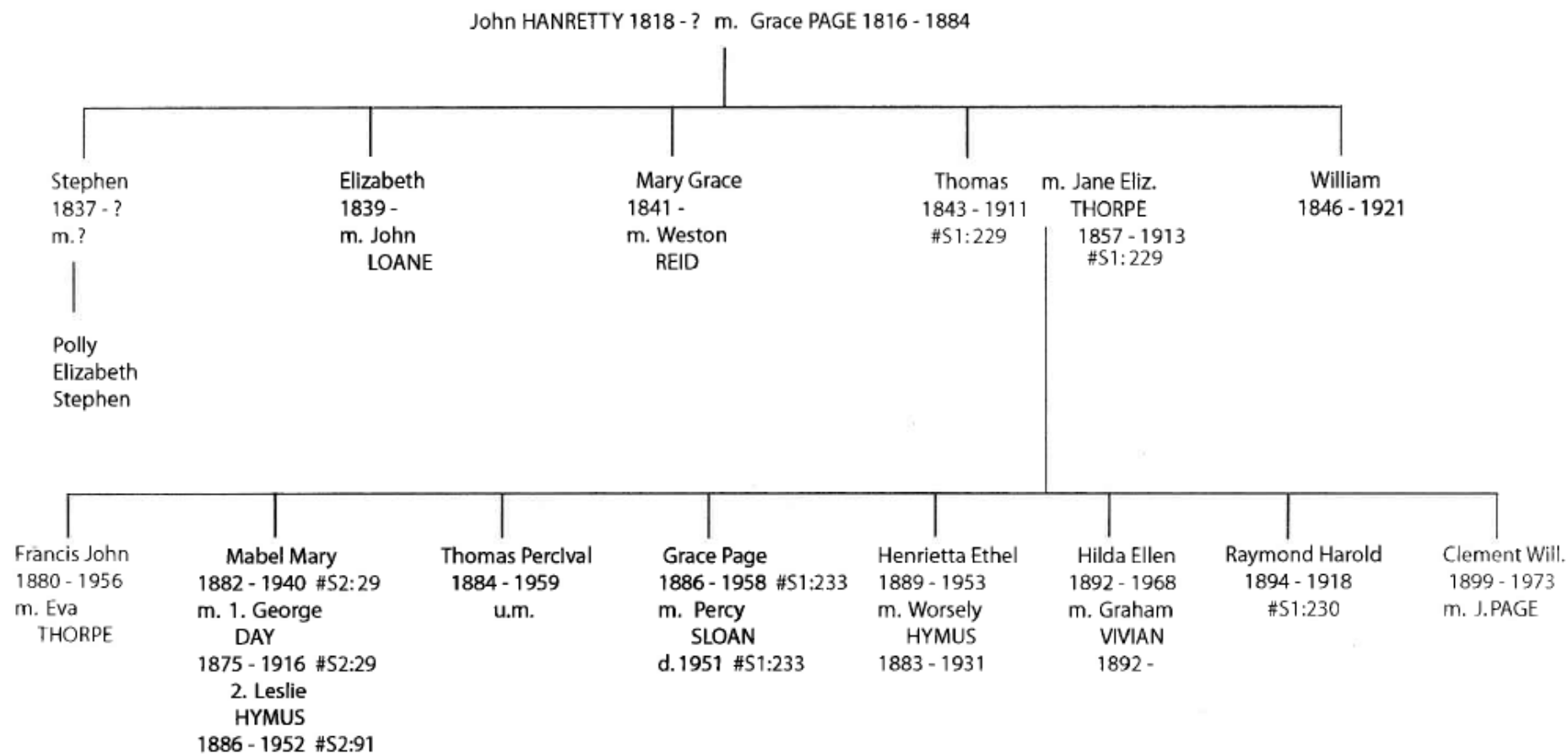




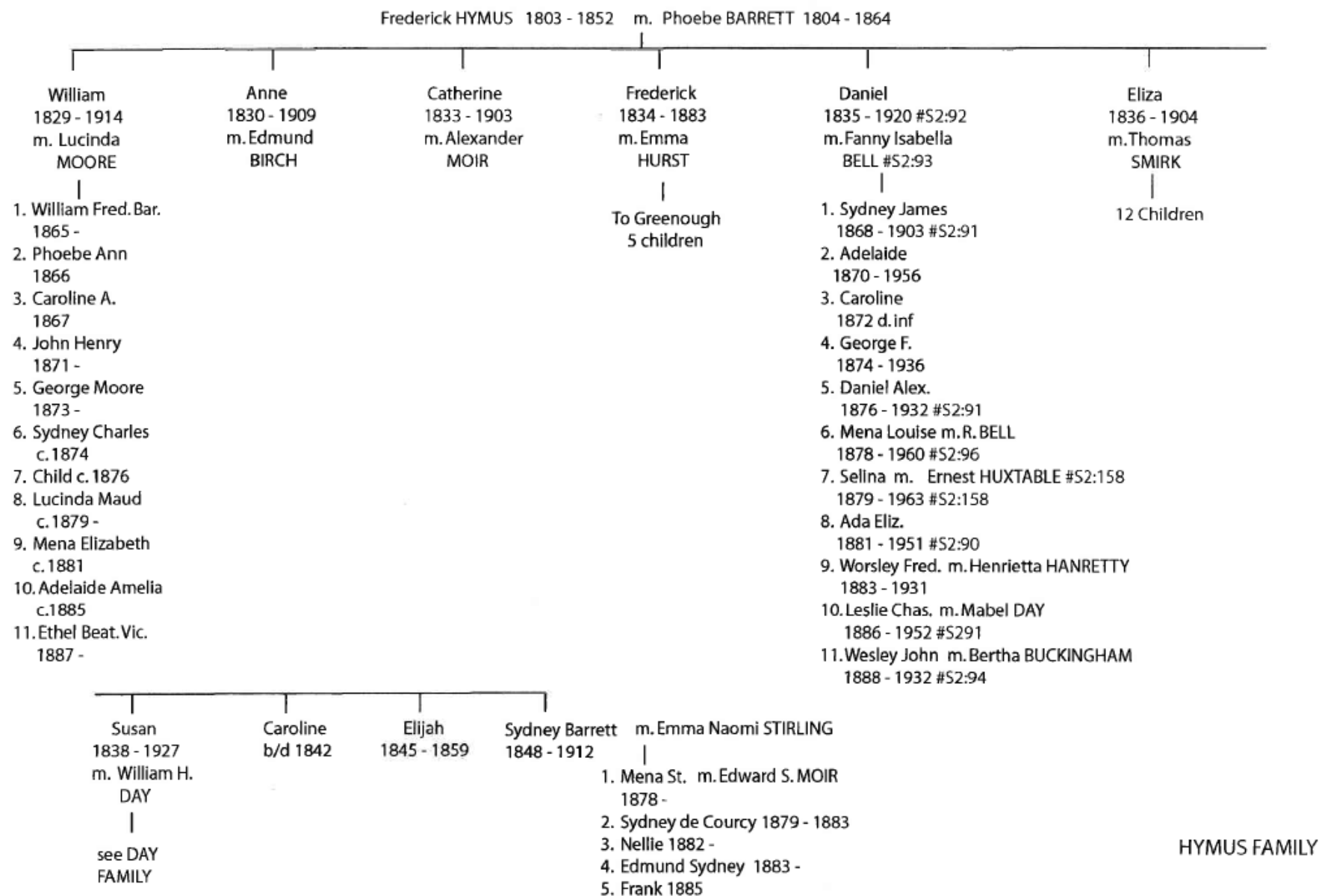
DAY FAMILY

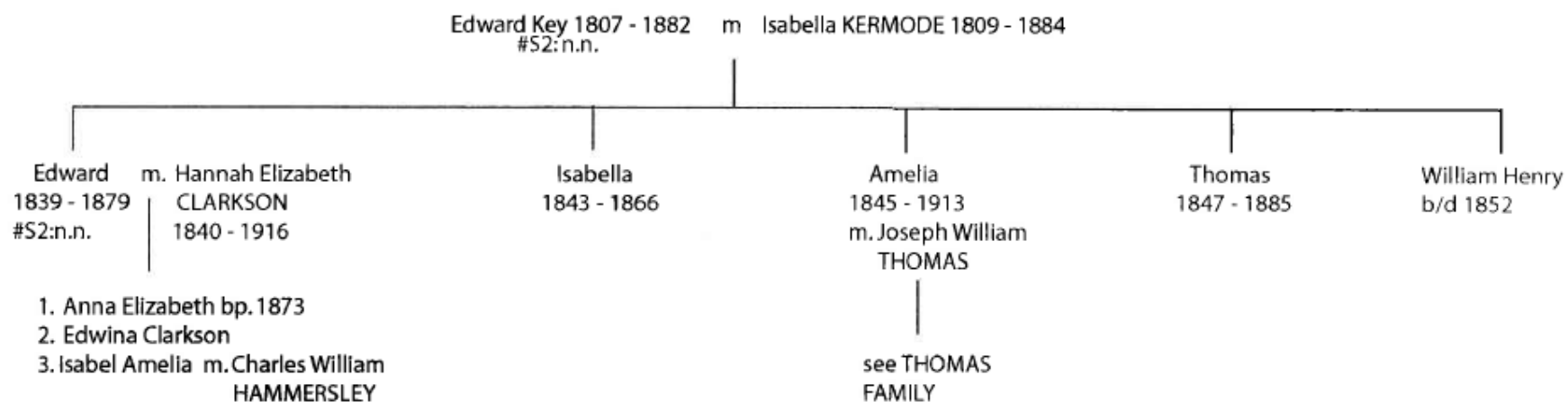






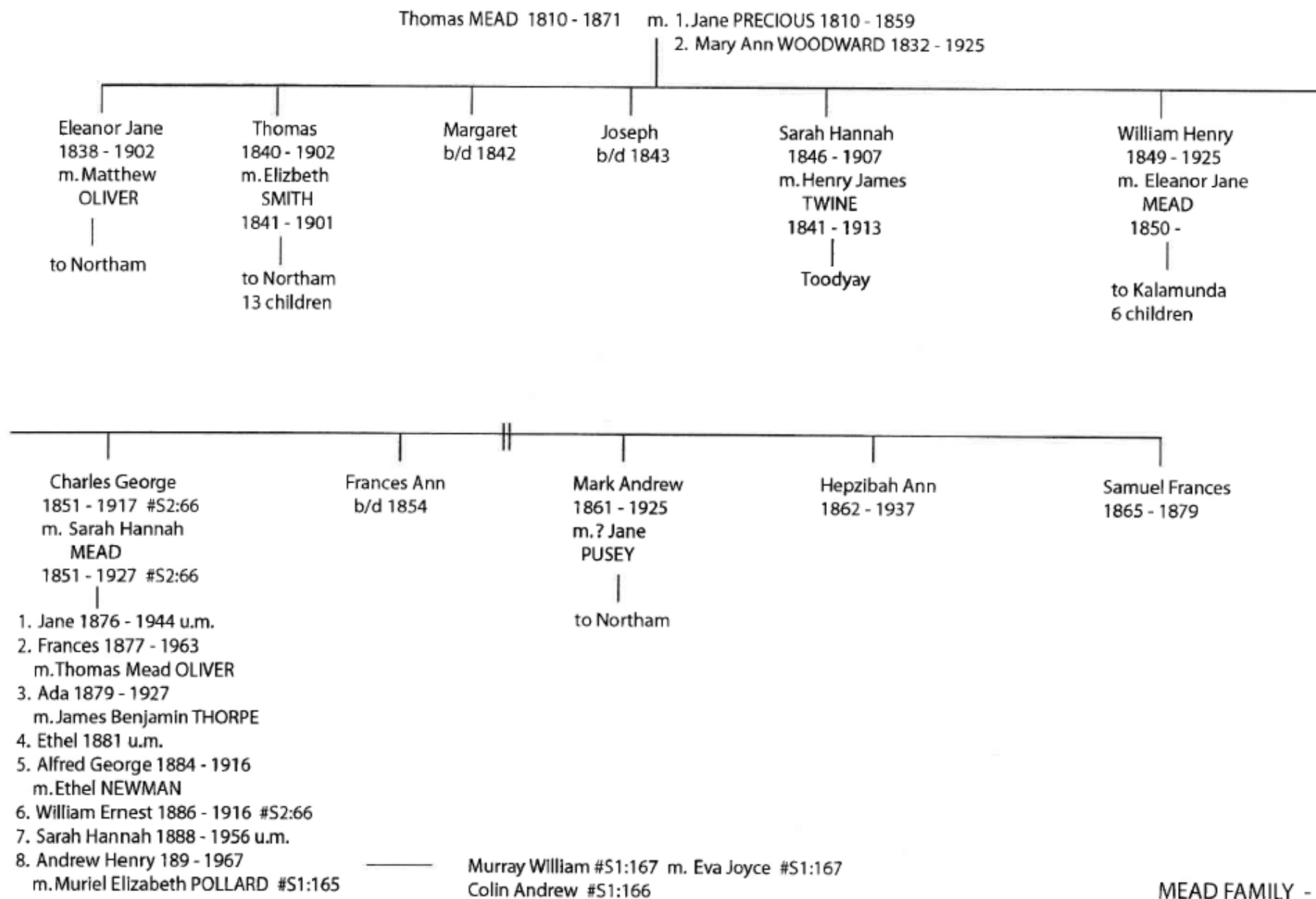
HANRETTY FAMILY

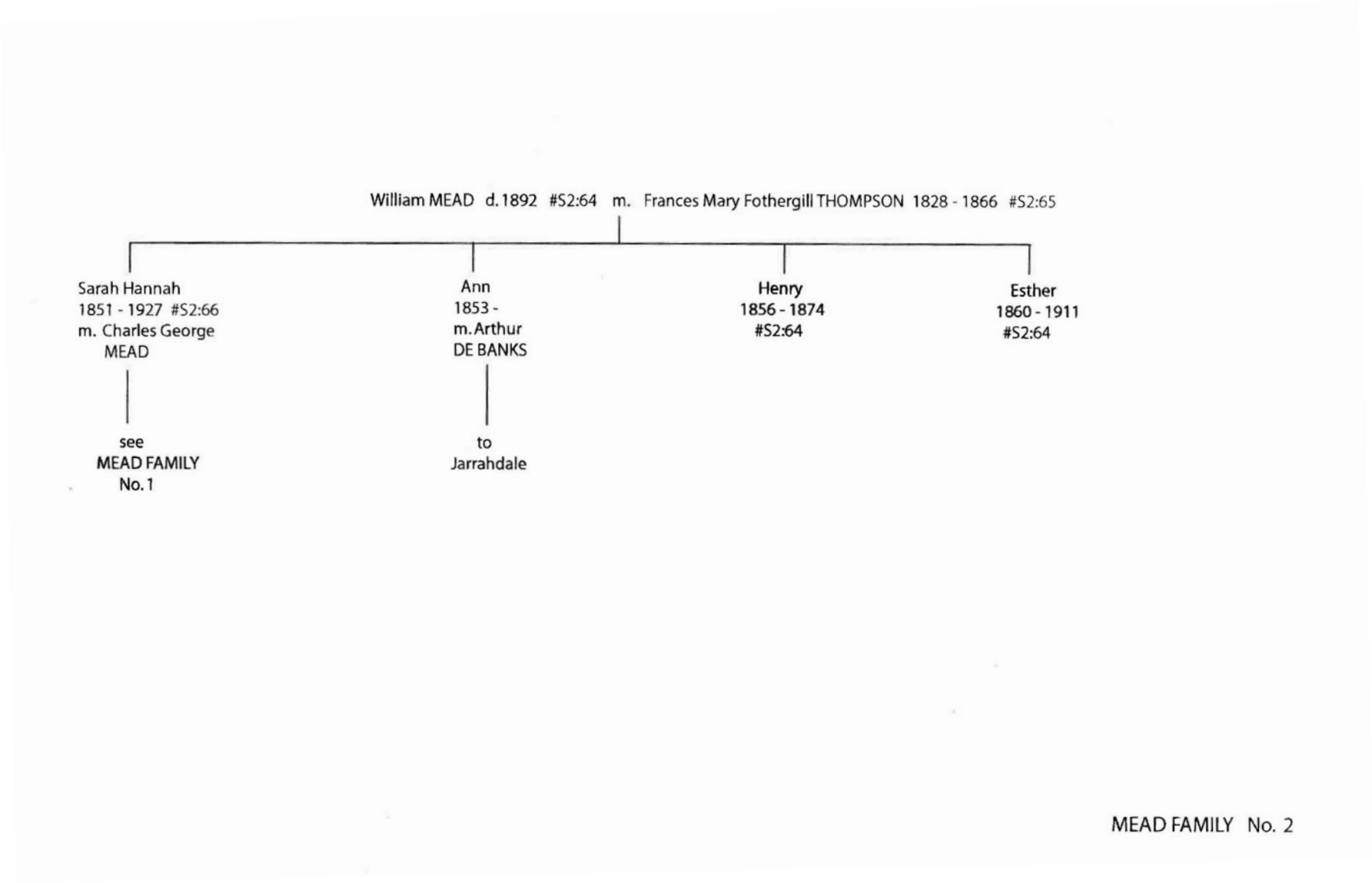


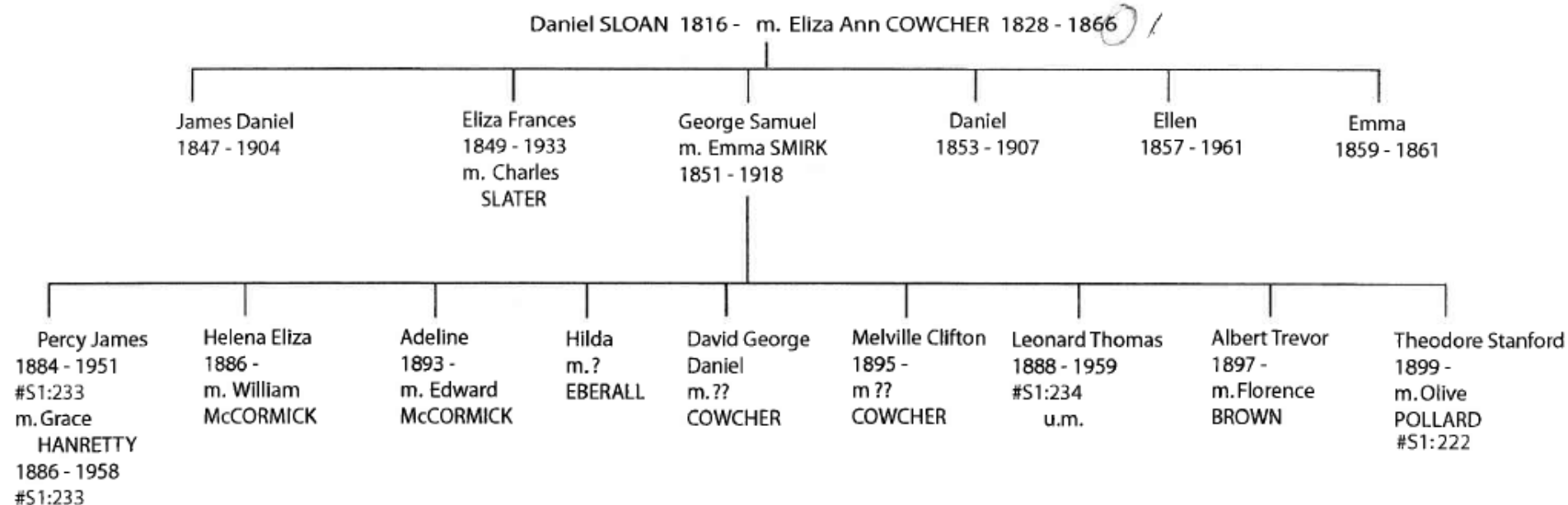


KEY FAMILY









SLOAN FAMILY



Thomas SMIRK 1829 - 1920 m. Eliza HYMUS 1837 - 1904

Sarah Ann  
1856 - 1859

Emma Eliz.  
1857 - 1950  
m. George Sam.  
SLOAN  
1857 -

Phoebe  
1859 - 1953  
m. James  
CHRISTIE

Sarah Ann  
1861 - 1953  
m. Thomas  
BUSH

Elizabeth Emma  
1863 - 1941  
