

### 8. James Alexander (d. 21 Jun 1870)

James Alexander was a civil engineer and one of the first Commissioners of the cemetery. At a meeting of the Commissioners on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1864 he obtained permission for a memorial stained glass window in the chapel of the Established Church. James Alexander's grave occupies a prominent position immediately west of the central archway between the chapels and is made even more notable by the iron railings which survive on three sides of the grave.

### 9. John Sylvester (d. 18 July 1856)

John Sylvester, a farmer, died in his eightieth year and was buried just a few months after the opening of the cemetery, in a plot adjacent to the chapels. His obituary described him as "*the pattern of patient and unceasing industry and not unmindful of those higher obligations which are embraced in acts of charity and unostentatious benevolence*". John's wife, Harriet, chose a tall sandstone headstone, ornately carved with leaves and angels.

### 10. Joseph Wood (d. 18 Feb 1904)

Joseph Wood was Doncaster's District Surveyor for over thirty years, during which time he improved the condition of the town's roads considerably. The first plot was bought by Joseph's son-in-law, Alexander Stuart Wemyss, for the burial of his wife, Joseph's second daughter. When Joseph lost his youngest daughter he purchased the adjacent plot and had erected a tall column of pink granite surmounted by an urn, a symbol of immortality. His eldest daughter also pre-deceased him, dying in 1882

### ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This Guide has been prepared for use as either a companion to a guided heritage walk led by the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery, or to help the casual explorer to get the most from a short visit to the cemetery.

### CEMETERY HISTORY

The cemetery, originally known as Doncaster Cemetery and also occasionally referred to as Carr Grange Cemetery was opened in 1856. It was one of the first municipal cemeteries outside of London and was made possible by the passing of an Act of Parliament in 1854.

The majority of burials within the cemetery were carried out during the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII, and are of people who helped transform Doncaster from a busy market town to a modest industrial one; they cover the whole range of society. There is an equality in death that exists nowhere else.

### YOUR SAFETY

Please keep to the pathways and be aware that some of the surfaces may be uneven. Also, please do not touch the monuments as they could be unstable. The graves mentioned in this Guide can easily be seen from the pathways.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the Friends of Hyde Park Cemetery please visit our website: [www.fohpc.org.uk](http://www.fohpc.org.uk) or

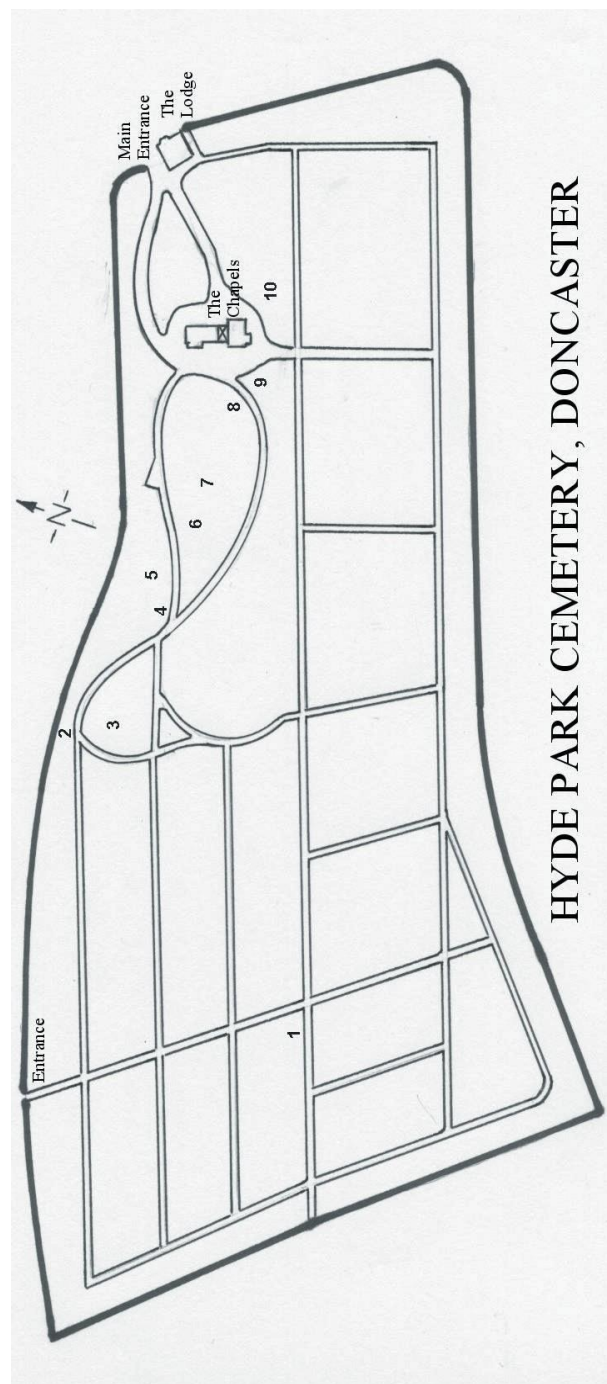
Email: [info@fohpc.org.uk](mailto:info@fohpc.org.uk)

