



AROUND THE GRAVES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

Monk and the Merry Hawks

The research for our next book on the history of the Cheltenham cemeteries continues and we are not only compiling more and more material relating to the cemeteries, but extracting articles of interest, which will all find their way into the publication. Rather than focus on the dry and dull facts and figures of pennies and pounds, we plan to include as many references as possible to those who lie buried there. This article is interesting for not only those involved, but the concern of council at the larrikin elements of Melbourne afflicting the district.

"The riotous behaviour of a gang, of youths at Cheltenham, who call themselves the 'Merry Hawks,' was referred to at the meeting of the Moorabbin Council at their meeting on May 17, when a resolution was passed calling the attention of the police to their depredations. On May 11 some of the gang chased two girls who were going home from church, and so terrified them that they sought refuge in a shop in the main street, which was bombarded with stones for some time. The owner of the shop, which is situated at the corner of Charman and Balcombe roads,

Cheltenham, complained to the police, and on the following Sunday Constable Canty (1860-1911, RC "C" 52) of Mentone, and a labourer, named Bailey, hid themselves in a hedge almost opposite the shop. Some dozen lads had gathered, and the constable is alleged to have struck a youth named Frederick Monk (c1879-1928, CofC "41" 37), about 16 [sic], who is a cripple, a severe blow which cut his eyebrow and bruised his eye. The

outcome of the affair was that Monk charged the constable with unlawful assault at the Cheltenham Court yesterday. Messrs. Brown (1830-1930, Meth "E" 1), Penny (c1849-1916, CofC "A" 72), Comport (c1829-1909, CofE "E" 246), Illingworth, and Mills (c1853-1923 Meth "30" 24), J.P.'s, adjudicated. Monk stated that when the constable told the crowd to disperse, he (Monk) replied, 'Look here, Mr. Canty, I'm afraid of no one, I've done no wrong to anyone,' and Canty struck him a blow that knocked him down. The next morning Canty stopped him in Charman-road, and said that he was real sorry for having hit him, his temper had got the better of him, and he had no case against him.

Constable Canty said that he had been in the force for 20 years, and had been three years and a half in Mentone. He had an unblemished record. Owing to the complains made he laid a trap to catch the lads, and when he came out of the hedge said, 'You fellows will be getting into trouble if you are not careful.' Monk said 'I've done nothing that I am afraid of.' When Bailey said that they were some of the lads who threw the stone, he said that he would make it hot for some of them if he caught them. Some 12 or more gathered round him laughing and jeering, and he told them to clear out and get away home. They only laughed, and he went to cuff one of them under the car, when the youth dodged, and Monk got the force of the blow.

James Bailey, labourer said that owing to the stones being through the previous Sunday, he complained to Constable Canty. There were 12 or 13 youths present and they got round Canty 'like sheep round a post.' Monk had most to say. The Bench dismissed the case without costs." (Source: The Argus 5 Jun 1902 p7)



above:
Headstone inscription of
Constable John Canty,
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery
(RC "C" 52)



above:
Gravesite of Frederick Monk
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery
(CofC "41" 37)

Lost graves...

Recently, while looking for the grave of her Ruse ancestor, a diligent member of the Friends was able to alert the Trust to a row of 'lost' graves of section Meth "C" located partially under the office and in the backyard of the office/residence at the Pioneer Cemetery (see illustration). The interments in these graves are:

Charles Warwick **WALKER** (bu 1865 aged 3): Grave 81
Helen Abigail **BODSWORTH** (bu 1866 aged 3 weeks) and Frederick William **ALLEN** (bu 1875 aged 1 day): Grave 80
Mary Charlotte **ALLEN** (bu 1867 aged 15 months), Rachel **ALLEN** (bu 1868 aged 12 months) and Charles Anderson **ALLEN** (bu 1872 aged 2): Grave 79
Albert Ernest **BLENCOWE** (bu 1867 aged 18 months): Grave 78
Benjamin **RUSE** (bu 1870 aged 5 days): Grave 77
Baby **HINCKS** (bu 1870 aged 3 days): Grave 76
Frances **FLOWERS** (bu 1870 aged 15) and James Arthur **MUSGROVE** (bu 1872 aged 12): Grave 75
John James **SIMPSON** (bu 1872 aged 1) and Arthur Henry **SIMPSON** (bu 1876 aged 2): Grave 74
John **JOHNSTON** (bu 1872 still born): Grave 73
Mary **MUSGRAVE** (bu 1874 aged 13): Grave 72
Elizabeth **HUGHES** (bu 1867 aged 22 months): Grave 86
George **ANSWER** (bu 1867 aged 5 months): Grave 87

