



# *Raves from the Graves*

## **President's Report**

Welcome to the autumn edition of our Newsletter, *Raves from the Graves*, and greetings to all of our new members. The Committee of The Friends hopes that your new year has started well, as here we are, almost a quarter of the way through the year!

We have put together a great Newsletter for you and hope you enjoy reading the article in this edition, which was submitted by one of our members Annette Guterres. Annette has written a poignant and moving story of her maternal grandfather Edward Leake, who served in WW1. Even though Edward fought for his country he is not recognised or acknowledged on the Australian War Memorial Nominal Roll, despite receiving medals and awards for his gallantry - because he enlisted in the UK and was not expatriated back to Australia. It is a great read.

During the last few months some Committee members have attended various events associated with our group, such as the South Eastern Historical Association (SEHA) who have a quarterly meeting. The most recent being in Koo Wee Rup, at the Koo Wee Rup Swamp Historical Society office, which is a lovely old house in the main street. Worth a visit if you are in Koo Wee Rup on a Sunday afternoon. SEHA meetings are always friendly and inclusive, with its membership including many historical societies from all over south eastern Victoria, from Narre Warren to Mornington Peninsula and down to Lang Lang. The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries is delighted to be a part of this group.

Another event attended was the Historical Restoration & Refurbishment

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## **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](http://www.focrc.org)

[info@focrc.org](mailto:info@focrc.org)

PO Box 2958,  
Cheltenham 3192

Ph: 03 9497 1318  
(Rosemary)

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Fund at the Melbourne General Cemetery. This event was many months in the planning, with much of the hard work undertaken by Dr. Celestina Sagazio of the Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust (SMCT). Guest speakers on the day were the Hon. Dr. Barry Jones AO and Hon. Jeff Kennett AC, with Jane Grover the CEO of SMCT as the MC. The Victorian government has given permission to proceed with vital restoration work through the establishment of a fund, to restore significant and prized monuments within SMCT cemeteries. A panel of experts assist SMCT in the selection of monuments, with criteria including historical or heritage significance, along with community interest and tourism appeal. The priority list includes the memorial for Governor Sir Charles Hotham at Melbourne General, and the striking family vault of Septimus Miller, at Brighton Cemetery. You can contribute to this fund by way of a donation, sponsorship and/or partnership. For more information please contact Dr. Celestina Sagazio at [Celestina.sagazio@smct.org.au](mailto:Celestina.sagazio@smct.org.au).

For all genealogists out there, you may be disappointed to hear that the federal government is planning to severely cut funding to the National Library in Canberra, which will greatly impact on TROVE. If you wish to voice your concern there are a number of petitions that you can sign or you could contact your local federal member. Paul Daley of The Guardian, 14 March 2016, reports that *"Countless writers, historians, academics, genealogists and amateur and professional researchers are engaged, variously, in telling the stories of Australia with the help of Trove and the window it opens on to 370,000,000-plus items, including books, photographs, maps, databases, letters, diaries and much else beside. Yes, Trove has become a fundamental platform for history's raw material. But it is also a great democratiser of information that might once have been consigned solely to the reading and microfiche rooms of state and national institutions, inaccessible to many people in remote and regional Australia or, indeed, in other parts of the world. Trove is free to its users. But many reciprocate. In this, Trove is beautifully symbiotic, not to mention economically efficient."*

Below is a link to a petition if you would like to add your voice to the protest.

<https://www.change.org/p/malcolm-turnbull-mp-stop-cuts-to-national-library-of-australia-save-trove>

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria has also set up a campaign to gather signatures to protest against these proposed cuts. *"As you may have heard, the National Library of Australia, in order to meet its 'efficiency dividends', is to curtail TROVE, especially its capacity to harvest new collections."*

The RHSV recommends that all societies and supporters write to the federal Minister for the Arts, Hon Senator Mitch Fifield, to point out the backward step that this involves for an innovative nation, and to request that he ensure that NLA and TROVE are not jeopardised.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition, especially the article from Annette. We thank her for her contribution and sharing the story of her grandfather with us all.