m. Joseph Sam.  
BROWN

Frederick Thomas  
1865 - 1954  
m. 1. Hannah BAILEY  
2. Constance THOMAS

William  
1867 - 1942  
m. Johanna  
KAVANAGH

see  
SLOAN  
FAMILY

Susan  
1870 - 1947  
m. Andrew Jam.  
ARMSTRONG

David  
1872 - 1943  
m. Mary de  
SAN MIGUEL

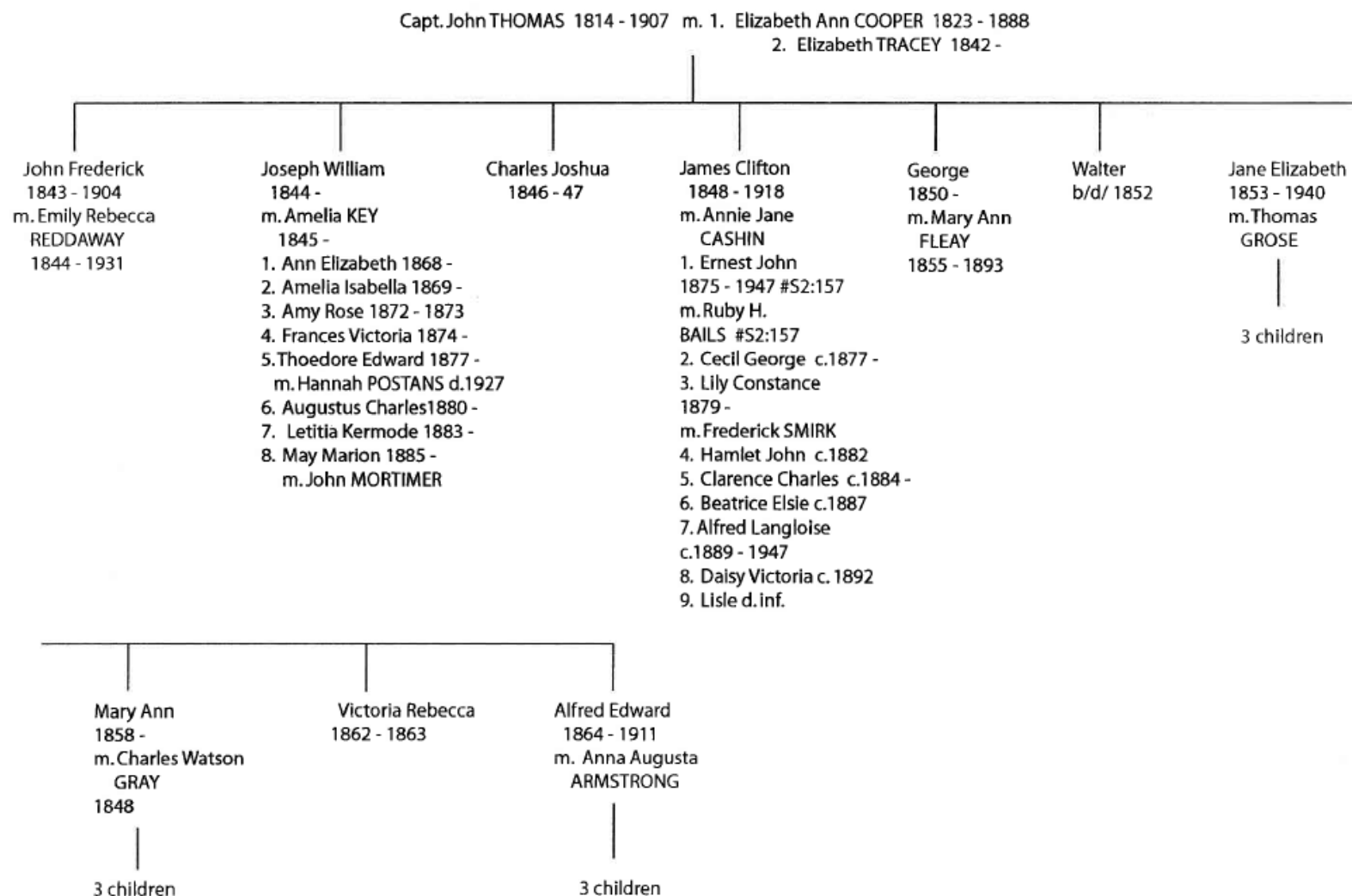
Pearce Hymus  
1874 - 1966  
m. Emily  
HICKSON

Walter James  
1876 - 1948

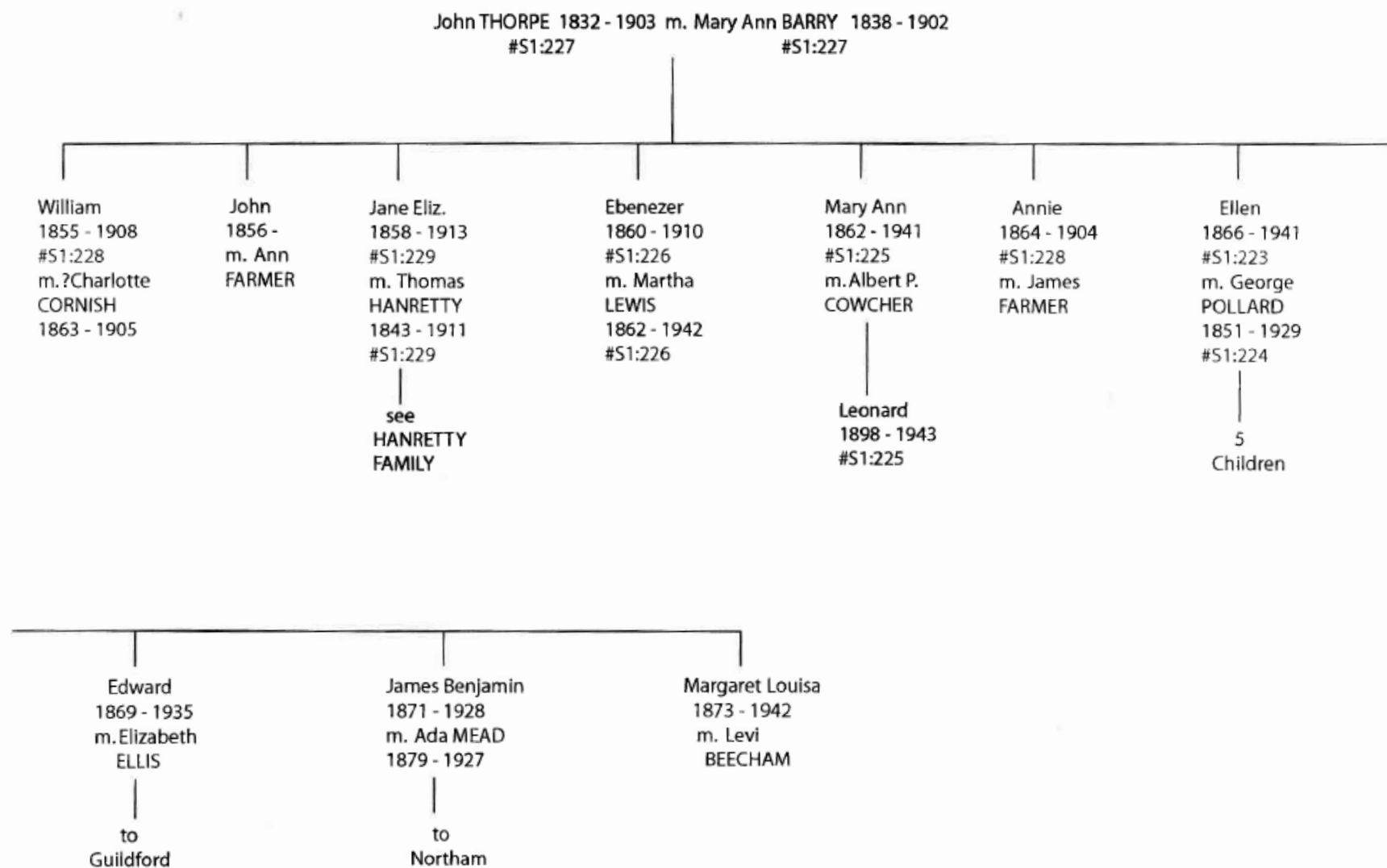
Florin Septimus  
1878 - 1957  
m. Harriette  
MORTIMER

Arthur Albert  
1881 - 1947

SMIRK FAMILY



THOMAS FAMILY



THORPE FAMILY



