

**William Simpson's Burial Ground
at St Ninians Glebe**

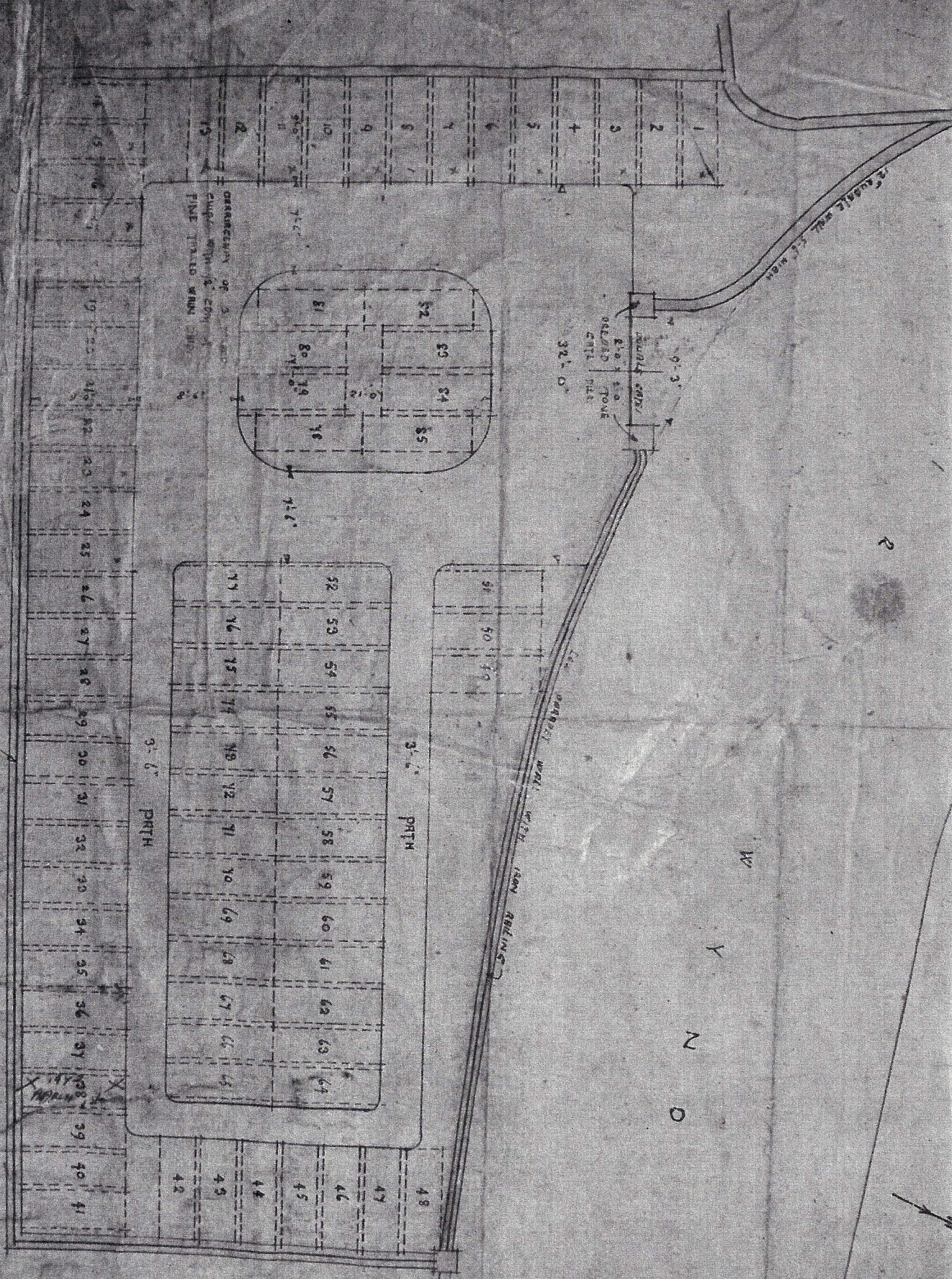
Ian Twedde

Frontispiece

William Simpson's Burial Ground (3 March 2015)

Proposed layout of William Simpson's Burial Ground (1934)



