

# Ipswich General Cemetery Then & Now



Please Note: The trail numbers are not in numerical order, numbers correspond to marker numbers located at each grave site.

- 1 **Historic Headstones:** Please see detailed map on 'Relocated Headstones' page.
- 2 **John Panton:** John and Isabella Panton were the first owners of 'Claremont'. John Panton was also a merchant, a coal mine owner and a pioneer of the cotton industry in Queensland. He died in 1866.
- 42 **McConnell family:** The grey granite monument is the grave of David Cannon McConnell of Cressbrook (died 1886) and his wife Mary McLeod (died 1910). In 1841, David McConnell selected a property on the Upper Brisbane River and named it Cressbrook.
- 41 **Benjamin Cribb:** (died 1874). The large obelisk has an incised pattern of ivy and the monument is surrounded by an iron fence. Benjamin Cribb came to Moreton Bay in the ship Chaseley in 1849. He started a shop in Ipswich and called it "London Stores", later known as Cribb and Foote.
- 39 **Joseph Foote:** (died 1890). This monument is of a tree trunk with ivy clinging to it; a scroll bears the inscription "Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away".
- 38 **Samuel Shenton:** (died 1893). Samuel was born in England and trained as a carpenter. He arrived on the 'Tartar' which left Plymouth, England in 1850 and arrived in Sydney in 1851. He was accompanied by his mother, sister and his future wife, Elizabeth Thorpe. Samuel was a builder and later an architect. He was a Mayor of Ipswich and a member of many boards including the Woollen Company.
- 37 **Thomas Bridson Cribb's family:** This classical figure with a star on the forehead and an anchor marks the graves of Thomas Bridson Cribb (died 1913), his wife Marian Lucy and children.  
  
He was appointed to the Legislative Council of Queensland in 1895 and in 1898 represented Ipswich in the Legislative Assembly. He was state treasurer in the Philp government.
- 36 **Rev Samuel Francis Whitehead:** (died 1891). Samuel Whitehead was probably the first secondary school teacher in Ipswich, running a private school in the 1850s.



Thomas Bridson Cribb's family

**35 Berry family:** William Berry Senior came to Ipswich in the 1840s.' He and his wife Margaret lived on the corner of Burnett and Omar Streets. Their son William was one of the first 18 students of Ipswich Grammar School and was a brilliant scholar, gaining an MA at Sydney University.

**32 Greenway family:** Stonemason Ernest Greenway sculpted this monument for his infant daughter Constance. Ernest was a great-nephew of the famous convict architect Francis Greenway.

**34 Harry Cribb and family:** The monument surmounted by an angel with wings is above the grave of Henry Smart Cribb (Harry), his wife Esther and some of his children. Harry was sole owner of Cribb and Foote from 1925.

**29 Tarra:** This is the grave of Tarra Gindi Tasserone, a Kanaka from the Loyalty Islands who worked for Mr and Mrs Alfred Foote of Quarry Street.

He was helping clear land near Brisbane for the home of Mr and Mrs William Grimes (nee Cribb) and was asked for a suggestion about naming the property. Tarra replied "Tarragindi" and this name was given to the property and later the suburb.



**30 Stephenson family:** This site shows the graves of Alfred John Stephenson, his wife Jane, their son Alfred Tully Stephenson and wife Ellen. Both men were directors of the Queensland Times newspaper and Mayors of Ipswich.

**28 Lewis Thomas:** The grey granite obelisk marks the grave of "The Coal King" Lewis Thomas. He was born in Tal-y-Bont in Wales and started work in a woollen mill at the age of eight. He was elected to Parliament and in 1890, built a grand mansion "Brynhyfryd" on Blackstone Hill.

## Interesting Fact

**Welsh graves:** In death, as in his lifetime, Lewis Thomas is surrounded by fellow Welsh people. If you look in the general vicinity, you will see many graves with inscriptions in the Welsh language e.g. Daniel Morgan who died in 1914 and Elizabeth Jones from Tal-Y-Bont who died in 1950 at the age of 84.

**31 Jackson family:** The headstone in the centre of the grave bears the names of four children who drowned in the 1893 flood while trying to row to safety. When the boat overturned, 17-year-old Katie gallantly tried to support the other three terrified children but their weight was too much and all four were drowned.

**27 John Collins:** This statue depicts Jesus with outstretched arms. John Collins died in 1925.

**26 William Rollo:** died in 1919 age 45, leaving a wife Hanorah and seven children. He was killed in an accident while shunting wagons in the railway workshops at North Ipswich.

**23 Hermann Holzheuer:** (died 1905). The headstone in the German language is carved with the clasped hands of a man and a woman. Hermann was born in Germany and served in both the Spanish and French armies before coming to Ipswich and setting up as a farmer and later a market gardener.

**21 Mary Tobin:** usually called "Queenie", died in 1912 at the age of 22. This striking monument shows a female figure standing beside an anchor.

**19 Armed Forces graves:** The seven rows of wartime graves, made of Ulam marble, are set in carefully-tended lawn. The tall memorial cenotaph nearby, is made of Helidon freestone.



**17 Air Force Graves:** These two groups of graves behind and near the path leading away from the shelter shed includes Flt Lt C. A. Hendy and Flying Officer J. H. Mutton who died in an accident on 14 Sept 1945.

It also includes the graves of young women who died in a tragic accident on 16 August 1945, when Liberators from Amberley were taking part in a Victory parade over Brisbane.

The WAAFs were passengers who had been given permission to take part in the special flight but their aircraft overshot the runway and crashed into Warrill Creek.

