



Raves from the Graves

President's Report

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter, *Raves from the Graves*. Greetings to all. The Committee of The Friends extends a warm welcome to all our new members, and many thanks to our current members for their continued support of the group and our aims.

It has been another positive year for The Friends of Cheltenham. Our tours were well attended and many of our guests are keen to come to every tour. All our tours are expertly and methodically researched by Sue Beazley, who is an exceptionally gifted researcher – always verifying facts with as many sources as can be found. All tours are set out in such a way as to engage the audience, with Sue often adding stories about others buried in graves that may not be part of the official tour, that Sue feels may be relevant to the tour she is conducting. Great value for the money.

Our tours will commence again in early March, with the first focusing on streets in the local area – maybe a street that you live in?

In the coming year The Friends will also focus on restorations of memorials, and the placing of plaques at grave sites. We will begin this process of having a plaque containing the exact wording on the Richard Tilley headstone – the oldest headstone at Cheltenham Pioneer. We will also apply for approval to place historical plaques at the graves of Alexander Vause MacDonald and Dr. Richard Goldstone – both who played pivotal roles within the local community when Cheltenham was in its infancy. These two men were outstanding in their contributions to the district, but sadly they both lay in unmarked graves.

One of our own members, whose grandfather and extended family contributed

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Current Committee :

President: Rosemary Reddick
Vice President: Margaret Osborne
Secretary: Sue Beazley
Treasurer: Sue Beazley

Ordinary Committee

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FoCRC



enormously towards the war effort of WW1, has been denied a proper war grave by the Department of Veteran Affairs. Edward Leake was born in Australia and is buried at Cheltenham Pioneer. He was visiting his Aunt in the United Kingdom when war broke out, so he enlisted in a colonial unit in the United Kingdom. But this now makes him ineligible for a war grave! Edward was awarded the Military Medal, the Croix de Guerre and the La Medaille Militaire by the French Government. His Aunt donated her house in the United Kingdom, Harefield House, to the Australian Government to be used as a hospital base for wounded Australian soldiers. It was the No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital. However, despite this contribution, the Australian government will not afford Edward Leake any sort of recognition at his gravesite for his service to this country. This has prompted The Friends to try and address this situation. A decision was made to raise funds to place a plaque on his grave, as a way of acknowledging Edward and his family's contribution. If you would like to donate to this most worthy cause, please use the PayPal option on our website.

The main articles in this edition are very interesting. The Friends recently discovered from a researcher in the United Kingdom, Trevor Baxter, about a Frederick Crafter who is buried at Cheltenham Memorial Park and was a steward on the Titanic! We were amazed to learn this, and it prompted our researchers to get on the case. All of you who do genealogy research will understand the thrill of the chase. Our second article is a much more sombre, sad and chilling piece about a family who lived in Cheltenham in the early 1900s, and one of the most reported murder trials of the time in Victoria. Sue Beazley has expertly researched the details behind the murder of Jane Fagan. It does make compelling reading.

And we have further excerpts from the delightful reminiscences of Fairlie Taylor – *Memories of Cheltenham and Beaumaris*. Fairlie wrote a wonderful journal describing people and happenings in 'her' Cheltenham, when she lived there. It is a wonderful insight into the history, values, morals and standards of the day. We hope you enjoy all these articles.

As always, I would like to thank The Committee of The Friends for all their hard work and tireless efforts to keep the group moving forward. Everyone has their own specialty, which makes for a very cohesive and unified group. I would also like to warmly welcome our two new Committee members who have already assisted enormously, with their contributions towards the administration and management of the group.

As the year rapidly races to a close and a new one is about to begin, all of the Committee of The Friends wish you and your family a safe, happy and healthy festive season with a relaxing start to the New Year.

I thank you all for your continued support for The Friends of Cheltenham Group and I look forward to hearing from you in the New Year if you have feedback, concerns, or stories you would like to share.

Rosemary Reddick
President



Membership Renewals

A reminder that our membership year ends on 30 June every year.

If your membership was due to lapse on that date, you should have received an email from Rosemary Reddick.

If your membership has lapsed since then, we look forward to hearing from you as you continue to support your group.

Memories of Cheltenham & Beaumaris

Continuing our series of excerpts from the manuscript of memories by Fairlie (Addie) Taylor.

Source: RHSV Box 41-2 MS 023683 1958 (continued on Page 14)

Cheltenham Schools

About 1854 Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Meeres opened a boarding school in Latrobe Street, Cheltenham, but returned to England 10 years later, when Mr. Walter Meeres took over the school. When the Education Act was passed and State Schools began, Mr. Walter Meeres was asked to become Cheltenham's first State School Head Master at School No. 84. Mr. Meeres who was a relative of the present Dean of York was a very fine teacher.

