

Plan of Churchyard Memorials - St Martin's Church, Ancaster

A plan of the memorials has been produced in the form of four overlapping A4 sheets.

The churchyard plan indicates, by number, the location of all known memorials.

Each number provides a reference to a list of the grave occupant(s). Two versions are provided - a numerical list (showing the location within the churchyard), and a list in which grave occupant(s) are recorded alphabetically, by surname.

A further list of the grave occupant(s), give further details, recording the inscriptions on the memorials.

[See: **Ancaster Churchyard Memorials [PART 1]** & **Ancaster Churchyard Memorials [PART 2]**]

Note that dotted outlines indicate gravestones, or parts of gravestones (not numbered) which are not identifiable, having no detectable inscription.

It has been possible to identify grave occupants in most cases, some gravestones (numbered) do have inscriptions, but their inscriptions have not been deciphered.

The churchyard has been artificially divided, for convenience, into eight zones: A - J.

The earliest recorded gravestone dates from 1696. Many gravestones survive from the 18th century. All pre -1800 gravestones are located on the higher ground to the south of the Church, mainly in zones A, C and D, with some in zones B and E.

Zones F and G, also occupy the higher ground and contain (with one 20th century exception in Zone F), only 19th century memorials. In zone F the earliest grave dates from 1813, while in zone G the earliest grave dates from 1821.

Ancaster is well known as a former Roman town, its western perimeter wall having apparently passed through what is now the churchyard, more or less on the edge of the higher ground, with the ditch or fosse beyond.

Zones H and J occupy an area of lower ground at the western end the churchyard. This is where most later burials took place, in what was once the Roman ditch.

In zone H, one gravestone is dated 1826, but this is not in situ. Other gravestones here are from the 1840s, but most are from the later 19th century, with some from the 20th century.

In zone J the earliest gravestone dates from 1869. Other gravestones here are all from the later 19th century or early 20th century. `

The present churchyard wall, on the western side, borders Church Lane. There is however evidence of an earlier churchyard wall having existed as a western boundary, probably on the edge of the high ground, and in much the same place as the Roman wall. This means the churchyard would have been smaller, and the area now covered by zones H and J would then have been outside the churchyard.

It was reported³ in 1884 that a dispute had arisen between the vicar, Mr. Maud and Mr. Calcraft of Ancaster Hall, over a small area of land, off Ermine Street. This strip of land

which adjoined the churchyard on the south side of Ancaster Hall. was used as garden by Mr. Calcraft. Mr. Maud claimed (unsuccessfully) that this land (still a fenced-off area today) was part of the churchyard.

It was revealed that in 1864 he and Mr. Calcraft had exchanged a piece of land on the western side of the churchyard, and that a portion of this had been added to the churchyard in 1872. This area of land adjoined the strip of land in dispute. There are few gravestones in this part of zone F, a fact which can be related to these events. Presumably the Calcraft family did not wish to see gravestones when they looked out through their dining room window. Shrubs planted in their piece of garden (the disputed strip of land) will also have obscured the view of the few gravestones which were placed in this zone.

The condition of the churchyard was discussed at a Parish Council meeting¹ in 1902. Space for burials was running out, and a new cemetery was being contemplated, but there was to be the expense of acquiring land for such a cemetery. The vicar, Rev. Pemberton Lloyd said that '*when the remains of the old churchyard wall were removed*', and other alterations made there would be room for 80-90 burials. He had calculated that the average number of over the past seven years was 11 burials annually, meaning that there would then be sufficient land for about 8 years.

Much of '*the old churchyard wall*' is likely to have been removed gradually over a long period, probably proceeding in a south to north direction. A cluster of gravestones in zone J, numbered 239, 240, 241, 242 243 and 260 in the plan are dated between 1902 and 1909. This suggests that a remnant of the old churchyard wall at its northern end, was still in existence in this area up to 1902.

The Rev. Pemberton Lloyd's calculations about the remaining capacity for burials in the churchyard must have been quite accurate as Ancaster churchyard was officially closed to new burials in 1909, but with some exceptions, usually for widowed spouses.

