Welcome to the Capel Cemetery Register!

Capel (known as ‘Coolingup’ until 1899) is approximately 200kms from the state’s capital, Perth and is nestled conveniently between Bunbury and Busselton - two major regional centres of the South West region of Western Australia. The Shire of Capel incorporates Boyanup, Capel, Dalyellup, Elgin, Gelorup and Peppermint Grove Beach within its boundaries.

The Capel River precinct was visited and reported by explorers as early as 1834 and deemed highly suited to farming and agricultural ventures. The tributary promised a ready source of fresh water and enabled new arrivals to establish themselves along the fertile and accessible water tract. The fledgling settlement was supported by deliveries from vessels visiting Geographe Bay. Welcome ‘creature comforts’ conveyed to the isolated locality included: home wares, sewing paraphernalia, building supplies, liquor, exotic foods and small luxuries including the fortnightly mail. Early settlers survived through trial and error efforts - many of them failing to make a living from the unforgiving coastal location and leaving the area to pursue brighter prospects.

Over time, inhabitants of this area have dabbled in all manner of industries relating directly to the land and its proximity to water. Farming, flour and timber milling, animal husbandry (including horse and cattle breeding, dairying, whaling, commercial fishing), mineral sands mining and fruit growing have all featured in the growth, development and prosperity of the district. With the Capel River meandering through the centre of town and the Geographe Bay coast only minutes away, Capel was and has remained an idyllic location – surrounded by the best of everything.

The current site of the Capel Cemetery was initially reserved as early as 1854 - yet the earliest recorded interment at the Capel Cemetery is the burial of Elizabeth PAYNE. She passed away in 1884 after succumbing to measles in ‘Happy Valley’ where her husband George was employed in timber milling. The site was originally owned by the Robert’s family and Mr Joe Davis grew potatoes in the vicinity when he was the property owner in the 1920’s. Gynudup School, the first formal school established in Capel, was located within the cemetery’s boundaries and was opened by Reverend Joseph Withers in 1864. The Capel Cemetery continues to receive interments and has had the benefit of a niche wall for the placement of ashes since the late 1980’s.
Interesting facts about Capel Cemetery:

- Pioneers and descendants of our earliest settlers from the Swan River Colony and Australind are interred at the site.
- The oldest reported inhabitant passed away at 105 years of age.
- There are three (3) convicts buried within the cemetery.
- There is one (1) recorded burial in unconsecrated ground – location unknown.
- One (1) inhabitant is buried under his alias – not his birth name.
- Natives of New Zealand, England, Scotland, Ireland, Poland, Germany and those born in other Australian states and territories are interred at the Capel Cemetery.

Where to find the Capel Cemetery Register

A physical copy of the register can be viewed at:

- Shire of Capel
  Administration Building
  Forrest Road
  CAPEL WA 6271

- Shire of Capel Libraries
  Capel:
    Forrest Road
    CAPEL WA 6271

  Boyanup:
    Thomas Street
    BOYANUP WA 6237

  Dalyellup:
    Norton Promenade
    DALYELLUP WA 6230

All requests for register ‘look-ups’ can be directed to the Shire of Capel Ron Maidment Archives Room:

Phone: 9727 0290

Mail:
Shire of Capel
Ron Maidment Archives Room
PO Box 369
CAPEL WA 6271

Email: localhistory@capel.wa.gov.au

PLEASE NOTE: A fee will apply when requesting ‘look-ups’. Please contact the archives for current fees.

The register is not currently available on-line so be prepared to record your research details.

How to make the most of this resource

The register has been designed to offer quick and ready access to burial information for family, relatives and family history researchers alike. Divided in to two (2) sections, searches can be conducted by individual denomination or a simple surname search. Best results will be obtained by both a denominational and alphabetical search – particularly for family historians. Additional family and familial relationships can be readily observed by considering surnames and relative proximity to other gravesites.
Navigating the Capel Cemetery Register

All Capel Cemetery site information is available using the denominational search – the grave number column has been removed from the alphabetical format. Both column arrangements make it easy to locate individuals and determine their position within the grid structure of the cemetery. A simple snapshot of the cemetery identifying each denomination and section can be found at Appendix 1. This snapshot also helps to orientate the researcher to the ‘entire’ site.

The Capel Cemetery comprises five (5) denominations:
- Anglican – Sections A – D;
- Roman Catholic;
- Congregational & Presbyterian;
- 7th Day Adventist;
- Jehovah’s Witness; and
- Niche Wall.

NOTE: The Niche Wall memorials are multi-denominational and are recognised as a separate denomination’.

Register Format

The register is presented in a simple table format. The columns are representative of the basic death and burial information available for each interment. Please refer to the Abbreviations Key for further definition of inserts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grave No.</th>
<th>Surname: (Nee TOLBROOK)</th>
<th>Given Name(s):</th>
<th>Age at Burial:</th>
<th>Date of Death:</th>
<th>Date of Burial:</th>
<th>Denom/Section/Row:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>STAFFORD</td>
<td>Agnes Jean “Aggie”</td>
<td>24 yrs</td>
<td>14/1/1946</td>
<td>16/4/1946</td>
<td>AD16 – 9 HS DAUGHTER OF AC2 - 39</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Understanding the Register “Hints & Tips”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hints &amp; tips:</th>
<th>Hints &amp; Tips:</th>
<th>Hints &amp; Tips:</th>
<th>Hints &amp; Tips:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Only in denominational search.</td>
<td>“Name” indicate social titles; &amp; Multiple names separated by ‘/’ indicate differing order of or recording/ spelling of names.</td>
<td>“Yrs = years; Mths = months; Infant = Baby or small child; SBRN = Stillborn; &amp; BLANK = Unknown.</td>
<td>Example as above: A = Anglican Denomination; D = Section D; 16 = Row 16; 9 = Grave number.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hints & Tips:
- Consider all Females as “Mrs” unless otherwise specified;
- Formerly indicates former names;
- Nee indicates birth name; & Additional surnames reflect variations in spelling and/or differing birth names.

