

The oldest grave is in the form of a very unusual and impressive obelisk.

‘SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF LETITIA, WIFE OF MAJOR J. CAULFIELD AND DAUGHTER OF THE LATE LIEUT. GENERAL STAFFORD. OBT. 26TH AUGUST 1826’



Sir Michael and Lady Davies of the British Association of Cemeteries in South Asia (BACSA) with Victoria Singh of the Kota Heritage Society (in middle)

The last known burial was in 1891

‘JEN HELEN GRANT, THE DEARLY BELOVED WIFE OF THE REV. W. BONNAR. DIED AT KOTAH ON THE 3RD MAY 1891 AGED 31.’

The Bonnars established a Church of Scotland presence in Kotah and built a Scottish kirk in the heart of the old city. It is now part of the Church of North India.

The burial ground was part of the very large wooded area owned by the Royal Family of Kotah. A piece of land, close to the Abli Meena baori was given around 1826 for a cemetery.

Graves were built in an Indo-Saracen style with little apparent Christian symbolism.

The memorial to the British Resident or Political Agent who was killed in the Uprising of 1857, Major Burton, was built by Maharao Ram Singh (who was held prisoner in his fort for six months) in a style similar to Royal Cenotaphs at the nearby Kshar Bagh (Garden of Ashes).



Members of the British Embroiders Guild reading the very moving inscription on Major Burton's grave in 2009

Burton's memorial and that of his two sons who died with him was built next to the monument in memory of his 14 year old daughter Elizabeth, who had died three years previously. The anguish and anger of Major Burton's wife in losing her husband and two sons in this manner is immortalised in the marble inscription.

Two other young British Officers who were killed in the Uprising share a grave.

‘SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ROBERT BAINBRIGGE, 23RD B.N.L.I., BRIGADE MAJOR, AND CAPTAIN EVELYN BAZALGETTE, H.M. 95TH REGT., WHO ON THE 1ST APRIL 1858 IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR DUTY TOGETHER MET WITH A SUDDEN DEATH BY THE EXPLOSION OF ONE OF THE ENEMY'S MAGAZINES IN THE NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE TWO DAYS AFTER THE ASSAULT AND CAPTURE OF KOTAH UNDER THE COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL ROBERTS.’

Both had previously served in the Crimea and Capt Bazalgette, although only 22 at his death, had been wounded at the Battle of Alma where he had carried the Colour.



The shared grave: Photo taken to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Kota Uprising in Oct 2007

Of the 20 named deceased, 5 were infants and only 2 adults lived to be over 35. For girls, marriage and childbirth came early.

‘SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF ELIZA THE BELOVED WIFE OF CAPTAIN GOFE, WHO DIED AT KOTAH ON THE 26TH OF JUNE 1835 AGED 15 YEARS, AND OF WILLIAM THEIR ONLY CHILD WHO DIED 28TH MARCH 1836 AGED 9 MONTHS’



A British Political Agent being received at Court from a wall painting in Kota Garh.

Not all of the British who were buried here died of natural causes or at the hands of others.

‘TO THE MEMORY OF LIEUT. I.G.B PATON 47th REGT. B.N.I., WHO DIED 18th April 1839 BY THE ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF HIS FOWLING PIECE, AGED 28 YEARS’

(A fowling piece is a gun)

This brochure has been designed and published by the Kota Heritage Society. June 2010



Visitors to the Cemetery in 2007

This piece of history lay neglected for decades. It was restored by INTACH with money donated by BACSA, but is now maintained by the Kota Heritage Society through subscriptions of its members.

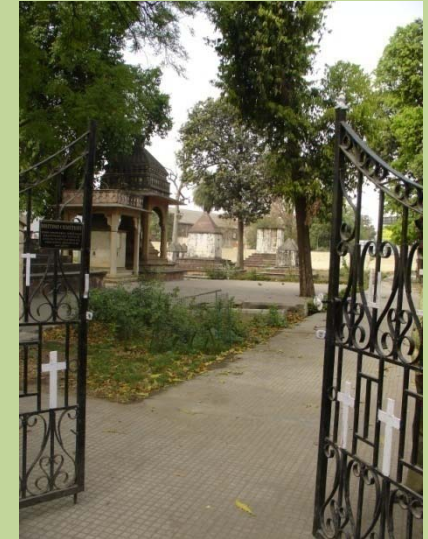


Shrub planting 2009

The cemetery will be opened at any time by the chaukidar who works near the gate (*the chaukidar Abid, is sitting front right*).

For further information please contact Victoria Singh: mobile 98290 36384; email victoriaksingh@googlemail.com

Welcome to the **BRITISH CEMETERY** Nayapura, Kota, Rajasthan



This small but historic cemetery offers a poignant insight into the lives of the British men, women and children who died in Kotah and were buried here between 1826 and 1891.

The most significant monument, both historically and architecturally, is that of Major Charles Aeneas Burton, the Political Agent who died in the Uprising of 1857.

PLEASE COME AND VISIT!