A Guide to Coleford Cemetery

It has been said that much of a town's history and heritage can be found in its cemetery, and the same must surely be true of Coleford.

Coleford Cemetery was opened in 1868. The first recorded burial, that of William Pauter, aged 5 months, the son of William and Eliza Pauter of The Scowles, took place on 20th January 1868, Reverend Thomas Holbrow officiating.

Some notable burials include:

Angus Buchanan VC MC MA
Born The Old Bank House, Coleford 11th August 1894. Educated at St John's Boys' School and Monmouth Grammar School.
Died at home 1st March 1944.
Awarded The Military Cross at Helles 7th January 1916 (London Gazette 3rd June 1916) and
The Victoria Cross of Valour at Mesopotamia 5th April 1916 (London Gazette 26th September 1916).
Blinded in action in 1917.
Returned to Oxford University in 1917 and qualified as a Solicitor—practised in Coleford until his death.

Isaiah Trotter J.P. 1818-1906, who, in memory of his wife Jane (1815-1887) built and endowed ten almshouses at The Gorse, Coleford for old people — five for men and five for women.

Brothers Thomas and Amos James together with two of their fellow miners were killed in The Union Colliery Disaster of 4th September 1902. The brothers were found in each others arms and this is depicted in the memorial plaque and sculpture placed at the site of the mine near Cannop. (see photographs).

Coleford Cemetery contains the remains of eight servicemen who died in their country's service, they are:

From the Great War 1914-1919
Arthur Stanley Bayton, Private, Gloucestershire Regiment. 18 June 1921
Harry Benfield, Sapper, Royal Engineers. 20 February 1919, aged 26
Christopher J Staite, Private, Royal Army Service Corps, 28 January 1919, aged 22
Benjamin White, Private, Monmouthshire Regiment, 15 January 1916, aged 26

From The Second World War 1939-1945
Clifford Edwin Bozworth, Aircraftsman 1st Class, Royal Air Force, 2 July 1943, aged 22
Norman Darby, Sergeant Wireless Operator/Air Gunner, Royal Air Force, 25 July 1943, aged 21
Ewart Richard Jones, Flying Officer, Royal Air Force, 31 March 1943, aged 19
Benjamin Probert, Able Seaman, Royal Navy, 12 May 1943, aged 24

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Students of Coleford's history could do no worse that consult the excellent work of Dr Cyril Hart "Coleford—The Story of a West Gloucestershire Forest Town" available in most good libraries.

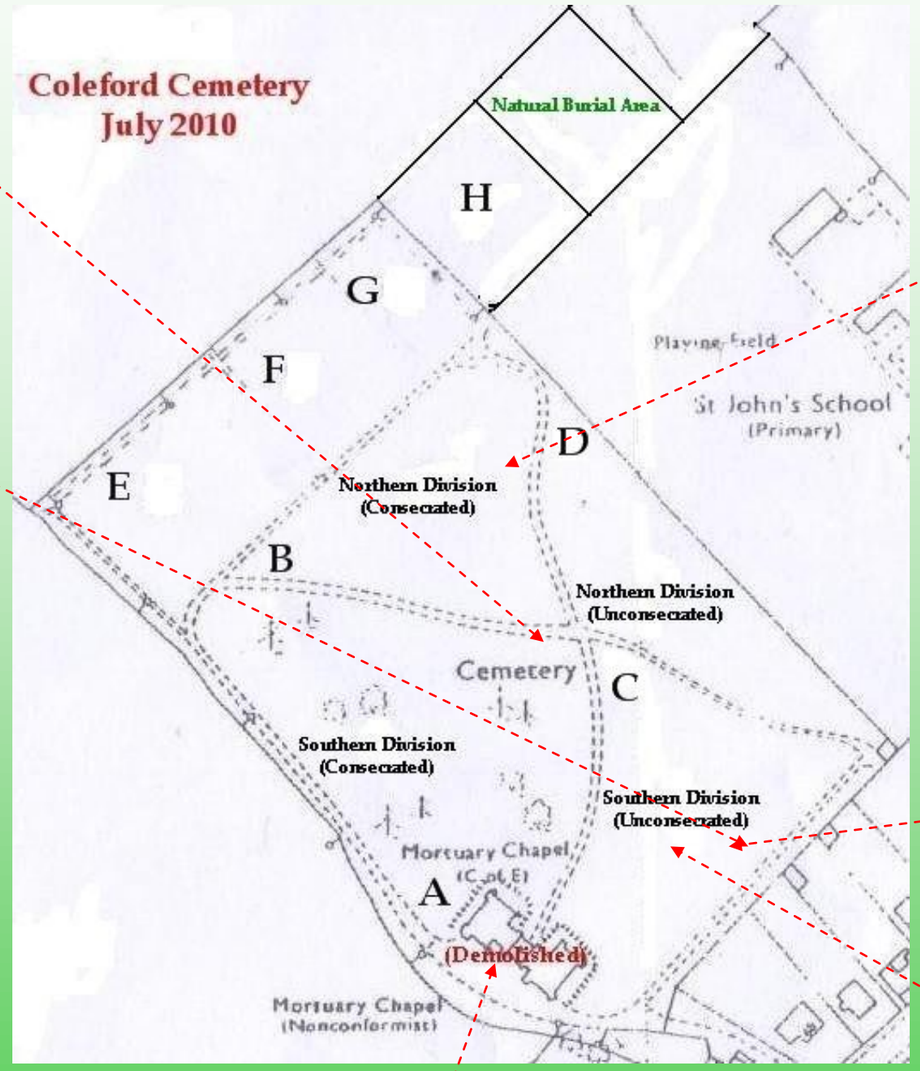
Sunset over the cemetery

If you would like to become one of "The Friends of Coleford Cemetery" whose aim is the maintenance, conservation and preservation of the cemetery, please contact the Town Clerk for details.

Angus Buchanan VC

"All these were honoured in their generations,
and were the glory of their times.
There be of them, that have left a name behind them,
that their praises might be reported.
And some there be, which have no memorial; who are perished,
as though they had never been;
and are become as though they had never been born;"
Ecclesiasticus 44:7-9 (Apocrypha)

War Graves - The Great War 1914-1919



The cemetery chapels were demolished in 1965. The Northern end of this ground now contains a cremated remains Garden of Rest whilst the Southern end, laid to lawn, contains the Millennium Yew Tree and Trafalgar Oak (planted in 2005 to commemorate 200 years since the battle of the same name in which England's Famous Admiral, Nelson, (*Our Nel*) lost his life).

War Graves - World War II 1939-1945

Thomas & Amos James
Killed in the Union Colliery Disaster
4 Sept 1902

Isaiah and Jane Trotter