



# AROUND THE GRAVES

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NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF CHELTENHAM AND REGIONAL CEMETERIES INC.

## Charles Whorrall uncovered

An often repeated claim by historians is that the suburb of Cheltenham adopted its name from the inn built by Charles Whorrall after his home town in England.

Charles Whorrall lies buried in an unidentified public/pauper grave at the Melbourne General Cemetery having died at the age of 72 on 5 Jun 1867. His death followed a short stay at the Melbourne Hospital when he was admitted on 29 May. His name is misspelt in the burial register as WARROLE while the BDM index records his name as WARROLL, born Warwickshire, parents "unknown." (Warwickshire adjoins Gloucestershire where Cheltenham is located).

A further search of the BDM index shows that Wharroll had four children with Henrietta Wilhelmina née Dunham (1820-59) who were married on 14 Oct 1850 at the Wesleyan Church, Melbourne:

- Charles WHORRALL, born 11 Nov 1851, died 3 Mar 1853. (Charles' birth is registered in both the Tasmanian and Victorian indexes)
- Ellen Elizabeth SMITH née WHORRALL, born 9 Nov 1853, married David Smith in 1871 and was buried on 18 Jul 1921 in the Melbourne General Cemetery (Bap "A" 608)
- Eliza WHORRALL, born 9 Apr 1856 at Cheltenham, buried 5 Apr 1903 with her sister Ellen Smith
- Charles WHORRALL, born 21 Jun 1859, died 14 Nov aged 4 months.

Charles' wife Henrietta was born in London on 9 Aug 1820 and lies buried with her last born child in the Beaumaris Churchyard Cemetery.

From the registration of the Whorrall children, we know the family resided in the Moorabbin district from around 1853 when Charles purchased Lot 13 of Portion 55 from Josiah Morris Holloway for £20 on 26 Mar to at least 1859 when his wife and son died. It was on Lot 13 that Whorrall built an inn which the district subsequently took its name from.

On 8 Mar 1855, Whorrall sold the land and transferred the license to **Henry Jenkins (Meth "E" 302)** who had purchased the adjoining corner lot (Lot 14) two days earlier for £35. According to information on the Kingston Historical Website, the purchase price was £1,000—a substantial increase on the amount Whorrall paid Holloway. Nonetheless, Whorrall's tenure was brief, having first obtained the licence in Apr 1854 suggesting he was tempted by Jenkins' offer.

Whorrall was the subject of a court case against Robert Scholes in Feb 1855 that resulted in the sale of 18 acres owned by Scholes in the Parish of Kalkallo to recover costs five months later. We know Whorrall lived in the area by an advert published in *The Argus* on 6 Oct 1852 when he offered a £5 reward after "*some evil-disposed person*" removed from his paddock "*a roan mare, with long square tail, branded T M, W off shoulder [and] J B near shoulder.*"

Shortly before moving to Victoria, Whorrall applied to be declared an insolvent on 19 Dec 1851, his occupation is noted as a butcher late of Carrick, Tasmania. He may have chanced his luck on the goldfields and purchased (or leased) the land at Kinlochewe from the proceeds given his dire financial position.

A search of the Tasmanian Archives reveals that Whorrall was transported to Tasmania on the ship *John (2)* in Dec 1833 for life after he was convicted for sheep stealing at Warwickshire. Convict records show his occupation as a butcher of Bedworth. Whorrall was far from a model prisoner, sentenced to three months to a road party for disobedience in Sep 1838, but was granted conditional pardon in May 1842.

Though the distance from Bedworth to Cheltenham is 94 kms, there is no evidence Whorrall lived in the town. He left behind a wife Elizabeth née Yardley (d 1836) whom he married on 13 Mar 1815 in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire and six children; a daughter Hannah (d 1909) migrated to South Australia with her husband Charles Beaumont.

(Source: Research by P Norman & S Beazley; *The Cornwall Chronicle* 15 Sep 1838 p2, 20 Dec 1851 p812; *The Argus* 6 Oct 1852 p5, 22 Mar 1854 p5, 24 Feb 1855 p6, 7 Mar 1855 p5; *Tasmania Archives*)

## Shipping records

Uncovering Charles Whorrall is one aspect of our research currently being undertaken by the Friends for our book on the history of the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. Another is the shipping records and so far we have compiled a list of 112 of the more well-known names at the Cemetery. The earliest is **William Sears (CofC "A" 78)** transported to Tasmania on the *Lord Hungerford* in 1821; the earliest arrival to Port Phillip was **Isabella Munro née Macdonald (Pres "A" 44)** and her mother **Mary (Pres "A" 47)** on the fever ship *Glenhuntly* (Apr 1840) followed two months later by **Henry Wells (CofE "E" 227)** on the *Andromache*.

