Hamilton East Cemetery

One Hour
Heritage Walk

Hamilton City Council
Te kaunihora a Kirikiritu
A brief background

Hamilton was settled by the 4th Waikato Regiment in 1864 on Tainui land confiscated from Ngati Wairere and Ngati Haua. Militiamen were allotted an acre of land (0.4 ha) in Hamilton West or Hamilton East and some rural land, but life in the new settlements was hard and many soon left. Of those who remained, and the entrepreneurs and businesspeople who followed, many are buried in Hamilton East cemetery along with their descendants.

The life histories of these people reflect the history, inter-relationships and cultural make-up of the township. The first settlers were predominantly British and Irish. Continental European, Chinese and Indian names on the memorial inscriptions indicate a slow increase of new immigrants in the early 20th Century. The Chinese men buried here were all from Guangdong (Canton) province and had probably been gold-miners. The small number of Maori graves is more a reflection of the cultural preference for burial at local urupa, though the Maori population in Hamilton was very low for many decades after European settlement.

Hamilton’s technological history is reflected in the causes of death - over time, accidents involving land clearance and horse transport decrease, and rail, motor vehicle and industrial accidents increase. The number of children’s graves shows the high rate of child mortality in the late 19th Century, the result of poor housing, health care, sanitation, and diseases such as diphtheria, typhoid and dysentery. The 1918 “Spanish Flu” claimed the lives of many Hamiltonians, some being soldiers just returned from active service in the First World War.

The increasing variety of occupations of those buried here reflects the development of the small militia settlement into a city that is the heart of an important rural economy.
History of the Cemetery

The earliest extant headstone is that for John William Milner who died in August 1866, but the earliest burial may have been militiaman George Norris. His grave has not been identified as the earliest records were burnt, and in 1870 a scrub fire burnt wooden grave markers and fences. Community concerns about the state of the cemetery, where pigs and cattle roamed freely, led to fundraising for fencing, scrub cutting and track clearing. The fundraising committee was pleased with the success of a concert at Le Quesne’s hall in 1877.

The layout of the earlier blocks is typical of the Park Cemetery Movement, with symmetrical, straight roads. Newer areas reflect international fashions, from the late 19th Century more relaxed American style, the mid-20th Century lawn cemetery and the homogeneity of the war graves area. The Masonic block was set-aside in 1884. By the end of the First World War the first of the blocks reserved for returned servicemen and women was opened (see map). Men who served in the Waikato wars, the South African (Boer) War and some of those from the First and Second World Wars are buried in the main blocks, many with their families.

Some headstones are for people interred elsewhere. Several of the unmarked graves in CC block are paupers’ graves, but in other cases the headstones have been damaged or removed.

In 1957 the cemetery was closed for burials, other than for reserved plots and ashes interments. Over 13,600 people are buried in the cemetery. The Hamilton City Council recognises its heritage value, and plans to enhance its historic integrity.
The Heritage Walk

Enter the cemetery through the main gate or from Hamilton Gardens. The walking trail begins at the cemetery workshed (marked on map) at the top of the slope. The focus of the trail is on the graves of the earliest settlers, found in the older central blocks AA1, AA2, the Masonic block and the Roman Catholic block, and is intended as a guide only. En route note the different styles of monuments (headstones) - ornately carved marble or granite, austere concrete, decorative and symbolic motifs - which reflect fashion, wealth, religion and culture, or simply the availability of materials. Note also the names of the stonemasons and funeral directors, many of whom are also buried here.

Look for the graves of those prominent mayors, councillors and business people whose names have been given to local parks and streets - examples are Dey, Fow, Swarbrick and Clarkin.

Start at the corner of the AA2 block, directly across the road from the hut. Follow the map and instructions inside the brochure.

For the purposes of the route instructions, the cemetery is deemed to lie east - west, with the river to the south and the main gate to the north.

