

News & Views

February 2004; 22nd Year

Issue 209



Hutt Valley Branch of the New Zealand Society of Genealogists Inc.

Evening Meeting 7.30pm, 1st Thursday, February to December.
Day Meeting: 9.30am, 3rd Thursday, February to November.
Research Evening: 6.30pm, last Thursday each month. Library open.
Venue: Hutt Bridge Club, 1 Park Ave, Lower Hutt
Postal Address: PO Box 31-024, Lower Hutt
Co-ordinator: Sandra Greig
Editor: Suzanne Sutton-Cummings sjsc@clear.net.nz

COMING EVENTS

05 February : Evening Meeting
Workshop: UK and Ireland.

19 February : Morning Meeting
Speaker: Len Dangerfield - What is available the National Archives and the National Library and how to access it.

26 February : Research
The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research.

04 March : Evening Meeting
Mike Guest - Getting Started - a point of view

18 March : Morning Meeting
Scrapbooking: Ruth Wilton - how to preserve and present photographs (see also below)

25 March : Research
The Library is open from 6.00pm until around 9pm for Members' Research.

RUTH WILTON - SCRAPBOOKING

Ruth owns a Creating Memories franchise which is basically photo enhancing. She also has the proper acid free storage packs and bits and bobs that we all should be using to preserve our documents correctly. She is going to give a talk plus some hands on experience. It will not be a workshop and there will be no hard sell of the products. She sees it as preservation of history and genealogy. Creating a life album.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE CONVENOR

Sandra Greig, the current chair, will be retiring at the AGM 2004. Members need to be considering standing as the new chair. She will have been 3 years as Secretary and 2 years as the Chair. Sandra will be standing in local body politics in October 2004 and will not be available....

AS REGARDS INSURANCE

The branch owns a large number of books and microfiche readers, microfiches and computers - in fact everything kept in the library including the shelves. This is all insured for \$25,000, although many of the books are irreplaceable. We pay a premium of \$468.40. We are insured with CFS Risk Insurance Ltd as underwritten by Vero Underwriters. For those who wish to read the small print, please contact the treasurer.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE ...

Genealogy: Collecting dead relatives and sometimes a live cousin!

WE ARE NOT MOVING!! (Not yet anyway)

It was been brought to the notice of the committee by committee member, William Clark, that some HVNZSG members think we are moving out of the Bridge club. This will not happen unless we get yet another rent increase.

Currently we - as of February - move off the paper rent of paying off the Library cupboards and start to pay rent of \$237.50 for three meetings per month. This is very expensive rent. Our rent rose in July 2003 from \$135 to \$170 for the 2 night meetings. The day meeting rent is \$67.50

At all times the members will be advised of the increases. We will not move if it is against the wishes of the members. However, July 2004 is the end of our contract with the Bridge Club at the higher rent of \$237.50 per month. In the meantime, the HVNZSG committee is writing to the Bridge club to negotiate July -Dec 2004 rent.

Sandra

LIBRARY

A big pat on the back for Lynne Gentry who has spent the last year sorting through the branch's large collection of books, periodicals, booklets, etc etc. She has sorted everything into neat and easy to find sections. She has also had a lot of help from Sandra Greig, Janice Price, Pauline Innes and Sheila Clegg. Lynne still has the arduous job of putting it all onto computer. We have 41 scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, a section on the Hutt Valley, Wellington, and the rest of New Zealand. There are also sections divided into the various counties in the UK and other European countries not to mention the rest of the world....

A Big 'Thank You!' from Joan Bray for all the cards and good wishes

GET WELL SOON JOAN!

SPEAKER'S REVIEW

My 13 grandmothers or my grandfather married 5 Anns

With the gentle humour evidenced in Alistair Hardy's title, we were introduced to the vagaries of spelling in the nineteenth century at November's evening meeting. Alistair's great grandfather, James Hardy, was not a bigamist nor did he marry several times. His wife's name was Ann. It was on the birth certificates of their children that the various spellings of her maiden name came to light: - Kilty, Neulty, Nulty, Nalty, Natty, Molloy, and McNulty. Spelling did not become standardised until the 20th Century, and even now we can find variations in the spelling of our names. Our quiet chuckles over the various spellings of Ann's surname were followed by the various spellings of Whalan, Whelon, Walon, Whelan and Whealon of Alistair's other grandmother's surname on Tasmanian records.