## APPENDIX 2 – DETAILED DESCRIPTION FROM 2004 CONSERVATION PLAN

This description of the older graves in the cemetery has not changed since the 2004 Conservation Plan and is reproduced here for reference.

As mentioned in Section 1.4, the Cemetery has been arbitrarily divided into a number of sections to aid in the descriptive process. There are a total of thirteen sections with Section 1 starting in the north west corner. These sections are all fully described below.

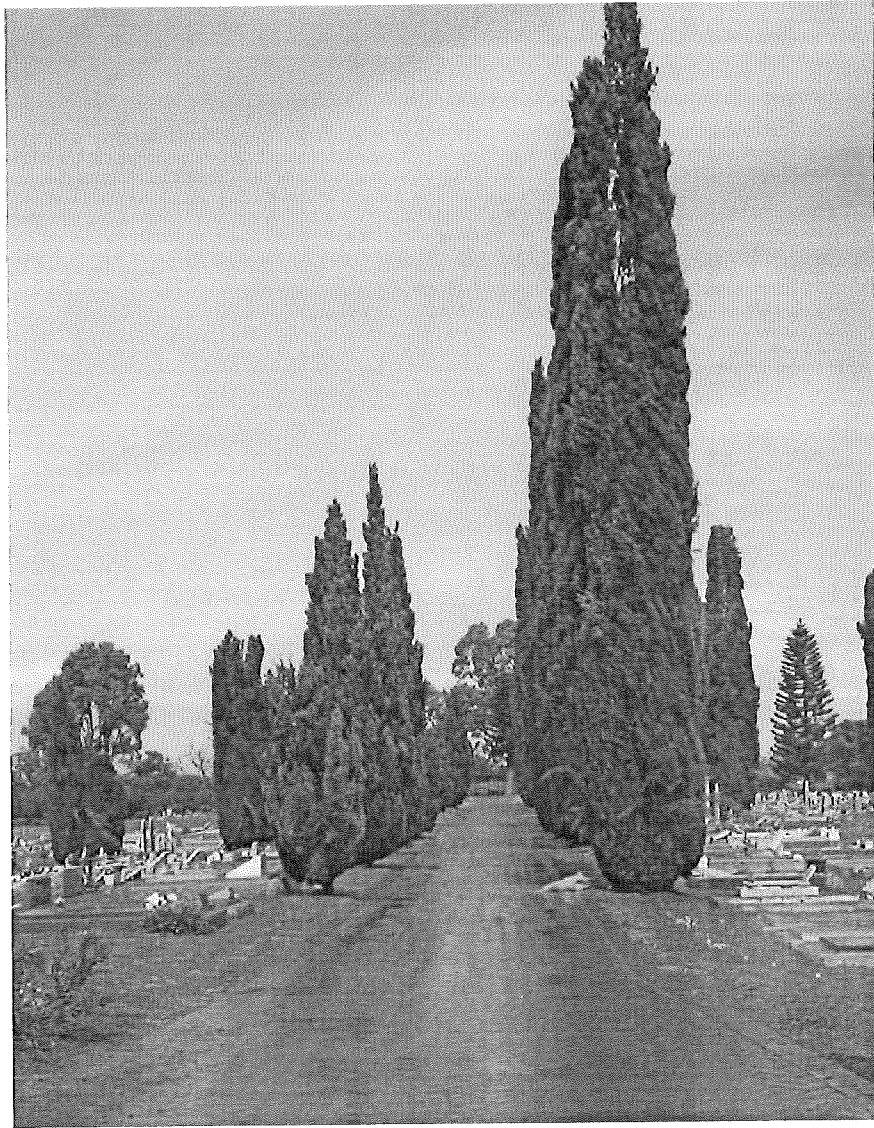


Plate 1 View of Section 1 looking south west. Note mature trees along boundary wall.

