

# GEORGE TOWN'S **NORTHAM ROAD PROTESTANT CEMETERY**





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## GEORGE TOWN'S NORTHAM ROAD PROTESTANT CEMETERY – AN OVERVIEW

The old Protestant Cemetery in George Town is a Category 1 heritage site located within the George Town World Heritage Site (GTWHS). The Cemetery and the adjoining Roman Catholic Cemetery were created soon after the British East India Company (EIC) established a settlement in Penang in 1786.

Early maps and references note that the two cemeteries were simply referred to as the “Burying Ground”, demonstrating an early tolerance between Catholics and Protestants in the new settlement which was not reflected in the Old World at the time.

The earliest recorded burial is for William Murray (see page 24) in 1787, which suggests the cemetery was utilised shortly after Light’s arrival in Penang. At that time it was beyond the precincts of town on partly swampy ground.

When the Napoleonic Wars threatened British trading interests in Asia, the decision was made to establish Penang as a naval and shipbuilding base in 1805. In line with the island’s new status as a Presidency, the administration under Governor Philip Dundas was also tasked with building a Protestant church and establishing clear boundaries around the existing Cemetery.

As George Town grew the Cemetery’s small capacity was on the verge of being overwhelmed by an influx of military burials and victims of tropical disease. Finally, in 1817, the Cemetery was expanded and a surrounding wall was built. A year later, the long-awaited St George’s Church was completed. Following its consecration in 1819 by the Bishop of Calcutta – Right Reverend Thomas Fanshaw Middleton – it is believed that the “Burying Ground” was separated into Catholic and Protestant sections by the dividing wall.

Tropical diseases such as malaria, cholera, dysentery and hepatitis were the leading causes of death in 19th century Penang. Given the frequent outbreaks of disease, it is ironic that the island was regarded as a “change of air station” for British civil servants and military personnel based in India.





## ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

Early Protestant church services were probably held in Government House, now within the grounds of Convent Light Street. The first recorded Anglican marriage was that of Martina Rozells (who had been Captain Francis Light's common-law wife until his death in 1794) and John Timmer in 1799.

Construction of St. George's Church began in 1817, and it was completed the following year. The St. George's Church is the oldest Anglican church built in SE Asia.

The Church was designed by Madras civil engineer James Lilliman Caldwell and constructed by Lieutenant Robert Smith of the Bengal Engineers. Smith was also a talented oil painter (his paintings of early Penang can be found at the Penang State Museum) and served as Superintending Engineer in Penang from 1816 – 1819. The design has been described as "Georgian Palladian".

In 1819, The Bishop of Calcutta, Rt. Rev. Middleton, consecrated St George's Church prior to consecrating the Protestant Cemetery.

There are six memorial tablets remaining in the Church and its grounds (18 were destroyed during WWII), including:

✠ **John Alexander Bannerman**, Governor of Penang from 1817 - 1819 who was in office when the Church was completed. He is buried in the Cemetery (see page 19).

✠ **Charles Andrew Bruce**, briefly Governor of Penang from March 1810 – December 1810.

✠ **Marquis Cornwallis**, after whom Fort Cornwallis was named. He served twice as the Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of India before he died in Ghazipur in 1805. As commander of British forces during the American War of Independence, Cornwallis had surrendered following his defeat at Yorktown by American troops under George Washington in 1781.

✠ **William Armstrong Clubley**, Government Secretary and official Warehouse Keeper of Penang. He was buried in the Cemetery in 1826.

✠ **John (Jack) Proudfoot Souter**, Church organist and choirmaster who was killed during a robbery in his home in 1964.

The memorial in front of the Church commemorates ✠ **Captain Francis Light**, First Superintendent of Penang (see page 16). It was erected by public subscription in 1824 at the same time as a gravestone was placed on his previously unmarked grave in the cemetery. The grave was restored in 1894 on the centenary of his death.



### **THE MYTH OF MRS FULLERTON'S BURIAL**

Harriet Fullerton (who died in 1830), wife of Straits Settlements Governor Robert Fullerton was the only recorded burial within the Church. According to an apocryphal account, Harriet Fullerton's treatment of her household servants was so severe that Governor Fullerton was concerned about vengeful acts towards his wife's tomb. It was said that a mock burial was staged in the Cemetery but her actual resting place is below the Church's chancel floor.

This is the report of her funeral in the *Prince of Wales Island Gazette* of Saturday 3 July 1830: 'The remains of this much respected Lady were interred on Thursday morning last, in the Chancel of St. George's Church, the mournful ceremony was attended by nearly the whole of the society of this place.'





## NUMBER OF GRAVES AND INDIVIDUALS

The most recent survey of the Cemetery was carried out in 2013, and a total of 459 graves, including 432 in-situ graves and 27 disturbed graves were recorded. However, the total number of graves does not represent the total number of individuals interred at the Cemetery, as a number of graves and tombs contain numerous family members. Some of the disturbed graves also have more than one plaque mounted on a panel. It is also worth noting that not all the graves contain bodies, as in the case of Patricia Elizabeth Shaw who died in England and was probably buried there.

The total number of names in the records from both in-situ and disturbed graves indicates that at least 345 individuals were buried and commemorated at the Cemetery. There are also 150 graves without any names, erroneously suggesting that a total of 495 individuals were interred at the Cemetery. The actual number is higher as some graves were probably unmarked and many graves were destroyed during the WWII Japanese bombing. The present number of extant graves is definitely a much reduced number from the original.



▲ 12 plaques mounted on the enclosure wall along the south side of the Cemetery which were probably placed there after being salvaged from graves damaged or destroyed by WWII bombing.



## **ETHNICITY OF THOSE INTERRED**

Based on the inscriptions on the headstones, there are at least 10 different ethnicities, including Americans, Armenians, Australians, Chinese, Dutch, English, French, Germans, Irish and Scots.

The ethnicity of a considerable number of those interred or commemorated could not be identified with certainty because either their place of birth or origin is not included on the tombstones, the inscriptions are badly faded or damaged, or the tombstones are missing.