In the same year a new cemetery became available off Church Lane.

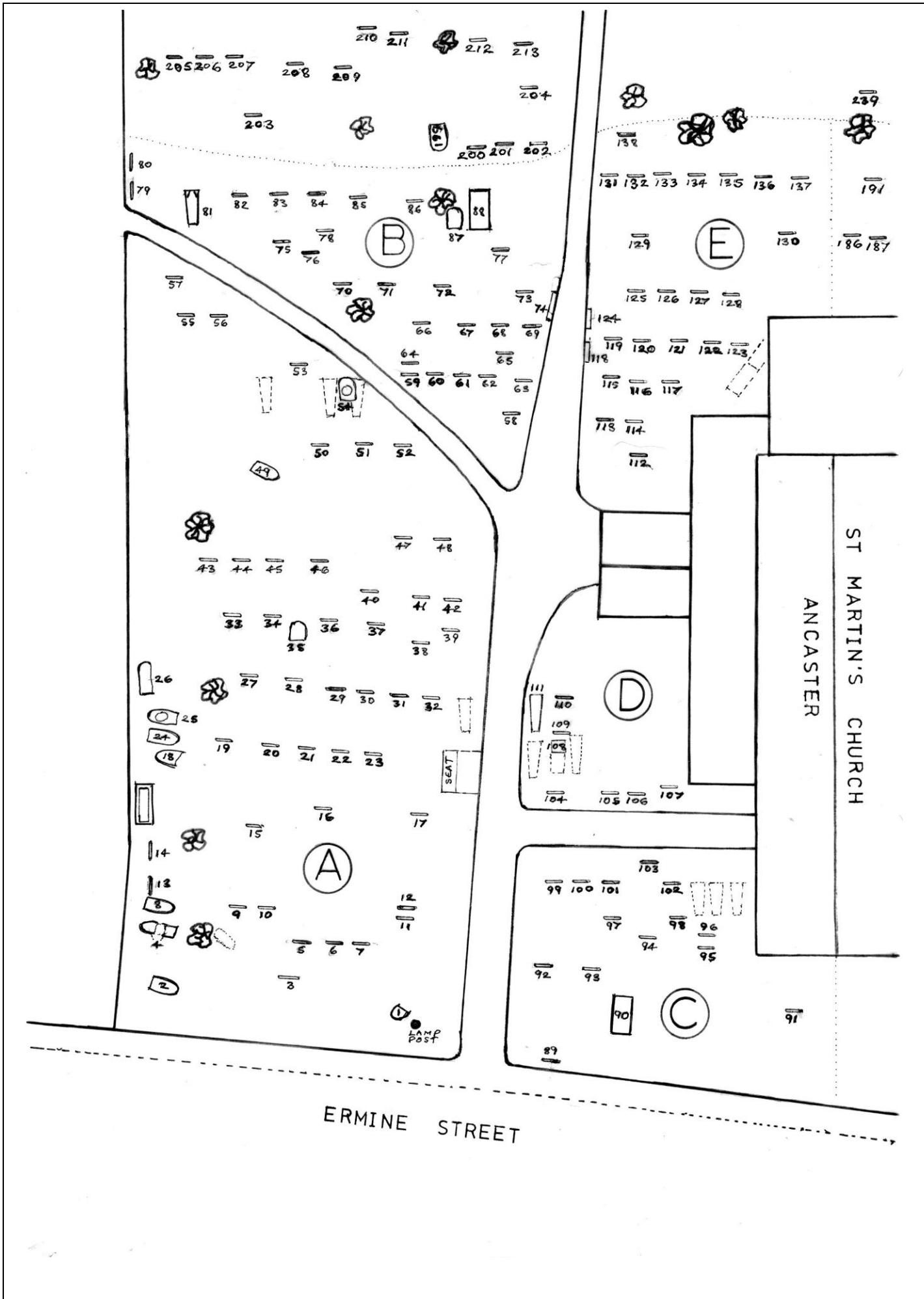
The Churchyard also contains one, possibly two, vaults, indicated on the plan as V ?

