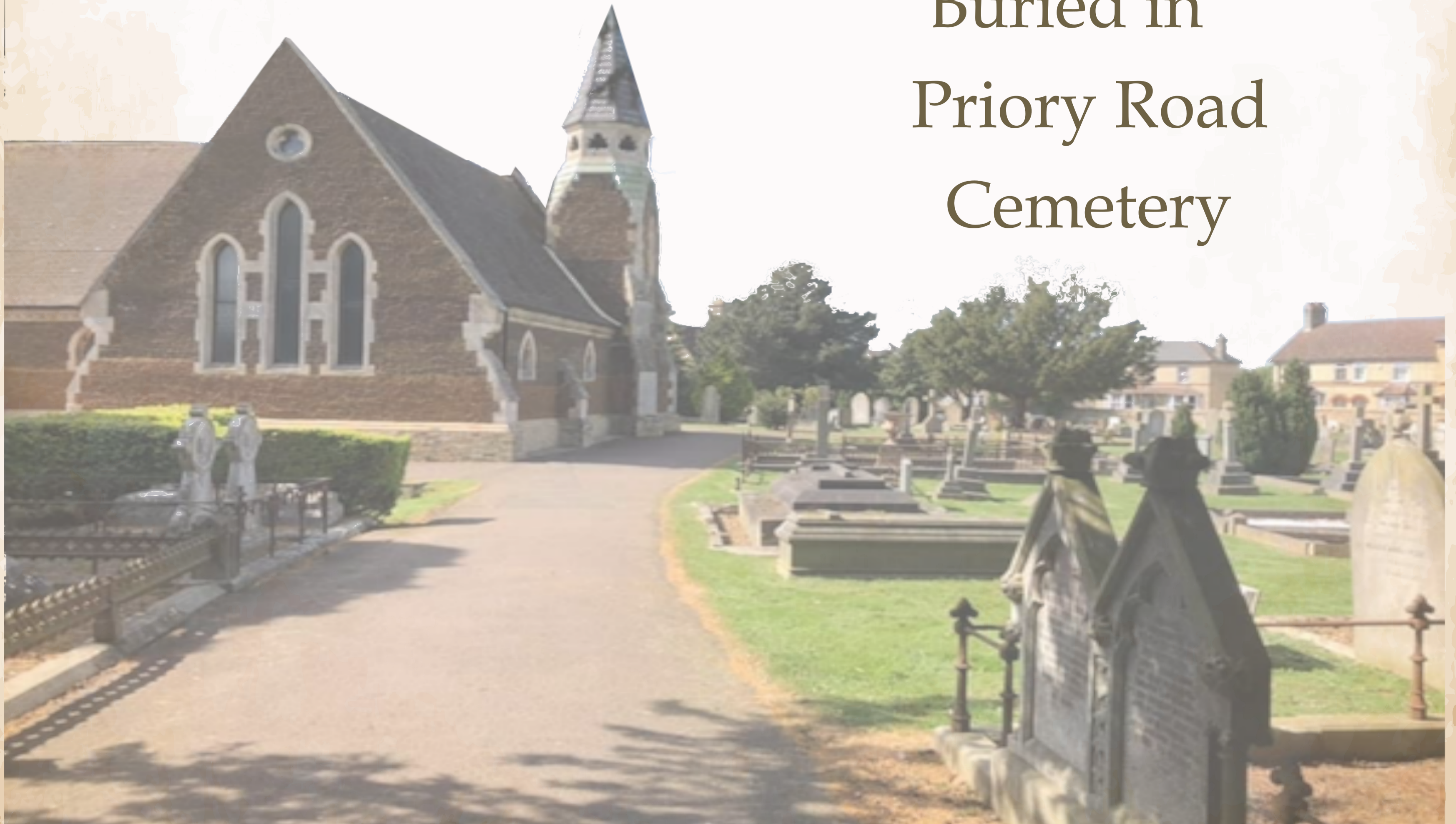


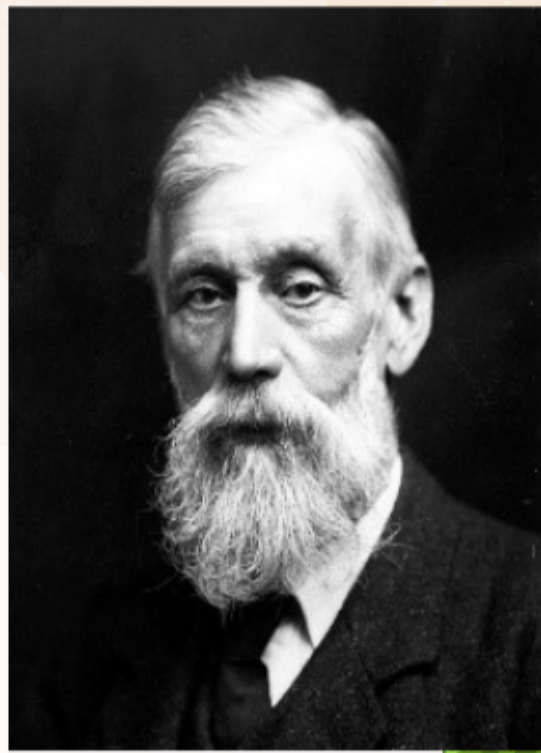
Notable People
Buried in
Priory Road
Cemetery



Notable People buried in Priory Road Cemetery

Take a walk around the Victorian Priory Road Cemetery to discover the stories of people who have their final resting place in the cemetery.

4 Sir Michael Foster



Sir Michael Foster (8 March 1836 – 29 January 1907) was an English physiologist. He was instrumental in organising the Cambridge Biological School and acted as Secretary of the Royal Society. His main works were a Textbook of Physiology (1876) and Lectures on the History of Physiology during the 16th, 17th and 18th Centuries (1901), which consisted of lectures delivered at the Cooper Medical College, San Francisco, in 1900. One of his most famous students at Cambridge (Charles Scott Sherrington) went on to win the Nobel Prize in 1932. He was an elected member of Parliament between 1900-1906, representing the University of London and as an avid iris gardener, he was the binomial author of the plant species, *Iris Lineata Foster ex Regel*

He married in 1864, Georgina Edmonds, daughter of Cyrus Read Edmonds. Following her death in 1869, he remarried in 1872, Margaret Rust, daughter of George Rust, JP, of Huntingdon. He lived at Nine Wells House, Great Shelford in the Gog Magog Hills opposite his friend and fellow physiologist W H Gaskell.

5 Jane Martin

Jane was aged 40 years of age and was the widow of Mr William Martin who died in 1866 when her untimely death occurred. Jane lost her life on 3rd September 1878, whilst on board The Princess Alice, a popular pleasure steamer plying the waters of the River Thames when it suffered a collision with a collier ship (The Bywell Castle) from Newcastle, making its way out to sea.

The weather had been fine, and her passengers had enjoyed a day's pleasure trip to the Kent coast. Some children were asleep, and the band was playing on the main deck. Some time between 7.20 and 7.45pm, passengers saw a large vessel, the Bywell Castle, loom close. Despite the Bywell Castle reversing their engines at full speed, it was too late to avert disaster. The vessels collided and the Bywell Castle hit the Princess Alice near her starboard paddle box.

All people on board Princess Alice died (between 600 and 700 people). The inquest into the incident found that both vessels were to blame; The Bywell Castle, contributing to the collision by not acting quickly enough



Drawing of a collision between the Princess Alice and the Bywell Castle

6 William Dion Boucicault

Dion William Boucicault was the son of the famous Irish actor and playwright Dion Boucicault. He did not live in Huntingdon but died along with 13 others in the Abbots Ripton rail disaster which occurred on 21st January 1876 on the Great Northern Railway line.