(For a more detailed view of this area, please refer to inside of back cover.)
The cemetery trail

Walk directly across the road from the cemetery workshop to the first row of block AA2. The second headstone is the oldest headstone in the cemetery. It commemorates the burial of:

John William Milner
who died in 1866, aged 28 years

The Horotiu, where he drowned, was the name given to the stretch of the Waikato River between Ngaruawahia and Cambridge.

Go west to the next headstone, for

John Crawford
Militiaman
Died 1879 aged 41 years;
Buried Block AA2 plot AA509

Crawford was first ashore off the PS Pioneer on August 24 1864. He sold his 200 acre (81 ha) military land grant at Ruakura to Isaac Coates. He was the Ensign for Captain William Steele. His brother also settled in Hamilton.

Move a few metres west and into the next row to a rounded marble headstone with tasselled rope trim, marking the grave of ‘the father of Hamilton’:

William Steele
Militiaman, farmer, valuer, speculator, JP, Waikato County councillor, company director
Died 1898 aged 67 years;
Buried Block AA2 plot CHAB531

Englishman William Steele spent time gold mining and farming before enlisting in the Rifle Volunteers. He was sent to Sydney in 1863 to enlist men for the Fourth Waikato Regiment. As captain of their No. 4 Company, Steele led the advance party of militia settlers ashore at Memorial Park on August 24 1864.

Steele farmed his crown grant in the Hillcrest area, but his involvement with the failed Waikato Land Association scheme to drain 34800 hectares of Piako Swamp forced him to sell up. After 1889 he worked as a land agent and valuer. The name of Sydney Square was changed to Steele Park after his death, as a sign of the community’s respect for him.
Directly south in the first row, in a grave surrounded by an iron railing, are two children, 11-month-old **Emily Chidley** and **Mary Edith Reynolds**. Died March 1881 aged 4 days; Buried AA2 AA515

Mary was one of many stillborn or neo-natal deaths at this time. Her father, Henry Reynolds, married Steele’s daughter Elizabeth, and was involved with Steele in the Piako Swamp scheme. His butter factory at Pukekura, near Cambridge, was the first of many he owned.

Next to Steele’s grave are those for the Seddon family, including:

**Samuel Thomas Seddon**
Farmer, businessman
Died 1908 aged 79 years;
Buried block AA2 AB528

Seddon came to Hamilton in 1869 and farmed over 140 hectares at Knighton. He was involved with Steele, Reynolds, Swarbrick and Runciman in the Waikato Cheese and Bacon Factory Company.
Move north towards the red brick enclosure, but pausing at the square marble column, the memorial for:

James Reid
Businessmen, saddler, photographer
Died 1939 aged 89 years;
Buried AA2 AD560

Reid came to Hamilton in c.1885. A saddler with his business premises in Grey Street, he was an active, public-spirited man. He was a keen photographer of family and community events and many of his photographs survive. His 1894 studio (also his home) survives too, at the south end of Victoria Street.

The red brick enclosure, one of the more impressive plots in the cemetery, is for:

Lewis O’Neill
Solicitor, barrister, Rechabite
Died 1908 aged 60 years;
Buried in AA2 AE 576a

Auckland-born O’Neill was a gold miner at Thames before coming to Hamilton in the late 1870s as a barrister and solicitor. He was not active in public affairs except for involvement with the Rechabite movement, a benefit society which promoted total abstinence. One description says O’Neill “was distinguished by singular uprightness of character”.

James Reid’s saddlery business in Grey Street, about 1905
Walk to the next row north and east to the long plot marked by a single rail. This encloses the graves for:

the Roche family

The patriarch of this family, Hungerford Roche, served with the Commissariat during the Waikato wars, farmed unsuccessfully at Paterangi, became a land agent and moved into Hamilton. He served on several local bodies and committees and was one of the instigators of forming the Lake Reserve. He brought out his mother and immediate family from Ireland to settle here.

He was well-liked and known as a friendly man. His wife Emily Adela (née Malcolm) wrote poetry, published and also painted.