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

*Rosemary Reddick*

*FoCRC*

# ***Ladies of the Cemetery***

**2:00 pm Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**Join Sue Beazley on this intriguing tour and hear about the lives of some strong, adventurous and capable women who are buried at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. The tour will be colourful and engaging as Sue is a brilliant story teller.**

**Meet inside the gate of Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery,  
Charman Road, Cheltenham.**

**Cost: \$10 Members  
\$12 Non-members**

Refreshments Provided

**Bookings Required: [info@focrc.org](mailto:info@focrc.org) or call 9497 1318**

**We tour come rain, hail or shine; so come prepared with suitable clothing and footwear. Bring a brolly if you are concerned about the sun or rain.**

## **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](mailto:info@focrc.org). Payment details are available from the website [www.focrc.org](http://www.focrc.org).

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

# RESEARCH ARTICLE

## The story of my Grandfather – Edward Leake

By Annette Guterres.

I met my maternal grandfather, Edward Leake only once. I remember talking to him on the front veranda of our home in Cowra, and I remember his warm smile. I remember that I liked him. I might have been about six years old, too young at that time to ask questions about his life or anything to do with his story. He lived in Melbourne and I never saw him again. My mother died suddenly when I was 21 and I could no longer ask her about her father.

In recent years I have tried to discover his story. I was motivated to learn about him, from family friends who kindly gave me little snippets of information.

Edward was a great horseman, and he was a hero in WW1. He was decorated by the French Government, receiving their military medal, the French Croix de Guerre, the Medaille Militaire and the Military Medal for heroic action in the face of the enemy. According to my mother's first cousin, Edward had done something extraordinary in WW1, but she did not know the details.

So I started my quest to learn more about my grandfather. The only sources of information I had to go by were a Medaille Militaire Certificate from the French Government, which stated that Edward fought in the King Edward Horse. Of

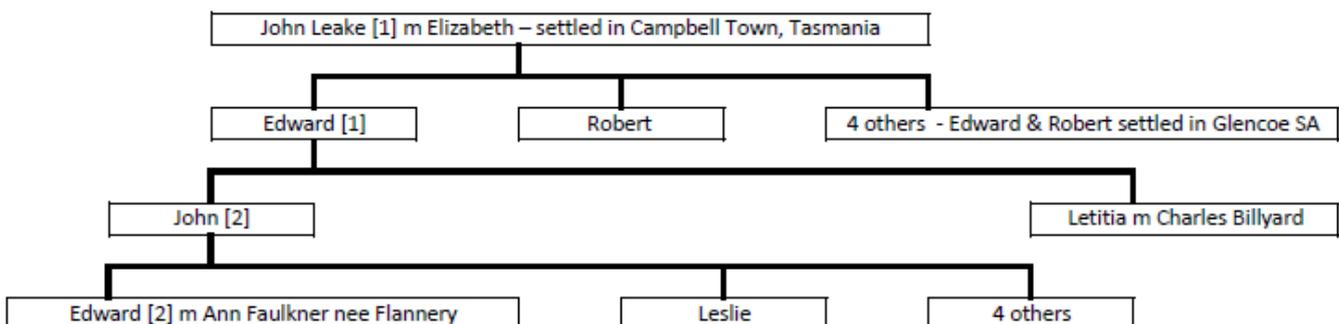
course, the most obvious course of action was to search the Australian War Memorial, but when I did they had no record of his service. According to the War Memorial my grandfather did not serve in WW1. This was very confusing.

A couple of years ago, via the Internet, I found his citation for bravery on a website, for the King Edward Horse, a regiment of the Household Cavalry and Cavalry of the Line. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre and his brother Leslie the Distinguished Conduct Medal. I also discovered that the King Edward Horse was made up of "colonials" –men from Australia, India, New Zealand and South Africa.



