

## Quorn Churchyard Trail

Quorn St Bartholomew's Church was established in the 12th century but marked burials only date from the 17th century. There are about 750 gravestones in the closed Churchyard, despite there being thousands of burials. In times gone by, only the wealthy could afford a gravestone and the majority of graves were left unmarked. This short walk only covers a small number of gravestones, but looks at the characters that are buried there, the old Quorn families they belonged to and some of the interesting designs and imagery on the memorials.

**Start**

The walk starts at the Station Road end of the Wedding Path.

**1**

### Isabel Danscer buried 1683

The oldest grave in Quorn Churchyard is on the right of the path and belongs to Isabel Danscer, from Mountsorrel who died on 15th November 1683.



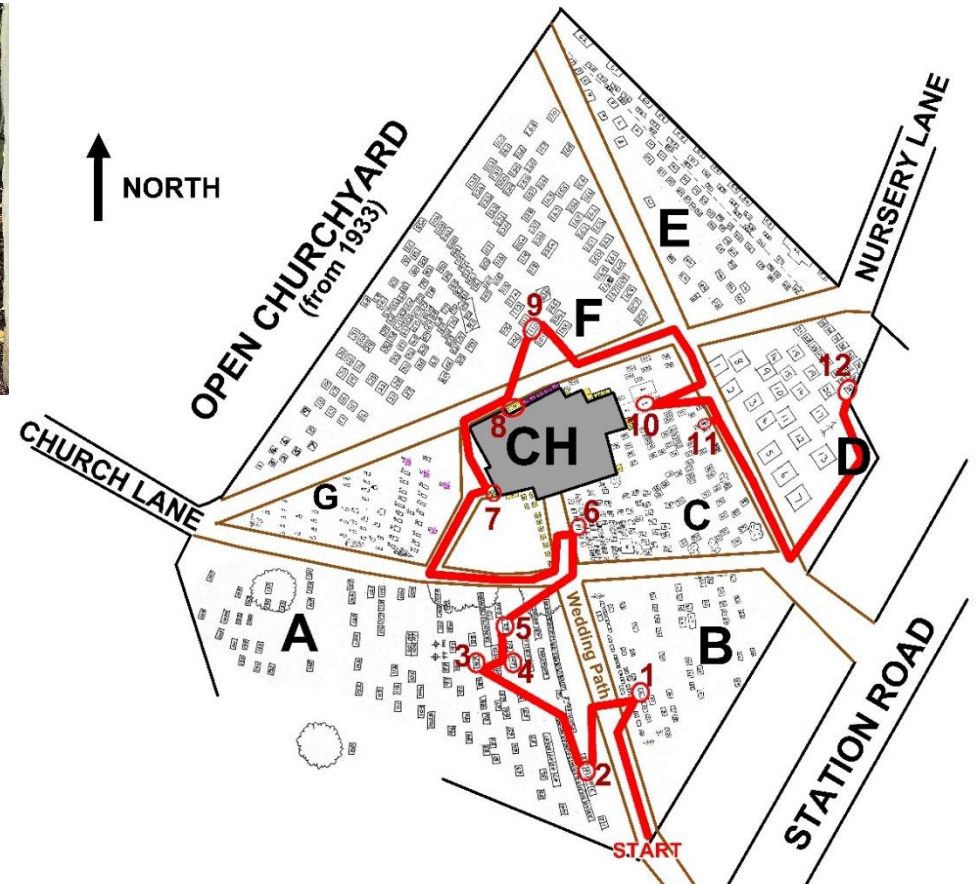
This Swithland slate stone is very basic, it has little decoration and the writing goes right up to edge. Note that half-way down, the name Danscer is split over two lines. Isabel wasn't old and had given birth to a son three years earlier.

Quorn Parish burial registers date from 1576 and like Isabel, many of those buried in Quorn in the early years came from Mountsorrel. St Peter's Church had no space for burials, so people from Mountsorrel North End were buried in Quorn and those from Mountsorrel South End were buried in Rothley. In 1759 John Danvers of Swithland, who was the Lord of the Manor, provided a piece of land in Mountsorrel for use as a burial ground.

