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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

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B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	12-6-1879	197.

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1582

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

12th June 1879, No. 1,587 W

Buildings and Roads
Civil Works

Read the following paper —

No 53. Proceedings of the Government of Madras in the Ecclesiastical Department, dated 20th May 1879, No 122

From A CRUICKSHANK, Esq, Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cuddalore, 26th April 1879, No 41.

I HAVE the honor to report on the condition of the Christian burial-grounds in this district

2 Those in the Cuddalore Municipality were inspected by the Assistant Collector, extracts from whose report are given below

3 *Old Dutch Cemetery at Vennarapalem* — This was found by Mr. Dumergue in a most unsatisfactory condition. "The narrow path leading to it is choked up by weeds, the counterpart of the lock of the gate has been broken off, and the burial-ground itself, where not overgrown with thorns and wild cotton, is filthy beyond description. The villagers of the neighbouring village seem to have appropriated the ground as their latrine. It is almost impossible to walk over it, and the stench in it is intolerable. The aloe hedge is so dilapidated that it is no longer any barrier either to cattle or men. Nearly all the tombs, once of substantial masonry, are in ruins, most of the slabs which bore the epitaphs having been removed. Only four epitaphs now remain, and these (of which the earliest is one in memory of James Hugonin who died in 1718) are remarkable for their clearness and good preservation. It is high time that the enclosing walls, for which I believe sanction has been obtained, were erected." Regarding this cemetery I have to remark that on the 18th instant I forwarded the above extract to the Assistant Engineer in charge of Cuddalore Division and requested to be informed what provision of funds, if any, had been made for erecting the wall round the cemetery sanctioned in G O, dated 26th July 1878, No 2,990, in the Public Works Department, and expressing concurrence with the opinion of the Assistant Collector that it is very desirable that the work should be executed with as little delay as possible. In reply the Assistant Engineer informs me on the 19th idem that no provision of funds has yet been made for the work, but that it has been included in his list of sanctioned works submitted to the Superintending Engineer on the 9th instant for which funds are required this year, and that a copy of my letter to him will be submitted to that officer in order that he may take the necessary steps in the matter, as the amount required for the work will have to be granted by Government from the reserve under Provincial at their disposal.

"4 The burial-ground at Puthupalem belongs to the Roman Catholics by the gift of Thiagu Mudali. A gate is required, and the tombs are falling to pieces, while weeds grow in profusion

"5 Of the four burial-grounds at Shorakalput the Goa Churchyard in Pagh's road is much out of order. It is no longer used, the old tombs are decaying, and the whole place is

extremely ill-kept. The three graveyards on the Panroli road—one of which belongs to the French, one to the Goa Church, and the third to the S. P. G. Mission—call for no remark as they are all in good order and well kept.

"6 The burial-ground at Senmandalam belonging to the German Lutheran Mission is attached to the Church and is in fair order although a more substantial protection than its present ragged hedge would be an improvement.

"7 In the Protestant burial-ground now used in Old Town the grass has been allowed to grow rank. A few trees would be a vast improvement, and the wall would be better of a little chunam here and there where the old coating has fallen off.

"8 On the opposite side of the road is a Roman Catholic cemetery. It is in disorder, some of the tombs are crumbling away, and some parts are overgrown with croton. Adjacent to the south-eastern corner is an old latrine now disused and ruinous which might with advantage be pulled down.

"9 The Slepser Street burial-ground is in neat and good order.

"10 The old burial-ground in Sonagar Street requires a new gate, the present one being rickety and useless. Most of the tombs are in good order, notably those of Mrs. Mary and Catherine Davis (1684) and Vuessimus Griffiths (1703). The ground is so beset with fragments of brick and masonry that the existence of old graves, the superstructures of which have disappeared, seems probable.

"11 The S. P. G. Churchyard attached to the Mission Church Old Town is in good order.

"12 At Pachankuppam the S. P. G. burial-ground for Native Christians contains five graves and is in good order."

4 The burial-grounds alluded to in paragraphs 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 only are under Government supervision.

5. The Sub-Collector reports that he inspected the burial-grounds at Villupuram and Tindivanam, a solitary tomb at Kolanore, and two other such tombs at Tindivanam. The burial-ground and two solitary tombs at Tindivanam he found in fair order, but a good deal overgrown by weeds. The burial-ground at Villupuram he considers needs a wall or fence, the prickly-pear hedge which formerly surrounded it having been very much thinned and the ground made use of for purposes of nature. The cemetery consists of but four graves, two of which contain the remains of the children of the Rev. Mr. Beisenherz, while the occupants of the other graves are not known. It is enclosed by a brick-wall, the cost would, he thinks, be Rupees 355, and by a mud wall Rupees 38. If only the graves themselves are enclosed, it would cost Rupees 59 and Rupees 10 respectively. The solitary tomb at the same station, he thinks, needs a rail round it costing Rupees 5, but I do not think that any of these works are such as should be undertaken at the cost of Government.