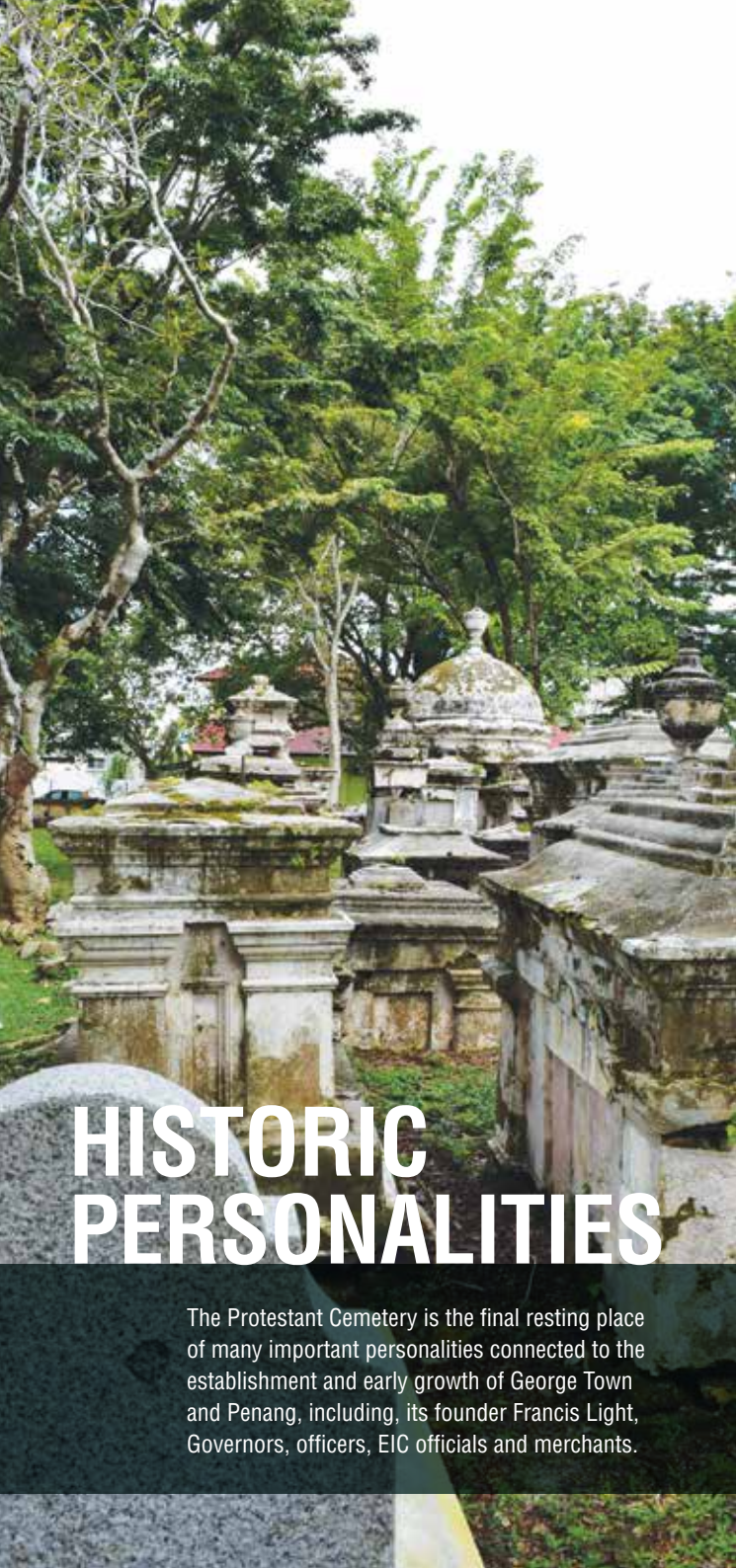
## **OCCUPATIONS OF THOSE INTERRED**

There is a broad cross-section of colonial society interred in the Cemetery, ranging from high ranking government officials and civil servants to army officers, policemen, doctors, engineers, judges, merchants and missionaries. There are also planters, printers, tavern keepers, coopers, shipwrights, sailors and occasional prisoners of war. It is highly likely that the majority of the women buried here were housewives.

## **GENDER AND AGE OF THOSE INTERRED**

According to the 2013 survey, there are 244 males and 129 females listed as buried in the Cemetery. The oldest adult was 84 years old (William Thomas Lewis) and the youngest was a four-day-old infant (William Duncan).

Unsurprisingly, life expectancies in early Penang were not high and adults aged between 18-60 made up close to half of those interred (210 individuals) with the majority of deaths in the 18-30 subset (94 individuals). Just over 10% of the known burials included infants and children (57 individuals).



# HISTORIC PERSONALITIES

The Protestant Cemetery is the final resting place of many important personalities connected to the establishment and early growth of George Town and Penang, including, its founder Francis Light, Governors, officers, EIC officials and merchants.

## 1. MICHAEL ARRATOON ANTHONY AND MARIAMJAN ANTHONY

(1841 - 1878) and (1817 - 1870)

*Son and Widow of A.A. Anthony*

Michael Arratoon was the eldest son of Anthony Arratoon – the trader and planter who is best known as the founder of Penang's first stock-broking firm, A.A. Anthony & Co. in 1840. Michael began as an assistant in the firm in 1861 and four years later, was promoted to partner. Together with his brother Joseph, the Anthony brothers expanded A.A. Anthony & Co. to become one of the leading shipping and trading firms in Penang. The brothers had ten other siblings and their mother, Mariamjan, is buried in the cemetery, alongside Michael.



▲ Michael Arratoon Anthony.



▲ Mariamjan Anthony.

### THE ARMENIANS IN PENANG

The Arratoons were part of Penang's small Armenian community in the 19th century. Their journey across Asia began during the Ottoman-Persian War (in the early 1600s) when they were forced to migrate to Persia (now Iran). The search for greener mercantile pastures soon led them to the spice routes that stretched between India and SE Asia.