Their daughter Adele Young husband became a notable painter and is commemorated in this plot.

Son Geoffrey Hamilton Roche was one of the first 63 pupils at Waikato High School (now Hamilton Girls’ High and Hamilton Boys’ Schools) in 1910. He served in France in WW 1 and was wounded at Flanders. He became a teacher, an amateur historian and archaeologist, and set up the Waikato Historical Society.

Head 2 rows south to the 1st headstone in the row, a broken square column. In this plot are members of:

the McNickle family

Buried AA2 AD563

This family was heavily affected by tragedy. Moses McNickle, an immigrant from County Tyrone, Ireland, at one time farmed at Gordonton. His wife Sarah died relatively young at 34, soon after the birth of William.

Their 12-year-old daughter Catherine died only 8 weeks later in early 1902, and William accidentally shot himself in the kitchen of their home at Claudelands in 1911, when he was aged 10.

Move one row south, to the 2nd grave from the road to:

James Runciman
Farmer, soldier, local body politician
Died 1899 aged 70 years;
Buried AA2 AC539-40

James Runciman was a captain of the Volunteer Cavalry Corps in the Waikato wars. In the 1880s he took over a 600 hectare property at Newstead, calling it Marshmeadows as it was mostly swamp. He was a progressive farmer, and with imported agricultural machinery he drained and improved...
Marshmeadows. By 1889 he had planted at least 50000 trees, many of which survive.

In 1882 he was one of the first to import dairy factory machinery, and was a founder of the Waikato Cheese and Bacon Factory. Runciman was a pioneer of the practice of sharemilking, helped establish the Waikato Farmers Club and the Newstead school.

One of his and wife Margaret’s daughters, Jessie, married William Steele.

Move one row south to:

James McPherson
70th Surrey Reg., 4th Waikato, Clerk and Treasurer for Waikato County Council, first MP for Waikato
Died 1905 aged 75 years;
Buried AA2 AB538

Captain James McPherson served with the Commissariat Transport Corps in the Waikato wars and enlisted with No.3 Company of the 4th Waikatos in July 1864. His house, Riverlea, still exists on the land grant he was allotted. He was noted for extensive agricultural operations, including the first flax-dressing mill in Hamilton. His wharf used to load produce off and on to river steamers was just upstream from Hamilton Gardens.

McPherson is recorded as being dominating, high-tempered, and though meticulous in his duties as Clerk for the Waikato County Council, not always tactful. His wife is reputed to have said “The sergeant was a verra nice mon but I cannae abide the captain”. He is buried with his daughter Mary. His other daughter, Annie, who benefited the town with bequests to St Peter’s Cathedral and the Soldiers’ Memorial Park, is buried adjacent in the next row north.

Go directly east across the road to the AA1 block, across the lawn to a tall black obelisk monument. Just west of this are buried:

Charles and Mary Jane Innes
Brewery managers and owners
Died 1899 aged 75 years and 1941 aged 89 years;
Buried Block AA1 plot G230

Newly arrived from Wales, Mary Jane Lewis met Charles Innes, a brewer, at Ngaruawahia; they married in 1874. Bankruptcy and debt followed until Mary Jane took over the management of William Cummings’ Waikato Brewery in Hamilton East in 1889. It was destroyed by fire in
1897, but Mary Jane purchased a site across the river by the Union Bridge and built a new brewery. After Charles’ death in 1899, Mary Jane became sole owner of Waikato Breweries. She went into partnership with her son Charles Lewis Innes, and later left him and his brothers to manage the business.

Four of their 10 children did not reach adulthood.