The whole district turned out to the Annual School picnic held in Rose's paddock at Beaumaris - children and relatives were conveyed to the picnic ground in drays, buggies, spring carts, and wagons. Mr. Meeres held the position of Head Master to a ripe old age.

Mr. Meeres daughter, Miss Zillah Meeres, became Head Mistress of the J. H. Boyd College of Domestic Arts for girls in South Melbourne.

Mr. Meeres was followed at No. 84 school by Mr. Ninnis, then Mr. Tommy Evans. In the meantime, Miss Robins opened a private school in Cromer Road, Beaumaris, and brought out the famous Sally Hyams from Melbourne to teach dancing. The private school was later moved to Coape Street, Cheltenham. Gemma Lamb-Smith of Beaumaris and Clifford Scantlebury always appeared for dancing in smart little Eton suits.

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.

HELPERS WANTED

Are you interested in helping The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries group? We would love to hear from you. Maybe you would like to help us on tour days, greeting people, or helping out with our afternoon teas?

Maybe you have administration skills that you are happy to use. Or do you love the thrill of the chase, when it comes to researching many of the interesting people who are buried at both cemeteries? Or are you interested in military research, as there are many service personnel buried at Cheltenham cemeteries and the committee is currently attempting to put together a catalogue of all these gallant men and women?

If you are interested in helping the group, please come along and have a chat with any of us on the committee, we would be delighted to meet you. There is no pressure to be a committee member, we would just like to meet our members to encourage your involvement in your group – not to mention that we could use an extra pair of hands occasionally!

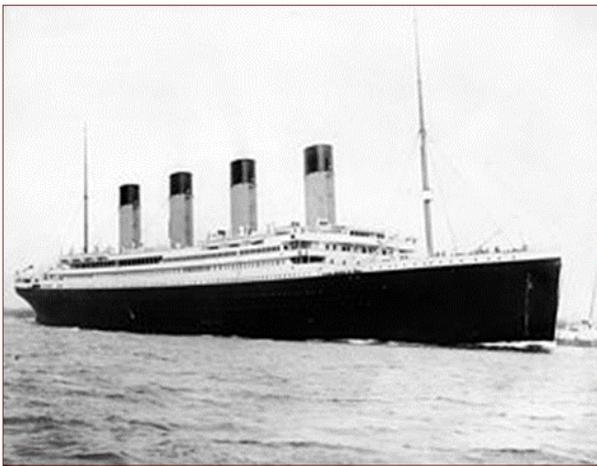
Contact: info@focrc.org

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Frederick Horace Crafter - Titanic Survivor

Researched and written by Sue Beazley

The *Titanic* set sail from Southampton on 10 April 1912 on its maiden voyage to New York with officially 2,229 passengers and crew on board. The pride of the White Star Line carried hundreds of rich and famous in 1st class, the crew were lodged mainly in 2nd class and the bulk of the passengers paid around \$US20 to travel 3rd class, eager to be part of this magnificent ship's maiden voyage. The ship's departure drew a large crowd and there was great excitement on board and on the pier as the ship left the docks.



HMS Titanic

Twenty year old Frederick Horace Crafter boarded the ship at 6 am that morning, no doubt pleased to have been appointed to the position of Saloon Steward in the 1st class section of the ship as part of the *Victualling Crew*. His monthly wage was to be £3.15s, but he could expect good tips in 1st Class.

Frederick had previously served on the White Star Line's *Olympic* and *Oceanic* as part of the victualling crew, but in recent times had been lodging at the boarding house and refreshment rooms run by Mr Charles Henry Ferris at 143 Albert Road Southampton, the address he gave when signing his agreement for the *Titanic*. The Ferris family were to play an important part in the future life of

Frederick.

The *Titanic* was four days into its journey when around 23.40 pm on Sunday 14 April it hit an iceberg. Around 2.20 am on 15 April, 2 hours 40 minutes later, the mighty *Titanic* slowly slipped below the icy waters of the Atlantic Ocean. The 20 lifeboats the ship carried were nowhere near enough to safely evacuate all the passengers and crew on board and the launching of the lifeboats was chaotic with some being lowered only half full. The ship *Carpathia* received the distress call and arrived around 4.10 am that morning, taking around 4 hours to rescue the survivors. When the *Carpathia* docked at New York on 18 April, it carried 705 survivors, including Frederick who managed to scramble into Lifeboat 15, the 8th lifeboat to be lowered into the water, nearly landing on top of Lifeboat 13 in its haste. The official death toll differs in various accounts, but at around 1,520 passengers and crew, it remains one of the worst maritime disasters of all time.