6 The Head Assistant Collector reports that the burial-ground at Porto-Novo is in good order. The five cents of land adjoining the cemetery, the purchase of which was sanctioned in G. O., 29th November 1877, No. 266, has been acquired, and an estimate, amounting to Rupees 54, for removing earth round the compound wall and fixing broken glass on the coping was prepared by the Public Works Department in January last, but the work could not hitherto be put in hand for want of funds. The Assistant Engineer informs me, however, that an application has been made for an assignment of funds for the work this year. A solitary tomb at Shetiatope and another at Lalpett are in good order, but two others at Toludar require slight repairs regarding which the Head Assistant Collector has addressed the Range Officer, who however has not been able to execute the repairs.

7 Mr. French's cenotaph at Tirukonilur has been enclosed at a cost of Rupees 44 by a wall four feet high with a coping of brick and lime, plastered on the sides with lime, and having broken glass on the top. I have seen this on two or three occasions and it is in very good order.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council desires that orders be issued forthwith in the Public Works Department for the construction of the wall around the burial-ground at Vennarapohem near Cuddalore, for which an estimate, amounting to Rupees 665, was sanctioned under date the 26th July 1878, Order No. 2,990 W.

2. The Collector of South Arcot will draw the attention of those concerned to the condition and requirements of the burial-grounds at Puthupohem, Snorakalput, Pugh's road, and Senmandalam.

3. Immediate attention should be paid to the condition of the Protestant and Roman Catholic burial-grounds in Old Town, the old burial-ground in Sonagar Street, and the burial-ground at Tindivanam. The "old latrine" at the Roman Catholic burial-ground should, as suggested, be pulled down.

4. His Grace the Governor in Council considers that the burial-ground at Villupuram should be enclosed to prevent its being made use of for the purposes stated. The Collector will place himself in communication with the Executive Engineer on the subject.

5. The solitary tomb at Villupuram may be enclosed by a rail if the charge does not exceed the amount (Rupees 5) named.

(True Extract)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 12th June 1879, No. 1,587 W.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, for early attention.

2 Funds to the extent of Rupees 665 are provided from the Provincial Reserve for 1879-80 for constructing a compound wall around the burial-ground at Vennarapohem near Cuddalore.

(True Extract)

Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt, P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts
" Ecclesiastical Department

Ed E. C. Shunker.
5- Spare Copies

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT

1887
3

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT

20th May 1879, No. 122

Cemeteries

Read the following paper.—

No 12. From A. CRUICKSHANK, Esq, Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cuddalore, 26th April 1879, No 11

I have the honor to report on the condition of the Christian burial-grounds in this district.

2. Those in the Cuddalore Municipality were inspected by the Assistant Collector, extracts from whose report are given below.

3. *Old Dutch Cemetery at Vanarpolam*—This was found by Mr. Dumergue in a most unsatisfactory condition. "The narrow path leading to it is choked up by weeds, the counterpart of the lock of the gate has been broken off, and the burial-ground itself, where not overgrown with thorns and wild cotton, is filthy beyond description. The villagers of the neighbouring village seem to have appropriated the ground as their latrine. It is almost impossible to walk over it, and the stretch of it is intolerable. The alce hedge is so dilapidated that it is no longer any barrier either to cattle or men. Nearly all the tombs, once of substantial masonry, are in ruins, most of the slabs which bore the epitaphs having been removed. Only four epitaphs remain, and these (of which the earliest is one in memory of James Hageron who died in 1716) are remarkable for their clearness and good preservation. It is high time that the enclosing wall, for which I believe sanction has been obtained, were erected. Regarding this cemetery I have to forward that on the 18th instant I forwarded the above extract to the Assistant Engineer in charge of Cuddalore Division and requested to be informed what provision of funds, if any, had been made for erecting the wall round the cemetery sanctioned in G.O., dated 26th July 1878, No 2909, in the Public Works Department, and expressing concurrence with the opinion of the Assistant Collector that it is very desirable that the work should be executed with as little delay as possible. In reply the Assistant Engineer informs me on the 18th instant that no provision of funds has yet been made for the work, but that it has been included in his list of sanctioned works submitted to the Superintending Engineer on the 5th instant for which funds are required this year, and that a copy of my letter to him will be submitted to that officer in order that he may take the necessary steps in the matter, as the amount required for the work will have to be granted by Government from the reserve under Provincial at their disposal.

"4. The burial-ground at Putturpalem belongs to the Roman Catholics by the gift of Thiragu Madali. A gate is required, and the tombs are falling to pieces, while weeds grow in profusion.

"5. Of the four burial-grounds at Shorakaput the Goa Churchyard in Pugh's Road is much out of order. It is no longer used, the old tombs are decaying, and the whole place is extremely ill-kept. The three graveyards on the Panroti road—one of which belongs to the French, one to the Goa Church, and the third to the S.P.G. Mission,—call for no remark as they are all in good order and well kept.

"6. The burial-ground at Semmandalam belonging to the German Lutheran Mission is attached to the Church and is in fair order although a more substantial protection than its present ragged hedge would be an improvement.

"7. In the Protestant burial-ground now used in Old Town the grass has been allowed to grow rank. A few trees would be a vast improvement, and the wall would be better of a little chunam here and there where the old coating has fallen off.