Among those who contributed to Penang's rich history were merchant Catchatour Galastaun who established the now demolished St. Gregory's Church on Bishop Street; Dr Thaddeus Avetoom who set up George Town Dispensary on Beach Street; and the Sarkies Brothers, founders of the Eastern and Oriental Hotel on Farquhar Street, the Strand Hotel in Rangoon and Raffles Hotel in Singapore, and owners of the Crag Hotel on Penang Hill.

The Armenian community in Penang was not large but their contributions to Penang are recorded in street names such as Jalan Arratoon and Lebu Armenian.

## 2. CHINESE GRAVES (1860s - 1880s)

There are numerous Chinese graves in the Cemetery that date back to the 1860s. It is believed that these graves numbered up to 30 in total. However, due to the effects of nature and neglect, a recent survey only recorded 12 Chinese graves.

These graves most likely belong to Hakka Christian refugees of the Taiping Rebellion (1850 - 1864) who escaped to SE Asia when they were persecuted in retaliation for defying the Qing Dynasty rulers.

Although there are two quite elaborate tombs with bilingual Chinese and English inscriptions, the modesty of some of the graves may indicate that the deceased were Chinese who converted to Christianity while working for colonial masters.

### ▼ Taiping Rebellion.



*Note: The origins of those entombed within these Chinese graves can only be speculated on due to a lack of official records most of which were destroyed during the Japanese Occupation of 1941-1945.*

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## 3. FRIDA HUTTENBACH NÉE KRAMER (1859 - 1881)

*Frida Huttenbach née Kramer is probably the wife of one of the Huttenbach brothers of Huttenbach Bros. & Co.*

August Huttenbach arrived in Penang in 1872 as an assistant at Katz Brothers Ltd. He and his brother Ludwig set up their own firm,

Huttenbach Bros. & Co. with offices in both Penang and Singapore.

The brothers ran the first regular ships between Penang and Aceh and introduced steamship services which brought in Indian labour from India's southeastern Coromandel Coast to Malaya. Their business interests also stretched to ice works and the manufacturing of decorative floor tiles so common to Penang's old shophouses.



The Huttenbach brothers are best remembered for pioneering street lighting in Penang. After an experimental introduction of petroleum street lamps along a short stretch of Beach Street in the 1870s, the Municipal Commissioners were so impressed they awarded the Company a forty-year contract to light up George Town's streets.

#### 4. **JOHN RODYK** (1770 - 1845)

*Governor of Ternate, Indonesia under the Dutch East India Company (VOC)*

In the service of the VOC, an 18-year-old John Rodyk sailed from Amsterdam to India in 1788. He resided for a short time in Java before being posted to Ternate as its Governor. During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, the SE Asian European colonies were not spared and as a result, Ternate and the other Spice Islands were surrendered to the British.

When the Dutch returned to the Spice Islands in 1803, Rodyk departed voluntarily to the Malay Peninsula. He resided as a pensioner on Penang island for the next 42 years before his death.

#### **ALEX CORUABIC / ALEXANDER CORNABIE**

(1737 - 1813)

*Governor and Director of Ternate and Amboina under the Dutch East India Company (VOC)*

Alexander Cornabie set sail for India in 1761 aboard the VOC ship, Fate, and thereafter rose through the ranks to become the Governor and Director of Ternate (the old capital of the Spice Islands), in 1793.

He served as the last VOC Governor of Amboina (new capital) in 1794 before it was surrendered to the British. Along with other compatriots such as John Rodyk (see Page 11), Cornabie took employment under the British and set sail to Penang where he lived out the rest of his life.

The Spice Islands (Moluccas or *Maluku*) in the Banda Sea were once the only source of nutmeg, mace and cloves in the world. These spices were worth more than their weight in gold and as a result the Spice Islands and the lucrative spice route were a constant source of contention among the European superpowers.

## 5. CORNELIA JOSEPHINE VAN SOMEREN

(1824 - 1892) *Housewife*

Cornelia Josephine van Someren was the youngest child of John Rodyk, Dutch Governor of Ternate (see above). She married Peter Robert van Someren who served as the Coroner of Penang for many years. He passed away in 1861 and is also buried in the Cemetery. Cornelia lived on for three more decades until 1892, and her burial was the last to be recorded in the Cemetery, subsequently burials took place at the Western Road Cemetery.



## 6. DAVID BROWN (1776 - 1825)

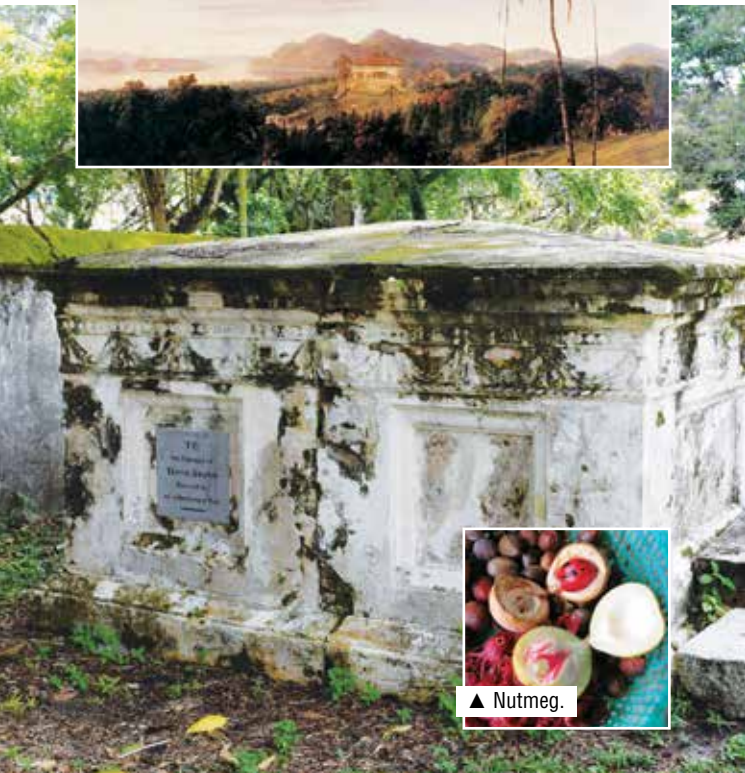
*Planter, landowner, merchant, community leader and public figure.*

As a young man of 26, David Brown made the long journey from Scotland to Penang in 1802 to administer the estate of his deceased uncle. Brown wasted little time in establishing his own business presence on the island, and set up the mercantile firm of Carnegy, Clark & Co. along with his partners James Carnegy and Patrick Clark.

