



Friends of Cheltenham Regional
Cemeteries

September 2015
Volume 1, Issue 1

Raves from the Graves

President's Report

Welcome to our new style Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading it. This is a departure from the previous Newsletter – Around the Graves - as the Committee of The Friends decided it was time to provide a more inclusive arena for our Members. Most of you will be aware that we had a change of Presidency in 2014 which added a different perspective to the committee, as well as a challenge for all. The past 18 months has been a steep learning curve for me and the committee, which has prompted many changes in the way the Committee works together and how we move forward. Many of the projects that The Friends were working on prior to the 150th had to be put into abeyance whilst I grappled with the day to day administration, as well as working towards the 150th, which was a three day event. It was an honour and privilege to be a part of it, and to work with such an amazing group of people – Committee and Members alike – all who volunteered, giving up their own personal time to do many hours of research, as well as attend what seemed to be endless meetings. The end result was a resounding success.

I now look forward to the future for The Friends of Cheltenham Group, as we have re-established a great working relationship with the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT), and other Friends Groups, such as Brighton and St Kilda. The future of this group does depend solely on its members and the Committee would like to hear what you have to say, so we are introducing new sections to the Newsletter, where we hope you feel you can contribute. Everyone is welcome to submit articles, photographs and stories of interest, possibly about your family?

Wishing you all the best and look forward to hearing from you.

Rosemary Reddick

Index:

President's Report	1
The CPC 150th	2
Research Articles	
John Hunter	3
Sarah Dwight	4
Brighton's 160 th	3
Our Latest Book	5
Letters to Editor	8
Name Register	8
Directory	8

Current Committee :

President:	Rosemary Reddick
Vice President:	Margaret Osborne
Secretary:	Frank Ruse
Treasurer:	Julie Johnston
Ordinary Committee	
Members:	Ric Norman Sue Beazley Steven Johnson

Contact details:

Friends of Cheltenham
Regional Cemeteries
www.focrc.org
info@focrc.org
PO Box 2958, Cheltenham
3192
Ph: 03 9497 1318 (Rosemary)



Membership Subscription

Membership is open to anyone from around the world with an interest in the Cheltenham Cemeteries, Melbourne Australia.

For just \$A15.00 per annum*, members receive a range of benefits. We also welcome organisations. Please download a membership application form, complete & return to PO Box 2958, Cheltenham Vic 3192 or email to info@focrc.org. Payment details are available from the website www.focrc.org.

* Plus \$A10.00 joining fee for new members.

CHELTHENHAM PIONEER CEMETERY—150TH

“...It was a great success with many local dignitaries on the official day of 27th March...”



Earlier this year the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery commemorated its 150th year, as an operating cemetery and being part of the Cheltenham community.

It was a great success with many local dignitaries on the official day of 27th March, and over 280 visitors on the Saturday and Sunday – many of whom attended our free tours.



The FoCRC committee and many volunteers worked tirelessly to make the event a success. The Southern Metropolitan Cemetery Trust staff spent many hours revitalising the cemetery to bring it back to some of its former glory and it did look splendid for our event, as many of you will have seen. The involvement of the Cheltenham Primary



School was a delight to us all, as they added a colourful and youthful impact to the event. The Principal, Margaret McIntosh and all the teachers should be very proud of their students, as they were polite, courteous, well-spoken and confident. /...

We also had a wonderful group called The Great Australian War Group come along to add to the atmosphere of the day, as one of the unveilings was grave for a WW1 soldier Pte. Thomas Marcellus Boyle.

Commemorations continued over the weekend with tours and displays. Our latest book, *Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests*, was also successfully launched during the event.



Included are some images from the Friday event. Over the next few Newsletters will showcase other images from the 150th. *

Tours/Walks at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

Hidden Gems Tour

Sunday, 1st November, 2:00pm

Featuring Hidden Gems and Odds & Ends for burials in the original front portion of the cemetery, including a victim of the 1881 Jolimont Railway disaster, a convict, Australia's first female international buyer, the founder of Beaumaris and a police officer linked to the story of the Kelly Gang! Plus more!

For insurance purposes, bookings are essential. To book your place, ring Frank Ruse on 03 9701 5730, or use the Tour Booking Form on our website;

www.focrc.org/tours.

Price **\$12.00 per person** (\$10.00 for members) which includes light refreshments and a tour guide pamphlet.