Continuing across unmarked graves in the same row to a large concrete dais with a polished granite-faced headstone marking the grave of:

**Philip Le Quesne**
Carpenter, storekeeper, hotel owner, postmaster, librarian, local body member
Died 1937 aged 100 years;
Buried AA1 F136

Le Quesne and his wife Mary Ann came from Jersey, arriving in the Waikato in 1866. On the corner of Grey and Clyde Streets he built and ran a general grocery store that included Hamilton’s first post office and library. Later on the same site, Le Quesne built the Waikato Hotel and a hall with bricks he had made himself. He is reputed to be the first person to make wine in the district, using grapes grown at Te Kauwhata, and local blackberries. He started a bowling green, helped establish the Anglican church of St Peter’s, was on the Hamilton East Town Board and the first Borough Council in 1878. At his death he was considered “Hamilton’s grand old man”. He had seen Hamilton change from a raw frontier settlement to a rapidly expanding regional centre.
Move east along the row of graves 13 metres, between the camellia and poplar trees and one row south to:

Henry Hinton
Militiaman, farmer
Died 1891 aged 63 years;
Buried AA1 H259-62

Henry Hinton was one of the first militia settlers, reportedly a good farmer with a quiet unassuming manner. He and his wife Sarah Ann had 11 children who grew up to settle in the Waikato. Also buried here is 8-year-old Charlotte Jane.

Carry on east along the same row for 12 metres between another camellia and poplar to the grave of:

James Melville
Farmer, Methodist lay-preacher
Died 1909, aged 58,
Buried in AA1 H268

Born in Scotland in 1851, James came to New Zealand as a 9 year-old. He became cabin boy on the paddle steamer Rangiriri. His first wife, Caroline (née Pascoe), died giving birth to their seventh child. At the time of his second marriage, to Alice Farr, he and the older children were hand-milking for Henry Reynolds at Newstead. Melville eventually bought and farmed 60 hectares in what is now the suburb of Melville. He was a staunch member and preacher of the Methodist Church. James Melville is buried with Caroline and their son John Franklin who died aged 4 years.

The next grave to the east is for:

Edward Pearson
Militiaman, carpenter, sandsoap manufacturer, borough councillor
Died 1896 aged 71 years;
Buried AA1 H271A-270

E.J. Pearson is credited with building the first wooden house (merely a small hut) in the militia settlement. His carpentry business went bankrupt, but after a time in the Thames gold-fields he returned to Hamilton. Around 1886 he bought the Oddfellows Hall (that he himself had built) in Cook Street and established a sandsoap factory there. The carbolic sandsoap could scour brass and tinware, clean unpainted wood to a “smooth clear whiteness” and serve as a disinfectant and flea-deterrent. The product was so successful it became one of our first exports.
Directly behind Edward Pearson’s headstone is his son George Samuel Pearson who owned a blacksmith business in Grey Street.

Walk west (towards the cemetery workshep) 51 metres between the first and second rows, past William Henry Kelly, another 4th Waikato militiaman on the left to the 2nd headstone from the end, for:

David Gardiner
Saddler, local body politician
Died 1921 aged 83 years;
Buried AA1 1351

Gardiner’s saddlery workshop in Hamilton East was one of the many early businesses related to the dependence on horses for work and transport. He was a member of the Hamilton East Town Board and the first Hamilton Borough Council in 1878. Gardiner was one of the original members of St Andrews Presbyterian Church. He lived in Hamilton for 50 years. His saddlery tools are in the collection of the Waikato Museum.
Go straight across the road to the Roman Catholic block to the tall polished black granite pillar in the 4th row back, the monument to:

**Andrew Casey**
**Farmer**
**Died 1915 aged 69 years;**
**Buried Roman Catholic Block, plot C696**

Casey farmed in the Tamahere area, and his son in the Fairfield area where the family is commemorated in the naming of a street. With the additional height of the cross, now fallen down, this monument would have been one of the most conspicuous in the cemetery.

Two graves west is the memorial to Maurice Randrup, proprietor of the Randrup Milking Machine Company.

