



# AROUND THE GRAVES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

## Treasures from Trove...

For the past year the Friends have been tagging articles in Trove relating to the Cheltenham cemeteries. Here are a few of the many interesting articles...

## Memories of Bushranging

**Deborah King (CofE "D" 166)** sometimes related an adventure with the bushrangers Bradley and O'Connor. One day in the year 1853, these two outlaws "stuck up" the station. The station hands showed some resistance, and one of them was shot in the arm by Bradley. The bushrangers then bound Mr. King and all the hands, and a Church of England reader (Mr. Hall). Mrs. King was nursing a baby, and the outlaws only tied one of her hands, after which they decamped, taking with them two

horses and six guns. With her one free arm, Mrs. King liberated Mr. Hall, who set out across country to give information of the occurrence. Mr. Hall had not gone far when he again fell into the hands of Bradley and O'Connor, who took him back to the station, remarking, "Whoever set you free, it will cost six valuable lives." However, when they

heard that Mrs. King had liberated the man, they said they admired a brave woman, and departed without doing further harm. The bushrangers, a month after this episode, were hanged.

(Source: The Argus 30 Sep 1910 p4)

## Concealment of Birth

An inquest was held by Mr. Candler at Moorabbin on Thursday, concerning the death of a female child, name unknown, who was found dead under some nightsoil in a

paddock at South Brighton on the 9th inst. The body of the child was discovered by a gardener named **William Daff (Meth "E" 66)** while in the act of turning over some nightsoil for the purpose of mixing it with stable manure, and in his opinion the body had been deposited in the place where it was found along with the contents of several night carts which had been emptied at an early hour on Saturday morning last.

(Source: The Argus 13 Dec 1878 p6)

## Councillor as a Firefighter

A daughter of **Cr. E. T. Penny (CofC "A" 72)**, the popular South riding representative in the shire of Moorabbin, narrowly escaped a horrible death by burning about a week ago. It appears that Cr Penny, who resides at Cheltenham, told one of his boys to burn the handle out of an axe, and in order to do so the little fellow lit a fire in the yard. The girl, who is about ten years of age, must have approached too close to the flames, when her clothes caught fire. Hearing a scream Cr Penny rushed in the direction from which it came, and was horrified to see his daughter almost enveloped in a mass of flames. There was nothing at hand to wrap around her and the father at once set to work to beat the flames out with his hands, the girl meanwhile guarding her face with her hands. With commendable presence of mind the young lad ran into the house and brought out, a tablecloth, which he wrapped around his sister and his father's hands. By this means the flames were extinguished, but Cr Penny had sustained terrible injuries to his hands, the palms being literally roasted, the only portions which escaped being the tips of two or three fingers.

(Source: Caulfield and Elsternwick Leader 20 Nov 1897 p2)

## Rushed by a Bull

On Wednesday afternoon about one o'clock, **Cr. Le Page (CofC "A" 80)**, of South Brighton was rushed by a bull, which he kept tethered in his market garden. The animal was considered quiet and he approached it unhesitatingly.



above:  
Gravesite of Deborah King  
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery  
(CofE "D" 166)

When within a few feet of it, he noticed its intention of attacking him, and stepped back, and remembered nothing more until he found himself in the house and his wife giving him water. A little boy, who witnessed the occurrence, said that as Mr. Le Page stepped back, the bull tossed him over and gored him on the ground until the unfortunate man was out of reach of the infuriated creature. He was taken inside unconscious and **Dr. Scantlebury (CofE "45" 78)** was immediately sent for. An examination showed that the right shoulder was injured, some of his teeth knocked out, his head and face scratched and bruised, but no bones broken. He was suffering somewhat from shock and the doctor recommended his removal to his home in Cheltenham that he might receive his constant attention for a time, but Mr. Le Page preferred staying at home as he did not think his injuries would prove serious.

(Source: Oakleigh Leader 24 Nov 1900 p3)

## Samuel Clements' Punishment

There is hardly anyone in this district who will express one word of sympathy for the young scoundrel, **Samuel Clements (RC "61" 23)**, who is now serving two years' imprisonment for maliciously burning down Ralph's stables, but there are very many who feel deeply sorry for the convict's mother and father and the respectable members of his family. The term of imprisonment which the accused is sentenced to undergo is comparatively light when we consider the enormity of his crime, and certainly had he been a previously convicted criminal instead of a first offender, or had he been an older man, Mr Justice Hood would have been much more severe. It is pitiable to see a young fellow branded as a criminal, bereft of his self-respect, and compelled to herd for two long years with the veriest scum of the colony, but a diabolical crime must be punished, and every criminal, first offender or otherwise, must be made an example of in the interests of justice and the preservation of law and order. Not only has Clements to do two years' hard labor in gaol, but the judge has decided that the convict shall also pay the costs of the prosecution, and, further, that he shall pay Messrs James and Alexander Ralph £140 compensation for the loss they sustained through the burning down of their property. The cost of prosecuting the young villain will be not less than £50, and the cost of his defence will amount to fully £100, which, including the compensation, will total close upon £300.

(Source: Oakleigh Leader 31 Aug 1895 p2)

## Rate Collector's Thefts

Attributing his downfall to the backing of racehorses, **Charles Thomas Mewett (Lawn "E2" Row G Grave 3)**, pleaded guilty before Judge Williams in General Sessions yesterday to three charges of having as a clerk or servant of the Moorabbin Shire Council stolen about £200, money belonging to the municipality, by which he was employed as rate collector. Mr. L. B. Cussen, who appeared for Mewett, said that Mewett had been cheating his employers systematically for a number of years. His downfall had originated in the backing of racehorses, and Mewett had got deeper and deeper into the mire. On the depositions it appeared that the total defalcations amounted to £1,500, but Mr. Cussen understood that the actual amount was about £600. So far as he had assets Mewett had denuded himself to make restitution. Mewett had suffered from severe war injuries and he had undergone six or seven operations, which had undermined his health.

(Source: The Argus 22 Apr 1933 p19)

## £15,000 claim for damages

A man who is a defendant in a £15,000 damages claim by his daughter admitted in the Supreme Court yesterday that he had defrauded the Income Tax Department and was an S.P. bookmaker. The man is **Mr. Charles Doran (RC "203" 38)**, of Nepean Highway, Mentone. With the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board, Mr. Doran is a defendant in a £15,000 Supreme Court damages claim by his daughter, Mrs. Lillian Louise Oliver, 30, of Point Nepean rd., Cheltenham. Mrs. Oliver, on behalf of herself and her two children, is claiming damages for the loss of her husband [**George Oliver (RC "245" 22)**]. He was a passenger in a car driven by Doran when it came into collision with a tram in Chapel st., Prahran, on June 3, 1952. Negligence is alleged against both Doran and the tram driver. Earlier, the Court was told that Mrs. Oliver's husband had supplemented his net weekly salary of £20 by working on Saturdays as a clerk for his father-in-law Doran, who operated a starting price betting business. Cross-examined by Mr. D. Campbell, Q.C., for the co-defendant's, the M. and M.T.B., Doran admitted that since 1946 he had defrauded the Income Tax Department, until 18 months ago.

(Source: The Argus 22 Aug 1953 p6)

The Friends acknowledge the ongoing support of **W D Rose Funerals Cheltenham**. For more information, visit [www.wdrosefunerals.com.au](http://www.wdrosefunerals.com.au)