Shortly after his arrival in Penang, Brown began to acquire land and by 1806, he owned 915 acres on the island. With his large pepper, nutmeg and clove plantations Brown played a considerable role in Penang's early days as a spice island. As early as 1808 his plantations produced approximately 300 tonnes of pepper representing 20% of



▼ 1812 Glugor House.



▲ Nutmeg.

the island's pepper output for the year! Brown is largely credited with establishing commercial nutmeg plantations in Penang and this is a legacy that lives on today; the bulk of Malaysia's nutmegs are still grown in Penang.

As a successful merchant, Brown played a leading role in the island's small but growing community, to the extent that his name is found at nearly every public meeting and on numerous committees; often as chairman. In 1816, he was listed on the founding committee and was a Director of the Penang Free School, the founding Treasurer of the Public Library and he was on the founding committee of the Auxiliary Bible Society. At the age of 49, Brown was struck down with illness aboard the HCS Windsor en route to seeking a cure in a different climate.





## 7. THE JACKSON FAMILY MEMORIAL

*Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Jackson (1780 - 1835), his wife Matilda Jackson (1776 - 1835) and their son, Gregory Jackson (1814 - 1835).*

The three members of the unfortunate Jackson family all passed away within 24 hours of contracting “jungle fever” at their retreat on Mount Elvira. Apparently, “jungle fever” was a euphemism for possession by malevolent spirits and the Jacksons bungalow was left uninhabited after the incident.

In an article which appeared in the *Overland Singapore Free Press* in the 1860s, “...the melancholy event referred to in our last issue has caused Jackson’s Hill (Mount Elvira) to be avoided for 25 years, even by Chinese squatters shunning close proximity to it...”. It was not until 1880 that the malarial parasite was discovered and identified as the real cause of “jungle fever”.

## 8. JAMES SCOTT (1746 - 1808)

*Merchant and landowner*

James Scott was one of the island’s earliest settlers, arriving in his ship, Drake in 1786 to make his fortune. Much of his success could be attributed to the close business partnership he had with his friend Francis Light – who was also the island’s first Superintendent.

The close ties between Scott and Light began in India, when both men served in the Royal Navy during the Seven Years War. After leaving the



navy the two friends set up respective bases in Phuket from where they operated as “country traders.” As a result, both gained plenty of insights into the surrounding regions, picked up different languages, cultures and an understanding of the intricacies of trading in the region.

The business Scott & Co. was soon established, with Scott as the driving force. In essence Scott & Co. had a virtual monopoly over trade on the island and in 1793, the partnership's assets included: nearly two-thirds of the total value of buildings, ships, goods and merchandise owned by Europeans on the island, including seven trading ships.

Unsurprisingly, with such easy access to capital Scott became Penang's largest money lender and property owner; the partnership also held a monopoly on pepper and tin for a short while. He died at his house “Scotland” at the relatively ripe old age of 61.

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## **THE SCOTTS & THE BROWNS – THE DECLINE OF TWO OLD PENANG FAMILIES**

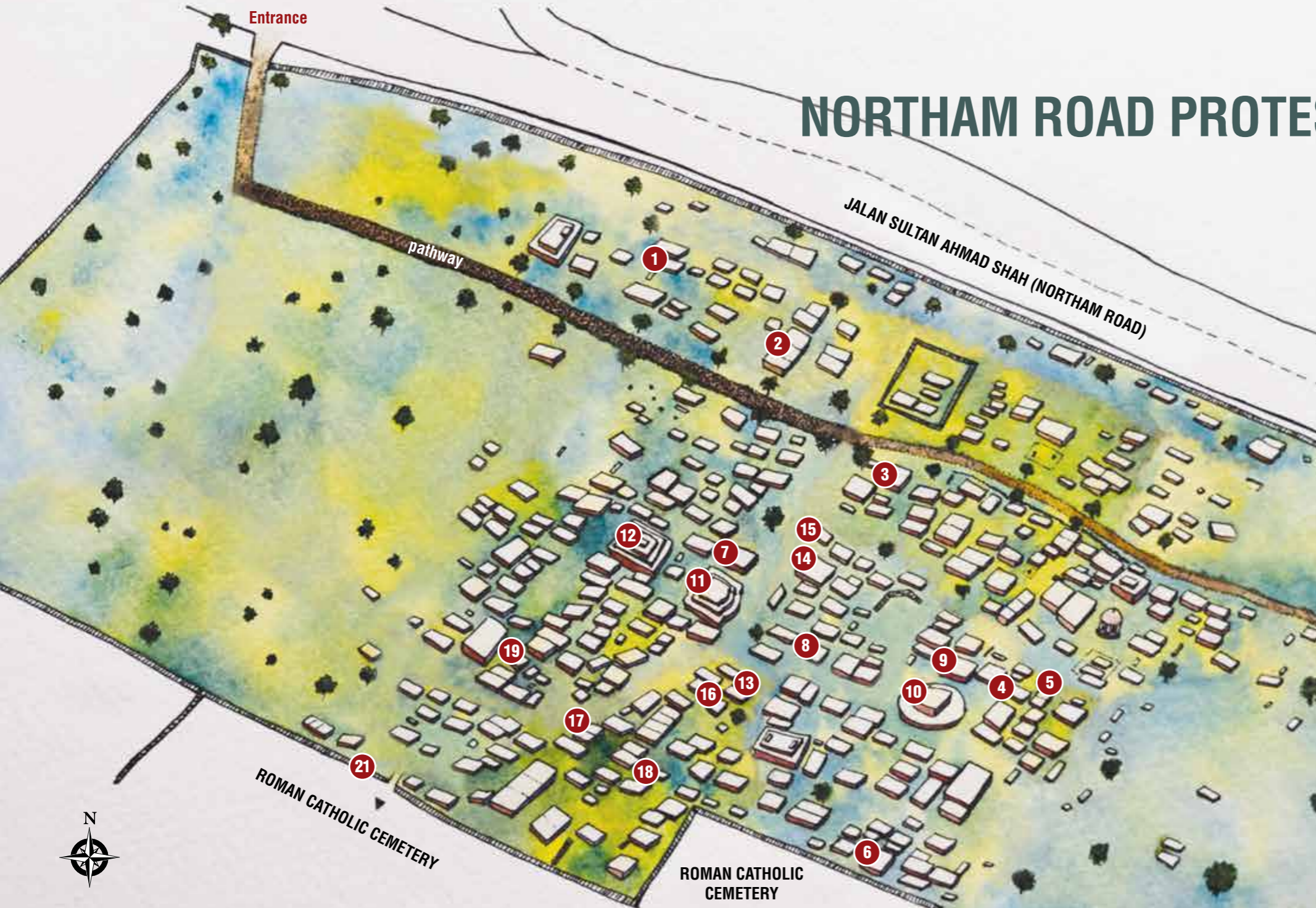
James Scott who at one time was Penang's largest landowner left behind a bankrupt estate to his heirs in 1808. It was left to his eldest son William to sell off the estate's assets to pay off the circling creditors. It was only 12 years after the death of James that the last creditors' meeting was held to deliver the final payment. William later passed away in Singapore at the ripe old age of 81.