But the joy of Victorian records is more than a quiet chuckle. Anyone who is lucky enough to have ancestors born in that southern state of Australia, Victoria, will have a treasure trove of information. The scant information of English birth certificates provides little to inform genealogists, but Alistair demonstrated Victorian birth records show the names, not only of the parents with the mother's maiden name, but also the names of other siblings. He was able to confirm the names and order of the siblings, without having to locate all their birth records. Despite all the information about Great-grandma Hardy's offspring and the places they were born, Ann herself has remained a mystery. How did this Irish lass come to be in Australia?

Besides learning of the intricacies of the Victoria's record keeping, Alistair took us on a guided tour of the Australia of the gold rush days. His great grandfather, James Hardy arrived at Port Phillip in 1840 and eked out a living in various jobs, not making a comfortable living, but enough to survive. The goldfields offered a chance of improvement. Using the birth records, Alistair has been able to trace the family's movements; Melbourne, Moonee Ponds, Sandon, Strangeways, Newstead as well as finding out about the history of the areas around the goldfields, Ballarat, Castlemaine, Bendigo, Echuca. Ann and James are buried at Echuca and since our November meeting Alastair has gleaned more information through the Echuca Historical Society.

If your ancestors passed through Victoria and the Goldfields, Alistair Hardy is happy to pass on some tips for researching this area. Our branch is not only fortunate to have Alistair as a branch member, but we also have an excellent set of microfiche on Victorian births deaths and marriages. These are available here at the Bridge Club on Research nights, the last Thursday in the month

submitted by Bobbie Amyes

AS REGARDS BDM CERTIFICATES AND PASSPORTS

From: Winters, Hugh

Date: Wednesday, 21 January 2004 11:15:48 a.m.

To: 'hugh@xtra.co.nz'

Wednesday, 21 January, 2004

Passport trail eased as births, deaths go online. Travellers applying for passports will no longer have to provide a copy of their birth certificate, thanks to a system developed by Wellington-based InterGen.

The system, known as the "passport online life-event validation development", will enable Internal Affairs staff to cross-check information supplied on the passport form and fish out the right certificates from its own records.

This "makes more sense" than the previous procedure, which required an applicant to get the certificate from Internal Affairs then give it back to them with the form, says InterGen managing director Tony Stewart. At the same time, the system will check for other documentation related to the same person. If it turns up a death certificate, for example, the department will know the application is fraudulent.

The life-event system is one of a number of "small pieces of work" that InterGen and other developers have been doing for the identity services side of Internal Affairs. InterGen has just started on a project to make birth, marriage and death information available on the web, a useful resource for people tracing their genealogy. In 1994, the first attempt at such a service, a grandiose project known as Public Records Access, collapsed in a split between partners Telecom, Unisys and Azimuth.

All the contracts have been contestable.

Hugh Listowner

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~funeralnotices/Funeral.html>

New Zealand - 1840s to 1980s. The items on this site are extracted from New Zealand Newspapers of the day, Feedback from Researchers, Miscellaneous Books and Publications. These Genealogy pages cover Funeral Notices, Memoriam, News Items, Obituaries, Shipping, Te Maori, the Smith Surname, Recent Deaths, Missing People, Cemetery Lists and Worldwide Industrial Weavers Lists.

<http://www.lightage.demon.co.uk/BSINOTES.htm>

Black Sheep Index

Over 90,000 Villains (and some nice people too) from court cases and inquests 1860 - 1910 Murder * Suicide * Assault * Accident * Divorce * Disaster * Fraud * Probate * Cruelty * Theft

<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/search01.html>

The National Archives of Ireland holds a wide range of records relating to [transportation](#) of convicts from Ireland to Australia covering the period 1788 to 1868. In some cases these include records of members of convicts' families transported as [free settlers](#). To mark the Australian Bicentenary in 1988, the Taoiseach presented microfilms of the most important of these records to the Government and People of Australia as a gift from the Government and People of Ireland. A computerised index to the records was prepared with the help of IBM and is available for use at various locations in Australia.

http://www.borderreivers.co.uk/AR%20web_Genealogy.htm

This is a very useful link to various well used, Websites including Scottish ancestry, rootsweb, cindi's list, commonwealth wargraves, 1901 British census etc etc

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/f/r/e/Alan-G-Freer/index.html>

If you've ever wondered if you have a touch of blue blood in your family this is the page for you.