**2**

### Samuel Sculthorpe died 24th October 1782

We now move to the left of the Wedding Path (Section A, point 2), looking at the grave of Samuel Sculthorpe who died in



1782 aged 57. The Sculthorpes were a large, wealthy and well-known Quorn family dating back to at least the early 1600s and were



awarded land under the Quorndon Enclosure Act of 1762. Samuel was born in Quorn in 1725 and he and his wife Mary had at least 8 children. The Sculthorpes last known tangible connection to Quorn was five generations further on, when in 1924 Samuel's great great grandson Rev Edward Sculthorpe Lewis, who lived in Wales, sold two pieces of land in the village, one of which was used as allotment land at the end of Farnham Street.



The carving and imagery in the centre of this stone shows a cross and an anchor, representing two of the three



Christian virtues. The cross symbolises faith and the anchor represents hope. The interpretation of hope comes from the bible, Letter to the Hebrews (6: 19). The intertwined scroll says "In the hope of joyful resurrection".

To the left is a skull representing death and to the right is a crucifix and the letters JHS. The three letters, often written as IHS on later graves, represent the first three letters of Jesus Christ's name in Greek, ie, Iota Eta

Sigma. There is no J in Greek and when capitalised, eta appears as our capital 'H'.

It is also noteworthy that most of the graves in this area face east. This was common practice although is not always the case. The reason is that the sun rises in the east and Christ's second coming is expected from the east. Hence a body is placed with its head to the west and feet to the east.

3

### Thomas Raven 1805 to 1858

The next grave is found deeper into Section A and belongs to Thomas Raven. The Ravens are another old Quorn family, dating back to at least the 1600s. Thomas Raven owned several cottages on Meeting Street and lived at Raven Cottage, now 31 Meeting Street. He was the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths in Quorn and a steward of the original Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on High Street.

As you wander round, you will often see, as in this case, that half of the stone is blank. This happens when a husband or wife dies and there is room left for their spouse, but for a variety of reasons they never find their way there. Thomas married Elizabeth Marsh from Loughborough in 1852 and when he died six years later room was left on the stone for his widow.



Elizabeth inherited all Thomas's property and just two months later she married John Mitchil, who was executor of Thomas's will!

4

### John Raven 1755 to 1806

Before we leave this area we are going to have a quick look at another Raven grave nearby, this time for John Raven who died in 1806.

The centre carving shows an hourglass with wings, representing time flying and the transient nature of life. The scroll says "Time flies, our glory fades and death's at hand" To the left is a skull and crossed bones signifying death and the centre carving is flanked by two urns, which are symbols of mourning and found on many graves.



### Comparing Welsh and Swithland slate

Thomas Raven's stone gravestone is made from Welsh slate and the earlier stone of John Raven is Swithland slate. By the 1840s canals and railways were making it possible to bring in cheaper Welsh slate, which was



also easier to work. Swithland slate is a very coarse material, it doesn't split like Welsh slate and takes a huge amount of manual work to make it smooth.

To tell the difference between Welsh and Swithland slate, simply look at the back of a gravestone. Swithland slate stones are rough (left) and Welsh stones are smooth (right).



for being 'drunk and riotous'. Later, in 1869, only two years after marrying Ann, he was bound over for 3 months for an assault on Ann and threatening to slit her throat.



Above is John Disney's shop at the bottom of the Banks on High Street. This was taken shortly after John died and shows his widow Ann (left), his son John and daughter Martha.

## 5 John and Ann Disney

Still in Section A, the next grave must have looked very impressive when it was new and bright white.



John Disney was born in Quorn in 1824 and became a boot and shoemaker like his father. He died in 1902. In his youth John had been a bit of a lad and had been charged a couple of times



## 6

### Parnham family graves

From the Wedding Path walk across the main path towards the door of the Church. The grave for Joseph Parnham is at the back of the right-hand flower bed. He died on 21st April 1731 aged 22 and there are many other Parnham graves in this area.



This grave is one of three next to each other depicting 'Belvoir angels'; an unusual design characterised by moon-like faces with angel wings, found on



Swithland slate gravestones. Most are located in the Vale of Belvoir and date between 1690 to 1759. Angels represent the soul going to Heaven and there are four or five Belvoir angels in Quorn Churchyard.

At the bottom of this grave is a skull and crossed bones, representing ever present death, but this is where modern photography is of real benefit.