- 15 **Thomas Bootle:** died in the Waterstown Coal Mine in 1900 age 43. The monument was erected by his friends and fellow workmen. On the day of the accident, men had been ordered out of the mine when the roof began to "creep" but Thomas went back in to get his tools. He had a naked lamp in his hat and this ignited gas, causing an explosion.
- 14 **John Johnson:** (died 1897). This monument has scrolls and lilies on its front face and is topped by a hand pointing upwards. John Johnson started to work for his father Thomas at Waterstown Colliery as a boy and later became part-owner.
- 13 **Czeslaw Wysokinski:** (died 1913). This grave bears a cherub with arm outstretched, holding a rose. Czeslaw who usually called himself Cecil Visokinsky, was a Russian boy aged 17. He worked as a "lad learner" at the Railway Workshops. He and several friends went swimming near Colleges Crossing when it was running a little strongly after rain and Cecil got into difficulties and drowned.
- 12 **George Thorn:** The lower part records simply "George Thorn BA". George Thorn was born in Sydney, the oldest son of George and Jane Thorn. He gained a BA at Sydney University, and was elected to Parliament. In 1876-77 he was Premier of Queensland.
- 11 **Wright family:** This pair of monuments is one of the most poignant in the cemetery. The smaller headstone is in memory of Thomas Wright age 29 and George Wright age 26, sons of mine owner John Wright. The brothers were among the seven miners who drowned in February 1893 when flood water entered the Eclipse Mine. The larger monument records the death of five other children of John and Elizabeth Wright, all under the age of three years, and of a third adult son Richard who died in 1890 at the age of 20, also in a mine accident.
- 10 **James and Harriet Josey:** (died 1903). This sandstone monument with a draped marble urn on top commemorates one of the region's earliest settlers James Josey who came to the Redbank Plains area in 1841.
- 9 **Thomas Rowlands:** (next to the Thorn monument). This Ipswich doctor seems to have been one of the most highly-regarded people to have lived in Ipswich.  
  
When he died in 1876 at the age of 54, his funeral procession was 2km in length. A poem was written in his honour and several public meetings were held to raise money for a suitable memorial. His wife Emily died in the same year.
- 8 **George Thorn:** This sandstone obelisk marks the grave of George Thorn "The Father of Ipswich" and his wife Jane. Thorn arrived in Ipswich in 1839 as superintendent of government stock. He was elected to the first Parliament of Queensland in 1860. In 1863, he bought the house 'Claremont'.
- 5 **North family:** Joseph North arrived in Australia with his regiment in the 1830s and was followed by his brothers, a sister and his parents Major William and Sarah North. Their properties were Fernie Lawn, Northbrook, Wivenhoe and Bellevue.
- 4 **Moffatt and Bell families:** The sandstone vault honours Thomas de Lacy Moffatt, Colonial Treasurer of Queensland, who died in 1864 age 38. His funeral was impressive and every shop in Ipswich and many private houses closed their shutters and drew their blinds as a mark of respect.



## Interesting Fact

**James Ryan:** died 1948. Throughout the latter part of his life, James Ryan claimed to be Dan Kelly, brother of famous bushranger Ned Kelly.

Ryan could never be caught out in factual errors about the Kelly family. He died in a rail accident near Wharf Street Ipswich.





# Ipswich Cemetery

- ③ It has been said that a cemetery is the story of a town written in stone. In Ipswich Cemetery, some headstones record major historical events such as mine disasters, floods and war, while others relate the history of a family. Each headstone could tell an interesting story, but this leaflet includes only a few.
- ③ The oldest part of the cemetery was set aside in the original surveys of Ipswich in 1842-3 but the details of those early burials are scattered in church records and funeral notices. Trustees were appointed in 1867 and formal cemetery records were then kept.
- ③ Of the first nine burials recorded in these cemetery records, six were children. As you walk around, you will notice the high proportion of infant graves. Statistics show that in 1862 for example, there were 117 deaths in the Ipswich area and 47 of these were children under the age of five; in 1863, there were 146 deaths, 80 of them children.
- ③ Children's graves are often marked by figures of lambs and cherubs. Many other symbols will be seen on graves: Celtic crosses, a gateway opening into heaven, clasped hands of a husband and wife or a broken column symbolising a life cut short.
- ③ The headstones and the stories they tell form an important part of Ipswich heritage.

## Caring for our Cemetery

**Please - help care for our heritage.** Immediately report any vandalism you see occurring to the Police.

## Manson Park



**The American war cemetery during World War II**

- ③ About 200 metres east (via Cemetery Road) of the main Ipswich Cemetery is a small open area named Manson Park. The simple white monument in the centre was once the base of a flag pole which flew the American flag in the United States Armed Forces Military Cemetery.
- ③ During World War II, many American servicemen died or were killed in action in Australia or the surrounding areas. It was not possible to return their bodies to America for burial so a war cemetery was set up in Ipswich. This location was probably chosen because of the large number of Americans based at Amberley and Redbank. The first American burial was Private Paul Strange who died in May 1942. The final number of burials was 1260, the last being Paul L. Smith. Most were documented but some were unknown and there were three burials for members of the Javanese Dutch Army.
- ③ In November 1947, the United States ship "Gauchec Victory" arrived in Australia to return the dead to their native country. The graves were exhumed and in Brisbane, 30,000 people lined the streets as the body of an unknown soldier was carried solemnly through the city to Newstead Wharf.
- ③ The Manson Park name pays tribute to the work of a local resident Mrs Rose Manson who cared for the graves during the war and wrote to the families in America.