



AROUND THE GRAVES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

Carrum Swamp—Land Sales

In September 1871, the first land sales of the Carrum swamp from Mordialloc to Seaford took place covering over 10,950 acres. Many of the first owners are buried in the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. It is interesting to note that in 1870 the Victorian Parliament discussed the idea of moving the noxious trades from the city to the Carrum swamp to reduce pollution in the Yarra River.

Mark Foy of "Foy & Gibson" fame purchased 200 acres from Embankment Grove to Argyle Avenue; years later his widow **Catherine Nicholson (CofE "43" 1A)** donated her home which became the first Council Chambers for the newly formed Carrum Borough in 1920 and was still in use until 1960. She later lived at Marathon Mansions (demolished 1963), where Chelsea Park, Nepean Highway is situated. Others who purchased land at the 1871 sales were a number of well-known Mordialloc identities in **Robert Owens (Meth "E" 84)**, storekeeper; Scotsman **Donald McSwain (Pres "A" 32)**, farmer; **Joseph McCaffrey (CofE "E" 158)** who operated the Mordialloc to Brighton horse drawn service (1870-81) before trains came to Mordialloc; **Joseph Randell (CofE "D" 11)** owner of the "Rosella Estate"; and the licensee of the Mordialloc Hotel and later owner of the Bridge Hotel, **Richard Goff Bloxsidge (CofE "E" 54)** who purchased 194 acres near Tarella Road, Chelsea. Others included the veterinary surgeon **Dr. Charles Marson (CofE "E" 55); George Whitehead (CofE "F"**



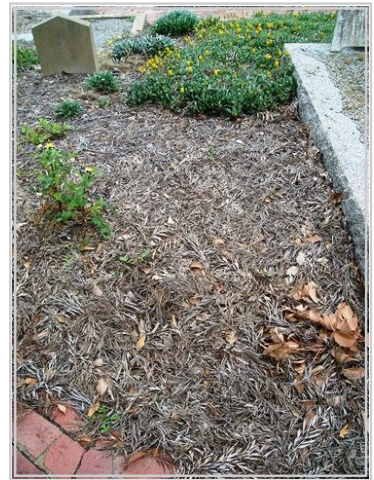
above:
Catherine Nicholson's home which later became the chambers of the Carrum Borough in 1920 (McGuire, F., "Chelsea. A Beachside Community" p18)

85) who owned land adjacent to Patersons River, Carrum; and **Henry Wells (CofE "E" 227)**, farmer from Chelsea Heights whom Wells Road is named after.

(Source: McGuire, F., "Chelsea. A Beachside Community" p18-19; The Argus 7 Sep 1871 p 6 and 23 Sep 1871 p4)

The Case of Ethel Warburton

The cases that came before the Cheltenham Court were in keeping with the times and reflected the rural nature of the locality; straying cattle, illegal nightsoil, indecent language and transport infringements ticket. But occasionally the Court heard a case that reminds us of the transformation of the area. In late April 1914, Emma Roberts was charged with assaulting **Ethel Elizabeth Maud Warburton (CofE "96" 1)**. Both lived in Charman Road, Mentone. The Court heard that Mrs Warburton was passing Mrs Roberts' home with a friend, Mrs Benson when Mrs Roberts rushed out. Benson warned Warburton not to say anything "as she [Roberts] was cranky and a liar". In the incident, Warburton was struck three or four times with a stick while crying "She's murdering me!" Her hair was also pulled causing Warburton to drop her baby. As a result of the incident, Warburton lost conscious and the next thing she remembered was waking at home. When interviewed by **Constable David Henry Crockett (Pres "71" 19)**, Mrs Roberts was defiant, saying she would do the same again.



above:
Grave of Ethel Warburton, Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery (CofE "96" 1)

In her defence, it was argued Roberts was deaf and people were in the habit of calling out and annoying her. The defence alleged that Warburton provoked the attack calling out to Roberts "Go inside cranky woman, liar!" and that Warburton "staged" the fainting. The Bench comprising **Edwin Penny (CofC "A" 72)** and **George Brownfield (CofE "E" 261)** fined Mrs Roberts £5 with 22/6 costs or one month's imprisonment. As for Ethel Warburton, she died in 1926 aged 36.