Genealogy is not fatal, but it is a grave disease_

CAUSES OF DEATH

Causes of Death, 1840-1900 – Bolton Street Memorial Park

By Nick Perrin

Friends of Bolton Street Memorial Park

In one of Wellington's earliest cemeteries, commonly (and partly erroneously) known as Bolton Street Cemetery, we have about 8,500 burials of Wellington's earliest inhabitants, who died between about 1840 and 1900. I ran statistics on a small part of the database of burials - a few hundred for which age at death was recorded in the "Public Cemetery" (Sydney Street) Register, held at Karori Cemetery Sexton's office, and the results surprised me.

It was a completely different environment back then - about half of all children born died before the age of 10 years, the vast majority of them in their first year. Infant mortality was huge, and accounted for about half of all burials in the time period 1840 to 1900. People tended to have lots of children, and expected only about half of them to survive to maturity. If the children did not die in infancy, then diseases such as scarlet fever also took their toll of older children.

The half of all children who survived of early childhood tended to be quite robust, judging by the statistics, and there were relatively few deaths recorded for children between about 10 and 17 years. But after that there is a peak in the numbers of deaths for those between about 20 and 30 years – the years of childbearing for the women (an incredibly hazardous activity in those times), and youthful high-risk activities in the case of the men (travel, tree felling, armed conflict).

From the statistics the Public Cemetery data reveals, those of ages 30 to 37 had a slightly lower mortality rate before the next peak kicks in at about 40 to 45 years, probably when developing serious illness associated with age began to take its toll. But generally after childhood, a person's prime was a period of high risk of premature death, mainly by accident, disease or complications of childbirth.

Of the about 3% of all burials who were older than about 50 years of age (97% had died before that age!), about half a percent died for each year of age until 75 years. Of the remaining very elderly still alive, hardly any died between 75 and 80 years, but the last peak mortality rate occurs in the hardest of individuals who reached 80 to 85 years. Of the dataset analysed, only one reached the 85 to 95 year old category (not including Charles Johnson Pharazyn who died at the age of 101 in 1903). There may be one or two other centenarians in Bolton Street, but they were even rarer than they are now.

The situation today is quite different to what it was between 1840 and 1900. In fact it is almost the complete opposite – infant mortality is very low and the death rate around ages 70 to 80 is very high. This is probably due to advances in medical science and a decrease in (or greater awareness of) hazards.

All of this means that probably half of all burial records in the 1840 to 1900 period are not of much interest to genealogists. Most family historical records will not have recorded all those dead children, and most of their burials are not marked by headstones (In fact, stillbirths were often recorded, but the legal requirement to register them seems to have varied over the years). Many people used the fact of the prior burial of an infant of theirs in what is now known as Bolton Street Memorial Park (Public, Church of England and Jewish cemeteries) to claim the right of their own burial in the same plot long after all new plots were forbidden with the closure of Bolton Street/Sydney Street on 28th July 1891. Karori cemetery had opened in 1890, but it was distinctly unfashionable to be buried so far out of town in the rough wilds on the edge of the frontier village of Karori, as it then was. The right to be buried in an existing family plot in Bolton Street was finally abolished in 1967.

Amongst the prime causes of infant mortality in those early times were scarlet fever and diphtheria. Five children of John Howard Wallace died of scarlet fever in May 1865, and a sixth died three months later. In the space of 11 days between December 1876 and January 1877, five infants from the Duff family died of diphtheria.

Accidents also took their toll on children – on 13th October 1877 the widow Louisa Johnson and all five of her children died in a fire that destroyed the Princess Hotel and adjacent buildings. In 1880, 13 year old George Heighton sustained fatal head injuries in Wadestown, when his horse bolted as he tried to retrieve a dropped package.

Amongst the adults, the same causes of death as we know today featured strongly, such as heart attack, stroke (apoplexy) and cancer. Pulmonary tuberculosis (phthisis) was also a common cause of death then, but it was accidental deaths, especially drowning, that were very common. In fact, drowning was known as "the New Zealand death".

