



AROUND THE GRAVES

ISSN 1835-5641
ISSN 1835-565X

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

Commemorative Service

On a delightful Sunday in May, over 25 guests attended a commemorative service at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery to remember the Caulfield Railway Disaster. Little had been researched and much less written on Melbourne's third worst metropolitan railway disaster. The day was about remembering this forgotten chapter of history, a tragedy that affected more lives in Melbourne's south-east than any other single event.

It was the culmination of many hours of research and writing by the Friends which was shared to local historical and family groups who attended on the day.

The highlight of the day was the presence of members of the Dobney family to unveil a bronze memorial plaque honouring the life of a brave young man who gave his life for others.

Local historical societies and family history groups were invited and those who attended were provided with all material collated on the disaster. Building partnerships of mutual benefit with local groups is what we aim to achieve.

We have dedicated a webpage especially on the disaster as a fitting tribute to the three men and over 153 who were injured. The website address is:

www.focrc.org/caulfield1926.htm

Here are some of the comments the Friends received:

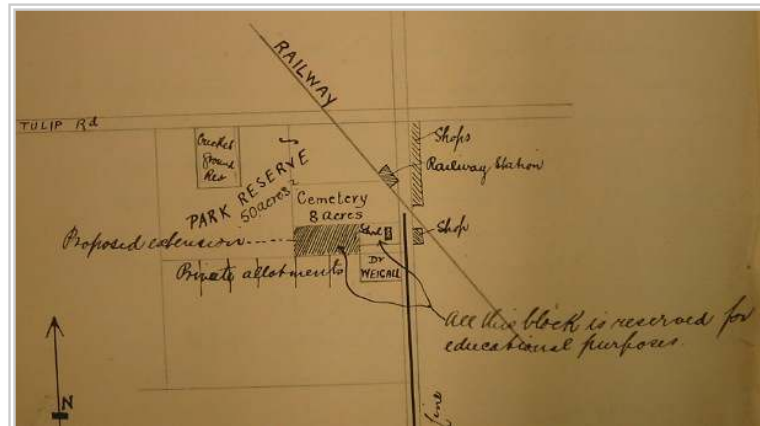
"Congratulations on excellent research and event" - Joan E Hunt, Vice-President, RHSV

"An excellent concept, superbly presented" - Ric Norman

"Congratulations on great research & an interesting event" - Cr. Derek Wilson, Bayside City Council.

Pioneer Cemetery Expansion

In 1905, the Cheltenham Cemetery Trustees sought permission to expand the Pioneer Cemetery from its then size of eight acres. Curiously, the land in question was directly behind the Cheltenham State School and adjoining private allotments. A report held by the Department of



Human Services notes that "the area asked for is 3 or 4 acres—in fact all the ground not required by the Education Department, which by the way does not appear to have been consulted." Not surprisingly, the extension was refused. The full report can be viewed by members by visiting the Members' Area of our website.

above:
The Pioneer Cemetery in 1905 showing the proposed extension
(Image courtesy Department of Human Services)



The Friends acknowledge the generosity of Arrow Bronze, the world's leading supplier of cast bronze memorial products. Their reputation for superior quality products and services dates back to 1850. Visit their website www.arrowbronze.com.au or ring 03 9555 2922.

James Bickford and Susannah Brown Moysey

On Monday 27 January 1964, a stone cairn was unveiled on the Beaumaris foreshore directly opposite the Beaumaris Hotel on Beach Road. The cairn was erected as a memorial to James Bickford Moysey and his wife Susannah and their pioneering efforts in the Beaumaris area.

James Bickford Moysey was born in 1809 in Ugborough, Devonshire, England, a son of Robert Phillip and Rebecca Moysey. Susannah Brown *née* Treeby was born in 1825 in Modbury, Devonshire the daughter of William Lidstone Treeby and Susannah *née* Brown. James and Susannah were married circa 1843 and soon after boarded the *Sea Queen* for the voyage to Port Phillip where they arrived in April 1844.

At this time there was no established white settlement south of Brighton, but James and his cousin Nicholas secured a lease of 3,200 acres which became known as Red Bluff station. The run covered now prime real estate including present day Beaumaris, the Royal Melbourne, Victoria and Cheltenham golf courses, along with the Mentone area west of Warrigal Road and the southern portion of Black Rock.

In 1848, pastoral leases ceased to be renewed annually, giving little security to holders of such leases with the result that some leaseholders were

reluctant to put a great deal of money or time into building residences. Around this time Nicholas left the partnership and headed back to Melbourne and the security of a regular wage. James then reduced the size of the run and renamed it Beaumaris Park. Bounded approximately by Reserve, Warrigal and Balcombe Roads and on the south by Moysey's Bay (near present day Rickett's Point), it consisted of about 640 acres.

The year 1850 brought another turn in fortune when the Government decided to cancel all leases and sell all cattle runs as freehold. This did not happen immediately however, giving James time to gather his money and plan his future. Within a short time gold was discovered and James went to the Ballarat diggings, leaving Susannah with a young family. She was kept busy boundary riding at night to guard against sheep theft by aboriginals resident at nearby Mordialloc, and by day growing vegetables for the lucrative goldfields market.

The family remained at Beaumaris until the older boys had grown up and moved on, and in the early 1880s James sold up his holding and bought land at Narre Warren North, turning to dairy farming. James snr lived to 27 August 1889 when he died on his property at the age of 80. He was taken back to Cheltenham and buried five days later at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. Susannah went to live at Cranbourne with her youngest daughter Elizabeth, until her death in 1895 aged 69 when she was reunited with James.

Members can read Jenny Coates' full story of the Moysey family by visiting the Members' area of our website and follow the links:

www.focrc.org/members.htm



below:

Moysey Gardens and memorial cairn

George James Bowden

George James Bowden (1888-1962) was my grandmother's older brother. He was a much loved and loving member of the family and one of whom we were all proud. As a decorated war hero and a respected member of the Australian parliament, his life was fairly well documented but as the man we loved as Uncle George not much is known. I had the privilege of living with him at 5 Ricourt Avenue, Murrumbeena when I was a child. I'm not sure how long I was there but my mother told me years later that he loved me so much he wanted to adopt me but

couldn't because he was a bachelor and had the responsibilities of parliamentary life. He was a tall, gentle and very kind man and I think I wanted to stay with him forever. As I was only 14 when he died, I had not been to his funeral and although I have lived again in Melbourne since 1975 had not visited his grave. This was why I contacted the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc.

If you are a member of the Friends, why not read Georgina Johnson's recollections of her great-uncle by visiting the Members' Area of our website?