(Source: Brighton Southern Cross 2 May 1914 p6)

A Sad Fatality

According to this article from *The Argus* newspaper, the first resuscitation machine deployed at an Australian beach was at Seaford.

“Australia’s only beach iron lung yesterday failed to resuscitate an 18-month’s-old girl found by her mother face downwards in five inches of water at Seaford Beach. The child, Christine Ann Deakin, of Nepean rd., Carrum, wandered from her home on to the beach at about 9 a.m. She was found 20 minutes later in the sea. Her mother rushed her to Seaford Life-saving Club house, where she was put into the iron lung. Dr. L. Satchell and lifesavers tended the child for three hours.”

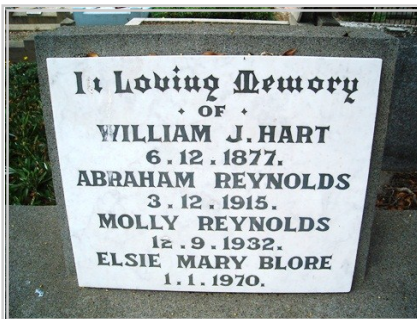
Christine Deakin was buried at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery two days later—Meth “30” 25.

(Source: *The Argus* 30 Oct 1950 p3)

From the Trustee Minutes

William James Hart (CofE “E” 201) was one of the earliest Sexton (1874-77) employed by the Cheltenham Cemetery Trust. After his death on 6 Dec 1877, the Trust moved a rare motion of regret:

“Moved by Mr [Thomas] Attenborough (CofE “E” 258) and Seconded by Mr [George Frederick] Bodley (CofC “A” 24) that the Trustees desire to record their regret for the loss of their late Sexton William Hart and to express their sense of the thoroughly disinterested [sic] and perfect manner in which he performed each and all of his duties. Carried.”



above:
Headstone inscription of William Hart and Abraham Reynolds
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery
(CofE “E” 201)

Hart was appointed at the meeting held on 28 Jan 1874 and lies buried in the same grave as a trustee **Abraham Reynolds** (1874-80).

(Source: *Cheltenham Cemeteries Trustee Minutes, Book A, 1863-1932*)



above:

Members of the Cheltenham (aka “Chandler”) Cricket Club (circa 1899). In 1898 the team went through the season undefeated and the following year won the Brighton-Moorabbin competition beating Mentone.

Standing (L to R): Scorer Ewen McSwain (Pres “61” 30), Robert Woff (Meth “E” 111), S Cullen, (George) Frederick Bodley [?] (CofC “A” 24), Thomas Chandler (Meth “E” 29), C Warne, Arthur Robert Organ [?] (Memorial Park, CofC “17” 25), James Cree Monk [?] (CofC “A” 52)
Centre Row: C Roberts, Arthur Hewett [?] (CofE “B” 53), Sydney Chandler [?] (Meth “82” 63), F Chandler, Arthur Chandler (WofR “W2” 2)
Front Row: Henry Beulke [?] (Meth “82” 22), Frank Groves (CofE “B” 48)

Obituary—Jessie Dick

“The death occurred recently of Mrs. Jessie Dick (Memorial Park, RC “137” 2), matron of ‘Merleswood’ private hospital, Mentone, after a long illness. Although Sister Dick had only been in control of ‘Merleswood’ for a few years, in that short space of time she endeared herself to countless numbers by her kindness and nursing ability. With local hospital accommodation far below normal needs, Sister Dick undertook more cases than should have been asked of her. But she realised that if she did not make the effort, mothers, many of them very young, would have been left without that expert attention which is every woman’s right to expect in this year of grace. The result was that her health failed, yet she carried on until finally forced to her bed, where death claimed her. We are certain that, when the Mordialloc Community Hospital is built the community will in some way commemorate the work of Jessie Dick. On the morning of the funeral Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Patrick’s Church, Mentone, by the Rev. T. Daly, P.P. The burial took place in the new Cheltenham cemetery, and many relatives and friends attended to pay their final tribute. Deceased leaves a son, John, to mourn the loss of a good mother. Her husband predeceased her.”
(Source: *Alexandra and Yea Standard* 15 Jan 1943 p3)

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


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