Dion (William) was travelling on the 1015 'Special Scotch Express', (a forerunner to the 'Flying Scotsman') when the Scotsman, travelling at full speed, struck the rearmost truck of a loaded coal train which had been signalled to cross into a siding to allow the Flying Scotsman to pass. The signalman at the next signal box north was able to stop the Manchester express and this train eventually drew up behind the wreckage but south of the wreckage, the signal box didn't receive the message until seconds after the northbound Leeds express had passed. The train did everything it could to stop but it was still travelling at some speed by the time it hit the wrecked carriages. It was this second collision in which most of the 13 deaths were thought to have occurred. William had survived the first crash and was trying to get out of the carriage when the second crash occurred.

William's father, the famous dramatist Dion Boucicault funded the restoration of what is now the Cromwell Museum in 1878 in memory of his son.

8 Robert Hutchinson

Robert Hutchinson was the architect and designer of the chapel and cemetery. He was born in St Ives to Jane and John Hutchinson in 1828. He studied in London under two leading architects and went on to remodel Hartford Church and designed the Church Hall in Ferrars Road for All Saints Church. He also rebuilt the front of the George Hotel and was appointed as Borough Surveyor by the Corporation and he restored the Grammar school and built the new Headmaster's boarding house. He married Mary Ann Gunnis in 1854 and when he died in 1890, he was buried in the Cemetery that he designed.

9 Wootton Isaacson

Original Member of the Huntingdon Burial Board - Further information required

10 Frederick Howson

Original Member of the Huntingdon Burial Board - Further information required



The Rust Family

7 Mr George Rust was born on 18th May 1795 and died on 5th January 1876. He was a committee member of the "The Huntingdon Burial Board". He was extremely wealthy and had a vault built for his wife, Sophia Rust, when she suddenly died on 29th January 1861. George had several faithful servants who supported his family for 30-40 years and ensured that they were rightfully buried close by to his family plot.

7b Maria Sharman (11th February 1858) - who for 30 years was a faithful and attached servant in the family of George Rust. Aged 62 years.

7c Joseph Sisman (5th February 1858) - who for 40 years was a faithful and attached servant in the family of George Rust. Aged 73 years.



1 The First Burial at Priory Road Cemetery

Master Walter Joseph Lamb

On the 5th January 1855, Priory Road Cemetery, carried out its first burial, that of unfortunately a baby aged one month,

2 Burial in the First Purchased Grave at Priory Road Cemetery

Sarah Philpott

Sarah Philpott (Daughter of John and Sarah Philpott) was the second person to be buried at Priory Road Cemetery.



Her burial took place on the 10th January 1855, aged 71 years. Her grave was also the first bricked grave and the plot was in consecrated ground.

Sarah had a servant, so must have been wealthy. Her occupation was stated as 'fundholder'. Her grave was the first grave to be purchased and in perpetuity.

3 Joshua Macer

Joshua Macer was born in 1779 in Whittlesford, near Cambridge. He joined the Navy in September 1797 and served aboard H.M.S. Belvedere and then H.M.S. Monarch. H.M.S. Monarch's battles included in the Battles of Ushant in 1778, Cape St. Vincent in 1780, Chesapeake in 1781, St. Kitts and then The Saintes in 1782, Muizenberg in 1795 (Monarch was part of the small fleet that captured the Cape of Good Hope from the Dutch VOC), and then Copenhagen in 1801 (as part of Nelson's fleet).

In The Battle of Copenhagen, a British fleet defeated a Danish-Norwegian fleet anchored just off Copenhagen. Copenhagen is often considered to be Nelson's hardest fought battle, surpassing even the heavy fighting at Trafalgar. It was during this battle, that H.M.S. Monarch suffered the most damage out of the British ships present and during the battle, Joshua lost his right arm.

He was discharged from H.M.S. Monarch at Chatham, Kent on 27th April 1802 and Joshua lived to be 79. He died at St Johns Hospital, Huntingdon on 9th June 1858.