

from New Plymouth Genealogy Group records

TE HENUI CEMETERY

Block S - 1942 Extension

Row 1

3515 This is the tomb of ABRAHAM WALLEY MOHAMED SALAMAN a world renowned herbalist. He had to obtain special permission to build the tomb as it occupies 10 plots. The permission was granted on the condition that he build it himself. This he did and completed in late 1940.

The outside is constructed of painted concrete and is approx. 15 feet square. It has a large blue dome on top and 4 blue plinths; one on each corner which serve to ventilate and light the tomb. The entrance has a locked iron double gate and double wooden doors, each with a star and moon crescent hollowed out. There used to be 2 beige clay urns sitting between the gate and door with BISMULLAH engraved on their rims. They have now been placed inside for safety because of vandals. Above the door is inscribed MOHAMED ISLAN SALAMAN TOMB. The tomb was built with a brass star and moon crescent on top of the dome but they have been stolen.

There are 3 marble steps leading down from the door into the tomb. The lower 8 feet of wall and side coffin supports are in 12 inch green marble tiles. The top half of the wall and dome are painted the same colour green. The coffin supports (like bench seats) run right along the left and right hand sides. His coffin is on the far end of the right side one.

The coffin is oak with 3 brass handles on each side. A brass plaque is on the top and reads:-

ABRAHAM WALLEY MOHAMED SALAMAN died 8 Feb. 1941.

Draped over the coffin is a hand-embroidered cover and on this are placed a book titled "The Koran" and reading glasses. Legend has it that his wife was to read to him from the book at regular intervals. She is still living and resides in Wellington.

Also on the cover are 2 wreaths in the shape of the star and moon crescent made of plastic and dried flowers. The attached card to the moon reads: Wedding bouquet - floral tokens Mrs J.W. Lankshear floral artiste - Fitzroy. In the centre of the room is a red marble circular table with 2 brass vases and 1 ornate brass dish with incense ashes and 2 candles lying on the table top. Set at each of the feet of the table are 4 porcelain wreaths in glass domes.

The cards in these read:-

In affectionate remembrance from your loving wife ANNIE

In loving memory from LEO & FREDA & FAMILY

No card.

In loving memory from ASHER AND ANIR.

On the floor, scattered around the room, are several more vases and a green clay frog. (approx. 12 inches high) The only light into the room is through the door.

Transcribed between Sept 1981 and Jan 1982.