### 3.2.1. Section 1

This section is located in the north west corner of the Cemetery and is bounded on the northern and western sides by the limestone wall, on the eastern side by Pioneer Walk and on the southern side by Smirk Walk. Mexican Cypress (*cupressus lusitanica*) line the southern and eastern sides of this section. The graves in this section range in date from 1867 through to the 1990s. The majority of the early graves are located in the south east area and contain settlers from East Rockingham's pioneer families. Several military graves are also located in this area.

There are eight rows of graves in this section. For the purposes of this conservation plan, the row numbers start from the eastern side of the section. The first four rows of headstones face east while those in rows 4 and upwards predominately face west with a mix of east facing headstones. It is not clear why this practice has been adopted.



**Plate 2** View of Pioneer Drive looking south. Section 1 is on the right, with Section 2 on the left.





**Plate 3** View of Thorpe family plot represented by Ebenezer and Martha at extreme left, then Mary and John Thorpe, Annie Farmer and William Thorpe and double plot of Hanretty family.



**Plate 4** Grave of Mary Ann and John Thorpe

Row 1

This row contains graves dating from the 1980s and 1990s. Several plots in this row remain empty, while the majority of the occupied plots display graves marked by a stone kerb topped with a ledger and surmounted by headstone. All of the graves in this row are in good condition.

Row 2

Starting from the southern end, the first plots 226 – 228, belong to the Thorpe family. Plot 226 is a single grave occupied by Ebenezer Thorpe (died 23 August 1910) and his wife Martha, nee Lewis (died 30 October 1942). The headstone is a marble cross with a relief pattern of ivy leaves. The cross sits on four square plinths, the upper three are marble, while the bottom plinth is granite. The plot is defined by a low marble kerb surmounted with decorative, vertical wrought iron posts which support two rows of cast iron railings. At the eastern end of the grave the top rail has snapped off halfway along its length, while the bottom rail is missing. The headstone is in fair condition with all the information fully legible. There is some weathering to the upper section of the cross.

Plot 227 contains the remains of Mary Ann Thorpe, nee Barry (died 19 August 1902) and her husband John Thorpe (died 8 October 1903), the parents of Ebenezer Thorpe. This double grave carries a simple marble headstone bearing inscriptions for Mary Ann and John Thorpe. The individual graves have been marked out with thin marble slabs and the surface displays a thin scatter of white pebbles. The plot is defined by a wrought iron fence. The vertical uprights are imbedded in individual marble plinths. The headstone is in good condition with the inscriptions fully legible. The wrought iron fence has rusted, although it is still intact. There is evidence of ground subsidence in the centre of the plot.

Plot 228 is a double grave containing the remains of Annie Farmer (died 1904) and her brother William Thorpe (died 29 July 1908). Both were children of John and Mary Ann Thorpe. The marble headstone bears an engraved image of a dove with the inscriptions below. The individual graves are defined by thin slabs of marble. There is a very thin scatter of white pebbles over the two graves. The plot is defined by a wrought iron fence in the same design as plot 227. The headstone is in good condition with the inscriptions fully legible. The wrought iron fence has rusted, although it is still intact.

Plots 229 – 230 have been combined to form a double grave containing the remains of Thomas Hanretty (died 23 June 1911), his son Raymond Hanretty (died in France on 31 May 1913), and his wife Jane Hanretty (died 17 July 1913). Jane was the daughter of John and Mary Ann Thorpe. The marble headstone is in the shape of an open book. The plot is defined by a concrete kerb which supports vertical, decorative wrought iron posts which support a single wrought iron railing. The headstone is in poor condition with the inscriptions nearly illegible. At the eastern end of the plot, two of the vertical supports for the cast iron railing have become dislodged, causing the collapse of the railing on the eastern and northern sides. There is some subsidence in the centre of the plot.

Plot 231 contains the remains of Douglas Sloan who died at only 6 weeks of age (1916). His relationship to the Sloan family is not known. The headstone is in the shape of a shield which sits raised on a pedestal. The plot is defined by a concrete kerb and the grave is covered with concrete slabs. The inscription on the headstone is becoming illegible, while the concrete kerb has some misalignment in the north west corner. The concrete slabs of the ledger have bowed upwards and the concrete cracked across the centre.

Plot 232 contains the remains of Winnifred Sloan (died 6 February 1931). As with the Sloan baby, her relationship to the Sloan family is not known. The grave is defined by roughly dressed granite slabs which form a high kerb, topped with a concrete ledger. At the eastern end of the kerb the name 'Sloan' appears in capitalised letters. The headstone is in the shape of a shield and sits on a pedestal. The headstone is in fair condition, although the letters are in danger of becoming illegible. The concrete slabs of the ledger have cracked and fallen into the centre of the grave. This has caused the bottom edge of the headstone to rest on the ledger rather than being free standing.

Plot 233 contains the remains of Percy James Sloan (died 30 August 1951) and his wife Grace Page Sloan, nee Hanretty (died 7 December 1958). Percy Sloan was the son of George and Emma (nee Smirk). This grave is similar to 232, it has a high granite kerb which supports a ledger made from concrete slabs. The shield shaped headstone sits on a pedestal. A marble plaque is fixed to the primary shield and bears an inlaid inscription with details of Percy Sloan. A secondary headstone, a rectangular marble plaque which is fixed to an inclined slab of granite, records the details of Grace Sloan. This headstone is located towards the eastern end of the grave. Both the grave and headstones are in good condition.

Plot 234 contains the remains of (Priv) Leonard Thomas Sloan (died 22 November 1959). Leonard was the brother of Percy Sloan. This grave has a high granite kerb of undressed granite which supports a dressed granite ledger. The rectangular granite headstone (with a slightly curved top), spans the width of the grave and has engraved ornamentation to the sides and top. A rectangular marble plaque carries the inscription. Both the headstone and grave are in good condition.

### Row 3

A concrete seat with wooden slats sits at the southern end of this row.

Plot 225 contains the remains of Mary Ann Cowcher (died 20 December 1941) and Leonard Cowcher (died 24 August 1943). Mary Ann (nee Thorpe) is the mother of Leonard. The grave is defined by a high granite kerb of undressed granite. There is no ledger. The grave has been filled with soil, which comes to the top of the granite kerb. A rectangular granite headstone carries an engraved inscription. The headstone is in good condition although the grave has dropped down on the southern side.

Plot 224 and 223 is a double plot containing the remains of George Pollard (died 26 March 1929) and his wife Ellen Pollard, nee Thorpe (died 10 May 1941). Ellen Thorpe was the daughter of John and Mary Ann Thorpe. The headstone is an upright, pointed marble slab, with a pair of clasped hands beneath the apex. The stone carries a double inlaid inscription. A high concrete kerb defines the double grave and supports wrought iron posts which in turn support a double row of wrought iron rails. The kerb also supports a ledger made from concrete slabs. Both the headstone, the kerbing and the wrought iron work are in good condition. The ledger has collapsed near the centre.

Plot 222 contains the remains of Olive Sloan, nee Pollard (died 31 August 1956). Olive was the wife of Theodore Sloan, brother of Percy Sloan. The grave has a double raised granite kerb and ledger. The headstone sits on a raised plinth at the western end of the grave, while the name 'Sloan' appears on a metal plaque at the eastern end. The rectangular headstone features the engraved figure of an angel on the left side, while a metal plaque to the right carries the inscription. Two squared urns are placed on either side of the headstone. Both the headstone and the grave are in good condition.

Plot 221 and 220 is a double grave containing the remains of Bert Grassi (died 17 July 1958) and his wife Ellen Grassi (died 2 July 1967). A granite kerb defines the grave. The

kerb is slightly higher at the western end and supports a marble slab bearing an inlaid inscription. There is no ledger. There are two flower wells on either side of the marble inscription slab. Both the headstone and grave are in good condition.

Plots 219 and 218 do not display headstones or kerbs. There is no evidence grave 219 which is the final resting place of Thomas Kitching (died 9 November 1963). Plot 218 displays a mound of earth and at the time of the visit flowers were present on the grave site. The grave is the final resting place for J. Hodges (date of death unknown) and Lily Hodges (died 23 September 1964).

Plot 217 is occupied by Edwin P. Smith (died 7 June 1965) and Plot 216 is occupied by Benjamin Long (died 28 August 1965).



Row 4

Plot 162 contains the remains of John Greengrass (died 5 June 1945). The headstone is a roughly dressed vertical granite slab bearing a military insignia above the name John Greengrass. A granite kerb defines the grave. The grave area is filled with white pebbles. Both the headstone and the grave are in good condition.

Plots 163 – 167 contain the remains of members of the Mead family. Plot 163 is occupied by Elizabeth Mead (died 15 November 1969) and 164 by her husband George Mead (died 7 October 1942). Plot 165 contains the remains of Muriel Mead, nee Pollard (died 25 September 1946), wife of Andrew Mead who is a descendent of Charles and Sarah Hannah Mead. Andrew and Muriel's youngest son Colin is buried in plot 166 (died 3 December 1950) and their oldest son Murray is buried in plot 167 (died 10 April 1959). Murray's wife Eva is also buried in plot 167 (died 6 June 1965).