As is to be expected, many are listed incorrectly such as **John Addicott (CofE "E" 180)** as "Addicots" (Jul 1841), **Edward Docwra (CofC "B" 42)** as "Edwin Dawcra" (Aug 1848), **George Stayner (CofC "41" 18)** as "Stainer" (Apr 1849), **Henry Comport (CofE "E" 246)** as "Comforts" (Dec 1852), **Stephen Tuck (CofE "E" 16)** as "Trick" (Jul 1853) and **Richard Goff Bloxsidge (CofE "E" 54)** as "Bleridge" who came out on the *Marco Polo* (May 1853).

Not all those who arrived sailed direct to Victoria. **Samuel Mundy (Meth "E" 136)** arrived in Sydney on the *Waverley* (Dec 1848) as did **Mary Charman (CofC "A" 7)** on the *Shamrock* (Oct 1841); **William and Harriett Wraight (Meth "E" 44)** departed the *Star Queen* in Adelaide (Dec 1854); while **David Ruse (Meth "B" 34)** sailed on the *Eliza* for Portland (Apr 1853) as a bounty immigrant; Ruse lost his wife and children on the voyage. **John Watkins (CofE "E" 160)**, an early fisherman of Mordialloc was a member of the crew on *Wacousta* that sailed for Sydney in Jul 1855.

Amazingly given the thousands of ships that sailed to our shores, a number of persons buried at the Pioneer Cemetery were fellow passengers. **Mary Ann Coleman née Chapman (CofE "E" 183)** sailed alone on the *Wallace* (Feb 1844) with **George Gomm (CofE "E" 101)** as a fellow passenger. **Thomas Corrigan (Meth "E" 8)** and **Elias Hayes (CofC "A" 50)** both sailed on the *Nelson* (Nov 1849) with their wives and children. Another was **William Daff (Meth "E" 66)** and **Samuel Clayton (Meth "E" 14)** on the *Thorwaldsen* (Nov 1852). We also have corrected a mistake and believe **John Arbour (Meth "E" 69)** (listed as "Arborn") and **Thomas Rose (CofC "A" 41)** both sailed on the *Ballengiech* (Dec 1852); not only were they market gardeners in Cromer Road, Beaumaris, but John's sister Elizabeth married Thomas' brother **James Moss Rose (Meth "E" 214)** who arrived on the *Chebucto* (Oct 1852).

## Railway Construction Plans

The Public Record Office holds the Railway Construction plans for the Caulfield to Frankston line from 1881. The plans include the names of land owners affected by the construction many who are buried at Cheltenham **[in bold]**.

### Caulfield to McKinnon Road:

E Denbigh, R Byrne, J McDonald, A Haines, C Bicell, J Mickle and J Bakewell, P Davis, Mrs G Evans, H Stooke and G Swanson, J M Ross, C McMahon, W Kennedy, H Wise, J Slater, Mrs Lee

### McKinnon Road to Highett Road:

W Matington, R Watt, S Sharp, J West, **J Allnutt**, P Jones, G Morris, **T Ethel**, J Watt, H Hunt, **B Gregg**, **C Tuck**, P Brady, J Heiler [?], **W Clayton**, **T LePage**, H Iles, Ruda, J Porter, **Mrs Jenkins**, J Allen, J Keir

### Bay Road to Balcombe Road:

**J Brough**, **G Davie**, W Garfield, **R Goldstone**, P Barker, T Stock, Mrs Phillips, **H Comport**, **A Reynolds**, **S Tuck**, **W Meeres**, **T Bruton**, **W Ruse**, S James, **G Goldthorp**, Mr Balcombe

### Balcombe Road to Mordialloc Creek:

M Egan, M Webster, H M Crolter, Parker, Felstead, **H Brown**, J Watson [Note: the small allotments within the Mordialloc township where not recorded on the map]

### Mordialloc Creek to Chelsea:

**R Brown**, R Byrne, P Carroll, J W Randall, R White, **R Rusk**, J McDonald, **R G Bloxsidge**

### Chelsea to Seaford:

J O King, M Foy, J D Morris, J T Smith, C W Ligar, M Young, W L Martin, J Nixon, W Gillbee, T M Craine, E Chapman, W Chapman

### Seaford to Overton Road:

A O'Keefe, C Bennett, D Williams, C Cooke, J Lyster

### Overton Road to Frankston:

W Overton, W Adams, T Villaers, P Rennout, J Thompson, J Lane, J Petrie, J Jones, E Vail, J Goskell, M Young, J Fletcher, M Shannon, T Clarke.

(Source: PROV VPRS 5751 P0000 000010 Railway Construction Plan)

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)