160 Years at Brighton General Cemetery

Please join us on **Sunday 18th October, 10am to 4pm**, to join in the celebrations at Brighton Cemetery. There will be many activities and attractions, including:

- **A Horse drawn hearse walking tour**
- **Self-Guided walks**
- **Displays of clothing, undertakers/ funeral directors, local monumental masons/obituaries, memorabilia etc.**
- **The role of the Caulfield Hospital and its connection to the Brighton General Cemetery.**
- **Time line of cemetery**
- **Plaque unveiling**
- **Sale of books & cards**

**Feel free to dress in period costume
Sunday 18th Oct – 10am – 4pm**

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The First and Last Burials at Cheltenham Pioneer in 1865.

The first person buried...

John Fullarton Hunter: John was born 15th December 1840 in Lanark, Glasgow, Scotland. He was the first child of Hugh Hunter and Christina Fullarton. The 1841 census shows that John was born out of the county of Ayrshire, where his father was from. There were many Hunters living on Clune's Venal, Newton on Ayr in 1841. A vennel in Scotland is a small 'street between the gable ends of two buildings often leading from a main street. Hugh and Christina's married on 10 May 1840 and records found in two parishes. This was



There are no records for Christina's death, but by 1849 Hugh had married Jean/Jane Hunter. (Jean and Jane were interchangeable names in records at this time)

The 1851 census for Newton Ayr shows Hugh Hunter, age 34 at 111 Green Street, Newton on Ayr, Ayrshire. In the household are his wife Jane 31 and two sons, John aged 10 and Daniel aged 6. Hugh is a Blacksmith and his sons are scholars. Another son, David, was born 1st April 1851 at Newton on Ayr, but is shown as

living with his grandparents – Jane's parents - Mary Robb and David Hunter. David Hunter senior was a freeman of Newton on Ayr. There were 48 such men allowed in the parish, and they were given heritable right to common property. This allowed heritable life rent of land since the erection of the Burgh, which meant that David junior could inherit land once his grandparents died. David seniors' father - John Hunter had been a Bailie in Newton and he had transferred his status of freeman and heritable rights to land to where his eldest son lived, enabling David senior to pass it on to his heirs. After the 1851 census there is no trace of Jean/Jane Hunter and it is assumed that she were from two different parishes, as Christina was from Dundonald. John Fullarton Hunter was born 7 months later. Hugh Hunter and his son, John Fullarton John's brother Hunter, immigrated to Australia Dec 1852 on Daniel Fullarton – the Aberfoyle, but Daniel did not arrive until who is also buried July 1854 by the Albatross. In 1854 Hugh in this grave – was born c1845, but no registration can be found for him.

He owned, and where he operated his blacksmith business. By 1865 Hugh and his family are living in Cheltenham where Hugh has, again, set up his business.

Hugh Hunter had already lost two wives by the time he left Scotland for Australia, and tragedy was to come into his life again when his eldest son, John Fullarton Hunter passed away on 25th March 1865, at the age of 24, at his father's home in Centre Dandenong Rd, Cheltenham. John had been suffering from Phthisis Pulmonary, which in modern medical terms is called TB. John's occupation was recorded as Wheelwright and he probably worked in his

father's business. John Fullarton Hunter was the first person buried at the Cheltenham

Cemetery, which had opened in October 1864, and was originally known as the Mordialloc and South Moorabbin Cemetery. In 1876 Hugh was again to face heartbreak when his second son, Daniel, passed away on 7th December, at the age of 31 – again he had been suffering with Phthisis for over 2 years. Was this disease something

that both John and Daniel were infected with before they left Scotland? Neither John nor Daniel married, thus leaving Hugh and his third wife Jane without prospect of grandchildren. Hugh, knowing that Daniel



would not live a long life, decided to adopt a daughter in 1869, Wilhelmina Steele. This must have given Hugh and Jane some solace.

Hugh's third son David, who stayed in Scotland with his grandparents, was well educated and became an Anglican Minister. An article about David in the *Mornington Standard*, 28th July 1892, was a glowing report of David achieving great success at Glasgow University. He had excelled in his studies, holding prominent places in prize lists for almost every class of his course and obtaining a first class honour in philosophy – he became the first holder of the Black Theological Fellowship. David was ordained as a minister at Kelso in Scotland, and a short time later was called to fill a

Our latest book

The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests

After 150 years serving the community, the Pioneer Cemetery is worth remembering... Written by Travis M. Sellers (2007-14), *The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests* is the fifth book in the *Remembering Them* series published by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. With an index of over 800 names. It is a rich source covering not only the history of the Pioneer Cemetery, but snippets of local history featuring persons buried at the cemetery. The publication contains a number of appendices including a summary of the trustee minutes (1863-1932).