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A Guide to a  
**Heritage Walk**  
Around  
**Hyde Park  
Cemetery**  
Doncaster

Guide No.2  
More Notable Doncastrians



HYDE PARK CEMETERY, DONCASTER

**1. Carmino Massarella (d. 21 Dec 1931)**

Carmino came from a well-known Italian family which made its name from selling ice-cream and as owners of the show-jumping horse • Mr Softee, winner of the European Championships in 1967 and 1969. In the 1901 Census all except the youngest members of the Massarella family were recorded as ice-cream vendors and street organ musicians. Carmino died at the age of 47 and his wife, Anastasia, died in 1939, aged 55.

**2. George William Morris (d. 8 Oct 1830)**

A tall sandstone obelisk marks what became known as the Morris Bros vaults. The first plot of the three that comprise this grave was purchased in 1869 for the burial of Gertrude Dalton Holmes, granddaughter of George William Morris. Several of the Morris family men lie in this vault after dying at young ages. The Morrises were merchants, of Low Fishergate, Harry Morris being described as a chemical manufacturer. One wonders whether the nature of their business contributed to their early demise.

**3. Martha Adams (d. 25 Jan 1940)**

Robert Adams purchased this double plot on 30 Jan 1940 to permit the burial of his wife, Martha, who had died a few days earlier in the Fairfield Nursing Home, at the age of 66. The grave is notable for its beautiful statue of an angel, gazing heavenward and with arms crossed, standing atop a pillar of dark grey polished marble. The tips of the angel's wings were broken off many years ago and the white Portland limestone has weathered and softened, but the statue still retains its visual impact.

**4. Joseph Foster (d. 29 Aug 1877)**

Joseph Foster, High Bailiff of the County Court of Doncaster and a Commissioner of the Cemetery, bought this prominent plot in 1859, but it was not used for eight years. That was for the burial of Joseph's wife, Annie. Joseph's own funeral was described in detail in the *Doncaster, Nottingham & Lincoln Gazette*, 7<sup>th</sup> September 1877.

**5. Frederick Brightmore (d. 13 Nov 1904)**

Frederick Brightmore rose from humble origins to become a JP, Alderman and, Mayor of Doncaster from 1894-6. His father was a blacksmith and seller of second-hand goods. Frederick started work as a telegraph clerk for the South Yorkshire Railway Company but later took over the business of a Mr Shirer and accumulated a considerable fortune.

**6. John Waller (d. 14 Nov 1876)**

The imposing monument over the three adjoining plots of the Waller grave was erected just seven weeks after the death of John's first wife, Harriet, in 1864. His second wife, Amelia and children from each of his marriages also lie in this grave.

**7. Henry Woodmansey (d. 1 Oct 1867)**

Henry died suddenly during the year that he was Mayor of Doncaster. He was one of the town's foremost jewellers, his firm supplying the Doncaster Cup and many other notable items for the Corporation. As he was leaving a Mansion House Ball during the early hours he appeared to slip as he descended the stairs, falling and striking his head as he did so. He was carried to the Mayor's parlour, where he died at just before five in the morning. The inquest recorded a verdict of accidental death.