David Brown left behind nine children (from four different local wives), some of whom continued to work in the family business which included trading and agricultural activities. George Wilson Brown his eldest son, was named the principal beneficiary of his father's estate. He also inherited his father's debts in the form of unpaid land tax on his many properties. George was not as shrewd a businessman as his father and preferred to live a lavish lifestyle entertaining his many friends.

After his early death from malaria at the age of 27, the estate passed to his younger brother David Wardlaw Brown. Good fortune was on his side, as his father's spice plantations had matured allowing him to draw a considerable annual income. Within a few years he left Penang to settle in his father's birthplace, Duns, Scotland.



# NORTHAM ROAD PROTESTANT CEMETERY GEORGE TOWN



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## 9. CAPTAIN FRANCIS LIGHT

(1740 - 1794)

*First EIC Superintendent of Prince of Wales Island (Penang)*

Captain Francis Light, from Dallinghoo in the county of Suffolk, England, sailed with the Royal Navy as a midshipman before setting out to SE Asia to try his luck as a country trader (or independent merchant). After trading between Madras, Acheh and the Malay peninsula, Light settled down in Junk Ceylon (now, Phuket). Keen to set up a British trading settlement in the area, he suggested Penang as a trading post to the EIC's Governor-General in 1771. It was only in 1786, following conflict and warfare in Europe, that Light was authorised to acquire the island from the Sultan of Kedah, in return for military protection and annual rent.

On 11 August 1786, the Union Jack was raised on the island. Light named it Prince of Wales Island, and the townsite George Town after the reigning King George III. The settlement's first street was coined Light Street in the Captain's name. The commerce-oriented Light soon transformed Penang into a free port to provide strong competition for the Dutch East Indies Company (Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie or VOC) in the region.

He served as the first Superintendent from 1786 until his death from malaria on 21 October 1794. He left behind five children whom he fathered with Martina Rozells, a Portugeuse Eurasian from Phuket. In 1836, their eldest son, Colonel William Light, established the city of Adelaide in Australia and became the first Surveyor General of South Australia. A gravestone was placed on Light's previously unmarked grave in the cemetery in 1824, and the grave was restored in 1894 on the centenary of his death. Today, a statue of Francis Light commissioned in 1936 for the sesquicentenary celebrations of Penang's establishment as a British settlement, stands tall in Fort Cornwallis; as there were no known paintings of Light, the statue was based on his son's likeness.

## 10. PHILIP DUNDAS (1763 - 1807)

*First EIC Governor of Penang 1805 - 1807*

Philip Dundas was nephew of Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville, a Scottish politician who dominated the affairs of the East India Company for many years. Philip Dundas arrived in Penang in September 1805 with his entourage (including his assistant secretary, Thomas Stamford Raffles) to serve as the first Governor of Penang. It was Penang's inaugural year as the fourth Presidency of India, which elevated the island to the status of Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, the other three Presidencies.

Given his experiences as a sea-weathered naval officer, his previous roles as president of the East India Marine Board and superintendent of the Bombay Marine, Dundas' main task was to establish a naval base in Penang during the term of his governorship. He was obviously a pragmatist and is said to have set up a red-light district in Penang to regulate the spread of disease.

On 8 April 1807, just two years into his governorship, Dundas was taken ill and died aboard HMS *Belliqueux* where he had been taken for sea air. His body was returned to Penang where he was buried. The memorial inscription on his grave gives his place of birth as Arniston, N.B., the initials referring to North Britain, the name sometimes applied to Scotland in the 17th and 18th centuries.



## 11. WILLIAM PETRIE (1747 - 1816)

*EIC Governor of Penang 1812 - 1816*

William Petrie served as an officer of the EIC in Madras (now Chennai) during the 1780s. There, he started a private observatory in his residence, which he later gifted to the EIC. The Madras Observatory, as it became known as, was the first modern astronomical observatory outside Europe. Today's Indian Institute of Astrophysics can trace its history back to Petrie's humble observatory.

From 1812 to 1816, Petrie served as the island's Governor. He died on 27 October 1816, while still in office.