In the days before highways and bridges were built, cross-country travel was very hazardous, with major rivers having to be crossed. Young geologist, Edward Heydelbach Davis, drowned in the Buller River in 1871 while on a geological expedition for James Hector. His body was brought back to Wellington for burial, which was rather unusual in those days when burial generally occurred between two or three days after death.

Causes of Death, 1840-1900 – Bolton Street Memorial Park continued ...

It was not only rivers where drownings occurred. In August 1840, a boat bound for Wellington from Petone overturned in a storm with the loss of nine lives, including John Pearce, whose stone is the earliest in Bolton Street (although he was probably buried at Petone). Another water-related death was that of John Balmer in 1852, who was the victim of a shark in Lambton Harbour while having a swim after performing in the band of the 65th Regiment in the Wellington Anniversary Day parade.

Earthquakes have taken a minor toll - Barrack Sergeant Lovel and two of his children died after a wall collapsed on them in the 1848 earthquake, and Baron Charles Von Alzdorf died when his hotel collapsed in the 1855 earthquake (although he appeared to be convalescing after a stroke at the time, and that may have contributed to his death as much as the collapsing chimney he was seated beside).

In 1846, Andrew Hagarty Gillespie and his son Andrew were killed by Maoris at Boulcott. Another victim of conflict in those troubled times was Henry Middleton Blackburn, a young soldier, who died of wounds also in 1846, probably in the assault on Rangihaeata's stronghold at Battle Hill.

Murder (Thomas Hawkings in Khandallah in May 1889) and suicides were also recorded, but the majority either died in bed, or in accidents of various forms.

<p><u>Causes of Death in London 1665</u> <i>Adapted from Gale, A. M. (1959)</i> <i>Epidemic Diseases</i></p> <p>Plague 68,596 Ague and Feaver (malaria?) 5,257 Consumption (tuberculosis) 4,808 Worms 2,614 Convulsions and Mother (?) 2,036 Spotted Feaver and Purples 1,929 Aged 1,545 Dropsie and timpany (?) 1,478 Gripping in the Guts 1,288</p>	<p>Chrisomes and infants 1,258 Surfit 1,251 Flox (?) and Smal Pox 655 Childbed 625 Abortive and stillborn 617 Rickets 557 Rising of the lights 397 Stopping of the Stomack 332 Impostume (abscess) 227 Bloody flux 185 Collick and winde 134 Apoplex and suddenly 116 Canker and thrush 111</p>	<p>Jaundies 110 Scurvy 105 Stone and Strangury 98 French pox (syphilis) 86 Kings evil (tuberculosis) 86 Broken, bruised limbs 82 Cold and cough 68 Cancer, fistula 56 Vomiting 51 Womb of Blood Drowned 50 Accidents 46 Various others 452</p>
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<u>Unusual causes of death</u>	by act of God	in the act of fornication	by his horse's revenge
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| <p>➤ <u>Death Certificate (BDM108)</u> - legal document issued under the seal of the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages used for legal and genealogical purposes. Often confused with Medical Certificate of Death.</p> <p>➤ Available from BDM at a cost of \$21</p> | <p>➤ <u>Medical Certificate of the Causes of Death (BDM50)</u> - an official statement signed by a doctor of the cause, date, and place of a person's death. Also commonly (but wrongly) referred to as the Death Certificate.</p> <p>➤ <i>from the NZ Griefcare website</i></p> |
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WEBSITES - CAUSES OF DEATH

Here are a few sites that provide definitions of diseases found on death certificates as well as explanations of obsolete terms:

- Glossary of Diseases: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ote/disease.htm>
- Archaic Medical Terms for Genealogists: <http://www.gpiag-asthma.org/drpsmith/amt1.htm>
- Disease Names: <http://www.demon.co.uk/sfs/diseases.htm>

Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living.

CEMETERIES

There is a surprising amount of information available on the net, mostly provided by local councils and libraries. It is also worth checking out local Archives and Museums in the areas that you are interested in.

Following are a few New Zealand websites:

www.huttcity.govt.nz/council/services/works/cemetery/taita.shtml

For a bit of information of the old Taita Cemetery which opened in 1896 and the newer Lawn Cemetery which opened in 1952.

