

As an early foray into these asylum records with an eye to migration experiences the volume is certainly valuable – the review of the secondary literature on the topic alone should be enough to entice any future researcher to consult it. Given that work on return-, chain- and step-migration of settlers is still in its relative infancy in New Zealand, examination of these topics via asylum records is an interesting and very welcome addition. McCarthy makes a strong case for the use of asylum records in migration studies, and it is clear that the records would be rich sources for anyone looking to the history of those who did not make it into the historical record for their successes. It allows this other end of the settler experience to be examined through an institutional lens that is perhaps less widely consulted than it deserves to be.

REBECCA LENIHAN

Victoria University of Wellington

Unearthly Landscapes: New Zealand's Early Cemeteries, Churchyards and Urupā. By Stephen Deed. Otago University Press, Dunedin, 2015. 240pp. NZ price: \$49.95. ISBN: 9781927322185.

Cemeteries are so much part of the everyday landscape of cities, villages and rural areas that our eyes often slide over them, perhaps only resting on particularly high or ornate monuments. Historians usually leave the detailed exploration of cemeteries and gravestones to family historians and genealogists, who search so assiduously for names and dates. As Stephen Deed argues persuasively in this beautifully produced book, this attitude means that we miss many opportunities to engage with the evolution of past communities, their material culture, religious and social histories. Layout and design of cemeteries in settler colonies like New Zealand capture the moment of transfer in burial and memorialization customs, as well as urban and social planning, from England and France, while their evolution shows local and regional variants in demographic, social and economic change. This makes older cemeteries fascinating in their own right, as well as rich sites for historical research.

Deed's book on New Zealand's old cemeteries is a delight for anyone who harbours a liking for exploring old cemeteries, as well as for genealogists and historians. It is beautifully designed in modified coffee table style, lavishly illustrated and laid out. This enhances the serious and significant research by Deed into the history of cemetery establishment and design. The chapters in the book are essentially chronological, with six chapters tracing New Zealand cemeteries from their origins in the Old World and adaptation by groups of European settlers and Māori. These are followed by three thematic chapters tracing the types of cemeteries and graveyards found in New Zealand; the physical elements of grave stones, plantings, surrounds, buildings and design; with a final chapter exploring modern challenges and opportunities in cemetery management. Interspersed among these chapters are short, one-to-two-page, illustrated examples giving more detail or personal stories related to the chapter in which they occur. While this arrangement leads to some repetition of material – the origins of cemeteries in European concerns for healthy open spaces is repeated several times, for example – it does mean that readers can dip into the book for information on different points, such as headstone design or changes in Māori burial practices.

Deed makes the salient point throughout the book that cemeteries were not static places, but changed with shifts in religious belief, fashion, transport and growth of cities. Though the original surveyors of major towns such as Wellington, Dunedin and Auckland made ample provision for cemeteries according to town planning principles, population growth meant that by the latter quarter of the nineteenth century these first-generation cemeteries were full, had fallen into disrepair or were uncomfortably close to housing. The newer cemeteries that were built to replace the first-generation ones capitalized on modern transport links of railways so they could be further away. They were also shaped by modernization of shipping in the later nineteenth century which allowed imported materials such as sandstone, granite and marble to become more available for those with the means to commemorate their dead in style. These large stone markers are the monuments that have remained visible today, and of course obscure the fact that the majority of those buried in these and the older graveyards were remembered with wood, metal or nothing at all.

Māori urupā and funerary practices also shifted during the nineteenth century, incorporating some European and Christian elements and retaining other traditions. Deed explores in some detail the long-term effects of differing Pākehā and Māori attitudes towards the long dead with analysis of the decay and neglect of many European cemeteries in major cities and the well-kept Māori burial grounds.

There are many fascinating details in this book. The story of the grave of ‘Somebody’s Darling’, washed up on the banks of the Clutha River in Otago, is intriguing for what it says of memorialization and emotion among settlers. Romantic stories of the man, perhaps a lonely aristocrat, perhaps a drunk butcher, swirled about the burial of the unidentified man and William Rigby, who marked the grave and then requested his own burial in the next grave.

Overall this is a rich and interesting book that will be invaluable for any historian exploring cemeteries, burial practices and memorialization of the dead. While its detail will be embraced by New Zealand historians and those interested in local, regional and family histories, its findings have wider significance for historians of memorialization, commemoration and burial practices throughout the nineteenth-century settler colonies.

DIANNE HALL

Victoria University, Melbourne

Sorrows of a Century: Interpreting Suicide in New Zealand, 1900–2000. By John C. Weaver. Bridget Williams Books, Wellington, 2014. 449pp. NZ price: \$59.99. ISBN: 9781927277232.

Sorrows of a Century is an exceptional work, and could be considered one of the most important books of New Zealand’s history. John C. Weaver interprets witnesses’ depositions and other evidence contained within inquest case files relating to around half of all suicides that occurred in New Zealand over the twentieth century. This exceptionally large and detailed data set of over 11,000 files is the basis for an outstandingly thorough study. It provides a significant corrective and refreshing