Carpathia arriving in New York with survivors

Later that month 85 surviving crew were returned to Southampton via the *Lapland*, the list included F Crafter Saloon Stewardⁱ. The *Titanic* tragedy did not deter Frederick from the sea, and he seems to have returned to the White Star Line ships until the outbreak of World War 1. Frederick signed up for service

in World War 1, originally as a trooper in the 2nd Life Guards Division disembarking from England on 19 May 1915 and serving in France. He later served with the Guards Machine Gun Regiment and was awarded the British War Medal and Victory Medal for his service.

At the end of the war Frederick returned to the *Olympic* as a steward and made a number of crossings between Southampton and New York in 1919 and 1920. Sometime after that Frederick migrated to Australia where in 1924 he married Edith Ferris, daughter of his former landlord Charles and his Auckland born wife Rebecca Speakman. Edith (1895) and her older sister Frances (1893), had both been born in Pascoe Vale in Melbourne, though at this stage little is known of the family's time in Australia or why they originally returned to England. The Ferris family returned to Melbourne on the ship *Ormonde*, leaving London 20 March and arriving Melbourne in May 1920, and settled at 16 Horne Street, Elsternwick.

Frederick's Journey to a life at Sea

Frederick was born in 1891 at Toxeth Park in Liverpool, the son of Richard James Crafter and his wife Emily née How who had married in Paddington, London in 1887. Following their marriage Richard & Emily moved to Whitehaven Cumberland where their son James William was born in 1888. Shortly after the family moved to Liverpool where Richard obtained employment as a hotel porter and daughter Ella Maud was born in 1889. Richard's employment provided a modest income for the family and they managed. All this was to come to an end when Richard unexpectedly died in Liverpool on 2 January 1895. He was just 38 years old and Emily was left with three young children to support. Emily had been a parlour maid in Paddington prior to their marriage and it was not long before she moved her family back to London where she took a position as parlour maid in the home of the widow Elizabeth Cowen who lived in Hamilton Terrace with her two daughters and son. The 1901 census shows 11 year old Ella living at the Cowen house also.

Frederick and James were admitted to the *Brighton Road Industrial School* in Sutton on 6 May 1896, a school set up to cater for pauper

children who otherwise would probably have been housed in the Workhouse. The children had been admitted by the local parish in Southwark where they appear to have been living with their grandparents, James William Crafter and his wife Mary Ann. Frederick was just 4 years old and James 8, but what alternative was there for Emily. School records show the two boys discharged from the school in November 1898, Frederick then aged 6 and James aged 10. 1899 finds Frederick at the *Kenmont Gardens School* in Hammersmith, but the 1901 census shows Frederick had returned to the Industrial School and was recorded as an inmate aged 9. There is no sign of James at the school. It seems likely he would have gone into service when he finished at the school and on the 1911 census we find him working as a valet In Hanover Square.

Frederick was lucky to have received an education and it was to stand him in good stead as he made his way in the world. He appears to have turned his back on a life of service and decided on a life at sea.



Frederick Horace Crafter
Merchant Navy photo

Frederick in Australia

The 1922 census shows Frederick living with the Ferris family in Elsternwick and employed as a chauffeur, but shortly after their marriage Frederick and Edith set up house in *Wheatley Road, Bentleigh* and Frederick took employment as a storeman. The house at No. 21 was to be their family home until their death. Edith's parents and her sister Frances and her husband Charles Walton lived next door at No. 19. British merchant navy records record one more journey for Frederick in 1925, but there would be no more

wandering the seas and he returned to his occupation as a storeman in Melbourne.

In 1929 Frederick and Edith welcomed their only son Jack Frederick Crafter. Sadly their happiness was short lived when their beloved son Jack was struck down with that dreaded childhood disease poliomyelitis at around the age of 2. Jack suffered a severe form of the disease resulting in paralysis and was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. Edith and Frederick were assiduous in their care for their only son and Jack was able to give his time to his ongoing studies qualifying as an accountant in spite of his disabilities. Life was quiet for Frederick and Edith, but Frederick had an unusual hobby. In 1949 Frederick was noted as an outstanding exhibitor in the weaving classes and awarded equal first prize and two third prizes for his exhibits at the Royal Melbourne Showⁱⁱ. In 1951 he was awarded 2nd prize in the Hand Weaving Fine Wool on Loom Section.

Frederick passed away 7 July 1960 at the Heatherton Sanatorium from tuberculosis and the effects of 13 years of emphysema. He was 68 years old and his death certificate shows he had lived in Victoria for 40 years, which would coincide with the arrival of the Ferris family in Australia. There is no mention of Crafter on the manifest, but it appears he had travelled to Australia for love, probably as a crew member on one of the international ships. Frederick was interred at Cheltenham Memorial Cemetery in Reserve Road where he has laid quietly at rest until we were recently notified of his involvement with the Titanic. Edith Crafter passed away 31 May 1971 at the age of 76 and was buried with her husband. Their son Jack died 22 July 2006 and was buried at Springvale. With no descendants, Jack willed money to his friends. The house at 21 Wheatley Road was sadly neglected by the time of his death and was sold in November 2006 for \$680,000. Charles and Rebecca Ferris are buried at Brighton Cemetery.