Between these two images it is possible to zoom in and reveal what is virtually impossible to see with the naked eye. It says what looks like 'Henworth' followed by 'sculpsit', which is Latin for carver. A Francis Henworth was living in Quorn at this time, so it is possible that he made this gravestone.

The Parnham family came to Quorn in the 1600s, a wealthy family of dishmakers, as evidenced by their large award of land under the 1762 Quorndon Enclosure Act. They are buried close to the Church and on the brighter south side, both of which are an



indication of their status. They lived in a large house called Brook House, which stood where Hall Leys (at the back of the Memorial Gardens) is today. Eventually they ran out of heirs and their property was sold in 1852.

**7**

### **Lilian Rumsey 1886 to 1921, age 35**

The next grave is on the west side of the Church and is hidden away at the right of the Church tower door.



Lilian Rumsey (nee Riley) was the wife of Henry Rumsey who was the vicar of Quorn from 1909 to 1940. They married in June 1911 and had six children. Lilian (centre, holding the baby) sadly died when their youngest child, Philip, was six months old. Henry was so devastated that he wanted Lilian buried by the entrance to the bell tower, so that he could pass by and say hello to her every day. Henry died aged 63 in 1940 and was buried with her.

**8**

### **Stammers' family vault**

Walking round to the north side of the church, by the wall is a blackened 'chest tomb', which covers a vault belonging to the Rev Robert Stammers (below) and his



family. The vertical sides are covered with writing, now all but illegible. A vault is below the ground and brick lined to keep the weight off the coffins and stop the grave collapsing. This one holds seven bodies and was built in 1851 for 13 year old Mary Eliza Ann, daughter of the Rev Stammers and his wife Sarah.

Robert Stammers, who was buried here in 1888, was the perpetual curate/vicar of Quorn for 56 years from 1832 to 1888. Whilst he was respected by many, there is evidence that he was not always kind or well liked. In November 1840 he was called upon to baptise 4 year old Ann Moore, the daughter of Charles and Mary Ann Moore, who ran a butcher's shop on High Street. Initially he agreed, but when he found that the child

hadn't got long to live he refused. The child died later that day and Rev Stammers refused to perform the burial. His curate agreed to carry out the service, but later withdrew his offer. Fortunately the vicar from Mountsorrel agreed to carry out the service. Another account in May 1873 states: "A little child was buried in the church-yard without the funeral service having been read; it in fact received no greater observance than would have been accorded the carcass of a dog. The clergyman, upon discovering that the child had not been christened, refused to proceed with the service".

**9**

### **William H Inglesant 1811 to 1912**

The next grave is in Area F, across the path.



William Harris Inglesant is the oldest person to be buried in the original St Bart's Churchyard. He was born in Quorn in 1811 and died in 1912 aged 101. His 101st birthday was even reported in newspapers in New Zealand!

William married Caroline Hyde whose wealthy family lived in a large house on



Meeting Street. He ran a tannery in Quorn which he took over from his father. This photograph of William was taken the day before his 100th birthday at his home 'Bleak House', on the corner of Loughborough Road and Barrow Road. Today this is 29 Loughborough Road and a Community Living Project.



The next two graves on the east side of the Church (Area C) are very prominent and are ones you may have noticed and wondered about.



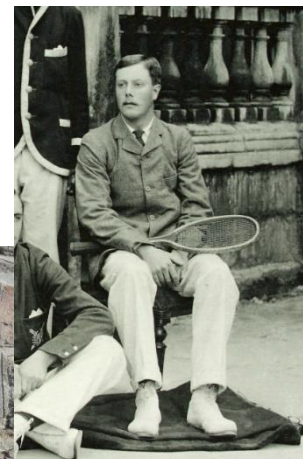
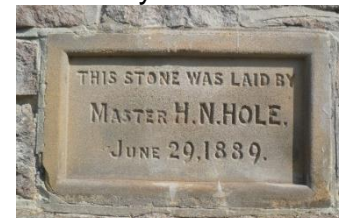
in 1938, (below).



Harriet Hole, their son Henry Edward Hole and their grandson Hubert Northcote Hole. The family were part of the gentry of Quorn and were intertwined with many other local wealthy families. They lived at Quorn Lodge, on the left of the old road to Woodthorpe (left) destroyed by a fire

aged only 29. Despite his health issues he married Mary Toller in 1873 and they had two children. Henry died in 1894 aged 52.

