The life and times of the early settlers of Kensington, through the memory of those buried at the Village Cemetery

The Village Cemetery on Maesbury St, Kensington was used for burials between 1847-1962 by members of the adjacent Congregational Church and their descendants. In 1968 the old cemetery was levelled and turned into a public park due to a lack of use which has seen it fall into a poor state of disrepair. Today little is known about the people buried there except for their names, as listed on the bronze plaque which now marks the site.

People with surname Roberts account for 11 of the 551 known burials at the Village Cemetery. While seven of these have been identified as descendants of Mr John Roberts - one of the co-founders of the Congregational Church, who migrated to SA in 1843 - the other four remain under investigation. Maesbury St, on which the Cemetery is situated, was named after the home of the same name, built and owned by Roberts.

Remembering Roberts is an investigation into the lives of those buried at the Village Cemetery. Using statistical, biographical and historical information it seeks to understand not only the relationships between those buried there, but also the events and trends shaping cemetery’s use.

This investigation has been a joint project between Flinders University and the Norwood, Payneham and St Peters Council.
Sources: APEX burial list; NPSP Council archives
Photograph courtesy NPSP Council

By Emily Bower 2008