▲ Madras Observatory, 1880.





**12. JOHN ALEXANDER BANNERMAN** (1759 - 1819)  
*EIC Governor of Penang 1817 - 1819*

Colonel John Alexander Bannerman was appointed Governor of Penang in 1817; which, since 1800, also included Province Wellesley on the mainland. He had previously served as a Director [there were 10 at a time] of the EIC's Court of Directors in London. During his governorship, St. George's Church was completed in 1818. His governorship only lasted two short years and he died in 1819.



13. **JAMES RICHARDSON LOGAN** (1819 - 1869)  
*Lawyer, editor, ethnologist, civil rights champion*



**“He was an erudite and skillful lawyer, an eminent scientific ethnologist, and he has founded a literature for these settlements.”** *Inscription on the Logan Memorial outside the Magistrates’ Court on Lebu Light.*

James Richardson Logan, the man in whose memory the Memorial was erected and after whom Jalan Logan was named, arrived in Malaya at the young age of 20. Trained as a lawyer in Edinburgh, he gained recognition in Penang through his representation of an Indian *sirih* (betel leaf) planter against the East India Company (EIC) in 1840, and was subsequently regarded as a champion of the non-European communities’ rights. During his time as a lawyer, he also fought for official recognition to be given to local organisations and festivals after police attempts to suppress all potential secret society activities.

Logan also served as the editor of the Pinang Gazette and together with his brother started the Journal of the Indian Archipelago and Eastern Asia (27 volumes in total were published); it was popularly known as Logan’s Journal. In his writings, he successfully popularised the term Indonesia which was first coined by his former teacher George Windsor Earl, an English ethnologist. Logan died from malaria in 1869 at the age of 50.

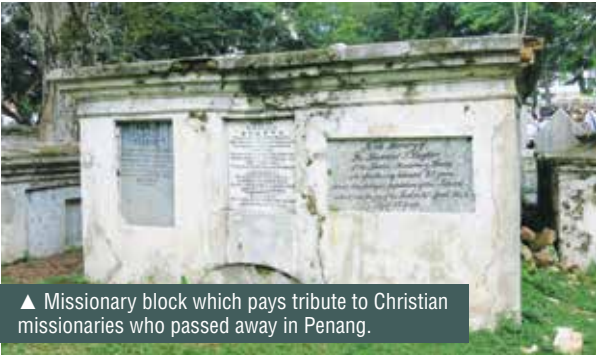
## 14. REVEREND JOHANN GEORG BAUSUM AND MARIA BAUSUM

(1814 - 1855 and 1803 - 1846 respectively) *Missionaries*

Reverend J.G. Bausum and Maria Bausum were devoted missionaries from established Christian missionary families. In 1844, the London Missionary Society (LMS) decided to shift their outreach focus from the Chinese in SE Asia to China. Rev. Bausum who had been serving in a Chinese-Malay-medium school in Province Wellesley volunteered to independently continue the LMS educational mission in Penang.

Rev. Bausum died of heart failure in 1855. Following his death, the Brethren Assembly continued to serve from Mission House on Lebu Farquhar before it moved to the present Burmah Road Gospel Hall in 1938.

Maria Bausum (then, Maria Dyer) founded St. Margaret's Primary School in Singapore, the oldest girls' school in East Asia. She arrived in Penang in 1843 to work with the LMS Chinese Girls' School. She passed away only three years after her marriage to Rev. Bausum.



▲ Missionary block which pays tribute to Christian missionaries who passed away in Penang.

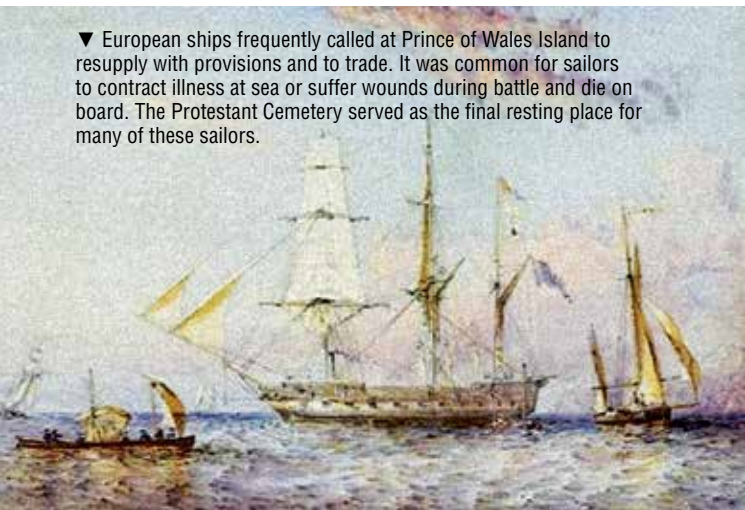
## 15. COMMODORE CHARLES GRANT CB

(1770 - 1824)

*Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Royal Navy Station*

Charles Grant, a Scotsman, joined the Royal Navy as an officer in 1800. During the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, he commanded numerous sea fleets against the French and for his services to the Crown, he was knighted in 1815.

▼ European ships frequently called at Prince of Wales Island to resupply with provisions and to trade. It was common for sailors to contract illness at sea or suffer wounds during battle and die on board. The Protestant Cemetery served as the final resting place for many of these sailors.



In 1822, he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the East Indies Station and led a British naval force comprising HMS Larne and HMS Sophie up the Irrawaddy River during the Anglo-Burmese war in the spring of 1824. The troops succeeded in occupying Rangoon before proceeding further up river only to contract cholera and other diseases. It is likely that Commodore Grant contracted cholera too and he died in Penang soon after.

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## 16. SIR WILLIAM O. RUSSELL

(1783 - 1833)

*Chief Justice of the Supreme Court at Calcutta*



Sir William died aboard the steamer "Enterprise" off the coast of Penang, where he had travelled to convalesce. His obituary recounted, "His great skill and knowledge in the law were connected with the highest integrity, wisdom and equity of his decisions were not less remarkable than their promptness. His career was short in his exalted and responsible situation but

long enough to convince the natives that, in losing him, they have lost a judge who would decree righteous judgement, a defender who had protected their interests, a friend on whom they could rely."