Wheatley Road, Bentleigh

At sale, November 2006

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ⁱ Western Daily Mercury 29 April 1912 - List of returned crew

ⁱⁱ *The Argus* 9 September 1949, p.9 & *The Age* 5 September 1949, p.5 'High Standard Work In Homecraft '

Note:

Our thanks to Trevor Baxter of the United Kingdom who first alerted us to Frederick's connections to the Titanic. Trevor has been researching Titanic survivors for many years, a huge undertaking.

Sources:

Encyclopedia Titanica - website devoted to the Titanic.
British Merchant Navy Record - Frederick Crafter, including photo.

World War 1 Military Record & Awards - Frederick
Ellis Island Records - New York Passenger Landings, Frederick Crafter.

Ancestry.com.au - Census Records for England and Australia and school records.

New Zealand BDM - Birth, Rebecca Speakman and her marriage in NZ to Charles Ferris.

Brighton Cemeterians - record of Crafter house in Bentleigh, taken in 2006.

Wikipedia - Titanic and Carpathia photos.

In our research for this article, we found there was quite a bit of incorrect information published regarding Frederick and we were pleased to have the opportunity to correct it. The Friends now holds a collection of records relating to the Crafter family including birth, death and marriage certificates and wills that were obtained from the Public Records Office of Victoria and Victorian Births, Deaths and Marriages.

Have you received your copy of our Newsletter?

If you have not received any previous Newsletters and you are a financial member, please notify Rosemary Reddick.

info@focrc.org

What the Friends do

The Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. was formed on 9 May 2007. These are just some of the things we have accomplished since then.

- ◆ Extensive online database of all burials at Pioneer and many at Memorial. Database includes photos of graves and headstones, short history where available and connections to other family graves in the cemeteries.
- ◆ To date we have had over 6,000 research requests.
- ◆ Four public tours are conducted each year. We also conduct tours for schools and other community groups.
- ◆ Four newsletters are produced each year.
- ◆ Published five books in the *Remembering Them* series. We have recently reprinted our latest book **The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests** due to the demand and are currently working on a reprint and update of another of the series which has now sold out.
- ◆ **The Murder Victims: Fate's Wicked Child** was awarded a Commendation in the Victorian Community History Awards 2011 for "*Best Community Research, Register, Awards*". We are currently working on a revised edition as it has now sold out.
- ◆ Complete map showing the location of all graves in the Pioneer Cemetery which connects with our online database showing who is buried in each grave. This includes all unnamed 'dirt' graves, which are usually always missing from databases.
- ◆ Hold extensive research on around 1,000 individuals and families buried at both cemeteries for use with our tours and newsletters. We are constantly adding to this research as names are suggested to us.
- ◆ Researched and collated many historical records of the original Parish of Moorabbin, including rate records, cemetery minutes, ship arrivals and a database of all birth, death and marriage certificates held by FOCRC.
- ◆ Raised funds for grave restorations and plaques commemorating graves of significance in the cemetery, particularly those who lie buried in 'dirt' graves with no recognition.
- ◆ Extensive research to document all World War 1 soldiers buried at Pioneer and are now working on Memorial.
- ◆ Applications made to the War Graves Commission to have World War 1 soldiers buried in 'dirt' graves recognised with official plaques.
- ◆ Connecting descendants database where members can list names they are related to and be connected to other descendants.
- ◆ Member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, the South Eastern Historical Association and the Bayside Network, as well as also regularly liaising with other Historical Societies.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Murder of Jane Fagan 1902

A young Cheltenham wife/mother/neighbour lies buried in an unknown pauper's grave at Melbourne General Cemetery. A victim of domestic violence, her life ended far too soon.

From our recent Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure Tour

Researched and written by Sue Beazley

On the evening of 15 January 1902 George Fagan arrived home at his cottage in Pine Street Cheltenham in a foul temper and threatened his wife Jane with a revolver. Terrified and fearing for her life, Jane ran from the house and sought shelter at the home of her neighbours, Richard and Kate Hickson (*Pioneer CE 89*ECE*), who lived nearby on Point Nepean Highway. Gun still in his hand, George came after her forcing his way into the Hickson home. George remonstrated with Richard telling him to back off and mind his own business. Richard Hickson, a man in his mid-60s, was no match for his powerfully built 37 year old neighbour who stood 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighed 15 stone. Richard ran from the house to get help.

Going from room to room in a terrible rage, George finally found Jane hiding in a bedroom and her screams could be heard as he repeatedly pummelled her, inflicting terrible bruising to her arms, body and blackening both eyes. Jane, quite a strong woman herself, attempted to fight back to protect herself, until three shots rang out, one hitting her in the abdomen and a second her left hand. George emerged dishevelled, his shirt splattered with blood.