[Download the index and see if your ancestor is included!](#) [PDF-177KB]

Limited print run of just 105 copies, each book is individually numbered and signed by the author. Paperback.

\$40.00 incl. postage and handling (\$36.00 for financial members)

Purchase your copy using PayPal or download an **[Order Form](#)** [PDF-426KB] and return with your cheque or money order. http://www.focrc.org/forms/Order_Cheltenham.pdf

Pay Pal details at <http://www.focrc.org/shop.htm>

position at St. Pauls in Partick, Galashiels. He was well loved in his Parish as a thoughtful preacher and an assiduous pastor, having stained glass windows dedicated to himself and his wife.

<p>Dr David Hunter (1892 to 1907)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only Minister to die at the Manse. He and wife buried in Eastlands. • Windows to Dr Hunter - St Peter Window. • Mrs Hunter - Woman`s Guild.
---------------------------------------	---

It must have been a source of happiness for Hugh that one of his son`s had survived and gone on to be successful in his chosen career. Hugh Hunter died in 25 Sept 1899 outliving 3 wives and 2 sons. He is buried in the unadorned grave alongside his two sons, John and Daniel; and his third wife Jane.

The Last Person Buried in 1865.....

Sarah Dwight died by her own hand on 24 December 1865 aged 36 years at the family home in Point Nepean Highway, Cheltenham. The local newspaper ‘The Argus’ wrote of the tragic death reporting that Sarah, the wife of Cheltenham wheelwright Thomas Easto Dwight, committed suicide by swallowing corrosive acid in a fit of rage with her husband; she died the next day. The jury found that she died from the poisonous effects of a corrosive acid she swallowed whilst labouring under temporary insanity, brought on by excessive rage. Sarah was known to suffer severe back problems which often lead to her irritability.

Argus 27 December 1865 ~“...A case of suicide which occurred at Cheltenham formed the subject of an inquest held yesterday by the district coroner. The deceased was named Sarah Dwight, and was wife of Thomas E. Dwight, wheelwright. She was said by her husband to be very irritable and passionate, but had exhibited no signs of insanity. She had been ill for a long time with a

disease of the spine, for which it appeared she had used a galvanic battery. On Saturday last she was in a great rage at dinner time, and shortly afterwards she went into a room in which the servant was. She had in her hand a bottle of the acid used in the galvanic battery, and said, "Ha, ha, my man." She uncorked the bottle and took two drinks of its content then threw it down, and said to the servant, "Tell that wretch (meaning her husband) that I am dying." Her husband was informed of what had happened, and medical assistance was called in, but she died on the following day. The surgeon who attended her (Mr. R. Goldstone) expressed his belief that deceased must have been in a state of temporary insanity when she took the acid. The jury found that she died from the poisonous effects of a corrosive acid taken by herself whilst labouring under temporary insanity, brought on by excessive rage..."



Thomas Easto Dwight

Sarah Miers was the third of Thomas Easto`s four wives. They were married 16 May 1853 at St. Peter`s Church in East Melbourne, Thomas a widower and Sarah a spinster. Sarah`s death certificate shows she arrived in Melbourne around 1852, but the actual record has not been found. Thomas had travelled to Melbourne with his second wife Jane Chamberlain and the three surviving children of his first wife Elizabeth Howells Smith who had died 4 May 1850 – Charles Joseph Dwight (8), Thomas James Dwight (6) and daughter Emily (3). They travelled on the ‘Persian’ which arrived in Melbourne 27 December 1852. This ship was stricken by dysentery and fever during the voyage and was placed in quarantine when it arrived in Melbourne. Thirty four passengers had died during the journey. The deaths were not

recorded by the Ship's Captain, but it is believed that Jane Dwight and an infant daughter born on the ship were amongst the dead, as their deaths was not recorded in Victoria. Thomas's death certificate names the infant as Jane Dwight. Thomas and Jane were married 11 January 1852 in Bermondsey, Surrey. Sarah Miers was herself born in Bermondsey, Surrey on 24 July 1829 to Henry Miers and his wife Sarah (unknown). Henry, a tobacco cutter/manufacturer, was a British subject born in Germany around 1800 and his wife Sarah was born Whitechapel, London, England. Their daughter Sarah was baptised 2 September 1829 at St. Mary's Church, Newington, Surrey. The 1841 census records Sarah living in Southwark, Surrey with her parents and siblings Ann, Henry, John, Thomas, Lucy and Margaret. Her youngest sister Ellen was born in 1845. By 1851 Sarah is a servant in the house of builder Charles Erwin and family in Rotherhithe, Surrey aged 22 years.