Head back to the road, and walk along to the east stopping under the camellia at the grave of:

**Grove Vowless**
**Militiaman, sawmiller**
**Died 1876 aged 49 years;**
**Buried RC block A375**

Captain Vowless was the second militiaman-settler ashore in August 1864; his wife Teresa the first white woman two months later. Grove worked for Ebenezer Gibbons’ sawmill, but died relatively young, of consumption. Teresa was left to bring up eight children on her own, earning money through odd jobs catering and at the hospital, as well as helping her sons run their 50 acre (20 ha) land grant. Their daughter Theresa Ann married William James Manktelow, son of another militiaman.

The next grave east, under the same camellia tree is for:

**The de Vere Hunt family**
**Farmers**
**Buried RC A377-8**

Mathew de Vere Hunt died of dropsy in 1879; his wife sold their Hukanui farm, Ormond, a few years later and moved into Hamilton East. Their son John died of typhoid in 1875, aged 20 years. One daughter, Alicia, married Walter Chitty; another, Kate, married Edward Cussen.
Two headstones further east is the headstone for:

**Thomas Cassidy**  
*Militiaman, butcher*  
*Died 1901 aged 67 years;*  
*Buried RC A381-2*

Cassidy was another of the 4th Waikato Regiment who settled in Hamilton but who had to supplement his low income in the Thames gold-fields. He later owned a butchery. Eight of his children survived to adulthood.

Four rows away from the road and straight back from the Cassidy family grave is a large concrete slab with a fallen marble cross. This is the grave for:

**Walter and Alicia Chitty**  
*Pioneer farmer, stock agent, show judge, local organisations, Mason; welfare activities*  
*Died 1938 aged 89 and 1936 aged 77;*  
*Buried Roman Catholic Block E767A*

Walter Chitty arrived here in 1873 and bought ca.300 hectares at Hukanui. Breaking in his farm, Brooklyn, involved hard manual labour on scrub-covered land, with the only access via narrow tracks to the river and Hamilton East. Chitty bred Milking Shorthorns and exhibited his cattle at the Waikato Agricultural and Pastoral Association’s shows. He was a stock buyer for the Waikato Land Association and stock judge at shows. One of the wealthier people in the community, he often employed up to 48 people.

Alicia (née de Vere Hunt) was a typical farmer’s wife, involved in church, medical and welfare activities. On February 11, 1934, their diamond wedding anniversary, the Chittys made the first non-official telephone call from Hamilton to England. Their son Jack was a prominent Waikato architect.

The next headstone west is for Edward Cussen, owner of the Three Star Brewery, and his wife Kate (née de Vere Hunt).
Go east along the row 40 metres to 3 plots from the end and one row north, to the tall marble headstone with rope and tassel decoration, in the centre of a large plot with a low concrete edging. This is the plot for the Crosby family including:

**John Crosby**

*4th Waikato Regiment, farmer*

*Died 1902 aged 77 years; Buried in RC C446*

An Irishman and a career soldier in the 99th and 55th Regiments, Crosby subsequently enlisted with the 4th Waikato Regiment, as sergeant. He was appointed as Inspector of the Permanent Way between Drury and Mercer. He retired to the Waikato to his farm, Mt Pleasant. He is commemorated in one of the trees in Steele Park.

3 rows closer to the river (RC block F819-830) are the graves for fifteen nuns from St Mary’s Convent, Hamilton East. The original headstones have been replaced recently with a modest concrete strip. Their birth names are recorded on the cemetery plans.

Go north to the road intersection and cross diagonally to enter the Masonic Block. Except for those near the corner, the rows in this block run north-south with headstones facing east. Pass the graves for bookseller and philanthropist William H. Paul (alone in the lawn) and his son publisher Blackwood Paul (by the east-west road verge). Just north of the latter, marked by a 2 metre high marble slab is the grave of:

**Frederick John von Sturmer**

*Forest Ranger, journalist, editor, local body politician*

*Died 1897 aged 68 years; Buried Masonic D58*

Born in England, von Sturmer came to New Zealand via the Victoria gold-fields in 1858. A Forest Ranger during the Waikato wars, he became a journalist and was an editor of the New Zealand Herald. After the amalgamation of Hamilton East and West into one borough, and the building of the Union Bridge, he promoted the idea of splitting East and West again. He was a borough councillor in the 1880s and on the Waikato Hospital Board. His daughter Augusta married the successful photographer Henry Gaze.