## 17. **REVEREND ROBERT SPARKE HUTCHINGS** (1782 - 1827)

*Founder of Penang Free School, Presidency Chaplain*

In 1813, Reverend Robert Sparke Hutchings was appointed Resident Chaplain to Prince of Wales Island. During his residency, he founded SE Asia's oldest English-medium school, Penang Free School on 21 October 1816.



Hutchings set up Penang Free School to provide equal access to education to boys from diverse backgrounds. The school started out in premises on Love Lane before shifting to Farquhar Street. Due to growing student numbers the School moved to its present Green Lane grounds at the end of 1927. The Farquhar Street building was renamed Hutchings School - a boys' primary school – and later became the Penang State Museum (see photo).

Hutchings succumbed to malaria in 1827. Each year since, students and alumni of Penang Free School gather for a memorial service at Hutchings' grave on the morning of Founder's Day (21 October), which is followed by a celebration at the School. Coincidentally, 21 October is also the death anniversary of Captain Francis Light (see page 16). His wife Elvira's name is mistakenly recorded as Elrica.

## 18. **THOMAS LEONOWENS** (1828 - 1859)

*Husband of Anna Leonowens, a governess in the Siamese Court*

In 1849, Thomas Leon Owens – he later merged his second and last names as Leonowens - a civilian clerk in Poona, India, married Anna Harriette Edwards. The young couple then sailed to Australia and Singapore before finally landing in Penang. Here, Leonowens worked as a hotelkeeper but died of a stroke in 1859.

After his death, his wife Anna Leonowens moved to the court of Mongkut, the King of Siam. Her six year stint as governess was chronicled in her memoirs, "The English Governess at the Siamese Court." Her story was later retold in Margaret Landon's fictionalised novel "Anna and the King of Siam" as well as in films including "The King and I" and "Anna and the King," which was filmed partially in Penang.

19. **THOMAS  
KEKEWICH**  
(1784 - 1813)  
*Court Registrar*



Thomas Kekewich is the only known suicide case to have an official burial in the Protestant Cemetery (at a time when it was still common for known suicide cases to be buried in unmarked graves).

Official burial records list his “situation in life” as a free merchant. But prior to his suicide, Kekewich served as Acting Registrar of the Court of Judicature under the first Recorder of Penang, Sir Edmund Stanley.

Despite his contributions to the Court, Kekewich was unfortunately remembered not only for his suicide, but also for a series of contempt charges. He was the only known law agent who had his license revoked for contempt. It was his fractious relationship with his employer, Sir Edmund which eventually led to his suicide.

Upon his death, his will executors were also charged for none other than contempt, for attempting to hear an application to legitimise his will – which the court i.e. Sir Edmund found to be “wicked, false and malicious libel.”

20. **WILLIAM MURRAY** (no extant grave or plaque)  
(?? - 1787)  
*First recorded burial*

William Murray was appointed Lieutenant Fireworker in the Bengal Artillery in 1785. He passed away on 22 December 1787 and is the earliest recorded burial in the Protestant Cemetery, although the location of his tombstone is unknown.

Some texts have inaccurately listed HDD Cuningham as the first recorded burial, although his death took place in 1789. The exact location of Cuningham’s grave within the grounds is unknown, but a memorial plaque exists on a wall within the Cemetery.

## 21. **QUINTIN DICK THOMPSON** (no extant grave) (1785 - 1809)

*Brother-in-law to Thomas Stamford Raffles*

Quintin Dick Thompson was born in 1785 in Surrey, England. In 1805 he married Mary Ann Raffles, sister of Thomas Stamford Raffles. She had arrived earlier that year with her brother, assistant secretary to the Governor of Penang, Philip Dundas. Thompson died on 29 June 1809, a few months after their son was baptised. Today, his plaque is embedded in the far wall of the Cemetery.

### STAMFORD RAFFLES – FROM PENANG TO SINGAPORE

Stamford Raffles began his career as a clerk with the EIC at the age of 14. His interests in the sciences, languages and natural history eventually led to his appointment as the Assistant Secretary to the newly formed Presidency Government of Penang at age 23. Within two years, he assumed the full role of Secretary to Government.



Raffles established his reputation in Penang as official Malay translator to the Penang Government. He served as Lieutenant-Governor of Java and Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen (on the west coast of Sumatra) before he established the British settlement of Singapore on 6 February 1819. He remained Lieutenant-Governor of Bencoolen until 1824 when he left SE Asia.



## TOMBSTONES

There are 15 types of tombstones in the Cemetery which are made from three main types of materials - granite, marble and sandstone.

Some of the headstones and plaques were carved with information where they originated from.



Type 1: Simple headstone slab



Type 2: Die in socket



Type 3: Die on base



Type 4: Plaque marker



Type 5: Footstone



Type 6: Ledger



Type 7: Obelisk





Type 8: Pedestal tomb-urn



Type 9: Pedestal tomb-pillar



Type 10: Unknown



Type 11: Unknown



Type 12: Unknown



Type 13: Unknown



Type 14: Unknown



Type 15: Unknown

## SYMBOLISM

Traditionally Christians are buried with their feet facing east so that during judgment day the dead could rise and face the sun. Ordained clergy would face the west so that they would face their congregation.

Various decorative motifs are found on the graves and headstones in the Cemetery. The decorations which are highly symbolic, were mainly done using incision, relief and impression techniques.



1.



2.



3.



4.



8.



5. &amp; 11.



6.



7.



12.

