



WAVERLEY
CEMETERIES



R.I.P.orter

FEBRUARY
2024

James Smith Norrie (1820 -1883)

- Cemetery searches detailing the location of a grave of those interred in Waverley Cemetery and South Head General Cemetery can be found on the website.
- Waverley Cemeteries offers a service of grave planting sites with Gazania (prostrate ground cover with silver foliage and yellow flowers, as can be seen in banner). Contact Waverley Cemeteries office if you are interested in this and other services, such as annual maintenance of allotments.
- Waverley Cemeteries office is at the corner of Trafalgar Street and St Thomas Street, BRONTE NSW 2024
- P: (02) 9083 8899
F: (02) 9665 4785
Email: cemetery@waverley.nsw.gov.au



James Smith Norrie who arrived in Sydney in 1840, where, in addition to practising medicine and dentistry, learnt at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, he set up as an analyst and assayer, applying knowledge and skills gained from studies at King's College London, and from practical training in the laboratory of John and Jacob Bell. Jacob was one of the founders of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain; Norrie was an early member of the Chemical Society. In 1844 he was engaged as a forensic chemist by the Government of New South Wales and was retained in that capacity until 1871. Norrie may thus be also regarded as the first in a long line of Government Analysts, made an official full-time Public Service position in 1883. Norrie was a man of many parts: in addition to his chemical, medical and dental activities, he gave public lectures in chemistry as well as carrying on a photographic business.

Norrie, described in another biography as a professional photographer, scientific entertainer, inventor, photographic supplier and chemist, had a 'Chemical Hall and Medical Repository' at King Street, Sydney, in the early 1840s. Declared bankrupt on 29 July 1843, he was discharged the following May.

In 1845 James Smith Norrie entered the Floricultural and Horticultural Show with 'a sample of castor oil, the produce of seed grown on the banks of the McLeay river, expressed and purified by the exhibitor. The sample was accompanied by a description of the mode of cultivating, and other particulars respecting the tree from the nuts of which the oil was obtained.'

By August 1849 he was in Pitt Street, advertising that he would shortly be photographing portraits 'in a very superior style. The light and shade perfect; the figures standing out in strong



relief, and which for life like beauty, distinctness and accuracy will be unequalled'. By October he was taking daguerreotypes between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and promising 'a portrait free from the usual defects, whether of intentional flattery or imperfect observation'. He charged from half a guinea upwards 'according to size, in superior morocco cases, or gilt frames'. At his daily clinic, held after 4 p.m., he used Galvanism on his patients (a type of shock treatment).

Norrie closed his photographic studio in 1852 but retained his pharmacy where he continued to sell

Why not join the Friends of Waverley Cemeteries?

photographic equipment and chemicals. The photographic equipment side of the business expanded considerably until Norrie was again declared insolvent on 10 March 1856. Discharged in July, his fortunes continued to fluctuate. As a chemist, he was awarded two first-class medals from the 1862 London International Exhibition. Later he resumed the photographic apparatus and chemical side of the business, announcing in June 1868 that he had entered into partnership with Thomas Park. Apart from photographic materials, the shop also sold 'Norrie's Poultry Restorative', 'Norrie's Crimson Marking Ink' and 'Norrie's Ozonised Water'. He mentioned in one of his advertisements that he also worked as a 'forensic specialist', i.e. probably at the mortuary.

A third bankruptcy in September 1869 resulting in a period of confinement in Her Majesty's Gaol was ineffective. Norrie was again

insolvent in February 1874. Fighting back by branching into yet another enterprise, at 67 William Street, he showed a gold and silver ore-treating machine he had invented at the 1879 Sydney International Exhibition.

Norrie died at his residence, 229 William Street on Saturday 10 March 1883, of apoplectic paralysis. James Smith Norrie, aged 63, was interred the following day.

[Welcome to \(optusnet.com.au\)](http://www.optusnet.com.au)

[06 Mar 1845 - DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE. THE FLORICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S SHOW. - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](#)

[James Smith Norrie :: biography at :: at Design and Art Australia Online \(daao.org.au\)](#)

Evening News, Saturday 10 March 1883, p6 [Funeral Notice]

S.M.H., Monday 12 March 1883, p1 [Death Notice]

Take a tour

General History Tours A, B, C & D are held on Saturdays

03 Feb @ 09.00 am (Greg) A
10 Feb @ 10.00 am (Greg) B
17 Feb @ 09.00 am (David) C
24 Feb @ 09.00 am (Andrew) D

02 Mar @ 09.00am Women's Tour
09 Mar @ 09.00am Women's Tour
16 Mar @ 09.00am (David) A
23 Mar @ 09.00am (Andrew) B
30 Mar @ 09.00am (Maggie) C

Bookings for tours are essential.
Book through Eventbrite for Waverley Cemetery's Saturday Tours

[A Walking History Tour of Waverley Cemetery gives a glimpse into the past. Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)



Friends of Waverley Cemeteries

In recognition of International Women's Day on 8 March 2024 the tours on the Saturday's either side (i.e. the 2nd and 9th March will be two different tours that look at Women interred in Waverley Cemetery.

If you would like to become a Friend you are encouraged to contact the group through its email which is friendsofwaverleycemetery@gmail.com Members of the Friends' group are involved in leading tours, weeding and/or adopting graves, researching individuals interred in the cemetery or are involved in a major project to photograph every headstone in the cemetery. To visit the FoWC Face Book Page which is updated every few days, go to

<https://www.facebook.com/FoWCBronteNSW2024>

If you are interested in taking a midweek tour please email and we will attempt accommodate your request.

Gregory Ross President/Secretary