When he was aged 9, Henry and Mary's younger son, Hubert Northcote Hole (below) was one of the four children who laid a foundation stone at the Village Hall in 1889. Hubert went to Charterhouse and Trinity College Cambridge, but died of rheumatic fever aged only 27, on 10th July 1907.



**11**

### Harold Wright 1884 to 1915

Harold Wright was a grandson of Michael Wright, the founder of M Wright and Sons elastic webbing factory that has been in Quorn since 1870. Michael was a secularist and not religious, but Harold's family were somewhat more conventional.

Harold lived at One Ash on Loughborough Road with his parents and worked in the family firm. When war broke out he joined the Loyal North Lancashire



The first person to be buried here was Richard Hole who died 1869. He had married Harriet Warner who died in 1883. Their son Henry Edward Hole was officer in the Leicestershire Yeomanry. In April 1871 he was training when his horse bolted and "... the horse endeavoured to jump a double fence of spiked iron rails. Lieutenant Hole fell on his head, which was fearfully lacerated, and he was at once removed insensible to the Infirmary in an almost hopeless state from internal injuries and concussion of the brain." He recovered but was left paralysed

**10**

### The Hole family grave/vault

For many years this large cross was covered in ivy and couldn't be seen at all. Even now the writing, which is on three sides of the base, is very difficult to read. The letters are made of lead and many have fallen off. Buried here are Richard and



Regiment as a commissioned officer. He was involved in the ill fated Gallipoli Campaign in July 1915 and sustained severe shrapnel injuries. He was taken to Alexandria in Egypt, where he was operated on by London surgeon, Sir Frederick Treves, who was famous for performing the first appendectomy operation and for caring for Joseph Merrick (the elephant man). Harold (right) was transported back to a military hospital in London, but died on 14th September 1915. His funeral was the biggest that Quorn had ever known. Villagers lined the streets as his coffin was carried on a gun carriage from One Ash to the Church. The photograph shows the procession passing the top end of the Banks near Rawlins.



At the top of Harold's grave it says "For St George and Merry England". In the centre is a copper plaque depicting St George and the dragon and at the bottom it says "He did his duty and his bit."

Either side of the plaque are carvings which reflect Harold's life. On the left there is a gun and a sword, topped by a shield with the Lancaster rose and a military cap. On the right there is a cricket bat and stumps, topped with a shield and a cricket cap. Harold was a talented cricketer and played for Leicestershire County Cricket Club.

**12**

### Thomas Squire 1753 to 1800

The last grave in this walk is in Area D, found by walking down towards Nursery Lane. It is covered in moss and lichen and says "Dedicated to the memory of Thomas Squire, gent, son of Mr Thomas Squire and Catherine his wife who after some years of declining health was suddenly visited by the great arbiter of life and death with an awful affliction which terminated his mortal existence on the 29th November 1800."



The Squires have roots in Quorn going back to at least the 1500s and have family, connections with the Chavenneys. Thomas's parents were both Squires, (half first cousins) and his grandparents on his mother's side were also called Thomas and Catharine (sic). They lived at Chaveney House/Manor on Meeting Street, because Catharine had previously been married to Henry Chaveney, and as a result had inherited a large amount of land and property

on what is now Chaveney Road and Woodhouse Road. When she married Thomas Squire, all her assets effectively became his.

Although this Swithland slate gravestone is worn, if you look carefully the imagery is quite macabre. There is a skeleton, representing death, waiting to plunge its dart, and it is leaning on a sundial symbolising the passage of time. To the left is a candle with a snuffer, signifying the snuffing out of life. The scroll is now illegible, but it was recorded in early 1960s and says "Put thy house in order, thou shalt die and not live".



This walk covers just a few of the graves in St Bart's churchyard, but as you look around, hopefully others will catch your eye and you will understand a little more about them.

Sue Templeman 2021  
Quorn Local History Group and Quorn Village Online Museum, [www.quornmuseum.com](http://www.quornmuseum.com)  
If you would like to see Sue's original Zoom talk, it is available on YouTube.com. Search for 'Quorn Local History Group'.