When local Constable McCarthy arrived at the house, Fagan brandished his gun at him ordering McCarthy to stand off while he went to get a letter and change his shirt or he would put a bullet through him. Back at his cottage in Pine Street, Fagan changed his shirt and went calmly around locking windows and doors and even fed his chooks before finally informing Constable McCarthy that he was ready to leave. They were about to depart the house when his young son Freddie returned from the beach. Fagan told him to

go to Mr Beazley's house and stay there with him. Fagan, a butcher by trade, occasionally did some slaughtering for Hannah Beazley (*Pioneer CE 185*ECE*), who by 1902 was running her husband James' butcher shop in Point Nepean Road and her own butcher shop in Mentone Parade.



George Fagan prison photo

Dr Scantlebury (*Pioneer CE 78*45CE*) arrived and treated Mrs. Fagan's wounds before ordering her removal to the Alfred Hospital, where she was found to have a fractured skull from being hit with a blunt object. The butt of the gun was the likely weapon, given that some steel was embedded in her head. However it was the gunshot wound to the abdomen that had caused the most serious damage, with the bullet perforating Jane's intestines and lodging in her back.

Jane lingered on for two weeks before finally succumbing to septic peritonitis, caused by a small sliver of her dress remaining wedged in the tract when the bullet was removed. On 30 January 1902, Jane passed away and on 24 February Fagan faced the Supreme Court charged with the wilful murder of his 43 year old wife. Freddie remained in the care of the Beazleys until after his mother's death, when

George wrote to his brother Charles from prison asking him to go out to Cheltenham and get him.

George's family refused to pay for Jane's burial, so his solicitor telegraphed Jane's sister to bury her. In a final injustice, Jane Fagan's siblings took no responsibility for her burial, even though her brother William Giles Hinton (Memorial 5N*110*) lived in nearby Hampton and must have been aware of his sister's difficult life with her husband. We can only guess that Jane was the 'black sheep' of the Hinton family, with her siblings deeming George Fagan an unsuitable match for their sister and there is a query as to whether there was a formal marriage with no record found. With her parents Connewarre farmer William Giles Hinton Snr. and her mother Susannah née Ward long dead, it seems there was no one left to attend to Jane's passing.

It was well known that Fagan had done little to provide for his family in years, spending most of his time drinking in local public houses. It was Jane who took any job she could to keep the family going. The locals had never seen such a sensational story in their area, with regular updates published in nearly every newspaper throughout Australia. It appears everyone was too caught up in its notoriety to remember this poor woman was the victim of terrible domestic violence. Finally on 5 February 1902, Jane was buried under a Police Burial Certificate in a Pauper's Grave at Melbourne Cemetery. Her passing did not elicit a single death notice from any family or neighbours.

At the trial, Constable McCarthy gave evidence that he followed Fagan to his home after the shooting and found him burning a letter saying "*That settles it. I'll teach her to deceive me.*" Evidence came out during the trial that Jane had recently begun a relationship with local groom James Hawkins whom she met while working at the Mordialloc Coffee Palace. The Accused's counsel read a statement on Fagan's behalf saying that he had received a letter intended for his wife and had taken the liberty of

opening it. The letter was from James Hawkins arranging a liaison. Fagan claimed to have had no intentions of shooting his wife, that he had merely demanded an explanation and she had been shot accidentally in the scuffle that followed. Prefabricated nonsense of course and the presiding Judge ruled that he could find no evidence to reduce the charge from murder to manslaughter.

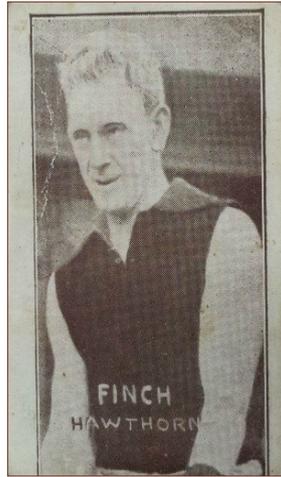
After long deliberation, the Jury returned a verdict of *guilty of murder accompanied by a strong recommendation to mercy*, on account of the '*great provocation*' that his wife had been unfaithful. The verdict reached by 12 'good men' transferred the blame to the victim, the inference being that 'it was her fault' so you can't blame him. Justice A'Beckett, to his credit, ignored their recommendation and sentenced Fagan to death for the murder of his wife but this was later commuted to life imprisonment by the State Government of the time.