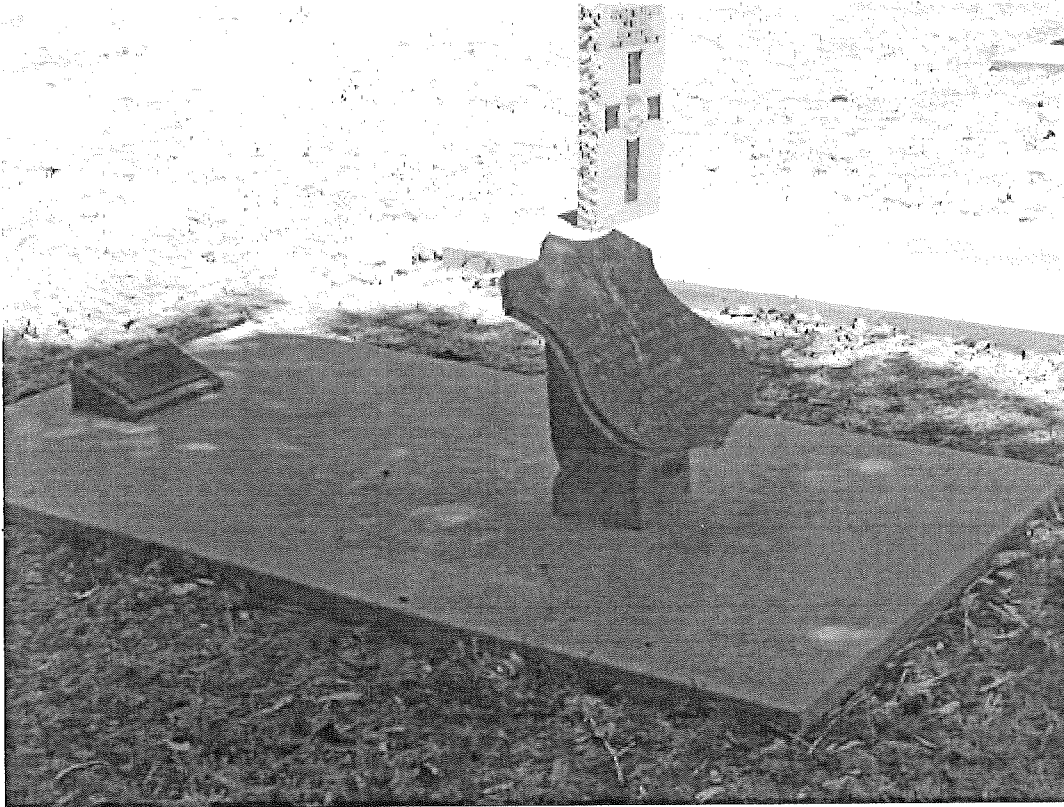
Plot 168 contains the remains of Christina Lees (died 6 October 1965) and plot 169 is occupied by William Ashling (died 12 November 1967).

All of the above graves have granite kerbs, fairly simple headstones and are in good condition.

Rows 5 - 7

A small oval rose garden has been planted at the southern end of Row 5 between two of the Mexican cypresses. All of the graves in these rows are in good condition and represent burials spanning the period between the 1940s (plots 96, 160 and 157), the 1950s (plots 102, 103 and 158), the 1960s (plots 92 and 93), the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. All of the graves and headstones are in good condition.

In general, the graves feature granite kerbs and simple headstones.



**Plate 5** Lance Corporal  
George's grave with Trooper  
M.J. Green's headstone  
beyond



**Plate 6** Private McAdam's  
headstone displaying the style  
which can be seen in the seven  
A.I.F. burials

### Row 8

The southern section of this row contains eight Australian Imperial Forces graves and one New Zealand military grave. These nine plots contain the following remains: plot 32 - Private John Fuge (died 11 December 1918), plot 31 - Private James Tutton (died 12 December 1918), plot 28 - Trooper M.J. Green (died 13 December 1918), plot 27 - Lance Corporal Harry George (died 14 December 1918), plot 26 Private B.D. McAdam (died 12 December 1918), plot 25 - Private H.S. Knott (died 13 December 1918), plot 24 - Private C.V. Morrison (died 15 December 1918), plot 21 - Private A.H. Sayers (died 15 December 1918) and plot 20 - Private Frederick Sinclair (died 29 August 1929). All of the graves with two exceptions (A.H. Sayers and A.H. George), have the same headstone: a roughly dressed, vertical granite slab which bears the stylised image of the rising sun, the military badge of the Australian Imperial Forces, together with the soldier's number, rank, name, company and date of death. Below the inscription is a simple cross. The New Zealand trooper's headstone bears the soldier's number and rank, name, country of origin and date of death above an image of a fern leaf within a circle, superimposed on a cross.

Private A.H. Sayers headstone and Lance Corporal A.H. George's headstones are a metal plaque embossed with the image of the rising sun, below which is recorded the soldier's number, rank, name, company and date of death. Opposite this information is a cross. In addition to the metal plaque, George's grave carries an additional marker at the foot of the grave. A marble shield, raised on a concrete plinth bearing the name of the deceased and date of death. The stone was erected by George's parents. Some of the inlay is missing.

Private John Fuge has a similar shield at the end of his grave which was erected by his comrades aboard the HMAT Boonda. This headstone is in fair condition.

All of the headstones sit on a flat granite slab which covers the grave. Apart from Private George's private headstone, all of the headstones are in good condition.

The remaining graves in this row represent burials ranging in date from 1955 - 1990s. All of these graves are in good condition.

The final remaining plot is located in the north west corner of this section. The construction of the limestone wall disturbed the remains of one of the earliest graves in the Cemetery, Joseph Broughton, who died on 13 October 1867. A simple metal plaque, fixed to the limestone wall records his name, date of arrival in Western Australia, his death and that the plaque was erected by the friends of Rockingham Cemetery.

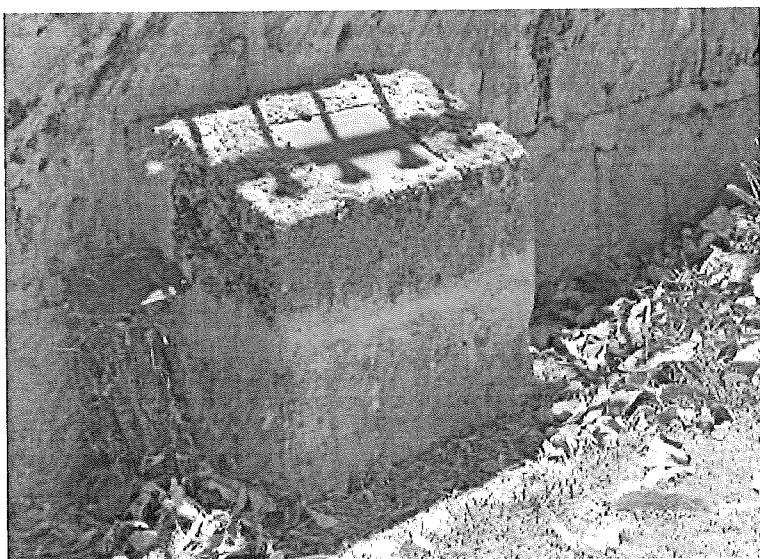


Plate 7 Metal plaque marking the presence of Joseph Broughton's burial





Plate 8 General view of Section 2 looking north east

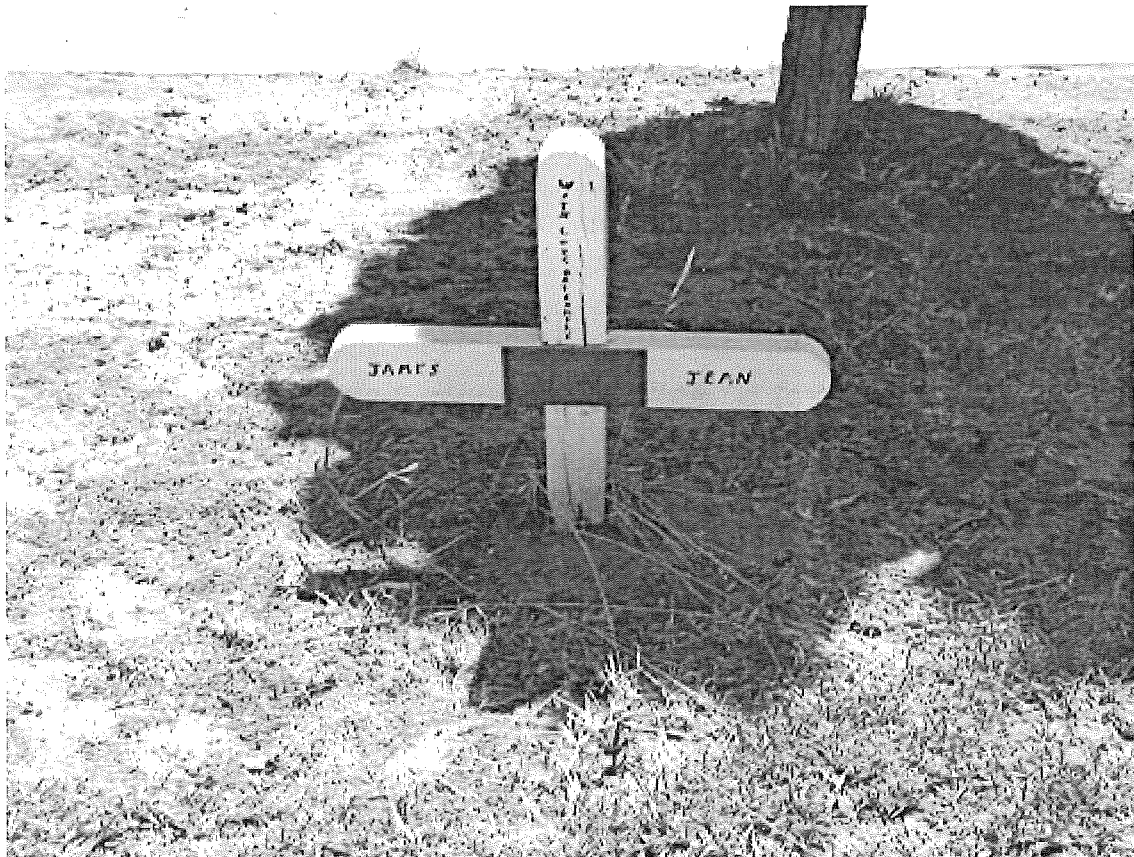


Plate 9 Timber cross marking the graves of James and Jean Day

### 3.2.2 Section 2

This section is located to the east of Section 1 and is bounded on the northern side by the limestone wall, on the western side by Pioneer Walk, on the southern side by Bell Walk and on the eastern side by Hymus Walk. Mexican Cypresses (*cupressus lusitanica*) line the western and southern sides of the section. The graves in this section range in date from 1866 through to the 1990s. The majority of the early graves are located in the south west area and contain settlers from East Rockingham's pioneer families. The alignment of the early graves is slightly skewed compared with the later burials.