(above) Edward (Ned) Leake

### Simplified Family Tree



in the Corps in respect of which the rolls are submitted.		NAME	individual and Regtl. Nos. therein; the highest rank, whether substantive, acting or temporary, recorded as having been held for any period in a theatre of War, unless reverted for misconduct, being shown against the name of the regiment or Corps which is to be inscribed on the medal.	Theatres of war in which served	(Clasps awarded (to be left blank))	decorations			REMARKS
Regtl. No.	Rank					(a) Presented	(b) Despatched by Post	(c) Taken into Stock	
1219	Pte	HAWKINS, Thomas.	1219, K.E.H. Pte	X ✓					Dis. Physically Unfit. 11-9-18
1220	A/Sgt	LEAKE, Edward.	1220, K.E.H. Cpl	0 ✓					Cl. Z.A. Reg. 5-4-19
1221	Sgt	LEAKE, Leslie.	1221, K.E.H. Sgt	0 ✓					Cl. Z.A. Reg. 5-4-19
1222	Pte	GRICE, William, H.	1222, K.E.H. Pte	0 ✓					Cl. Z.A. Reg. 5-4-19
1223	Pte	FINNEY, Wincent.	1223, K.E.H. Pte	0 ✓					Killed in Action. 9-4-18
1224	A/Sgt	HADDIN, John, S.	1224, K.E.H. Pte	0 ✓					Dis. Surplus to Mil. Req. 4-11-19
1226	Pte	DAWSON, Thomas.	1226, K.E.H. Pte	0 ✓					Cl. Z.A. Reg. 13-8-19
1227	Pte	SCULLY, Thomas.	1227, K.E.H. Pte	0 ✓					Cl. Z.A. Reg. 07-8-19

Victory Medal awards for Edward & Leslie Leake. – source Ancestry

I knew my grandfather came from a large family and that is was likely that some of his siblings had children and that they, or their descendants, lived in Melbourne. But I had no way of locating them. However, it was my grandfather's niece (the daughter of his youngest brother Thomas) who I managed to track down, that has really given me the motivation to write this story and to push to have Edward's name, and others like him, put on the WW1 nominal roll.

One question that really niggled at me was why my grandfather, and his brother joined a regiment based in England. As he was a part of that regiment he is not on the Australian War Memorial Nominal Roll. The nominal roll lists only the men who signed up in Australia and were repatriated.

Through research at the Public Records Office in Victoria, and combined with other research I have now discovered that my grandfather was a descendant of John Leake, an Englishman who settled in Tasmania in 1823.

Edward (Ned) Leake (2) was the eldest of six children born to John (2) and Agnes Leake. Edward was only 12 when his father died. He was the great grandson of John (1) and Elizabeth Leake, who settled in Campbell Town in Tasmania, in 1823. John & Elizabeth had six sons, two of which settled in South Australia, Edward (1) and Robert. These two brothers were pioneers of the Glencoe area of SA, in the 1840s, with Edward (1) building a woolshed that is now owned by the National Trust.

Edward (1) married an Irish girl Letitia Clarke,

and hence my grandfather's family became Irish Catholic. They had two children, John (2) & Letitia. In 1891 their daughter, Letitia, was left a legacy that helped her and her husband Charles Billyard purchase a home in Harefield UK. After Letitia and Charles married, their surname was Billyard-Leake. It seems my grandfather may have signed up in the English regiment because his aunt Letitia Billyard-Leake had moved back to England, in 1895, with her family and had already donated her home – Harefield Park to be used as a hospital. She had two sons who also signed up for service in WW1. One of her sons, Edward Billyard-Leake, also won a Croix de Guerre for his bravery and served as Aide de Camp for the Prince of Wales on his Royal Tour in 1920.



(above) Edward Billyard-Leake, cousin of Edward

Letitia's home, Harefield Park became the No.1 Australian Auxiliary hospital for Australian

soldiers in WW1 housing up to 1,000 soldiers at a time. Over 50,000 ANZAC soldiers from the battlefields of France and Gallipoli were treated at the hospital. An ANZAC ceremony is held there each year, in the village of Harefield. As Letitia had inherited the family fortune, her family lived in a grand manner in England, whilst her brother's children, of which my grandfather was the eldest of six, lived a far more humble existence in Australia.

After the war my grandfather married my grandmother Anne Faulkner (nee Flannery) and they lived for the next 30 years in Boorowa, NSW. Edward had moved to Boorowa to manage, with his brothers, the property of Kenyu. Kenyu was owned by the Billyard-Leakes.

Edward and another brother, John married two Flannery sisters. The Flannerys were early settlers in the Boorowa area. His brother Leslie was also going to marry a Flannery sister (there were ten Flannery sisters) but, sadly he died before they could be wed. Leslie's grave is in Boorowa cemetery.