<http://www.aucklandcitylibraries.com/general.aspx?ct=151&id=2653#cr>

Not only does this site have burial records for various Auckland Cemeteries but also there are Auckland Area Passenger Arrivals 1838-1886, Electoral Roles 1881, the names, ages and school of 25,000 school children who signed the address to Queen Victoria in 1897, Auckland Police Census 1842-1846, Auckland Crown Grants and more.

<http://www.nelsoncity.com>

This site has the cemetery records for Wakapuaka, Marsden Valley, Fairfield Park (was called the Old cemetery), and one or two others, the plans for both Wakapuaka and Marsden are also available. On this site I found burial records that are not on the NZSG index

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz/guides/cemeteries>

This site has the origins and history of seven of the main cemeteries in Christchurch and a few interesting characters who are buried in these cemeteries. For a fee Richard, the Genealogy librarian will undertake a genealogical search for you.

<http://timeframes.natlib.govt.nz>

For photos taken in the Bolton/Sydney Street Cemeteries prior to the disinterments to make way for the motorway, you can see the graves before they were disturbed and before the contents and stones relocated. Unfortunately it is not easy to see what is written on the gravestones (even if the inscriptions were legible at the time, as that does not appear to have been the purpose of the photos). The transcripts are in the Turnbull Library manuscript section, and a photocopy in the family history section of the National Library.

<http://communities.msn.co.nz/BoltonStCemetery>

For more information on the Bolton Street Memorial Park and interesting photos. This is Nick Perrin's personal web page.

CHURCHYARDS AND CEMETERIES

Founders of the original New Zealand towns wanted to steer away from having the dead buried in churchyards wanting instead to set aside specific land for burials. The proposed plan for settlement of "Britannia" in the Hutt Valley, drawn up by the New Zealand Company in London in 1839 had 8 acre cemeteries at each corner of the city! (A postcard of the planned city is available from the Wellington National Archives)

They would have preferred these resting places to be inter-denominational. However certain denominations insisted on having their own consecrated area. This tradition has been continued in modern cemeteries such as Makara Cemetery which is divided into religious and cultural areas.

It has been noted (see Chch library website, Barbadoes St Cemetery) that in The Barbadoes St Cemetery in Christchurch, the Anglican Church insisted that only Anglican priests took services in the Anglican section of the cemetery. This posed a problem for a certain Mrs Elizabeth Swindell whose husband was buried an Anglican. She had been converted into the Salvation Army and because she insisted on being buried with her husband she could not have a Salvation Army funeral. According to her obituary, the Sallies were allowed no more than the opportunity to sing rousing songs above the grave.

By ringing a local council and/or the sexton of a cemetery, one may be pleasantly surprised at the amount of information available by making a quick phone call. I had rung around the country trying to get the date of death for my grand-mother's step-mother who had died in 1960, and then found the information was freely available at the Karori Cemetery. Although she had been cremated and ashes scattered, the record is in their database.

Cemetery: (n) A marble orchard not to be taken for granite.

WELLINGTON'S 'TOWN' CEMETERY

This was land set aside during the original surveying of Wellington for burials. It was divided into three Cemeteries - the Anglican, the Jewish and the Public Cemeteries. The Anglican Cemetery was originally known as the Bolton Street Cemetery as access was through Bolton Street. The public portion, for non-conformist church members who did not want to be buried in land consecrated by Anglicans, was known as the Sydney Street Cemetery.

The whole cemetery is now known collectively as the Bolton Street Memorial Park. The Sydney Street entrance no longer exists since the Bowen Street 'cut' was made in 1929-1931 cutting the cemetery off from Sydney St. If Bowen St had not been made, the entrance might still be there tucked under what is now the Bowen St flyover.

The motorway was built through roughly the middle third of the whole cemetery. This was preceded by the disinterments in the 1960s and the mass grave of almost 3700 who were in the way of progress. Their gravestones are all scattered around the remaining two thirds of the cemetery - a lot of them on top of the back fill of the motorway. It is estimated that only about half of those buried there had gravestones.

There are still many burials with lost locations (about a couple of thousand), and of those removed for the motorway about 1600 were said to be "unknown", however the Friends of the Bolton Street Memorial Park have reduced that number to three to four hundred (not that they could say which name goes with which particular human remains, but they have a count of those they know were disinterred, and have only a few hundred to go).

Thanks to Nick Perrin for help in writing this section and Rachel Brown for providing the brochures.

