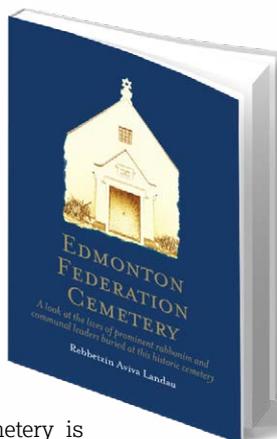


FEDERATION EDMONTON CEMETERY



This week, the Federation published a history of Edmonton Cemetery. The book, compiled by Rebbetzen Aviva Landau, offers a glimpse into the lives of distinguished *rabbonim* and communal leaders buried at this historic *beis kevaros*, containing over fifty detailed biographies. Here is an exclusive preview of this work.



Rabbi Simcha Rubin, who took over the dynasty whilst only in his mid-twenties.

Some of the *rabbonim* buried at Edmonton were celebrated for their official roles within the Federation yet contributed widely to Anglo-Jewry. Rabbi Meir Tzvi Jung, for example, served as Rav Rashi of the Federation, and worked hard to raise the spiritual level of the entire community. Rabbi Chaim Zundel Maccoby, the esteemed Kamenitzer Maggid (appointed as the Federation Maggid), would draw in such vast crowds when speaking in the East End that police had to be called on occasion to control the masses.



Rabbi Reuven Dov Dessler

The History

The history of Edmonton Cemetery is one which is deeply bound up with the history of the Federation itself.

In January 1889, Lord Montagu – founder of the Federation – purchased two acres of land from the Western Synagogue Cemetery in Edmonton, for the sum of £1,000. He reserved a plot for himself and his wife and dedicated the grounds to the Federation Burial Society. This facilitated the provision of affordable burials for the impoverished Jewish residents of the East End, who suffered from a high rate of infant mortality. Indeed, the burial ledgers which are stored in the Federation archives attest to the many burials of infants as well as of adults who died from diseases which today would have been treated or prevented. The first burial was of a one-year-old girl who passed away in April 1889.

Edmonton suffered bomb damage during World War Two, but continued to function as a cemetery and is still open today. It has undergone recent refurbishment, including the addition of digital kiosks to help visitors locate gravesites.

The Personalities

There are many famous *rabbonim* buried there, with a steady stream of visitors who come to pay tribute and daven at the gravesides. Particularly well-known is the *ohel* of Rabbi



Chaim Zundel Maccoby
©The Jewish Museum

Eliezer Gordon, the famous Telz Rosh Yeshiva, who was tragically *niftar* whilst on a fundraising mission to London. His *levoyah* was attended by a staggering 50,000 members of the *kehilloh*. On any given day, one can see piles of letters and invitations around his *kever* as Telz *bochurim* come to invite the *neshomo* of this *tsaddik* to their *simchos*. Another prominent *ohel* contains the final resting places of the Sassover Rebbes; Rabbi Henoah Dov Rubin and his son,



Rabbi Dr Meir Zvi Jung

The inscriptions on *matzeivos* offer further insight into the past, and many are explained in the book. Rabbi Nachman Shlomo Greenspan's *matzeivoh* testifies to his great genius and able leadership as Rosh Yeshiva of Yeshivas Eitz Chaim, an institution which facilitated a meeting of worlds by bringing revered scholars from Eastern Europe to teach *bochurim* in London. Rabbi Reuven Dessler's *kever* did not initially have a *matzeivoh*, in keeping with Kelm tradition, however one was erected by a relative several years later. Rabbi Dessler, a native of Latvia, had learnt as a child at the feet of the Alter of Kelm, and had travelled over to England in his later years to be close to his son, Rabbi Eliyohu Eliezer Dessler.

Visiting the Cemetery

The new book serves a dual purpose. It guides readers towards grave locations, but also aims to offer inspiration from the life stories featured.

'Edmonton Federation Cemetery' is available via the Federation's offices or at the cemetery itself.



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