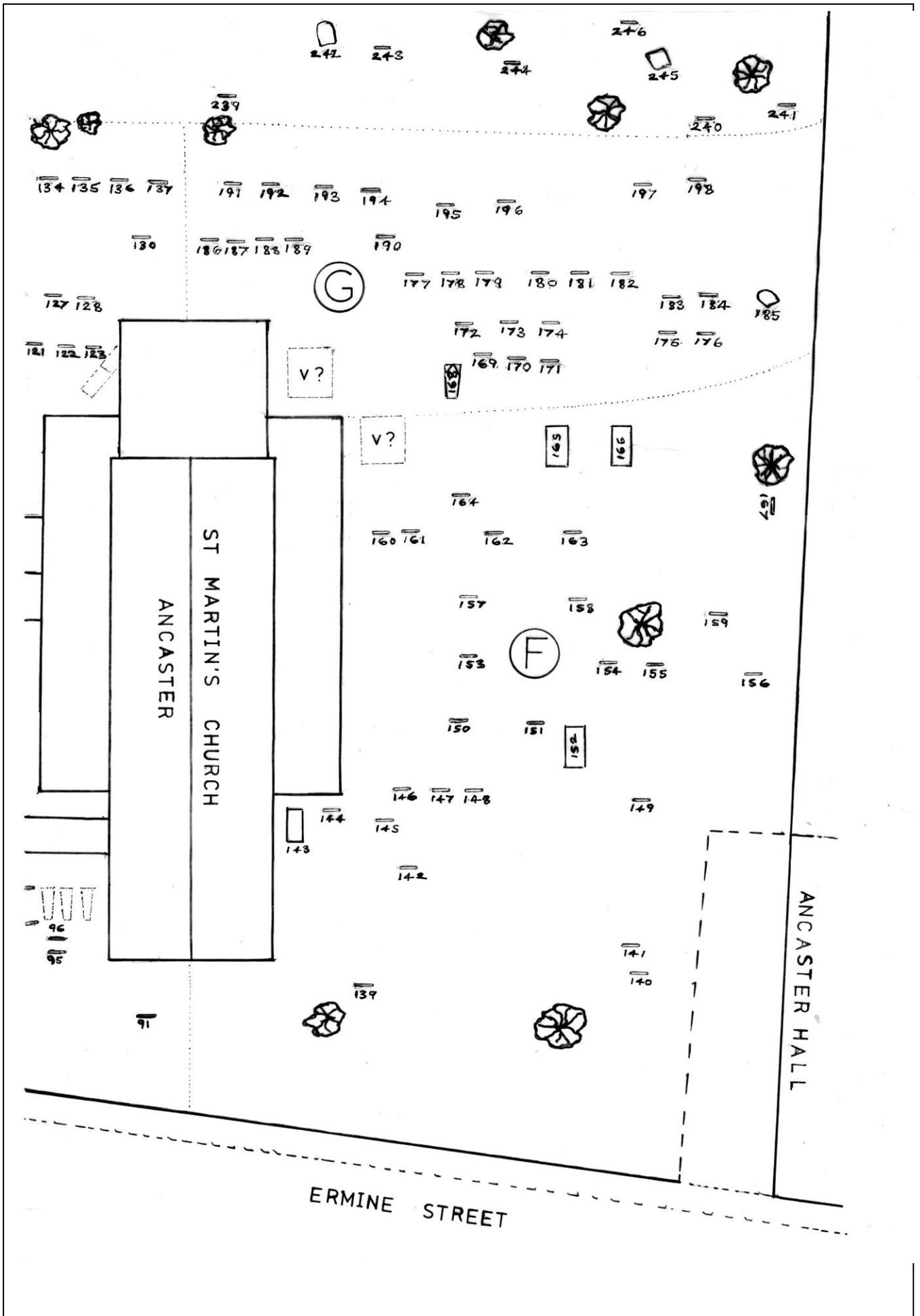
The Allix family of West Willoughby Hall and Sudbrook Hall had a vault into which several members of the family were interred. A report² of the burial of Frederick Allix in 1894 records his interment in the churchyard in the family vault 'at the north-west corner of the church'.

