

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE  
RONALD THOMPSON  
CITY CLERK



TELEPHONE FAIRMONT 2711

VANCOUVER, B. C.

February 17, 1949

D. A. Chertkow, Esq., Secretary,  
Schars Tzedek Cemetery Board,  
619 Rogers Building,  
Vancouver, B. C.

Dear Sir:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated February 15th, 1949, concerning the interment of the late Mrs. Henrietta Gintzburger in Mountain View Cemetery (Range 1, Block 5, Plot 8, Lot 10) on November 9th, 1948.

Firstly, I believe that it should be pointed out that this was a City indigent burial and, as such, was handled by the firm of T. J. Kearney Funeral Directors which was in charge of all indigent burials for the month of November, 1948, in accordance with an Agreement between the firm and the City. So far as I am aware, no objections to this arrangement were raised at that time, nor did the relatives or friends conducting the service make any effort to relieve the City of its responsibility in this case. You will, therefore, appreciate that it was incumbent upon the Social Service Department of the City, after having satisfactorily investigated the circumstances of the deceased, to follow the course prescribed by City regulations.

Further, as indicated, the interment took place in the family plot and permission to open the particular grave was issued by me pursuant to the conditions of the lease held by this family and originally issued in the name of Samuel Gintzburger. It is, therefore, improbable that any objection to this interment could be sustained in view of the right to use being vested in the Gintzburger family as clearly defined in the permanent Cemetery records.



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- 2 -

In cases of this nature, you will perceive that it is impracticable for this office to endeavour to ascertain whether all interested persons or organizations have been notified of an intended opening in a reserved section of the Cemetery. Rather, permits are issued in accordance with the register of license holders as maintained in this department. In those instances where certain sections of the Cemetery have been set aside for the exclusive use of some society, the sale of the plots and lots has been governed strictly by the wishes of the society concerned, but thereafter the license holders have controlled the use of the graves.

However, if you feel that such a course would assist in relieving your problem, the Special Committee re Cemetery Matters might be requested to pass a resolution or recommend an agreement that would give your Cemetery Board the power to restrict future sales in the available portions of the Jewish Section. As an alternative in order to prevent an undesired burial, your Board might make an effort to acquire the graves held by persons not connected with your organization.

Yours faithfully,

*Ronald Thompson*  
City Clerk.

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