

Visiting Derry City Cemetery
 City Cemetery,
 Gate Lodge, Lone Moor Road
 Derry BT48 9LA

There are two car entrances to the Cemetery – Lone Moor Road and Creggan Gate and a pedestrian gate at Kildrum Gardens. Car parking is available at both the Creggan entrance and the 21st century area. Please remember that Derry City Cemetery is a burial site, which is used on a daily basis. Please treat it with respect. Take care in walking around the cemetery, particularly in the older sections where the ground is uneven and some of the headstones may be in a vulnerable condition. Care should be taken when using paths as some of these are quite steep. All dogs must be kept on a leash.

Office opening hours:
 Monday to Sunday: 8am. to 7pm. 1st May – 30th April
 September, 8am. to 4.30 p.m. 1st October – 30th April
 Telephone: 028 7136 2615
 Website: www.derrycity.gov.uk/citycemetery
 E mail: phyllis.callan@derrycity.gov.uk

Genealogy Service
 Derry City Council's genealogy service is available through the Heritage and Museum Service.
 Telephone 028 7136 5151 ext 8254 or online at www.derry.rootsireland.ie
 Bus routes:
 From Ulsterbus Station at Foyle Street T: 028 7126 2261
 Creggan bus (F78) every hour e.g. 9.15am, 10.15am, (Drop off point near to Creggan Gate)
 Lone Moor Road bus (F77) at 11am, 1.30pm, 3pm & 4.30pm.
Acknowledgements
 Derry City Cemetery 1853-2003 – 150 Years' by Rev. Bernard J Canning
 Written in Stone: The History of Belfast City Cemetery by Tom Hartley



A Visitors Map to Derry City Cemetery

1 Cross of St Columba

Memorial to the poor of Derry who lie in unmarked graves marked by the 'Celtic Cross of St Columba to the Forgotten Dead of Derry' (erected 1993).



2 Cross of Sacrifice

Erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. A Cross of Sacrifice is located in every cemetery with a significant number of war graves.

3 The Millers

Three generations of the Miller family were Mayors of Londonderry Corporation between 1840 and 1902. Joseph Ewing Miller was a doctor and his son William Miller was also a doctor. His grandson Francis Henry Miller was a solicitor.

4 S Watt

The Watt family came to Derry from Ramelton in 1762 and established the business of Andrew A. Watt & Co in Bishop Street. Their brand, The Tyrconnel Whiskey, was famous throughout the UK and USA.



5 J. B. Johnston

Johnston was the Mayor of Derry 1897-1898. His burial marker is one of the most unusual in the cemetery – an Irish Round Tower.

6 Knox of Prehen Vault

The Knox family originally came from Scotland in 1610 and lived in Derry from 1664. The family is associated with Prehen House and is connected to the famous story of John 'Half-Hanged' McNaughton who accidentally killed his sweetheart, Mary Anne Knox, when he ambushed the Knox coach in 1761.

8 W. Bernard

Bernard was a Physician and Surgeon in the city. He supervised the restoration work of Grianan Fort over a period of 5 years in the mid-1870s. Grianan ring fort overlooks the city and north Donegal and was the seat of power for the Ui Neill dynasty.

9 Cecil Frances Alexander

Cecil Alexander is one of Ireland's best known hymnists. She was the wife of William Alexander, Church of Ireland Bishop of Derry and Raphoe. Her grave is marked with a marble Roman Cross which is said to be the first Cross erected in the Protestant section of the cemetery.



10 J&J Cooke

John and Joseph Cooke's shipping company carried thousands of emigrants from Derry to North America in the 19th Century.

11 William Tillie

Tillie was a shirt and collar manufacturer in Glasgow. In 1851 with his partner John Henderson, they established the first shirt factory in Derry. By 1890 Tillie & Henderson employed 1,500 workers.



12 Patrick Gilmour

One of the owners of the Londonderry and Glasgow Steamboat Company, Gilmour's 'obelisk' memorial is one of the most impressive in the cemetery.

13 Fosters of Ballinacross

It is claimed that the Fosters of Ballinacross are related to Stephen Collins Foster who became one of the leading figures of American music, through songs such as 'Oh Suzannah' and 'Camptown Races'.

14 Batholomew McCorkell

McCorkell's grandfather William founded the famous McCorkell shipping company. In the mid-late 19th Century it was one of the main companies involved in transporting emigrants to North America.



15 Thomas Austin

Thomas Austin established Austin's Department Store in 1830. The store is said to be 'the world's oldest independent department store'. Thomas Austin was born 1815 near Limavady, and died in 1902.

16 William Mitchell

Mitchell was born in Hull, but came to Derry with his father who was a master mariner. Mitchell established the Foyle Line which operated out of the city.