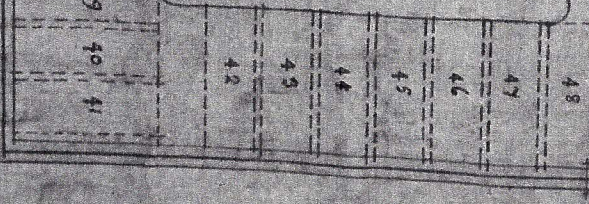
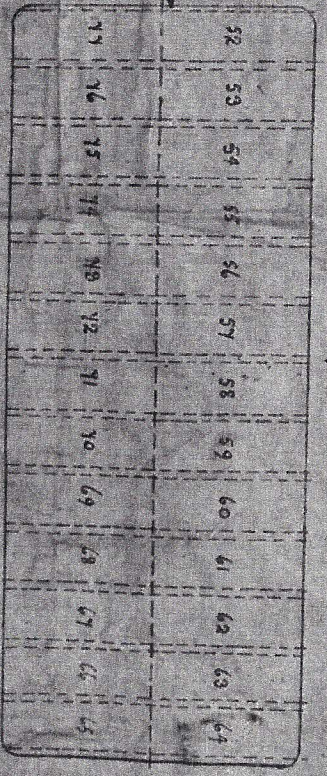
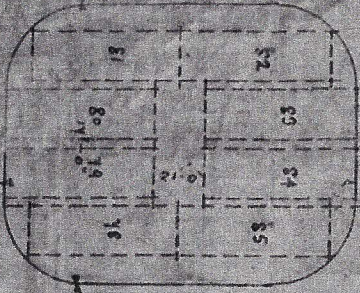
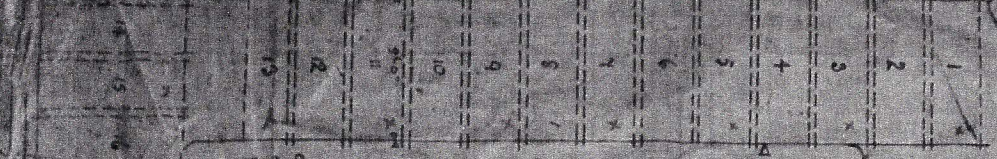


PAVEMENT WALL WITH PLAIN W/ RAILING

detachment of 3' x 4' 6" curb - 1/2" dia. curb - 5' FIVE TONNED W/IN 200'

32" dia. concrete curb
 8" x 3" x 10" concrete curb
 32" dia.

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1. Introduction

This ground was used for the burial of deceased residents of William Simpson's Asylum, Plean, from 1934 until 1974. There are no identifying marks and no gravestones for any of the 75 persons buried there, although the south wall does contain one privately inserted memorial plaque. In this article I will outline the history of the ground and provide a list of those buried in it.

The principal materials which I have consulted in preparing this article are listed at the end under References. Individual items are referred to in the text by the number of the item in my list of references enclosed in square brackets. I am most grateful to the staff at William Simpsons, Stirling University Archives, and Stirling Council Archives for giving me access to items which they hold and for allowing me to make extracts and to quote from them.

2. Historical background

William Simpson's Asylum opened in June 1836. It was established by the will of Francis Simpson of Plean (1760–1831) as a memorial to his son William, who died in 1827 aged just 22 years. Money and other resources were left for the Asylum, which was to be

‘for the reception residence and entertainment of indigent or reduced men of advanced age who may be destitute of the means of subsistence and incapable of procuring these means by industry recommending in preference persons who may have served in the Navy or Army.’⁽¹⁾

Simpson's Trustees were also anxious for the spiritual well-being of their charges and to this end were largely responsible for the establishment of Plean Church, which opened officially in March 1839.

Some deceased residents were buried privately but in most cases responsibility for their burial lay with the Trustees. As part of the original feu charter lairs in the churchyard at Plean had to be set aside for this purpose and burial ground was to be provided indefinitely for the Asylum's use. However, by the late 1920s burial space at Plean was running out with no possibility of extending the churchyard. The Trustees then purchased some lairs at St Ninians Parish Burial Ground, Bannockburn, where 14 deceased residents were buried between 1928 and 1933. Early in 1930 the Trustees proposed to purchase a block of 42 lairs at Bannockburn, but this was turned down by St Ninians

⁽¹⁾ Extract from Francis Simpson's will. The term *Asylum* was later replaced by *Home*. The institution continues today with a broader remit and is now known simply as *William Simpsons*.

