



Seeking your ancestor in Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

Known locally as Bow Cemetery the records have been deposited in the London Metropolitan Archives.

40 Northampton Road London EC1R OHB

Telephone: 020 7332 3820.

Web site: www.cityoflondon.gov.uk .

The Cemetery was laid out in an imaginary grid of squares. Each square might contain both private and public graves. The graves rarely run in numerical order and adjacent grave numbers are rarely in the same square. Maps of the location of graves do exist at the LMA but there is no index, each map has to be searched individually - not all grave numbers are marked (private graves 1950 –1965) and Public graves can rarely be located.

Public graves usually consist of a number and a letter; private graves have just a number (sq followed by a number in either case denotes the grid square).

To find out if the person you are searching for is buried in the cemetery you must have a date of death and then find the entry in either

a) The burial registers of private graves

b) The burial registers of public graves (these microfilms are hardly readable)

This will confirm that the person is actually buried in the cemetery and which type of grave.

Private graves

There is an index of purchasers of private graves 1841-1941


Once you have the grave number you can consult the registers of private graves which are in grave number order and will show you who else is buried in the plot, the type of grave and the square number. This will enable you to search the maps for location of the grave.

Public graves

Once found in the burial registers of public graves it is important to note who else is buried in the grave (even if they are not your family) and who is buried on either side. There are no maps for public records.

The East London History Society record memorial inscriptions in the Cemetery Park usually on the second Sunday of every month from 14:00 hrs.

The Society does hold a copy of the Private owners registers and have a database of all the memorial inscriptions transcribed so far and a limited index to the maps of the location of the graves. We are prepared to search these for genuine enquiries

 E mail enquiries to the web site will be replied to in due course - www.towerhamletscemetery.org

 Postal enquiries via the Friends will not be dealt with unless a stamped address envelope is included: 1 Lockhart Street, E3 4BL

If you wish to visit the cemetery to look for a grave and require help please let us know that you intend to come so that we may see if we have additional information that may help locate the grave – although there are no public graves maps we do have extensive knowledge where they might be located and have been successful on many occasions – Please note the Cemetery is a beautiful tranquil place to be in. However the abundance of vegetation restricts searching for graves. It may be advisable to wait for the winter/spring months when more graves are visible.