17 John Guy Ferguson

Ferguson was the architect who designed many of the buildings which still stand in the city today. He designed the Guildhall, St Columba's Cathedral Primary School, Apprentice Boys' Memorial Hall, Welch Margetson Shirt Factory, the Commercial Buildings (headquarters of William Mitchell's business) and St. Augustine's Church – among others.

18 Hamilton Mitchell

Mitchell was the third generation of doctors from Greerstown in the Glendermott Valley. He served in the Crimean War as Assistant Surgeon to the 96th Regiment.

19 Basil McCrea

Basil McCrea and his partner Sir John McFarland founded McCrea & McFarland Ltd, contractors and carriers. McCrea contributed to the design of the railway network that converged on Derry.

20 Hugh O'Doherty

Solicitor Hugh O'Doherty was Mayor of Derry from 1920 to 1923. He was the first Roman Catholic to hold this position since the short-lived appointment of Cormick O'Neil in October 1688 by James II.

21 Sisters of Nazareth plot

The 'Poor Sisters of Nazareth' came to Bishop Street in 1892 where its doors have been open to the poor and needy ever since. In the City Cemetery, 1,062 residents of Nazareth House were buried between 1897 and 1991.

22 Alderman James McCarron

McCarron was the Labour Leader and Alderman of Londonderry Corporation; he was one of over 500 people drowned when RMS Leinster was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in World War One. An ornamental Irish stone cross covered in interlace and geometric spirals was erected as a memorial.

24 Memorial to Stillborn babies

On 20 February 2011, a monument in memory of all the stillborn babies buried in unmarked graves was unveiled.

25 Messines Park Bomb – 15 April 1941

13 people (including members of the Richmond and Murray families) were killed, and at least 2 houses destroyed when a German bomber dropped parachute mines on the Messines Park area of the city.



26 Bloody Sunday – 30 January 1972

Family plots of some of those who were killed during 'Bloody Sunday'.

27 Republican Plots

The visitor will find memorials to 2 Irish Republican organisations, as well as markers to individuals.

29 Eddie McAteer

McAteer was born in Scotland, but became a Nationalist MP for the Derry area and leader of the Nationalists in the Stormont parliament. He was an early leader of the Civil Rights movement.

Unmarked sections

There are a number of unmarked sections in which the poor of Derry are buried. An estimated 7,500 adults are buried in those plots.

A Visitors Map to Derry City Cemetery

Key to the map

-  20th Century Catholic
-  20th Century Protestant
-  Victorian + Edwardian Protestant
-  Victorian + Edwardian Catholic
-  War Graves
-  21st Century
-  New Burial Section
-  Rose Garden
-  Unmarked Section
-  Stillborn Babies
-  Toilets
-  Car Park



Introduction

A visitor to Derry City Cemetery will find the history of Derry~Londonderry all around them – literally written in stone. This map provides a brief history of the cemetery and an overview of a walking tour of the cemetery which takes in the key highlights. For further information visitors can contact the staff of the cemetery or read 'Derry City Cemetery 1853-2003 – 150 Years' by Rev. Bernard J Canning.

History

By the middle years of the 19th century it was clear that the city's graveyards, attached to churches, were becoming overcrowded. From 1 January 1867 the graveyards attached to St. Columb's Cathedral, St. Augustine's Church and Long Tower Chapel were closed to new burials, with 'access' restricted to those families with rights to graves.

The City Cemetery was opened in 1853. It is the property of Derry City Council. People buying a grave do not own the grave but simply have the right to burial in it. The first reported burial here is that of Robert McClelland, a 10-month-old child of Orchard Street, who died 10 December 1853.

Joseph Bigger, died 12 January 1854, was the first adult buried in the Cemetery (His grandson, David, was Superintendent of the City Cemetery and actually lived in the Gatelodge). Today there are over 74,594 burials – an average of 400 per year.

The City Cemetery became the main burial place for both Protestants and Catholics in the city. However, from the 1970s and the onset of 'the troubles', Protestant families increasingly buried their dead in the Waterside, at the Altnagelvin (opened in 1963) and Ballyoan (opened in 1991) cemeteries.

Conclusion

'The City Cemetery is a place of stories – stories of the famous and infamous; of joy and tragedy; of traditions and beliefs' (p2 Remembering Diversity leaflet DCC).

The aim of this map is to share some of these stories and to show how relevant our histories are today. Northern Ireland has embarked on a 'shared future', and we all know that there is no future in the past. However, we also know that a better understanding of that past is essential, and there are few places which can better represent the cost of our conflicts, or indeed of our shared humanity, than Derry~Londonderry's City Cemetery.

This document is available upon request in a number of formats including large print, Braille, PDF, audiocassette and minority languages.

For further information on alternative formats please contact:

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 textphone: (028) 7137 6646
 or email: equality@derrycity.gov.uk

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