1. *Grantham Journal* 1 November 1902

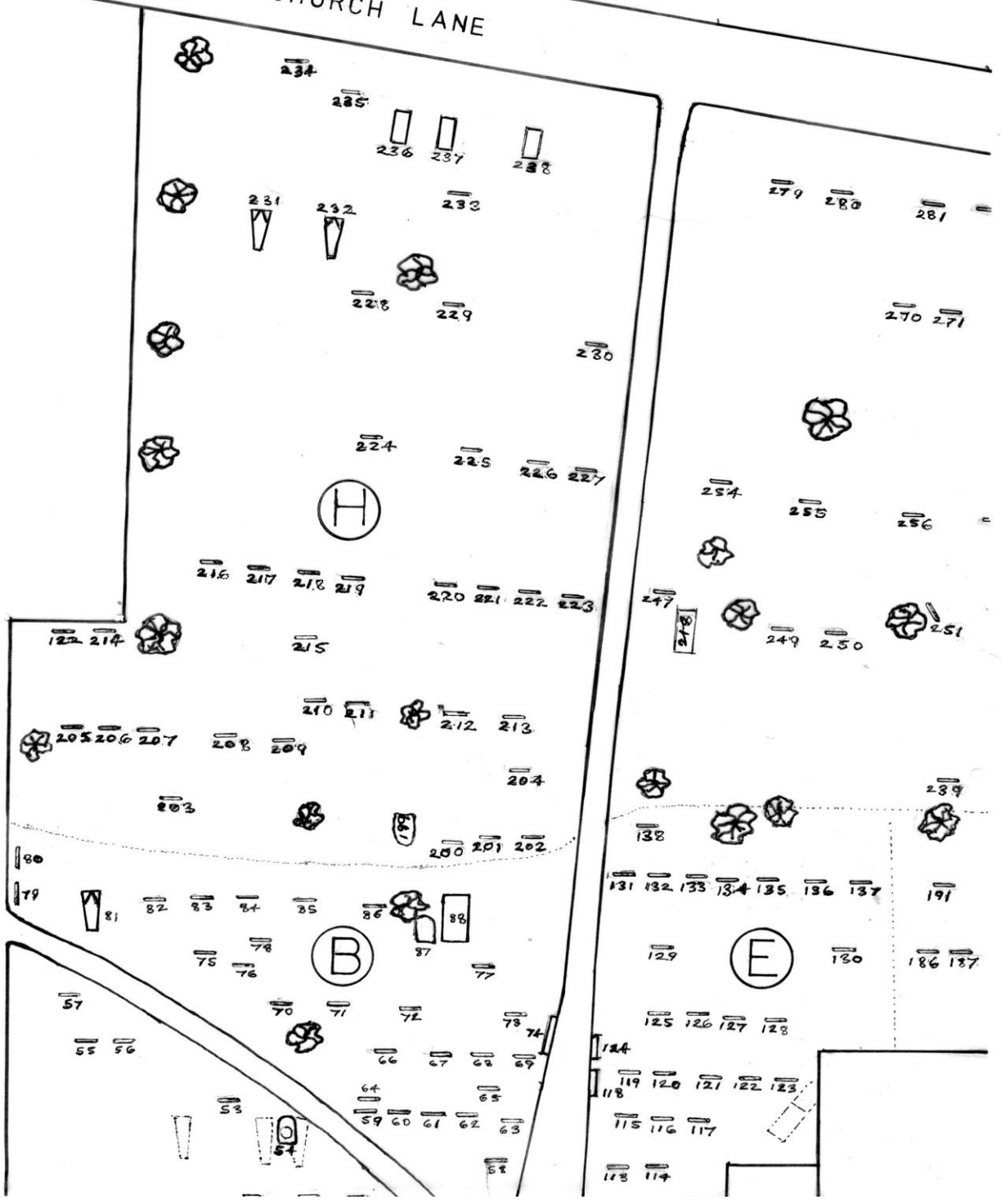
2. *Grantham Journal* 20 October 1894

3. *Lincolnshire Chronicle* 15 Aug. 1884





CHURCH LANE



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