



AROUND THE GRAVES

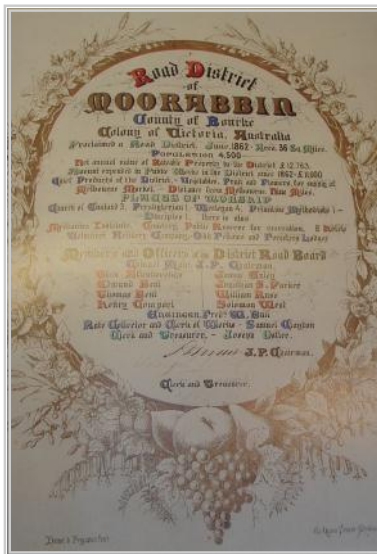
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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

150th Anniversaries

This year is the 150th anniversary for a number of institutions.

On 16 May 1862, "The Moorabbin Road District" (Board) was formed. District Boards were the forerunner to local councils. Before the existence of Boards, local agitation such as the 1853 petition for a postal service (see Issue 18 of *Around The Graves*) was a matter between the inhabitants and the relevant government department struggling with the encumbrance of the Gold rush. In a forerunner to the 1917 separation of Sandringham from the Moorabbin Shire, it was said that the inhabitants from



"Big Brighton" were happy to part company with their market gardening neighbours from the east. The following month, elections were held and the 450 ratepayers voted Colonel William Mair, **Thomas Attenborough (CofE "E" 258)**, Edmund Bent, Thomas Bent, **Henry Comport (CofE "E" 246)**, **James Exley (Meth "E" 128)**, Jonathan Parker, **William Ruse (CofC "A" 20)** and Solomon West as representatives. **Samuel Clayton (Meth "E" 14)** became the first rate collector and clerk of works. What is little known is that barely had the ink dried on the ballot papers that the District Board were facing the loss of parts

of Mordialloc, with some inhabitants desirous of seeing the area annexed to a new body covering Dandenong and Mordialloc.

Trustees for the land set aside for the Presbyterian Church at Cheltenham were gazetted on 14 Apr 1862; **James Thomson (Pres "C" 16)**, **James Cochrane (Pres "A" 1)**, Robert Kay, **John McCallum (Pres "A" 5)** and Samuel Brownfield.

And of course, 5 August 1862 saw land set aside for a public cemetery at Cheltenham though it would be another two years, seven months and 22 days before the first interment took place at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.

(Source: Victorian Government Gazette 14 Apr 1862 p585, 16 May 1862 p840 & 29 Aug 1862 p1563; The Argus 17 Jun 1862 p4)

Exemption Court

A little known aspect of the Great War was the "Exemption Court" that heard claims of exemption from military service on various grounds. Judging by a report from the *Brighton Southern Cross* in November 1916, it seems the men eligible for military service were more keen to avoid service with the number of cases heard from the Henty district (covering Brighton, Malvern, Caulfield and Cheltenham) was 704, of which 523 were granted (including temporary exemptions) and 181 refused. Yet the war had another two more (bloody) years to go.

"EXEMPTION GRANTED. Thomas Pearson (Memorial Park, RC "143" 38), jockey, of Mentone, was granted exemption as his father was a stoker on a troopship, and his mother and two young children would shortly arrive from England. (Judge) Mr. Morrison, P.M. said it would not be right that the mother should arrive in a strange country and have no where to go.

TEMPORARY EXEMPTIONS FOR GARDENERS. Temporary exemptions till January 15th were allowed sons of market gardeners to enable them to get their crops to market. **Wm. Eustace Bodley (Pioneer Cemetery, CofC "A" 25)**, Cheltenham, claimed to be the sole support of parents, two sisters and two brothers, but admitted

above:

Charter for the Moorabbin District Road Board formed in June 1862 [sic] (Cribbin, J., "Moorabbin. A Pictorial History" p14)

below:

Trustees of the land at Moorabbin set apart for the Presbyterian Church

TRUSTEES.

