

CORRECTIONS TO 'THE SECRET CEMETERY' BOOK

Cemetery Development: The Cemetery Wall (pages 46–47)

Following publication of *The Secret Cemetery* in October 2017, a document came to light in February 2018 that contained significant additional information. Entitled 'An Abridged Account of the Loss of the Liège Property, the Purchase of New Hall & the Improvements Made In It' (undated, c.1845), the document provides new information on the financial and political restrictions which hampered the sale of the Liège house and lands for some 30 years after the Community had left in August 1794. It also includes a list of dates for major repairs and building works at New Hall between 1799 and 1845. Significantly, for the purposes of this publication, the list notes that “in 1818 a wall was built around the burying ground which cost £182”, and a later entry, “an enclosure wall was commenced in July 1845”. By 1818, approximately 35 people had been buried in the hidden garden plot: the discovered document suggests that this was a time of sufficient security in their new situation to warrant the expense of a wall; that the garden plot had now officially become a burial ground; and indicates that, by this date, a return to Liège had been deemed untenable and therefore more permanent roots could be established at New Hall.

The confirmed date of construction of the cemetery wall in 1818 also helps to shed further light on the development of the cemetery. The 1818 wall is most likely the one shown in the map on p.46, which can be seen as an enclosed space, at some distance from the nearby property boundary, on the left-hand side of the image. This means that the list of phases in the development of the cemetery, on pp. 46–47 can be amended as follows:

1. 1799–1809: first deaths at New Hall, burial in remote and discreet corner of the grounds. Twenty-one graves within first decade, all grouped around the first three burials in 1799.
2. 1810–1844: more burials added to same part of grounds; extra space required. A handful of graves have been dug to the left of the original group and the whole area is developing into a more distinct cemetery. The entire burial plot is surrounded by a large wall in 1818, with a small entrance porch. Seventy-nine graves in total by 1844, sixty-seven of which are situated around the first three burials, which is now the right-hand side of the cemetery.
3. 1845–1875: an enclosure wall built around grounds in 1845; landscaping developments such as creation of a path between two sides of cemetery. By 1875, there were a further forty-four burials.
All burials in this period are in the newly developed left-hand side of the cemetery.
4. 1876–1885: West wall demolished; north and south walls extended to butt up against enclosure wall, possibly re-using bricks from demolition. The burials on the right-hand side are clustered together in the new space between the enclosure wall and the extended cemetery wall. 141 graves in total by 1885, neatly arranged on either side of a landscaped path, and enclosed by a tall brick wall that abutted the enclosure wall.

In 1885, the porch and entrance wall were demolished, an arched gateway and wall erected (with blue brick detailing). An additional eighteen burials took place in this period, ten on the right-hand side and eight on the left.

Foreword (page vii)

Please also note a typographical error on line six of the Foreword, in which ‘Holy Sepulture’ should read ‘Holy Sepulchre’.