Date of Death: Self explanatory
Date of Burial: Self explanatory
Abbreviations Key:
Those comments that are self-explanatory (ex. Unmarked grave) are not recorded.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Found in:</th>
<th>Description:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>ALL rows</td>
<td>Information not available at time of publication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>ALL rows</td>
<td>Information not relevant to record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nee</td>
<td>Birth name</td>
<td>Surname prior to current marriage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formerly</td>
<td>Previous surname</td>
<td>Birth surname</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ ”</td>
<td>Given name(s)</td>
<td>Nickname or Alias or As Known As (AKA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Date of burial</td>
<td>Cremation date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Miss)</td>
<td>Given name</td>
<td>Denotes unmarried female – ALL <strong>Bold</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Anglican A Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Anglican B Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AC</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Anglican C Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AD</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Anglican D Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Roman Catholic Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Congregational &amp; Presbyterian Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7D</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Seventh Day Adventist Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JW</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Jehovah’s Witness Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Niche Wall Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Information obtained from the original burial register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEW</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Information obtained from the Wellington District Death Register - Jennie Staines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JLB</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Information obtained from transcribed notes of James Levi BENTLEY supplied by Bob TUCKER, 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Vertical grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HJ</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Horizontal joined grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Horizontal separate grave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Grave marker present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WS</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>War service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIA</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Killed in action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DY</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Died young</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M1 or M2</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Marriage order – M1=Marriage 1  M2=Marriage 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lonely grave</td>
<td>Denomination/ Row</td>
<td>Registered Capel Shire burials outside of the cemetery boundaries – Location specified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Step-by-Step Navigation

By DENOMINATION

1. Identify the **DENOMINATION** in the **INDEX**.
2. Scan names recorded for each **DENOMINATION** to identify the target person(s). **NOTE:** These are in grave number order, not alphabetical order.
3. Record details of interest.

**To visit:**
   a. Consult Appendix 1 to locate **DENOMINATION** of interest.
   b. Consult Appendices 2 a) – i) – and select the **DENOMINATION** layout which indicates individual **SECTION/ROW** and **GRAVE NUMBER** references.
   c. Mark your target grave(s) and visit the site using your **Capel Cemetery Snapshot** as your guide.

By SURNAME

1. Identify the target person(s) in the **ALPHABETICAL** register.
2. Record details of interest – be sure to record **DENOMINATION**.

**To visit:**
   a. Consult Appendix 1 to locate **DENOMINATION** of interest.
   b. Consult Appendices 2 a) – g) – and select the **DENOMINATION** layout which indicates individual **SECTION/ROW** and **GRAVE NUMBER** references.
   c. Mark your target grave(s) and visit the site using your **Capel Cemetery Snapshot** as your guide.

**INFORMATION SOURCES:**

- Capel Cemetery gravestone inscriptions
- Shire of Capel Records:
  1. Burial detail spreadsheet
  2. Burial Register
  3. Applications for Burial
  4. Transcribed notes from James Levi BENTLEY supplied by Bob TUCKER, 1952
  5. Miscellaneous burial/cemetery related documents
- Wellington District Death Register transcriptions supplied by Jennie STAINES
- Family history information as supplied by descendants
- Department of the Attorney General, WA Births, Deaths and Marriages Online Indexes
- Reverse Marriages online supplied by Perth Dead Person’s Society
- Busselton Family History Society online birth, death and marriage indexes
- “Lonely Graves of Western Australia & Burials at Sea”, Yvonne & Kevin Coate, Collins Booksellers.
- “Western Australian Burial Location Index”, Yvonne & Kevin Coate, Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.
- Lorraine’s Cemetery Records Pages - www.ozburials.com
- TROVE – Online Newspapers
- Ancestry.com indexes and family trees
Appendix 1:

- Jehovah's Witness
- Congregational & Presbyterian
- 7th Day Adventist
- Roman Catholic
- Anglican "A"
- Anglican "B"
- Anglican "C"
- Anglican "D"

Directions:
- TO NICHE WALL
- "SNAPSHOT" CAPEL CEMETERY
- ROADWAY
- CARPARK

Last Update: 20/04/2017
Appendix 2 a):

Anglican A Section
Appendix 2 b):

Anglican B Section
Appendix 2 c):

**Anglican C Section**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>98</th>
<th>89</th>
<th>90</th>
<th>91</th>
<th>92</th>
<th>93</th>
<th>94</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>79</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix 2 d):

Anglican D Section
Roman Catholic Section
Appendix 2 ƒ:

Section Seventh Day Adventist
Appendix 2 g):

Congregational and Presbyterian Section
Appendix 2 h):

Jehovah’s Witness Section
Appendix 2 i):

Niche Wall Section