

Overseas Inscriptions

You will find many gravestones in Undercliffe Cemetery that include an inscription commemorating a person who is not buried in the grave. These are people who died and were buried in places all over the world. Some were buried at sea.

During the 19th Century and the Victorian and Edwardian periods many people left Bradford in search of a new life. They became settlers or pioneers in countries like America, Canada and Australia. Others were serving in the armed forces, working for the Government or large private companies with interests overseas while some were simply seeking adventure and exploration.

Travelling took much longer in those days and was often hazardous. Medical care as we know it today was in its infancy and accidents or simple illnesses were often fatal. When someone died abroad it was not possible to bring them back home for burial, they had to be buried where they died.

Their family back in Bradford would not be able to visit the grave so they remembered them by putting their name on the family grave in the Cemetery. In this way they would not be forgotten.

The map shows some of these but there are many more within Undercliffe Cemetery.