"8 On the opposite side of the road is a Roman Catholic cemetery. It is in disorder, some of the tombs are crumbling away, and some parts are overgrown with croton. Adjacent to the south-eastern corner is an old latrine now disused and ruinous which might with advantage be pulled down.

"9 The Slop Street burial-ground is in neat and good order.

"10 The old burial-ground in Sonagar street requires a new gate, the present one being rickety and useless. Most of the tombs are in good order, notably those of Mrs Mary and Catherine Davis (1684) and Vicessimus Griffiths (1705). The ground is so bespread with fragments of brick and masonry that the existence of old graves, the superstructures of which have disappeared, seems probable.

"11 The S P G Churchyard attached to the Mission Church Old Town is in good order.

"12 At Pachiankuppam the S P G burial-ground for Native Christians contains five graves and is in good order."

4. The burial-grounds alluded to in paragraphs 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 only are under Government supervision.

5. The Sub-Collector reports that he inspected the burial-grounds at Villupuram and Tindivanam, a solitary tomb at Kohanore, and two other such tombs at Tindivanam. The burial-ground and two solitary tombs at Tindivanam he found in fair order, but a good deal overgrown by weeds. The burial-ground at Villupuram he considers needs a wall or fence, the prickly-pear hedge which formerly surrounded it having been very much thinned and the ground made use of for purposes of nature. The cemetery consists of but four graves, two of which contain the remains of the children of the Rev Mr Beisenherz, while the occupants of the other graves are not known. If enclosed by a brick-wall, the cost would, he thinks, be Rupees 355, and by a mud wall Rupees 33. If only the graves themselves are enclosed, it would cost Rupees 59 and Rupees 10 respectively. The solitary tomb at the same station, he thinks needs a rail round it costing Rupees 5, but I do not think that any of these works are such as should be undertaken at the cost of Government.

6. The Head Assistant Collector reports that the burial-ground at Porto Novo is in good order. The five cents of land adjoining the cemetery, the purchase of which was sanctioned in G.O., 29th November 1877, No 266, has been acquired, and an estimate, amounting to Rupees 54, for removing earth round the compound wall and fixing broken glass on the coping was prepared by the Public Works Department in January last, but the work could not hitherto be put in hand for want of funds. The Assistant Engineer informs me, however, that an application has been made for an assignment of funds for the work this year. A solitary tomb at Shetiatope and another at Lalpett are in good order, but two others at Toludur require slight repairs regarding which the Head Assistant Collector has addressed the Range Officer, who however has not been able to execute the repairs.

7. Mr. French's conotaph at Trakolur has been enclosed at a cost of Rupees 44 by a wall four feet high with a coping of brick and lime, plastered on the sides with lime, and having broken glass on the top. I have seen this on two or three occasions and it is in very good order.

No 13

ORDER THEREON, 20th May 1879, No. 122.

His Grace the Governor in Council desires that orders be issued forthwith in the Public Works Department for the construction of the wall around the burial-ground at Veernarapoham near Cuddalore, for which an estimate, amounting to Rupees 657, was sanctioned under date the 24th July 1878, Order No. 2399-W.

2. The Collector of South Arcot will draw the attention of those concerned to the condition and requirements of the burial-grounds at Puthupoham, Shorakalput, Pugh's Road, and Selmandalam.

3. Immediate attention should be paid to the condition of the Protestant and Roman Catholic burial-grounds in Old Town, the old burial-ground in Sonagar Street, and the burial-ground at Tindivanam. The "old latrine" at the Roman Catholic burial-ground should, as suggested, be pulled down.

4. His Grace the Governor in Council considers that the burial-ground at Villupuram should be enclosed to prevent its being made use of for the purposes stated. The Collector will place himself in communication with the Executive Engineer on the subject.

5. The solitary tomb at Villupuram may be enclosed by a rail if the charge does not exceed the amount (Rupees 5) named.

(True Extract)

Planned
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Public Works Department
" Collector of South Arcot
" Accountant-General

Ed. J. W. Fischer.

26.6.78 No 2990 W

Pro of 12th June 1879 - No 1587 W

RECEIVED
MADRAS GOVERNMENT
1879

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1879

No 1587 W Public Works Department

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

Under date the 12th June 1879

Read the following —

1879

Pro. in the Ecclesiastical Dept. (H.C. No. 122 of 20th May 1879)

Communicated
to the Superintending En-
gineer Third Circle for
early attention.

Funds to the extent
of Rs 665 are provided from
the Provincial Reserve for
1879-80 for constructing
a compound around the

wall
to S. E. Shiva Circle
for pwa
Ecclesiastical Dept.
1879-80-77
burial ground at Van
narapalem near Buddha
low.
1879

Circular
Cabi. of (1879) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Encls

I enc

Recd

Encl

17/11
G.O. 12 June 1879. 1587 W

Vol. 53-54

Christian burial ground
in the S. Arcot Dr. Nelson
in the Eccl Dept as report
on the condition of the —
Comm to the S.R. for early
attention; funds provided
for erecting a compound
wall
around the burial ground
at Vannarepalien near
Cuddalore.