1. **ANCHOR:** Hope, safety and steadfastness; the tomb of a sailor.
2. **BIRDS:** The soul or Holy Spirit.
3. **CLOUD:** Heaven.
4. **COLUMN:** To commemorate a noble life; a broken column represents an early death.
5. **HAND:** Blessings from heaven.
6. **IHS:** This represents the first three letters of Jesus' name in the Greek alphabet.
7. **SQUARE AND COMPASS:** A common symbol in Freemasonry.
8. **LAUREL:** Victory or fame.
9. **ROPE:** A symbol of eternity.
10. **SKULL AND CROSSBONES:** Mortality, death.
11. **SCROLL:** The scriptures.
12. **URN:** Death and mourning, the body as a vessel of the soul.
13. **WREATH:** Victory in death.

## PLAQUES (Types and Materials)

There are three main types of plaques in the Cemetery - diamond, circular and rectangular shaped – which are made from four main types of materials - slate, granite, sandstone and marble

### The three main types of plaques



▲ Rectangular shaped plaque.



▲ Circular shaped plaque.



▲ Diamond shaped plaque.

### The four main types of materials



1.



2.



3.

1. Granite plaque.
2. Marble plaque.
3. Sandstone plaque.
4. Slate plaque.



4.

## REMINDERS

- Leave nothing but footprints and take nothing but photographs.
- A number of graves have been damaged and are in pieces, please avoid touching or moving these.
- Please avoid littering.
- Please do not sit or climb on the memorials.
- Please respect the sanctity of the cemetery.
- Motorised vehicles are not permitted in the cemetery.

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## GEORGE TOWN WORLD HERITAGE INCORPORATED

George Town World Heritage Incorporated was established by the Penang State Government as the State Heritage Agency in April 2010 to spearhead efforts to ensure that George Town's legacy will not be lost.

GTWHI is an organisation dedicated to protecting, promoting and preserving George Town as a sustainable city. GTWHI works in cooperation with the federal, state, and local governments as well as several non-governmental organisations to manage, monitor, promote, and execute heritage-related activities. We identify the problem areas, build a strategy, and call on experts and stakeholders in our vast network to work with us towards the solution.

George Town is a living legend, but it will disintegrate before our very eyes should we fail to nurture it. Therefore, research, impact studies, site usage, public awareness, branding, promotion, public transport, tourism and security must be given equal attention.

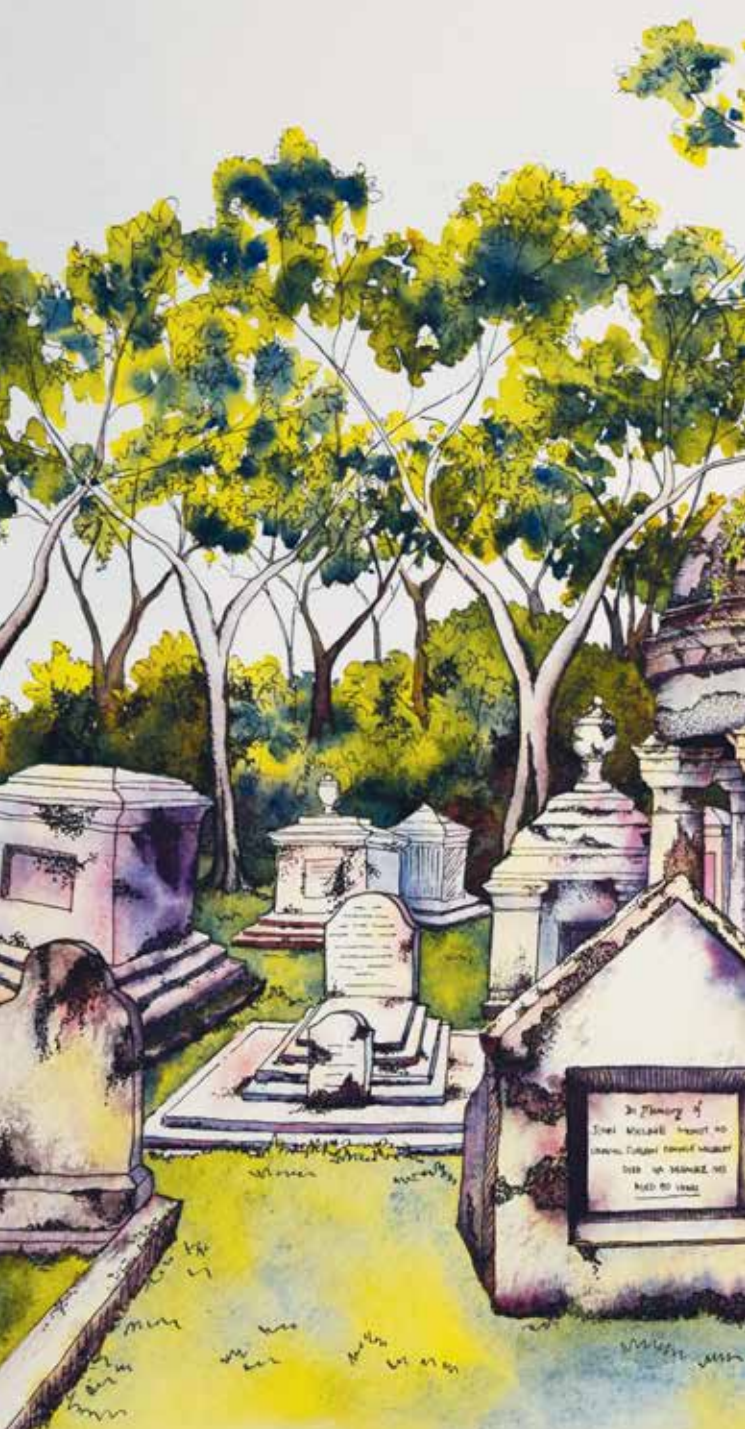
To ensure the sustainability of the World Heritage Site, we work with many partners and collaborators, from conservation specialists and state and city authorities for better planning, conserving and management of the physical site; to historians and art practitioners on a programme of educational and cultural activities.

We provide advice to property owners, architects and builders; conduct skills development workshops; provide resources on George Town and heritage through our library and digital archive; and we engage with school children, students of institutes of higher learning, and the public through our programme of talks and activities.

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