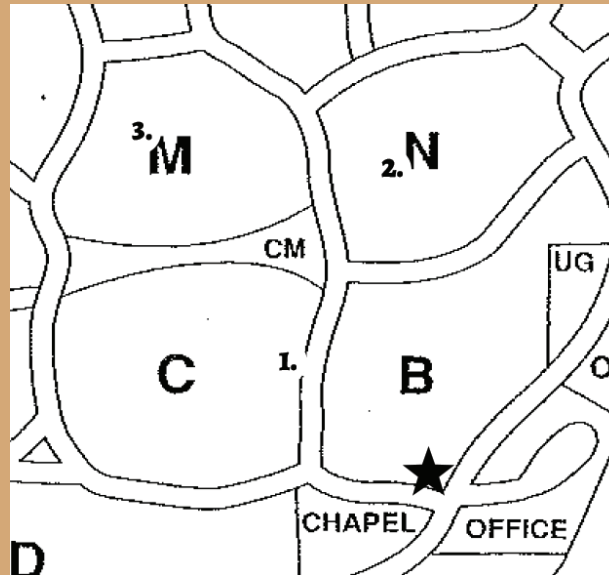


List of Dead

Hudson Abbott*
Harry Anderson
Annie Baker
John Baskerville*
Jennie M Burns
Ida Mercy L Burns
Fanny Delilah Cooper*
Nellie Debeau
Emma Jane Fisher
William Dignam Glass*
Mrs. A.R Fryer
Mr. A.R Fryer
William Fryer
Charles Gorman
W. Handy
Harry Harrison
Oliver Keene
Thomas Lister
William McBride*
Mary A McLennan
Mary McPherson*
John Morrison*
Nellie Morrison*
William James Morrison*
Alfred Shayer*
Lily Skinner*
Mary J. Smith*
Minnie Smith*
George P Tremeer
Nellie M Tremeer
James Weatherhead*
W.B.D Westman

(* - Featured on Tour)

Map



MOUNT PLEASANT
CEMETERY & OAKLAND CEMETERY

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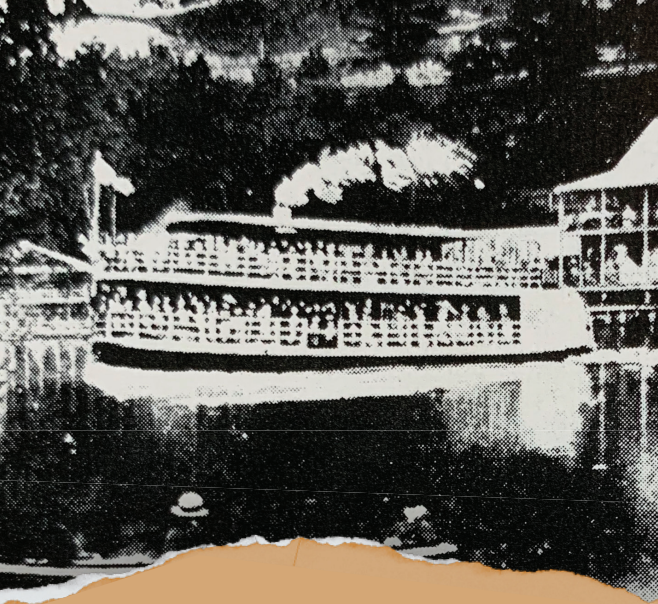
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The Victoria Day Disaster of 1881 — Tour —



MOUNT PLEASANT
CEMETERY & OAKLAND CEMETERY



May 24th, 1881

1. In the 1880s a booming steamship business took people up and down the River Thames. On Queen Victoria's 62nd birthday, people enjoyed a rare day off to spend with their families. Three steamships, the Forest City, the Princess Louise, and the Victoria moved people to and from various points on the river.

But in the afternoon, the Forest City had run aground on a shoal just by the London docks, and the Princess Louise was taking the extra passengers and trying to pull the other steamship free. Begrudgingly, the Victoria had to continue its journey alone.

2. The Victoria sailed away from Springbank extremely over capacity. It's estimated there were 600 people on the boat as it sailed up the Thames at around 5-6 pm. They leaned over one side to wave at people on the riverbank, then swarmed the opposite side to wave at two small skiffs having a race beside the boat.

This intense swaying led the lower deck of the ship to take on water. The ship's patrons pressed against the other side of the boat. The boat's boiler, which may not have been properly bolted to the deck, broke free and crashed through the bottom of the boat, and water rushed in to take its place. The poles that supported the upper deck buckled from the unexpected influx, crushing the people below as the boat flipped and sank.

“There was a crash, a general shriek and nearly all were immersed. A silence of the grave followed.”

It took until midnight to halt the effort of pulling people from the river due to low light and exhaustion. Around 200 people lost their lives that night, or in the following days from complications like pneumonia.



3. In the days following, London was incredibly busy. The old city hall on Richmond Street was used as a morgue, as funeral directors and cemetery workers laboured almost without sleep to meet the incredible demand. Coffins were bought and hearses were rented from outside the city, but the demand was too high even then. London simply wasn't prepared for this kind of tragedy and death toll.

There are commemorative plaques at the St. George Anglican Church on Wharncliffe Road, and just north of the accident site at the Greenway Wastewater Treatment Centre.