THE Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased, by Orders made on the 24th day of March, 1862, to approve of the appointment of the undermentioned Trustees, viz.:-

**JAMES THOMSON,
JAMES COCHRANE,
ROBERT KAY,
JOHN MCCALLUM, and
SAMUEL BROWNFIELD,**

to be the Trustees of the land at Moorabbin set apart for church purposes in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

working for his father, who owned 13 acres. **Wm. Henry Barnett (Pioneer Cemetery, CofC "42A" 2)**, of Moorabbin, applied for a total exemption for his son, Raymond G. C. Barnett. There were four sons in the family, the eldest working on his own account. He required Raymond to attend the market, which was a responsible position. He was not able to do that work, and if the application was not granted he would feel compelled to dispose of his business. The boy was in the camp for 11 months, but when the eldest started on his own the authorities gave him his discharge. Mr. Morrison-If the young men do not turn out and fight you will have no garden at all. Mr. Barnett said that by growing produce he was endeavouring to keep the wheels of industry going.

OTHER TEMPORARY EXEMPTIONS. **John F. Fitzsimons (Pioneer Cemetery, RC "27" 61)** (Cheltenham) was granted a temporary exemption till December 1st. He stated he was a clerk in the employ of the Shire Council, and the annual audit was now taking place.

SOLE SUPPORT OF RELATIVES. Exemptions were granted to the following, who proved they were the sole support of parents or relatives- **Sydney Mains (Memorial Park, Lawn "G" Row I 9)** (Cheltenham).

ONLY SONS. **Evarest Albert Le Page [sic] (Pioneer Cemetery, CofC "A" 81)** (Cheltenham), **Thomas E. Morgan (Pioneer Cemetery, RC "89" 27)** (Bentleigh), **Walter D. Rose [sic] (Memorial Park, Lawn "G" Row A 26)** (Cheltenham), were granted exemptions, as they were only sons.

HALF THE SONS ENLISTED. **Hector Townsend (Pioneer Cemetery, CofE "44" 32)** (Mentone).

MEDICAL BOARD TO DECIDE. **George Wedd Gouldthorpe (Pioneer Cemetery, CofC "C" 5)**, gardener of Mentone, applied for exemption for his son, Wm. Gouldthorpe, who took the produce to market. If unsuccessful he might as well give up gardening. As it was stated the son was considered doubtful by the examining



above:
Grave of Sydney Mains,
Cheltenham Memorial Park
(Lawn "G" Row I Grave 9)

doctor, the case was referred to the medical board. **Leslie Marriott (Pioneer Cemetery, Meth "29" 37)** (Moorabbin) said he had already been rejected. He was prepared to enlist if fit.

REFUSALS. **Albert Bumpstead (Memorial Park, CofC "22" 48)**, gardener, of Cheltenham, applied, on the ground that he was required to manage his father's garden. He received £50 per year and keep, and lately went into partnership with his father. **Roswald G. Judd (Memorial Park, Lawn "E4" Row K 37)** (Mentone) stated that he was the only remaining son at home with his aged parents. Of five sons, one was married, and two had enlisted. **Charles Wiltshire (Memorial Park, Meth "51" 27)** (Cheltenham) claimed that he was an only son, but admitted having three step-brothers, who had not enlisted. **Alexander Biehl (Memorial Park, CofE "342" 7)** (Cheltenham) ... who did not appear, had [his] application refused."

None of the men appear to have to have subsequently enlisted including those granted temporary exemptions.

(Source: Brighton Southern Cross 4 Nov 1916 p4)

A Mystery Solved

Avid readers of "Bid Time Return" (1977) (and "Time Recalled") by Fairlie (Addie) Taylor née Fairlam (Pioneer Cemetery, CofC "A" 21) will recall her many reflections on her first love named "Callum". In one passage, she wrote;

"...we went together, on happy summer Saturday afternoons, to the old red gum tree which grew on the rise at the back of the (Pioneer) cemetery...Under its shady branches Callum, who was several years older than I, coached me in English Literature and History...he was so patient and understanding, so utterly selfless, and his principles were high...Callum never failed to kiss me goodbye when we parted."

After much research, the mystery "Callum" was (Rev.) **Malcolm McQueen (Pioneer Cemetery, Pres "C" 56)**.



above:
Gravesite of Leslie Marriott,
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery
(Meth "29" 37)

The Friends acknowledge the ongoing support of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust. For more information, visit www.smct.org.au