There are eleven rows of graves in this section. For the purposes of this conservation plan, the row numbers start from the western side of the section. All of the graves in this section face east.

#### Row 1

The first visible grave lies slightly in from the paved path. According to the documentary evidence plot 31 containing the remains of A. Farmer and should be the first grave in the row. However there is no evidence of this grave. Plot 30 contains the remains of a person named Hodges. The grave is marked with a metal plaque on which is inscribed the name 'Hodges'. The plaque is fixed to a short timber post. While the plaque is in good condition, the timber post is rotting leaving the plaque in danger of becoming dislodged and lost.

Plot 29 contains the remains of George E. Day (died 1 August 1916) and his wife Mabel M. Hymus (died 22 June 1948). Mabel was the daughter of John and Grace Hanretty, while George was the son of William and Susan Day. The headstone is in the form of a shield with inlaid inscriptions. The grave is defined by a double concrete kerb. The kerb at the eastern end of the grave has become partially dislodged. The inscription on the headstone is becoming illegible while the condition of the grave is only fair.

Plot 28 contains the remains of James Day (died 1936) and Jean Day. The grave is marked by a white painted, timber cross with a small metal plaque bearing the inscription 'J. Day'. The names 'James' and 'Jean' have been marked on the horizontal sections of the cross in permanent pen. The cross is in fair condition.

Plot 27 contains the remains of Lloyd George Day (died 12 March 1938) and Eric Francis Day (died 1989). The grave is defined by a high kerb which is topped with a ledger. The headstone at the western end of the grave is formed by an inclined granite slab to which has been attached a rectangular marble plaque. The name 'Day' is fixed to the eastern end of the grave in capital letters. Both the headstone and grave are in good condition.

Plot 26 contains the remains of Eva May Day (died 26 February 1947) and her husband Henry Albert Day (died 14 June 1949). Henry was the son of William and Susan Day. The grave is defined by a double concrete and ledger. The ledger is covered with imitation grass. The headstone at the western end of the grave is a slightly inclined marble slab which bears the inscriptions. The name 'Day' is on a plaque at the eastern end of the grave. The headstone and grave are in good condition.

Plot 25 contains the remains of Robert Henry Williams (died 11 September 1932), Bessie Williams (died 16 May 1971) and G.N. Williams (died 16 January 1985). The grave is defined by a concrete double kerb and concrete ledger. The name 'Williams' appears at the eastern end of the grave. The oldest headstone is in the form of an open book, supported on a pedestal. A second headstone is located on the ledger and takes the form of an inclined stone onto which has been fixed a marble plaque. Both the headstones and the grave are in fair condition.



Plate 10 Bell Group: William, double plot of Jane and husband James and John Bell



Plate 11 View of Edith Bell's grave, with Sidney, Daniel and Leslie Hymus' grave in the centre and Ada Hymus' grave at the right



Plot 24 contains the remains of Alan Ross Day (died 23 January 1948), aged  $5\frac{1}{2}$  years. The grave is defined by a granite kerb and concrete ledger. The marble plaque bearing the inscription is fixed to an inclined granite slab.

The remainder of the graves in this row date from 1970s – 1990s.

### Row 2

Plot 32 has no headstone. The grave has been identified by the insertion of a metal plaque bearing the name 'Smith'. The plaque is loosely fixed to a short timber post. The plaque is in good condition, however the post is rotting.

Plots 33 – 35 are occupied by members of the Bell family. These three individual plots have been combined together to form a group of four graves. Plot 33 is occupied by William Bell (died 11 December 1874). Plot 34 contains the remains of Jane Bell (nee Green died 6 December 1909) and her husband James Bell (died 1 March 1911). Plot 35 is occupied by John Bell (died 17 March 1936). William and John Bell were sons of James and Jane Bell. The grave is defined by a roughly dressed granite kerb with concrete ledgers. The concrete has been poured, rather than separate slabs. Plot 34 is wider than plots 33 and 35. The headstones on plots 33 and 34 sit on pedestals. While the headstone on plot 35 has slipped off its pedestal. The inscriptions on all three headstones is not easy to read. The grave surround is in good condition.

Plots 36 and 37, which have been reserved by the Bell family and currently empty.

Plot 38 contains the remains of Levi Day (died 4 August 1949), the son of William and Susan Day. The grave is marked with a white, painted timber cross with a small metal plaque bearing an inscription. The plot is marked with a low wire fence. The cross is currently in fair to good condition.

Plot 39 contains the remains of Stephen Peter Groves (died 1968) and Frank Arthur Groves (died 1983).

The remainder of the graves in this row date from 1970s – 1990s.

### Row 3

Plot 95 has been reserved by the Hymus family.

Plot 94 is occupied by (Priv) Wesley John Hymus, (died 29 August 1932) and L.G. Hymus (died 26 June 1989). Wesley was the son of Daniel and Fanny Hymus. The headstone comprises a granite stone with one inclined face onto which two metal plaques have been fixed. The headstone sits on a concrete sleeper. Private Hymus' plaque is embossed with the image of the rising sun, below which is recorded his serial number, rank, name, company and date of death. Opposite this information is a cross. L.G. Hymus' plaque is similar except the rising sun image has been replaced with the Australian Air Force insignia. The headstone and plaques are in good condition.

Plots 93 and 92 have been joined together to form a double grave. They are occupied by Fanny Isabella Hymus (nee Bell, died 6 January 1913) and Daniel Hymus (died 6 May 1920). The grave has a roughly dressed granite kerb and earth ledger. The headstone is a granite stone with one inclined face onto which is fixed a marble slab with an inlaid inscription. The grave is in good condition however, the letters are becoming dislodged from the marble slab.



Plate 12 Headstone for Charles, Sarah and William Mead

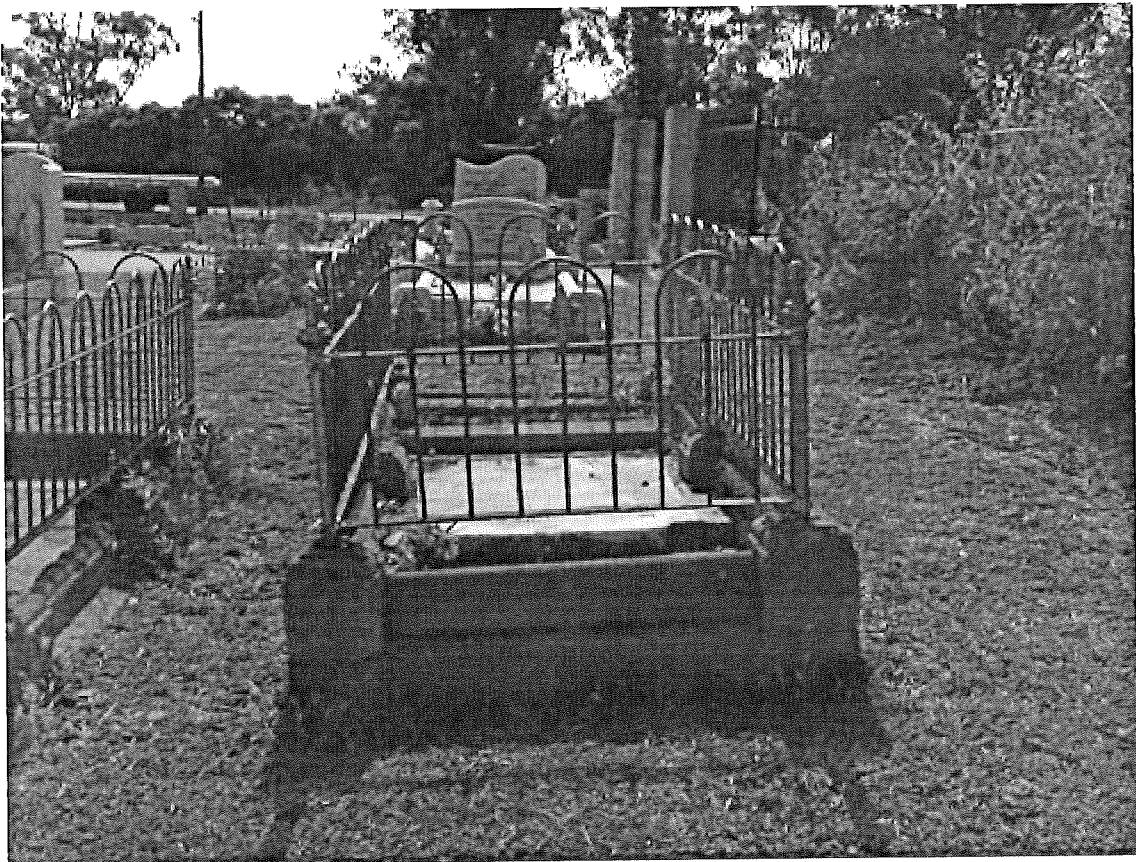


Plate 13 Headstone for Frances, William, Henry and Esther Mead

Plot 91 holds the remains of Sidney Hymus (died 17 November 1903), Daniel Alex Hymus (died 21 October 1932) and Leslie Charles Hymus (died 21 October 1952). All three were sons of Daniel and Fanny Hymus. The grave is marked with a double granite kerb topped with a ledger of concrete slabs. The main headstone at the western end is a granite stone with one inclined face onto which is fixed a marble slab bearing an inlaid inscription (for Leslie Hymus). An additional marble slab has been fixed to the top of the ledger at the eastern end. This carries an inlaid inscription for Sidney and Daniel Hymus. The headstones are in fair condition although the marble displays signs of weathering. The concrete slab at the western end has broken and fallen into the grave.

Plot 90 is occupied by Ada Elizabeth Hymus (died 6 February 1951), she was the daughter of Daniel and Fanny Hymus. Ada's grave is exactly the same as her brothers' (plot 91). However, this grave is in good condition.

Further to the north of these graves are three plots which bear headstones belonging to members of the Mead family (there are no physical remains in the plots). The headstones were re-located to *East Rockingham Cemetery* when Skinner Street Cemetery in Fremantle was resumed.

Plot 66 is a double grave which contains the remains of Pt. William Mead (died in France 23 July 1916), Charles George Mead (died 10 March 1917) and his wife Sarah Hannah Mead (nee Mead died 14 May 1927). Pt William was the son of Charles and Sarah. The grave is defined by a double concrete kerb and ledger. The kerb supports a wrought iron fence. The grave carries two headstones, the most prominent one stands on the concrete ledger at the western end of the grave. It is an upright, pointed marble slab bearing inlaid inscriptions for Charles and Sarah Mead. At the eastern end of the grave is a shield shaped marble headstone which rests on a pedestal. This headstone bears an inscription for Pt William Mead. The grave and headstones are in fair condition, the wrought iron fence is rusty.

