

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS SWERFORD CHURCHYARD



Unfortunately the gravestones in the churchyard have deteriorated considerably in the last 30-40 years. Many remain standing (or have had supporting stones or wedges inserted to ensure they do) but the stones themselves dating from Victorian times or earlier are in a poor state of repair. Most are heavily encrusted with lichens, and water damage has meant that many have flaked into layers. Headstones for less prosperous parishioners were often painted rather than inscribed, and though traces of paint remain on some stones these are not clear enough for an amateur to decipher.

As far as I am aware, the inscriptions have not been previously retrieved, though I can remember many stones bearing clearer legends 30 years ago than they do now.

The following is my attempt to decipher a number of stones, especially where the names appeared to have relevance to people associated with Blue Row. With more time, more may be able to be deciphered but on each visit the condition of the headstones seems worse. Comparison with the parish records may help make more sense of this.

I have not transcribed the 'In loving memory of' or 'united again'/now at peace' sentiments but concentrated on names and dates. I don't guarantee all these are 100% right – they are just my best attempts on an early summer evening in 2006. **Comments in red.**

1. In memory of John Powell who died Dec 7 1852 Aged 78 years, also of Hannah his wife who died Sep 26? 1829? Aged 58 years
2. John Powell died March 10th 1896 aged 84 (the above's son)
His wife Mary Ann died ?? 18?3 aged 66 (Should be 1885 if 66 accurate, according to census - but census may not be correct - unless I have misread the age which could be 55 - but it did look like 66. FreeBMD (<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/cgi/search.pl>) does not shed any light on this as yet.)
And Sarah Anne daughter of the above died Feb 15th 1872 aged 32
**** consistent with information from 1871 census ****
3. Elizabeth Powell died 26th March 1924, Nugent Powell died 1st June 1924, James Powell died 22 Feb 1954
4. Emily Stockford died Jul 16 1899?

5. John Green died May 9th 1871 and his wife Sarah died Jan ?0 1885
6. surname Annis? First name looks like ?ORC?? – maybe George? Horace? Died May 29th 1887
7. Emma wife of Henry Jakeman born Nov 18 1844 Died Nov 24 1906 Also Henry Jakeman born Jan 24 1847 died Feb 2 1915
8. Dina? Wife of John Baylis died Jan 21 1848 aged 42
9. Amelia Jane wife of John Baylis d Feb 20 1853 (or 1833 – not clear) aged 30, also Arthur and Jane May children who died in infancy.
10. Solomon Franklin died July 4th 1909 aged 72 and Susanna his wife died July 8th 1923 aged 77 **** consistent with information from 1891 census ****
11. John Franklin – rest illegible
12. George Hawtin died Feb 2 1907 and Anne his wife died June 23 1924 aged 89? years. **** shown on 1881 census as 46 and 44 resp. ****
13. Henry Clay died Nov 24th 1906 aged 78 and Sarah Arnett his wife died April 1908 aged 76 **** consistent with information from 1881 census ****