Continue east two more rows directly under a tree. The first marked grave from the road verge is the grave for Walter Burrow, funeral director who organised many of the burials in the cemetery and his family, including his daughter Lois Alexandra who died in 1931 aged 29 years.
Move 2 more rows east to a distinctive tall marble pillar marking the graves of the Graham family:

**William Australia Graham**
Surveyor, interpreter, farmer, local body politician, Died 1916 aged 74 years; Buried Masonic H132

W. A. Graham was immensely important in the development of Hamilton. Born in Auckland in 1841, he surveyed the town of Hamilton East and interpreted in Maori for his father George Graham at the signing of the peace with Wiremu Tamihana at Tamahere in 1865. Graham was influential in the establishment of Waikato Hospital, and was chairman of the Hospital Board and mayor in the 1880s. He was one of a group who developed a racecourse at Claudelands. Graham was also responsible for the first swimming pool, an enclosed part of the Waikato River, built to hide naked male swimmers from view.

Graham wrote and published on many subjects and was a great talker. He was highly respected, and was given a *patu paraoa* by the Maori King Mahuta.

In 1893, the year women gained suffrage, his wife Alice (née Coombes) was the first woman to vote at the main polling booth. In 1923 Alice gave to the town the land now known as Richmond Park. The family had their share of tragedy, with the deaths of children when young and son Cedric in the battle of the Somme.

Directly east in the next row, the 4th headstone from the road marks the grave of:

**Charles John Wright Barton**
Auckland Militia, farmer, mayor, businessman, town clerk, Died 1935 aged 83; Masonic L178

In 1883 Charles Barton and his wife Marion (née Edgecumbe) moved from their Te Kowhai farm to Hamilton where Barton bought the Waikato Brewery and the Commercial Hotel. Barton was elected to the Borough Council in 1886 and had two periods (1887 and 1903) as mayor, both times resigning because of financial difficulties. He worked as town clerk and was on many committees of sports clubs and the Beta-Waikato Masonic Lodge. He was one of the longest-serving borough councillors, finally resigning when he was 81. His debating skills and political astuteness earned him the title “the watch-dog of the council”.

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Three graves north in the same row, a marble slab in the lawn marks the grave of:

William Dey
Mayor, storekeeper, Waikato Hospital Board
Died 1923 aged 76 years;
Buried Masonic 173

William Dey, a storekeeper, was mayor of the Hamilton Borough Council for six years in the 1890s and 1900s. During his time as mayor the railway was opened through to Rotorua, gas lighting was inaugurated in the streets, four disastrous fires occurred, and the fire brigade was formed. Mr Dey’s shop in Grey St burnt down shortly after. More positive events were the opening of the Telephone Exchange (1904), the Town Hall (1905) and the foundation stone for the new Waikato Hospital (1905). He was Chairman of the Waikato Hospital Board 1904-06.

The 1890s were also a time of tragedy for Dey with the deaths of his wife and three children.

Move 3 rows to the east to the 2nd-to-last main row and to the 9th headstone from the road, that for:

John Willing Warren
Architect
Died 1936 aged 76 years;
Buried Masonic O223

J. W. Warren was involved with several major architectural projects in the early 20th Century, particularly with designing buildings for the rapidly expanding Waikato Hospital. The wooden turreted house still standing in Wellington Street was designed by him for the MP Henry Greenslade.