In a final twist to this story, detectives discovered that George Fagan was born George Ernest Sebo, the 'black sheep' of a well-known Ballarat family who ran a butcher shop in Eureka Street Ballarat. George's brother had given him the nickname 'Fagan the Jew' because whether he was selling meat or playing cards he was always trying to cheat. George liked the nickname so much he had adopted it. George Fagan was released from Pentridge by Special Authority on 16 February 1916, serving just 14 years for his wife's murder. It is likely he reverted to Sebo and there is a record of a George Sebo who died 1928 in South Melbourne aged 65, no further details known.

The Story of Frederick (Freddie) Fagan

For many years, researchers of this case have classified six year old Freddie's fate as unknown. We suspected Freddie had his name changed, no doubt to protect himself, but it was a surprise to find all evidence pointed to the name Frederick John Finch. Fred 'Snowy' Finch, a well-regarded Hawthorn football player who played with the club from 1922 – 1927, originally in the VFA and then VFL when Hawthorn joined in 1925.

The first clue was that Frederick John Finch's death certificate showed him born in Cheltenham and aged 56 years at his death in 1952, father listed as George Sebo Finch, mother unknown. On 19 August 1914, Frederick Finch enlisted in the Army. Fred's army record contained a letter from George Fagan to the Army in 1918 regarding Frederick's pay. In it he refers to Frederick's mother as being dead.



**Frederick (Freddie) Finch
Hawthorn Footballer 1922 to 1927**

The confusing information on the file was that his mother was shown as Ellen Finch c/- Bayswater Post Office. It was not until we found a 1903 census record for Charles Sebo Finch and Ellen Finch living in Brunswick that the reference to mother Ellen became obvious. Later census records show their names recorded as Charles Sebo and Ellen Sebo. As requested, brother Charles had gone to Cheltenham to collect young Freddie from the Beazley family and there is little doubt that it was Charles and Ellen who raised him. It is likely Frederick never knew the true story of his mother's death and grew up believing Ellen was his mother. In 1924 when Frederick married Dulcie May Jones nee Stokes, his name was recorded as Frederick Sebo Finch. Dulcie had two children from her first marriage, but no children have been found with Frederick. A furniture dealer, Frederick and Dulcie lived in Glen Iris. Frederick Finch died 18 April 1952 in Prahran. Ellen Finch died Brunswick 1929, she was no longer with Charles Sebo who

passed away in 1942 at Royal Park. The final clue, compare the photo of Fred Finch, Hawthorn footballer, with the prison 'mug shot' of George Fagan, the nose and eyes in particular.



Sources:

- Jane Fagan death certificate 2575/1902.
- Police Burial Certificate accessed via Melbourne Cemetery.
- Jane Hinton born 1858 Connewarre, Geelong to William Giles Hinton and his wife Susannah Ward Reg. 12263/1858.
- Frederick John Finch death certificate 4395/1952.
- Private Frederick Finch Army Record, SERN45.
- Fred Finch – footballer - Hawthorn football Club records and Wikipedia.
- George Fagan Prisoner no. 29796 prison record Victoria.
- Kate Emily Hickson née Hawkins – account of attack Beazley family notes: Sue Beazley.
- Murder at Cheltenham by Graham Whitehead, Kingston Historical Website.
- Details of Inquest conducted by Mr. Candler, City Coroner, *The Argus* 7 Feb 1902, p.6.
- The Cheltenham Tragedy - in depth report *Weekly Times* 1 March 1902, p.21.
- The Bendigo Independent* 17 Jan 1902, p.3 (reprint of *Herald* article) and various newspaper reports Jan to Feb 1902.



Future Tours at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

Early March 2019

The Streets Where We Live

This tour will be based on streets named after some of the families and individuals buried at Pioneer Cemetery. Streets chosen so far – *Comport* and *Woff Streets* Beaumaris, *Cullinane Street* Black Rock, *Tootal Road* Dingley, *Gouldthorp Avenue* Mentone, *Bloxside Lane* Mordialloc, *Kingston Road* Heatherton, *Watkins Street* Aspendale, *Ferdinando Lane* Sandringham and *Crawford Street* Cheltenham.

If you are able to contribute to our research on these families and streets or would like to suggest another interesting street, please contact us.

Early May 2019

Ladies of the Cemetery

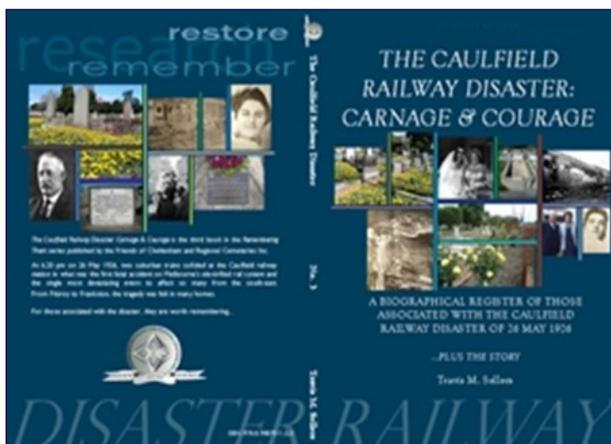
This tour will be a repeat of our very popular 2015 tour, along with the addition of some new and interesting names.