Thomas Easto² Dwight was born 08 April 1818 in

Limehouse, London to James White Dwight (Wheelwright) and his mother Ann Staines. He was baptised 13 September 1818 at St. Dustan and All Saints, Stepney, London. After Sarah's death, Thomas married for a fourth time to Ann (Annie) Wilson on 12 February 1868 at St Andrews Church in Brighton and they had 8 children, making a total of 14 children from Thomas's four marriages - 5 children with Elizabeth Howels Smith, 1 child with Jane Chamberlain and 8 with Ann Wilson. Thomas Easto Dwight passed away 4 March 1892 in his home at 11 Amsterdam Street, Richmond aged 75 years old. He was buried at Melbourne General Cemetery 6 March. His widow Annie inherited the property and she herself married again to Alfred Barnes Hedger on 21 July 1915 at St Phillips Church in Abbotsford. Annie passed away 9 November 1917 at Melbourne Hospital in East Melbourne.

Research Article Sources

Birth Certificate – Scotland Records

1841 Scotland Census

Grieve, Neil, University of Dundee (2007) 'Close/Vennel' in *The Urban Conservation Glossary-Internet Version*. Available on line.

Marriages (Index) – Scotland (May 1840 page 28)

Dundonald Matrimonial register

ibid

Grieve, Neil, University of Dundee (2007) 'Close/Vennel' in *The Urban Conservation Glossary-Internet Version*. Available on line.

Marriages (Index) – Scotland (May 1840 page 28)

Dundonald Matrimonial register

Ibid

"The Statistical Accounts of Scotland" Vol 5 Newton Upon Ayr, Ayrshire p.85 to 105.

1851 Scotland Census

1851 Scotland Census

"The Statistical Accounts of Scotland" Vol 5 Newton Upon Ayr, Ayrshire p.85 to 105.

1851 Scotland Census

Index Public Records Office, VIC Inwards Passenger Lists. Microfiche VPRS 7666, Port B Fiche 20 pl/10

Index Public records Office, VIC Passenger List. Un-assisted Port B Fiche 72 pg4

Electoral Roll, AEC, as given in Ancestry

Church of Scotland website – History and Ministers

Church of Scotland website – History and Ministers
Glasgow Herald – reported in Mornington Standard 28 July 1892, p2

Death reg. 8352/1829 aged 36 years old. Burial Cheltenham Pioneer 198*ECE*O

The Argus, 27 December 1865

Marriage by Banns - Marriage Reg. 2992/1853.

Both are shown to be of this parish

Thomas Easto Dwight and Ann Wilson Reg. 58/1868

Registration 5824/1915 Alfred Barnes Hedger and Ann Dwight

NAME CONNECTION REGISTRY:

If you are keen to discover if another financial member of The Friends group may be researching, or interested in your ancestor, why don't you send us in the name of your ancestor and their living years' range. Just email us at:

info@focrc.org

With all responses, a mutually arranged and agreed exchange of contact details will occur. All personal details are confidential. Example:

NAME:

Ruse, David [1820 – 1894] Suffolk UK,
Cheltenham Vic.

Stayner, George [1844 – 1922] Dorset
UK, Cheltenham Vic.

Bally, Hannah [1822 – 1904] Suffolk UK,
Cheltenham Vic.

Letters or Emails to the Editor

Dear Rosemary,

It was lovely meeting you at the Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery, and we are writing to thank everyone involved in the 150th Anniversary. My Husband & I were welcomed and helped by all those present. You husband marked the graves on a map for us, Janet who made the lovely coffee, Ross who drove us around because we could not walk and one of your volunteers who showed us your latest book....

Having been on many working Committees over the years, David & I appreciate all the work that goes into events like these and congratulate you all on a job well done and for being so helpful.

Looking forward to reading the book.

Jan Montgomery

Directory

Current Sponsors:

- Astral Monuments,
ph: 1300 729 432
- Janet Tacken – Civil Celebrant.
www.jennyfuneralcelebrant.com.au
ph: 0430 181 820
- Peaberry's Café,
Charman Rd, Cheltenham.

Affiliated Associations:

- Brighton Cemeterians
- St. Kilda Friends Group
- Sandringham & District Historical Society
- Dingley Village Historical Society
- Moorabbin Historical Society
- Bayside Historical Group
- South Eastern Historical Group
- War Graves Working Group
- Southern Metropolitan Cemetery Trust (SMCT)