After the sale of Kenyu Edward remained working in Boorowa, for a time, however he later moved back to Melbourne and died there in 1968. He is buried at Cheltenham Memorial Cemetery.

When he did return to Melbourne, Edward worked at a Cadbury's factory, and life was somewhat of a struggle. But I fondly remember the tin of Cadbury chocolates he gave to me at our home in Cowra. The tin had blue and pink hydrangeas on it. I treasured it for years only parting with it when I buried a much-loved pet bird in it.

His niece told me that in the last illness before he died he was at Heidleberg Repatriation Hospital and his sister discovered one day that the nursing staff were treating him differently, as they thought he was there under false pretences, because he was not an Australian War veteran. A nurse confessed that they made him wait till last to be attended to and were shocked to hear of his war service.

Now I don't know whether Edward received a pension from the U.K. Government but he would be in the same position as our RAF veterans of Bomber

Command who attended the Bomber Command Dedication and Unveiling in London in 2012. Our RAF veterans, even though they may have lived in Australia for over 60 years, were not eligible for the DVA grant given to RAAF veterans of Bomber Command to attend the ceremony. Unfortunately, the U.K. government did not give them any assistance either.

So, my grandfather who gave so much in service of his country does not have his name listed on the nominal roll of the Australian War Memorial. What makes it even more incredible, is the fact that when the King Edward Horse was formed the Australian government passed a law saying that service in the KEH would be regarded as the same as service in any other Australian unit.

My grandfather fought for three years in France and the King Edward horse story is amazing. As a cavalry unit they were instrumental in a number of battles, defended towns, transported prisoners, did reconnaissance work, built bridges and supplied many officers for other units. The regiment is probably best remembered for its magnificent defence of the area of Huit Maisons and Veille Chapelle on 9th April 1918, facing the German onslaught in the opening phase of the Battle of Lys. Their great skill in moving themselves and their horses around the north of France was exceptional. With my grandfather and his brother being mentioned a number of times in the official history. There is no doubt he was an exceptional soldier.

That was not to be Edward's only sacrifice, as his only son, also Edward, served in Bomber Command in WW2, and he was killed on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1944. For Edward, the father, that date, which now represents Remembrance, brought him great sorrow after the loss of his son.

On Remembrance Day, every year, I remember my uncle Edward (though I never met him) and both my grandfathers, who served in World War One. I hope my maternal grandfather's name and his brother's will one day be on the roll of Australians who served in WW1.

## Citations for Edward and Leslie Leake

Edward ( Ned ) Leake, 1220  
Australia  
Sgt  
Born Warrnambool, Victoria.

Reserve 5 April 1919

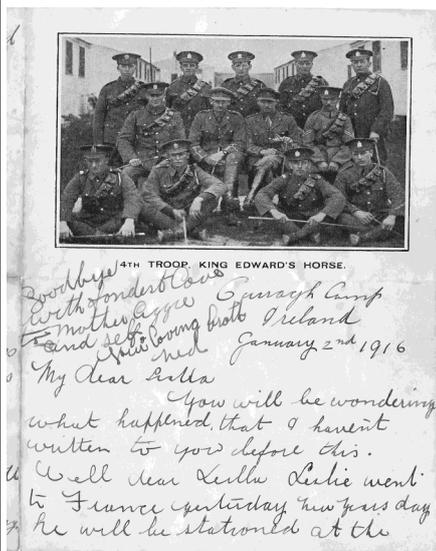
**Awarded Military Medal, French C de G and Medaille Militaire** Mont Bernanchon April 12th 1918; The OC King Edwards Horse decided to draw the enemy machine gunners. A mounted patrol was called for from the A Squadron, Cpl Leake's section. This gallant Australian Corporal was given minute instructions as to his actions on the far side of the canal. The four men of the patrol led their horses across the footbridge, then mounted and rode out onto the plain. The boche infantry never liked mounted men. The ruse was instantly effective. Machine guns began to pop all along the hostile line, while the patrol, extended, galloping in a wide semi-circle, returned home untouched. Their mission had been eminently successful and careful eyes behind field-glasses had marked down many of the danger-points.