Stay tuned for further details relating to these tours.

The Caulfield Railway Disaster: Carnage & Courage

\$25.00

Please see Page 16 for payment details



At 6.20 pm on 26 May 1926, two suburban trains collided at the Caulfield railway station in what was the first fatal accident on Melbourne's electrified rail system and the single most devastating event to affect so many from the south-east. From Fitzroy to Frankston, the tragedy was felt in many homes.

For those associated with the disaster, they are worth remembering...

[Download the index and see if your ancestor is included!](#) [PDF-251KB]

Written by Travis M. Sellers, *The Caulfield Railway Disaster: Carnage & Courage* is the third book in the *Remembering Them* series published by the Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc. The A5-sized book comprises 172 pages and 71,600 words with colour illustrations and an index of over 1,040 names. It is a rich source of genealogical information on those associated with the disaster including birth, death and marriage details as well as newspaper articles. The publication also includes the story of the tragedy. The book foreword is written by Andrew Lezala, CEO of Metro Trains Melbourne.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Sir Matthew Henry Davies and the Jubilee Cottages of Mentone

Researched and written by Sue Beazley.

The Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria was celebrated on 20 June 1887 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the British throne on 20 June 1837. This golden jubilee was to be an important catalyst in the settlement of the village of Mentone when the Hon. Matthew Henry Davies and his wife Elizabeth Locke Davies née Mercer (Pioneer Presbyterian 16*60P*O) donated £10,000 to erect Queen's Jubilee Cottages in different suburbs throughout the State of Victoria. These were to be permanently reserved for the deserving and aged poor, allowing them to live rent free.

Needless to say Sir Matthew received massive coverage for his magnificent gesture and was knighted in 1890. You could always be sure there would be money in it for the redoubtable land speculator Sir Matthew Davies, recognised as the founder of the village of Mentone.



The Mentone Estate was put up for sale on 8 December 1883 by the National Land Company, one of the many land development companies of Matthew Davies. The sale plan for the estate included blocks bordered by Balcombe Road, Moorabbin Road¹, the Esplanade, Naples Road, Mentone Parade, Venice Street, Brindisi Street, Florence Street and Milan Road. Davies saw the area as the Riviera of the South, hence the Italian names. The township of Mentone was called after the town of Menton on the French Riviera close to the Italian border. Matthew Davies had purchased the land from the Balcombe family who inherited the land at the death of Alexander Beatson Balcombe (1877 death) the original owner. Balcombe had used the swampy land to rest his cattle and sheep on the way to the city markets. There was no permanent settlement with Balcombe living at The Briars in Mornington. Blocks were progressively sold off in 1883, 1885 and 1887.

A recent request to trace the history of a cottage in Florence Street brought the Jubilee cottages of Mentone to our attention. The houses built in Florence Street were set aside for the workmen Davies needed to develop the area. They were funded as part of the Jubilee Cottage scheme and Davies claimed they were built and used for charitable purposes and therefore he should not be charged rates; the Moorabbin Council agreed to his request. (Caulfield & Elsternwick

PRINCELY LIBERALITY.

MR AND MRS M. H. DAVIES'

JUBILEE DISTRIBUTION.

Appended are particulars of the most princely Queen's Jubilee donation yet recorded.

A fortune of £10,000 is thus distributed by the Hon. M. H. Davies, M.L.A. and Mrs Davies

in commemoration of the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign

In erecting Queen's Jubilee Cottages in different suburbs, and permanently reserving same for the deserving and aged poor, where they may live rent free.

Three Trustees to be appointed

Leader 19/1/1889) They were for some time referred to as Jubilee Cottage. William Ruse's wife Elizabeth died in 1898 at 41 Jubilee Cottage Florence Street Mentone, the home of William Ruse JP and his wife (Pioneer 20 & 21*ACC*O).

In August 1896 the Moorabbin Shire Council voted to take over Florence Street which was previously a private street (The Caulfield & Elsternwick Leader 8/8/1896). In 1898 the Council made another attempt to charge rates on the Jubilee cottages, claiming one of the tenants was paying 4s 8d per week rent. Davies denied this and claimed he had been maintaining these properties out of his own pocket for years and would be glad if the Council took them off his hands. The Council again remitted the rates. (The Caulfield & Elsternwick Leader 9 July 1898).

An advertisement in 1888 had a block in Florence Street for sale at £4 per foot (Age 1/8/1888). In 1938 one of the Jubilee cottages sold for £250, by 1953 Florence Street was bringing £3,000 per property and rental of 50 shillings per week.