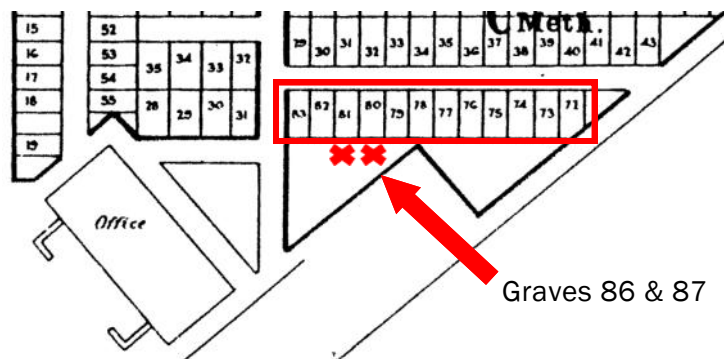
(Source: *The Argus* 30 Oct 1950 p3)

From the Trustee Minutes

Charles Hume Corstorphan (c1833-77, Pres "A" 67) and his wife Elizabeth (1837-1927, Pres "A" 67) were one of Cheltenham's earliest shop owners specialising in drapery. In a space of one year, Elizabeth lost two sons—Archibald Douglas (c1867-76, Pres "A" 19) and Charles David (c1857-76, Pres "A" 19)—as well as her husband, but continued trading until 1880 before appointing accountants as trustees of the estate. At their meeting in Feb 1879, the Cheltenham Cemetery Trust approved her application to exhume the remains of her two sons for reburial in a nearby grave, but this was never carried out:

"Moved by Mr Bodley and Seconded by Mr Reynolds that permission be given to Mrs Corstorphan to remove the bodies of her two sons from No 19 A Presbyterian to 67 A Presbyterian. Carried."

The circumstances surrounding Archibald's death was the subject of a coronial inquest after he was found drowned in a waterhole. Archibald's younger brother Malcolm tried to blame his death on a man who approached them, dismounted from his horse and chased Archibald before



carrying him 400 yards to the waterhole. It was a story entirely concocted to avoid punishment having been previously flogged by their father for going there. Elizabeth Corstorphan went on to marry William Douglas in Jan 1887; two years before, she was fined 10s. with 2s. 6d. costs for selling tobacco without a licence.

(Source: *Cheltenham Cemeteries Trustee Minutes, Book A, 1863-1932; The Argus* 1 Dec 1876 p5, 4 Dec 1876 p7, 10 Jun 1885 p3, 10 Jul 1880 p12)

Bungle at Graveside...

While holidaying at Eildon, tragedy struck when two brothers died as a result of a boating accident.

"SHOCKING DISCLOSURE.

A resident of Toorak, Melbourne, named Mr R. Reynolds, has made a shocking disclosure in connection with the burial at Cheltenham last week of Walter Smith (c1900-28, RC "85" 20), one of twin brothers, both of whom were drowned in Eildon Weir.

Mr Reynolds says that arrangements were so bungled that when the cortege arrived at the graveside it was found that the grave had been dug short and the coffin would not fit. The grave-diggers refused to re-dig the grave properly, as it would take too long. After nearly four hours of arguing the ends had to be sewn off the coffin, partly exposing the interior. Only when Reynolds commenced to fill the grave in himself did the grave diggers assist.

*Walter Smith's brother [William (c1900-28, RC "85" 19)] had been buried on the previous day, and Mrs Smith [Marcella (c1868-1928, RC "85" 20)] died last Saturday from shock at the death of her two sons, and was buried on Monday. She was the last of the family. Mr Reynolds demands a public inquiry into the bungling at the cemetery. 'I have, never seen such utter callousness in my life,' he says." (Source: *Singleton Argus* 25 Feb 1928 p7)*

The Friends acknowledge the ongoing support of W D Rose Funerals Cheltenham. For more information, visit www.wdrosefunerals.com.au

