

## PREFACE

The following pages contain an alphabetical list of those remembered on the remaining memorial stones in the graveyard of Cirencester Parish Church, the Unitarian Church and at a later date the Non-Conformist yard in Watermoor Road. They do not include memorials from the Society of Friends graveyard, nor do they include memorials from inside the various church buildings.

The Parish Church yard was closed in 1871 when the Chesterton Lane Cemetery opened. The last Unitarian burials seem to have been in the 1920's.

The survey was started in 1992 by the prompting of Miss Joyce Barker B.A. (now deceased) who chaired a small Family History Group based at the Niccol Centre, Cirencester. It was started as an exercise for us, after a demonstration of techniques by Mr. Julian Rawes G.F.H. Soc., though we did not realise then the enormity of the task we had undertaken. Most of the readers in the small team had long retired from their trades or professions, and although we worked mostly in the summer months, we were dogged by bad weather so that the main part of the reading took over five years.

Approximately 750 memorials are recorded but there were many other stones and fragments which had to be inspected. Sadly over the past years we have seen a further deterioration in some of the memorial stones; some from wanton vandalism.

We started on two very icy days in February 1992 when a map was surveyed for us using instruments by Mr. Alan Perry, Surveyor, who freely gave of his time and expertise. We have been very grateful for his services without which the tangle of memorials would have been even more difficult to read than they were sometimes. We are grateful too to Mr. Perry's colleague Mr. Christopher Bishop whose advice put us on the right track to begin with.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped in any way over the past six years and in particular Mrs. Margaret Wesley who has stayed with the project to the end. Sadly the Niccol Centre Family History Group no longer exists.

I have reason to be grateful to a great many people for their support:-

The Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society for its generous grant towards printing & photography.

My brother Peter for designing and printing fifteen hundred survey forms to be used in the field for recording information, at no cost to us.

Two of my sons, Tony for photographing and preparing a collection of superb slides to illustrate certain aspects of the survey, its numerous interests and difficulties; and Stephen for preparing a simple computer programme which even I could use, to record results in a modem way and for shepherding me when I went wrong. He later collated the results into two very usable folders covering all the memorials which we had been able to read.

The field forms, in a separate file, record every memorial, even the illegible ones.

## THE SURVEY GROUP INCLUDED

Joyce Barker, Chairman , deceased , to whose memory this work is dedicated.

Jean King present Chairman

* Joyce Dawson	* Michael Oakeshott
Margaret Fryer	* Joan Oakeshott
Nadine Fendley	* Marilee Parrott
Don Harris	* Ethel Rodwell
Olive Harris	Jean Roseblade
Joey Jacobs	* June Stacey
Patricia Nicholas	* Elizabeth Waters
Margaret Oswald	Margaret Wesley

Raymond Wesley.

- Members of Cirencester Archaeological & Historical Society

## PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE LISTS FROM THEIR COVERS

### CONTENTS

It is important to become familiar with one or two short cuts I have had to take in making the alphabetical list, due to computer limitations, as well as the recognised abbreviations.

1. Many of the survey numbers in the 300's are not included because they represent survey points - paths, boundaries etc. They are not an omission of memorial numbers. They will not be found on the enclosed plan.
2. The computer did not like ages given in days, weeks or months for infants. I have used the symbols:-  
< less than e.g. < less than 1 year (or month)  
> more than e.g. > more than 1 year less than 2 years OR infancy where no age is given.
3. Where a birth date is included on the memorial I have included it on the list —with the date of death, otherwise I have used the given age at death.
4. Where there is an established link between different memorials I have mentioned it in brackets. There may be others unproven.

Where there is an established link with another town, village, county, or country. I have mentioned it.

Often the maiden name of a married woman has been included, e.g. daughter of.....

5. Where a trade or profession is on the memorial I have *tried* to include it. Where I have hazarded a name or relationship - otherwise unreadable, I have used brackets and a question mark.
6. Conventional abbreviations have been used, though sometimes I fell from grace when I used another interpretation which will be quite obvious.

b = born or birth  
bro = brother  
d = died  
dau = daughter  
husb = husband  
m = married  
r = relict - used for both widow & widower  
s = son  
sis = sister  
w = wife wdw = widow wdr = widower  
# = ditto  
/ = separates father & mother

7. You will find some entries as only initial letters of Christian and Surnames, usually at the beginning of an alphabetical change of surnames. These have been taken from footstones which provide only initials and the year of death. Occasionally they have been footstones associated with headstones having illegible inscriptions

e.g. D E 1860..

8. The lists contain some names from Bigland's survey of the 1780's where the memorials still exist but are largely illegible.
9. Some back-up has been obtained from Parish Burial Records which are housed in the Bingham Library. It should be said that the Parish Records go back to a much earlier date than has been possible with the eroding stones. Our earliest date is probably 1628 Edmund Ferebee and that with the aid of Bigland. Most memorials date from C19th.
10. At the back of the file are the records of the memorials in the Unitarian Graveyard, the result of a survey carried out by Julian Rawes and members of the Gloucestershire Family History Society.
11. Later on we would like to add the memorials which are in the Non-Conformist graveyard in Waternoor Road.
12. Please note that this is only an alphabetical list of names taken from a much more comprehensive survey (rather more bulky) which contains more details of the memorial stones; e.g. position, alignment, condition, type of stone, type of inscription, decoration and verse. We hope copies of these larger records may be housed in the Gloucester Record Office and the Bingham Library, Cirencester.

**COPIES OF THE LISTS MAY BE MADE FOR YOU AT THE PARISH OFFICE IN CO WELL STREET, CIRENCESTER FOR THE USUAL COPYING CHARGES.**

D.W. Harris, Co-ordinator (Tel: 01285 654313) January 1999.