1938 ~ The Argus, 25 February 1938 p.17

A brick and weatherboard villa Florence Street Mentone, was offered at auction yesterday by A Gordon Allard and Co with the unusual condition that the sale was subject to a life tenancy at a rental of 1/- a year and rates. The tenant bought the house for £250.

Running between Balcombe Road and Florence Street next to Safeway, Mentone, you will find Davies Street named after Sir Matthew. The road was on the original plan but was an unnamed dirt track for a long time. The earliest mention found on Trove is a contract for the construction of Davies Street (Argus 2 December 1922 p.7).

It has always seemed a little unfair that Sir Matthew only had this small street named after him, whereas Balcombe had the main road, even though he never lived in Mentone

and played no part in its development.

After the massive land boom of the 1880s, Melbourne was hit with a terrible depression in the 1890s. This would see the collapse of the Davies Mercantile Bank in 1892 resulting in thousands of ordinary men and women losing their life savings and their homes. With many locals, there would be no support to recognise the role Davies played in founding Mentone.

In 1893 Davies was charged with conspiracy to defraud, but the charges were withdrawn by the then Attorney General. In 1893-1894 his massive land empire collapsed and he was declared bankrupt and again charged with fraud. His companies' total losses came to over 4 million pounds - one of the largest corporate defaults in Australian history (Australian Dictionary of Biography - Sir Matthew Davies).

ⁱ Moorabbin Road was the Beach Road end of Warrigal Road. In the 1940s the road was renamed Warrigal Road to complete the road which runs from Canterbury Road to the Beach.



Memories of Cheltenham & Beaumaris

Continuing our series of excerpts from the manuscript of memories by Fairlie (Addie) Taylor.

Source: RHSV Box 41-2 MS 023683 1958 (continued from Page 3)

The Woff Family

The Woffs settled in the district over 90 years ago. Their four sons William, Robert, George & Sam all bought land here, and Sam - the youngest - still lives near the township. It was a member of the Woff family - Val - who taught Betty Fretwell to sing. Betty opened up at Sadlers Wells in London in the leading role of "Madam Butterfly" on March 27th, 1957.

One of the most highly respected women in Cheltenham today is Sister Woff - granddaughter of a pioneering family. Sister Woff is our Florence Nightingale, who is at the beck and call of every sick person in the district, she never refused help - even in the middle of the night. Her unselfish devotion to duty is a lesson to all who grumble, go on strike, or skimp their work. Sister Woff certainly has inherited the pioneering spirit.

Doctors

For many years Beaumaris and Cheltenham had no doctor, and it was then that Wm. Ruse came to the rescue with his supply of homeopathic remedies - Messrs. Meeres and Walker also helped with homeopathy. When homeopathic remedies were of no avail, Dr. Teague had to be driven out from Melbourne. Then Dr. Ray built his home at the corner of Charman & Beach Roads.

The first Cheltenham doctors were Dr. Verity, Dr. Moore and Dr. George Scantlebury - father of Dr. Clifford, ear specialist, Dr. Vera, infant welfare pioneer, Dorothy, head mistress of Toorak College, and Eileen, wife of Dr. Chas. Kellaway. Then came Drs. Gerald and Albert Weigall who set up a home and surgery at the corner of Charman Road and Glebe Avenue, Cheltenham.

Water Reserve

Grumbles are heard on all sides when the Board of Works imposes the sprinkler ban, but in the early days people had to drive with tanks aboard to the Water Reserve where now the roar of football fans is heard each Saturday. There, during the summer, thousands of tons of water was taken from the springs. Later the Council put down a brick tank and strong pumps, and people had to await their turn to fill up their tanks and cart them away. The springs seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of water. The black camped there long before white people reached the district.

Mr. Perc Woff, now Secretary of the local cemetery (1958) remembers going with his father to cart water from the springs. On returning, his father would drive the cart along the vegetable rows while Perc walked behind, sprinkling carrots and parsnips with a rose attached to a hose which, in turn, was fixed to the tank. Market gardeners were amazed when Mr. King put irrigation over his property at the corner of Charman and Balcombe Roads.

Tennis

A Beaumaris resident, Mr. Lamb-Smith was the first president of the Cheltenham and Beaumaris Tennis Club, which began on the hill behind the present Cheltenham station in 1890.

Well known players in the early days were Messrs. Comport, Erwin, (bank manager E.S.A) Chandler, Drs. Scantlebury and Fleming Joyce, and later Gerald Weigall. The Misses Meeres and Ruse were the leading women players. The women wore full skirts to the ground level, white blouses, high starched collars and gem hats. The old courts are now standing idle (1958).

Our latest book

The Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: Where History Rests

After 150 years serving the community, Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery is worth remembering ...

Written by Travis M. Sellers, *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]

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**** UPDATE ****

**We are pleased to announce that a limited second print run of
Where History Rests is now available.
All books individually numbered.**