Walk north to the other end of the same row, to a 6 metre-long concrete dais and to the graves for:

Arthur and Adriana Swarbrick
Solicitor, farmer, actor, Domain Board; singer
Died November 1927 aged 76 years and May 1926 aged 71;
Buried Masonic O234

Arthur Swarbrick was first a farmer here, then a solicitor’s clerk. After completing his solicitor’s exams in 1893 he took over the practice. He was an amateur actor and producer in local productions. As Chairman of the Domain Board he successfully pushed to have the golf links in public ownership. The arch entrance to the Lake Domain is a memorial to him.
Dutch-born Adriana (nee Pieters) had a musical education, won awards for her singing and contributed to the cultural life of the town. A review in the Waikato Times of an 1883 performance said she was “capable of great artistic feeling and expression”. Her family’s wealth assisted the Swarbricks to set up a large home in London Street and employ servants after their farm at Chartwell (The Pines) failed during the depression of the 1880s.

Walk west along the road verge for 5 rows, turn south into the Masonic block again at the Hope family grave and to the 4th marked plot in, a sandstone slab headstone for:

Henry Edgecumbe
Grocer, brewer
Died 1885;
Buried Masonic G119

Henry Edgecumbe immigrated to New Zealand with his sons in 1864, settling in Ngarewa. His son George later owned the Waikato Times and then The Waikato Argus. The funeral for Henry Edgecumbe was one of the largest seen, with about 25 buggies and other vehicles and perhaps 500 people on foot.

Nearest the road verge in the next row west is another 6 metre long concrete dais with raised concrete edging:

John Edwin Hammond
Mayor, borough councillor, businessman, athletics, cycling, plumber and gasfitter
Died June 1916 aged 49 years;
Buried in Masonic block, plot 107

Hammond emigrated from Kent as a boy in 1870, was apprenticed at age 12 as a plumber, and moved to Hamilton in 1891. He kept a stock of bicycles and did repairs in his premises in Hamilton West. He took an active interest in athletic and cycling sports, and was captain of the Waikato Amateur Athletic and Cycling Club. He died in office as mayor.

Directly west in the next row is:

Henry Exford Tristram
Labourer, manager, Waikato Trotting Club, rugby clubs, councillor, hospital board, JP
Died 1941 aged 87 years;
Buried Masonic E80

Tristram went to school in Kihikihi, ran away from home, worked at the Ohaupo Hotel, as farm hand for F. R. Claude (after whom Claudelands is named),
helped drain Coates’s Ruakura farm, had a butchery business then spent 35 years as manager of Pearson’s Sandsoap Company.

When he was on the Borough Council he voted against the Garden Place Hill scheme to remove the hill, for a romantic reason: he had been standing on the crest of the hill watching the horse races (the track ran over part of the hill) in the late 1870s when he met Minnie Pearson. She later became his wife.

Tristram was involved with rugby and trotting clubs, and played euphonium in the Hamilton Town Band for about 40 years. Tristram Street is named after him.

*Leave the Masonic Block passing the massive rough-hewn granite monument on the corner for Campbell Johnstone after whom the maternity ward building at Waikato Hospital was named, then directly across the road to the AA1 Block. In the curve of the road is a low concrete dais with 3 headstones, including those for:*

**Francis and Ada Quick**
River boats, coach service, boarding house proprietors
Died 1914 aged 76 and 1935 aged 82 years; Buried Block AA1 C681

In the early 1860s Frank Quick and his brother George (C. G. Quick) ran coaches between Auckland and the military frontier at Drury, extending their service south as the Waikato wars progressed and the roads were built. With the advent of rail in the mid-1870s they switched to a river service, building a steamer called the Quickstep. Some years later Frank and Ada ran Almadale, a large boarding house on the corner of Alma and Victoria Streets. They left no family.