KARORI CEMETERY

Years of debate and the fact that the Town cemeteries were virtually full finally lead to the purchase of the 100 acres in Karori for burials in February 1890. The first burial took place in August 1891 of Frederick William Fish, a premature infant. However no regular use was made of the ground until February 1892 when the public could no longer buy new plots in the more convenient Town Cemetery.

Karori Cemetery boasts the first crematorium in New Zealand, the second and now, the oldest in the southern hemisphere. The crematorium chapel was opened in 1909. It is decorated with six Au Tur Gloine stained glass windows which are considered NZ's single most important set of imported twentieth century stained glass windows. These windows were commissioned as memorials - four of them by a family of Fergusons.

Memorial Inscriptions have been transcribed and may be seen on the NZSG indexes and on microfiches. If you know someone is buried there but do not know exactly where, you can enquire of the sexton (04) 476-6109. The cemetery staff do not charge to tell you the location of a grave and will quickly tell you the section and plot number. They can also give you any other details on the burial record and a map and directions upon visiting them to help find the site.

ONE GRAVEYARD IN AUSTRALIA

In Tasmania's Port Arthur, the Isle of the Dead contains the cemetery for convicts, soldiers, civilian officials, and free men, women and children. Most of the convicts are buried in unmarked graves with mounds over them on the lower part of the island. The graves of free people were on the higher part of the island and marked by elaborate headstones cut by the convict stonemasons. Although more than 1000 burials took place here, only 90 headstones are in place. Little money was available for paupers' headstones and before 1852, headstones were not permitted on convict graves.

THE MILE MARKER - (a joke found circulating the internet)

Three Irishmen, Paddy, Sean and Shamus, were stumbling home late one night and found themselves on the road which led past the old graveyard.

"Look over here", says Paddy, "It's Michael O'Grady's grave, God bless his soul, he lived to the ripe old age of 87."

"That's nothing", says Sean, "here's one named Patrick O'Toole. It says here that he was 95 when he died."

"Just then, Shamus yells out, "But here's a fella that died when he was 145 years old!"

"What was his name?" asks Paddy.

Shamus lights a match to see what else is written on the stone marker, and exclaims, "Miles from Dublin!"

Old genealogists never die, they just haunt cemeteries.

BOOKS ON CEMETERIES

For those of you who do not have access to the internet and/or prefer the smell of a good book the following are for you...

- Unquiet Earth, Margaret Alington publ. 1978 by the Wgtn City Council & Ministry of Works & Development
There are two copies of this hard covered book in the branch library about the Bolton/Sydney Street Cemetery. It tells of its origins and its history right up until after 3700 bodies were disinterred to make way for the motorway. Although it was written over 20 years ago, it is still very interesting reading. There is also a chapter on the Roman Catholic cemetery and quite a lot is said about the origins and beginnings of the Karori Cemetery.
- Taita Cemetery Monumental Inscriptions
5 volumes of various shapes and sizes all indexed. These are actual transcriptions and have more detail than the NZSG index.
- NZSG Cemetery Transcriptions
from cemeteries all around the country - 91 booklets in all
- Wallaceville Cemetery
photocopies of the actual burial register as at 12/9/1986
- Akatarawa Cemetery
Transcriptions and burial records.
- and there are more to be found

FINAL NOTE FOR THE MONTH

For those of you who still have access to the November 1996 newsletter, there is a list of causes of death that should be of help to those reading death certificates old and new. For those who do not have access to the internet, lists of causes of death and medical conditions are available by contacting the editor.

Next month I will look at the subject of Letters, Diaries and Journals. Contributions on the subject would be most welcome.

Suzanne

POEM

I dream't that buried with my fellow clay,
Close by a common beggar's side I lay,
And as so mean an object shocked my pride
Thus like a corpse of consequence I cried
Scoundrel begone! and henceforth touch me not
More manners learn and at a distance rot.
Scoundrel! Then with a haughtier tone cried he,
Proud lump of earth I scorn thy words and thee,
Here all are equal - now my case is thine,
That is thy rotting place and this is mine.

A favourite poem of the late David Robertson, sexton of the Sydney Street Cemetery.
From 'Unquiet Earth' by Margaret Alington. p50.

I'd rather look for dead people than have 'em look for me_