Plot 65 displays a headstone bearing the names of Frances Fothergill Mead (nee Thompson died 27 March 1866), her husband William Mead (died 16 December 1892), their son Henry (died 3 December 1874) and their daughter Esther (died 20 June 1911). The single plot is defined by a double concrete kerb topped with a concrete ledger. The kerb supports a wrought iron fence similar to Plot 66. The headstone is a marble slab which has been laid flat on the concrete ledger and is inlaid with inscriptions for the above persons. The eastern end of the headstone is jagged as though it has been broken off. It has become discoloured with lichens. The headstone is in poor condition while the grave is in fair/good condition – the wrought iron work is rusting.

The remainder of the graves in this row date from 1970s – 1990s.

#### Row 4

Plot 96 contains the remains of Private Roy R. Bell (died 16 March 1945) and his wife Mena Louisa Bell (nee Hymus, died 20 June 1960). The grave features a granite kerb with granite military headstone. There is no ledger. The interior area enclosed by the kerb is filled with white pebbles. Mena's headstone is placed at the foot of the grave. The grave and headstone are in good condition.

Plot 97 is occupied by Lucy Bell (nee Ramsay, died 24 March 1900). Lucy was the first wife of James Bell jnr. The grave is defined by a roughly dressed granite kerb covered with a concrete ledger. A arched, marble headstone sits on top of the ledger at the western end. It features a stylised bunch of flowers tied with a garland and carries the





Plate 14 Graves of Lucy, James and Edith Bell

inlaid inscription below. The edges of the arch have an engraved decorative motif. Both the grave and headstone are in good condition.

Plot 98 is occupied by James Bell Jnr (died 2 December 1927). He was the son of James and Jane Bell (plot 34). The grave is defined by a roughly dressed granite kerb which supports cast iron posts and a double row of wrought iron rails. The ledger is composed of glazed tiles. The arched, marble headstone sits on top of the ledger at the western end. The headstone features a garland of ivy and oak leaves divided by a scroll, below which in an oval frame are a pair of clasped hands. Below these motifs is an inscription. The grave and headstone are in fair condition; some of the tiles on the ledger have cracked and are lifting in places. The cast iron posts and wrought iron railing are rusting.

Plot 99 is occupied by Edith Bell (nee Ramsay, died 31 December 1954), she was the second wife of James Bell jnr. The grave is defined by a double granite kerb with an earth ledger, scattered with pebbles. The headstone is a granite block with an inclined face onto which has been fixed a rectangular marble slab bearing the inscription. On either side of the headstone are single granite urns which can hold flowers. Both the headstone and the grave are in fair condition. The urns have become loose and there is some subsidence in the grave.

Plot 100 is occupied by an unknown member of the Day family. Nothing marks this grave.

The remaining graves in this row date from the 1970s – 1990s.

Near the centre of this row is the stump of a large trees.

#### Row 5

Plot 159 is reserved by the Bell and Thomas families.

Plot 158 is occupied by Ernest Huxtable (date of death unknown), husband of Selina Hymus. The grave is marked by a metal plaque fixed to a timber post. While the plaque is in good condition it is partially covered by earth and grass.

Plot 157 is occupied by Ruby Hilda Thomas (nee Bails, died 29 May 1950) and her husband Ernest John Thomas (died 1947). The grave is marked by a metal plaque, bearing the name R.H. Thomas, attached to a metal strip which is stuck into the ground. The plaque is in good condition.

Plot 156 is occupied by several members of the Thomas family: Geoffrey Robert Thomas (died 4 January 1956), Clifton Thomas Thomas (died 1989) and Eric Ernest Thomas (died 1991). Geoffrey's headstone is becoming difficult to read.

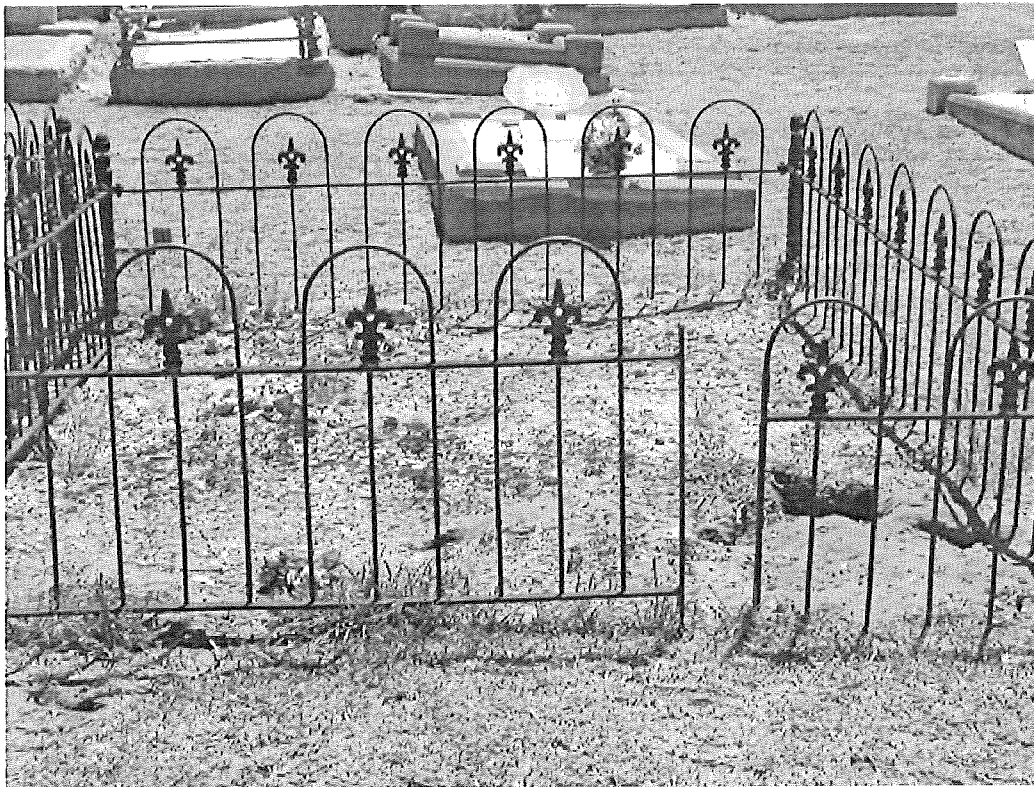
Plot 155 is occupied by Cecil Langlois Thomas (died 4 January 1956) and Edna Ethel Thomas (died 1992).

The remaining graves in this row date from the 1980s – 1990s.

#### Row 6

Pot 160 is occupied by Amy Abbott (died 1882, 7 days old). Amy was the daughter of Sarah Hodges (daughter of Mary Ann Chester) and John Abbott. The headstone is in the form of a marble cross sitting on a marble plinth. The grave is defined by a wrought iron fence. The headstone is simply inscribed 'Amy'. The headstone is in good condition, the wrought iron work is rusting.

The following two groups of graves do not have plot numbers and are occupied by members of the Chester family. The grave closest to plot 160 is occupied by Eliza Chester (died 22 November 1891, daughter of John and Mary Ann Chester), Mary Ann Chester



**Plate 15** Chester family plot with no headstones



**Plate 16** Headstones for  
Edward Key snr and  
Edward key jnr



(nee Withnell and later Hodges, died 21 May 1897) and her husband John Chester (died 20 January 1918, son of Edward and Elizabeth Chester). The double plot is enclosed with a wrought iron fence with a single marble headstone centrally located within the plot. The headstone is in good condition however, the wrought iron fence is rusting.

Beside this plot is another double plot surrounded by the same style of wrought iron fence. There is no headstone. The area enclosed by the fence shows evidence of rabbit diggings. The wrought iron fence is rusting.

The remaining graves in this row date from the 1970s – 1990s.

Just to the north east of these two double plots, the Cemetery's Ground plan shows plot 176, which is occupied by a member of the Thomas family. There is no evidence above ground for this grave.

Further to the east of the Chester graves, the Cemetery's Ground plan shows a large area which is labelled 'Key Family'. Again this plot or plots are not numbered. The large area shown on the plan seems to indicate more than one person however, the physical evidence is restricted to two headstones.

The two sandstone headstones lie back to back. The headstone facing west shows an inscription for Edward Key jnr (died 8 December 1879), while the one facing east shows an inscription for Edward Key snr, his father, (died 10 January 1882). Both headstones are in fair condition although there is weathering to the stone surfaces which has caused some discolouration. Edward Key jnr's headstone is leaning against his father's.

The remaining headstones in this section of the Cemetery date from 1970s – 1990s

### 3.2.3 Section 3

This section is located to the east of Section 2 and is bounded on the northern side by the post and wire fence, on the western side by Hymus Walk, on the southern side by Broughton Walk and on the eastern side by the post and wire boundary fence. There are four rows of graves which face east. The majority of graves in this section date from 1980s – 2000s and contain a mix of marble headstones, granite headstones and wooden crosses. A single mature Mexican Cypress is located near the south west corner.

A green poly water tank is located at the eastern end of Broughton Walk.

### 3.2.4 Section 4

This section is located to the south of Section 3 and is bounded on the northern side by Broughton Walk, on the western side by Thorpe Walk, on the southern side by Sloan Walk and on the eastern side by an un-named Walk. There are four rows of graves which face east.

The graves in this section range from the 1990s through to 2001 and contain a mix of marble headstones, granite headstones and wooden crosses. Some graves are just mounds marked with bouquets of flowers.



**Plate 17** Sections 4 and 5 looking east towards Section 4



**Plate 18** Section 5 looking west. Graves belong to Lorraine and Ronald Day, Frank Mackinnon and William Reid

### 3.2.5 Section 5

This section is located to the west of Section 4 and is bounded on the northern side by Bell Walk, on the western side by Pioneer Walk, on the southern side by Thomas Walk and on the eastern side by Thorpe Walk. Mexican Cypresses (*cupressus lusitanica*) line the northern and western sides of the section. There are ten rows of graves which face east.

The graves in this section range from the 1920s through to 2000s and contain a mix of marble headstones, granite headstones and wooden crosses. A concrete and timber seat is located in the north east corner and midway down the southern side is a Norfolk Island Pine (*araucaria heterophylla*). The earliest graves are grouped along the northern boundary and along the western boundary. Numbering of the rows begins from the western side.