*The next marked grave west along the row is for:*

**Henry Herbert Howden**
Jeweller, businessman, bowler, councillor, patron, Mason
Died 1945, aged 77; Buried AA1 C678

Henry Howden was born in Auckland in 1868. Twenty years later he established a jewellery, watchmaking and optician business in Victoria St, Hamilton. His business expanded rapidly and by 1902 he had built his third shop. This was designed by F. E. Smith and still exists as a café. Howden served on the Borough Council for a total of four years. He actively identified himself with civic affairs and was a patron of various sports, donating many trophies. He was a life member of the Hamilton Bowling Club.
Directly south one row back is the low level monument to prominent architect Frederick Ernest Smith. Walk 2 rows north of Howden to the large plot with the timber-effect edging, the graves for:

**J. W. Ellis, MBE and Manawa Ellis**
Trader, Maori affairs, timber merchant, Frankton Borough councillor, mayor
Died 1918 aged 64 years and 1955 aged 90; Buried AA1 B63-65

In the words of Councillor J. J. Fow, John William Ellis “was one of those who made the Empire great”. Having arrived in New Zealand as a child in 1859, he settled near Aotea Harbour in the 1870s. He ran a schooner, traded with local Maori and as a fluent speaker of te reo Maori he spoke at hui, influencing the opening up of the King Country. He married twice, first to Kauki Tauira, then to Manawa Francis, both of Ngati Maniapoto. Ellis became the confidential adviser to King Tawhiao.

In 1886 Ellis started a sawmilling business, joined by Harry Burnand in 1890. The successful firm of Ellis and Burnand operated several mills. They moved their head office to Hamilton in 1906. Ellis was a strong advocate of the merger of Frankton and Hamilton Boroughs and became the first mayor of the combined body in 1917. He died in office, and the funeral cortege was one of the longest ever seen, with over 60 motor vehicles.
Manawa was a close relative of Rewi Maniapoto. She continued living in their large villa, Muriaroha, in Lake Rd for many years after her husband’s death.

J.W. Ellis

In this row and the next one south are graves, some unmarked, of victims of the 1918 influenza epidemic. Others were buried in Hamilton West cemetery. One of the few Indians in the earlier parts of the cemetery, Mohar Singh, is one of those whose death date indicates he died of the flu. The Chinese inscriptions are for Wong Hau Chi aged ca. 42 years and Yue Cheung Sing (also translated as Sai Cheng Shing). The Gee Kung Tong Society was a support group of men from the same area in China.

One tragic example is that of:

James Carr  
Died on November 16, 1918

James died of the flu the day after his wife Emily also died of the flu. She had given birth to their daughter on November 13, in Auckland.

Spend time walking north in Soldiers Block No. 1, amongst the rows of graves for men who served overseas. Some of the pre-1920 deaths, like Alfred Charles Popham, died of their wounds, some such as Louis Harper King returned safely only to die of the flu. In the most northern row are a reminder that women were involved in the war: here are the graves for Matron Isabel M. Whyte of the Imperial (ie British) Nursing Service and Phoebe Mary Reynolds, sister in the New Zealand Army Nursing Service.

We hope you have enjoyed this insight into the history of Hamilton.
Start at the corner of the AA2 block, directly across the road from the cemetery workshed. Follow the map and instructions inside the brochure.

For the purposes of the route instructions, the cemetery is deemed to lie east-west, with the river to the south and the main gate to the north.

This map is not to scale and is intended as a guide only.
Acknowledgements
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Opening Hours
Vehicle access from 7am until 4pm daily.
Pedestrian access is possible at any time.

Burial Records
For records of burials phone (07) 8567987.
Genealogical and local history resources are available at the Central Library and Waikato Museum.

Health & Safety
Please be mindful of uneven ground around gravesites.

Behaviour
Please respect this cemetery as a sacred place and a heritage site. If you see anyone damaging graves, headstones or cemetery property please notify the Police.

Maintenance
The cemetery is administered and maintained by Hamilton City Council staff. Memorial maintenance is the responsibility of the families of the deceased except for the 51 true war graves (of service people who have died as a result of their war service), which are the responsibility of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.
References and Further Information

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All quotes are from articles in the Waikato Times, Waikato Argus or New Zealand Herald.

The historic photographs are reproduced from the collections of the Waikato Museum and the University of Waikato Map Library.
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