#### Row 1

Plots 1 and 2 have been reserved by members of the Bell family. Plots 3 and 4 are occupied by members of the Bell family which post date 1968.

Plot 6 is occupied by Alice McGuigan (died 4 February 1956). Plot 7 is occupied by Frederick Cheesewright (died 30 June 1957) and his wife Maud Cheesewright (10 November 1960). Plot 8 is occupied by Joseph Dutton (died 1 April 1961). Plots 9 - 11 post date 1968. Plot 12 is occupied by Rachel Mason (died 14 June 1961). The remaining graves in this row post date 1968.

#### Row 2

Plot 39 is occupied by Amy Uren (died 30 July 1964). Plot 38 is occupied by Leslie Hardman (died 16 September 1963) and his wife Jessie Hardman (die 4 August 1965). The remaining rows in this row post date 1968.

Rows 3 - 7 are contain graves which post date 1968.

#### Row 8

Plot 158 is occupied by Lorraine Day (died 14 October 1950) and her father Ronald E. Day (died 22 March 1979). Plot 157 is occupied by Frank Mackinnon (died 14 March 1953). Plot 156 is occupied by William Y. Reid (died 30 November 1963). Plot 155 is reserved. Plot 154 is occupied by Ian McCombie (died 18 July 1967). The remaining graves in this row post date 1968.

All of the above graves are in good condition.

### 3.2.6 Section 6

This section is located to the west of Section 5 and is bounded on the northern side by Smirk Walk, on the western side by the limestone boundary wall, on the southern side by Day Walk and on the eastern side by Pioneer Walk. The northern and eastern edges of this section have been planted with Mexican Cypresses (*cupressus lusitanica*), while the southern edge has been planted with Norfolk Island Pines (*araucaria heterophylla*). There are ten rows of graves in this section, the bulk of which date from the 1970s - 1990s. The graves generally face west. The headstones and graves feature granite and marble headstones with a few wooden crosses.

In the north west corner of this section is a shelter shed with three walls, constructed with a metal frame and clad with fibrous cement sheeting and reinforced glass panels. The skillion roof is clad with profiled zincalume sheeting. A concrete and timber seat has been placed within.





Plate 19 Section 6 looking east and A.I.F. grave of Private J.H. Williams

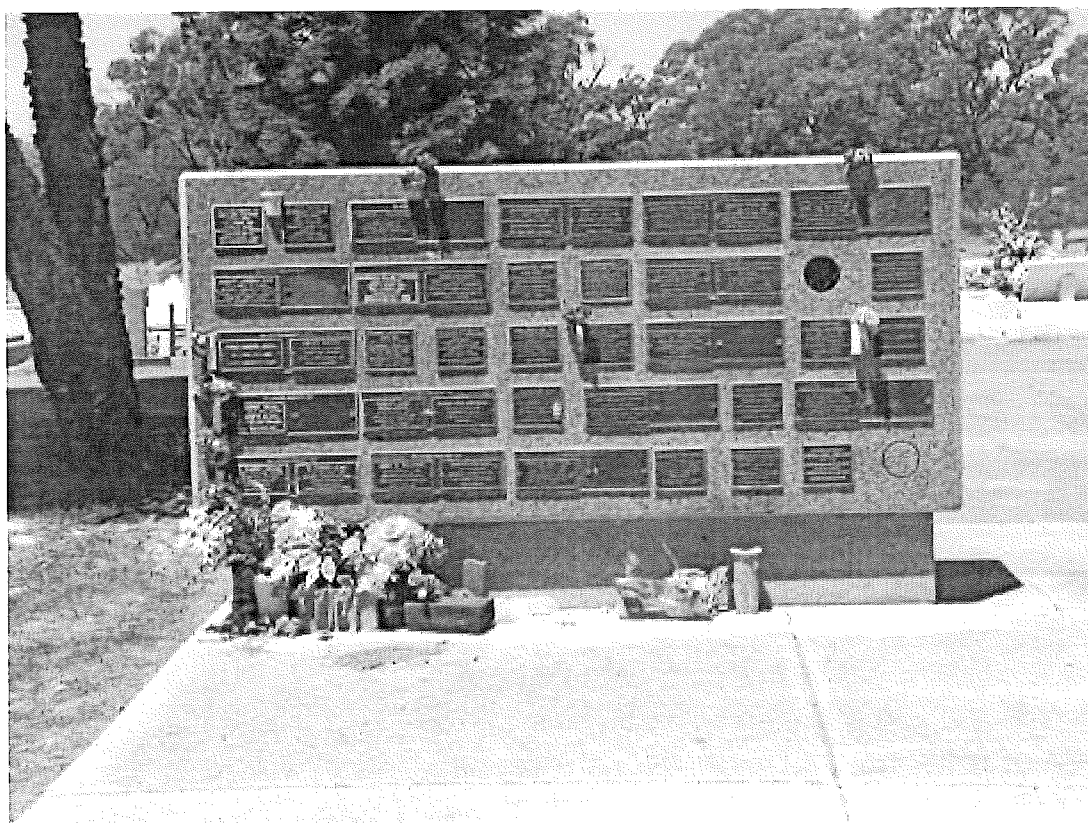


Plate 20 Concrete columbarium at junction between Day and Pioneer Walks. Western side

There are four graves in the north west area of the section which pre-date the 1970s. Row numbers start at the western end of the section.

#### Row 1

Three plots in this row contain the graves of soldiers from the Australian Imperial Forces. Plot 1 is occupied by Private J. Haggerty (died 13 December 1918). Plot 2 is occupied by Private W.H. Laffen (died 12 December 1918). There is no above ground evidence for the occupants of Plots 3 and 4. Plot 5 is occupied by Private J.H. Williams (died 14 December 1918). All of the graves bear the same headstone as described previously in Section 1: a roughly dressed, vertical granite slab which bears the military badge of the Australian Imperial Forces, the soldier's number, rank, name and date of death. Below these inscriptions is a simple cross. The grave is covered with a flat slab of granite on which the headstone sits. All of the headstones and graves are in good condition.

#### Row 2

Plot 40 is occupied by Nellie Miles (died 30 March 1956). The grave and headstone are in good condition. The remaining graves in this row belong to a later period as discussed above.

### **3.2.7 Section 7**

This section is located to the south of Section 6 and is bounded on the northern side by Day Walk, on the western side by the limestone boundary wall, on the southern side by Pioneer Drive and on the eastern side by Pioneer Walk. The western boundary has been planted with olive trees. The section is laid out as a lawn cemetery with the rows of graves facing east and west alternately. There are twelve rows of headstones.

The headstones are placed on a concrete beam which runs across the width of the section (north – south). The burial area is covered with grass. The headstones display a variety of styles and materials and vary in age between the late 1990s and 2000s.

At the junction between Day and Pioneer Walks is a concrete columbarium, fitted with niches to take ashes. Metal plaques, fixed across the front of the niches, record the names of the person's ashes.

All of the headstones within this section are in good condition.

### **3.2.8 Section 8**

This section is located to the east of Section 7 and is bounded on the northern side by Thomas Walk, on the western side by Pioneer Walk, on the southern side by Pioneer Drive and on the eastern side by Keys Walk. This area is laid out in the traditional manner with headstones and graves defined by raised kerbs and ledgers. The section has only been partially filled; at present there are only four rows, starting from the western side. The graves range in age from the 1990s – 2000s. The headstones and graves display a range of styles and materials varying from marble, granite and wooden crosses.

### **3.2.9 Section 9**

This section is located to the east of Section 8 and is bounded on the northern side by Sloan Walk, on the western side by Keys Walk, on the southern side by Bertenshaw-Cox



**Plate 21** View of Section 8 looking west



**Plate 22** View of Sections 11 and 10 looking north east. Note new gazebo which is located at the southern end of Herbert Walk.



Walk and on the eastern side by an un-named Walk. The section is currently unoccupied.

### 3.2.10 Section 10

This section is located to the east of Section 9 and is bounded on the northern, eastern and southern sides by a post and wire fence (boundary). The western boundary is an un-named Walk. Bertenshaw - Cox Walk extends through the centre of this section to the eastern boundary fence. The southern boundary line has been planted with Norfolk Island Pines (*araucaria heterophylla*). This section is currently unoccupied.

### 3.2.11 Section 11

This section is located to the west of Section 10 and is bounded on the northern side by Bertenshaw - Cox Walk, on the western side by Herbert Walk, on the southern side by a post and wire fence (boundary) and on the eastern side by an un-named Walk. The southern boundary line has been planted with Norfolk Island Pines (*araucaria heterophylla*). Three concrete rows have been set out in this area. The remainder of the area is unoccupied.

At the southern end of Herbert Walk is a timber framed open gazebo with six sides. The roof is clad with zincalume and it is fitted with an aluminium lace valance. The floor is paved with bricks and five of the sides are fitted with timber slatted seats. The sixth side forms the opening into the gazebo. A mature tuart gum is located just to the north of the gazebo.

### 3.2.12 Section 12

This section is located to the west of Section 11 and is bounded on the northern side by Mead Walk, on the western side by Chester Walk, on the southern side by a post and wire fence (boundary) and on the eastern side by Herbert Walk. The southern boundary line has been planted with Norfolk Island Pines (*araucaria heterophylla*). The section is laid out as a lawn cemetery with ten rows of graves facing east and west alternately. The headstones are placed on a concrete beam which runs across the width of the section (north - south). The burial area is covered with grass. The headstones display a variety of styles and materials and vary in age between the late 1990s and 2000s.

In the north west corner of this section are two brick columbaria which are partially filled. The niches are closed with a metal plaque.

At the southern end of Chester Walk is a timber framed open gazebo with six sides. It is exactly the same as the one found at the southern end of Herbert Walk.

### 3.2.13 Section 13

This section is located to the west of Section 12 and is bounded on the northern side by Pioneer Drive, on the western side by the limestone boundary wall, on the southern side by a post and wire fence (boundary) and on the eastern side by Chester Walk. The southern boundary line has been planted with Norfolk Island Pines (*araucaria heterophylla*), while the western boundary has been planted with olive trees. The section is laid out as a lawn cemetery with twelve rows of graves facing east and west alternately.

The headstones are placed on a concrete beam which runs across the width of the section (north - south). The burial area is covered with grass. The headstones display a variety of styles and materials and vary in age between the late 1990s and 2000s.



**Plate 23** Photo taken from the southern end of Section 13 looking north across Section 7 with Section 6 beyond the line of trees. To the right is Chester Walk and the two brick columbaria.