**Awarded the Military Medal;** October 1918, for having led six separate attacks during one day against enemy posts in a very dashing manner.

Leslie Leake, 1221  
Australia  
Sgt  
Born Warrnambool, Victoria

**Awarded Distinguished Conduct Medal.** During the advance from Lille, up to the termination of hostilities he showed conspicuous gallantry and leadership on all occasions. On 18th October he led a most successful reconnoitering patrol to babylone. On 9th November he was conspicuous in his leading, when some sixty enemy infantry with guns, ten Lewis guns and a Uhlan patrol were driven from Melles and several prisoners taken.

### Excerpts from a private letter Edward wrote to his sister Letitia (Lulla) from Curragh Camp, Ireland. January 2 – 1916



*My dear Lulla,*

*You will be wondering what happened that I haven't written to you before this. Well dear Lulla Leslie went to France yesterday New Year's Day he will be stationed at the Base.....I shall be in the same squadron as he, so we be both together in a few days. Poor Aunt Letty has been very ill.....There are seven hundred wounded Australians there at present. (Harefield Park)*

*Dear Lulla this is the coldest country in the world. Always raining.....we are working in slush all day long up over our boots.....Leslie and I are go for a Commission it is pretty hard to get a Commission just now. Lord Derby Scheme has made it quite alright for his men, who were almost compelled to join and are first to be able to get a Commission, it is not all right that is should be so.*

*You loving brother Ned.*

FoCRC

**Excerpts of history of Harefield Park, Harefield. Middlesex UK. No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital. 1914 – 1919. A.W.M file 449/9/302. 11 June 1974.**

In November 1914 Mr & Mrs Charles Billyard-Leake (Australians resident in UK) offered their property known as "Harefield Park", Middlesex to be used as a Home for convalescent wounded soldiers of the A.I.F. Their offer was accepted by the Commonwealth Defence Department in December 1914.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P02402.005

At the time of the acceptance of the offer it was estimated by the military authorities that the house would accommodate 50 soldiers under winter conditions and 150 during spring and summer. In fact, the hospital accommodated over 1,000 beds at the height of its use, and also a large nursing and ancillary support staff.

The work of the Depot became far wider as the war progressed, and in time all normal hospital functions were assumed, and by August 1918 it had been made a centre for eye, ear, nose, and throat diseases. It also maintained an Electrical Department where many hundreds of "Skiagrams" (early x-rays) were made. By 1919 the hospital was contained in large huts, dispersed throughout the grounds of Harefield Park, there being nearly fifty buildings

in use, including workshops, garages, stores, messes, canteens, recreation hall, billiards room, cook house, detention room and mortuary.

Amenities included the Red Cross Store....the Patients Canteen...the Library. Trips to London were arranged and paid for out of Canteen funds, and locals made their vehicles freely available for country trips, picnics and journeys to and from the railway station.

A small magazine was produced in November 1916, to be followed in December 1916 by the first issue of the official magazine, The Harefield Park Boomerang. It was published irregularly, until established as a monthly journal and ran until the final issue – The Victory Number – December 1918.

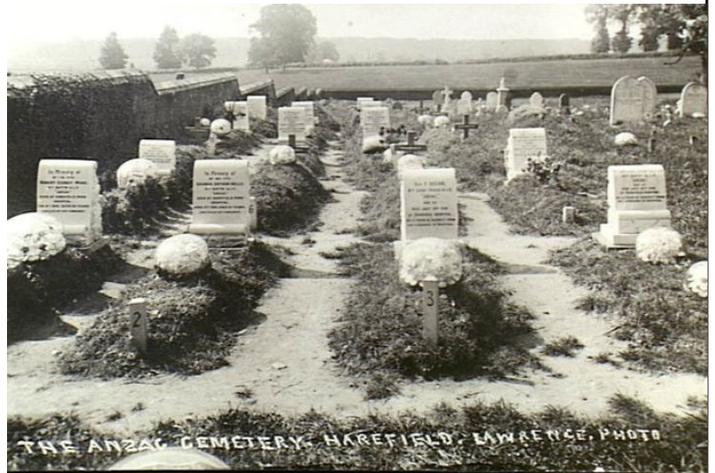
There were many awards and decorations given at No.1 AAH, and one of note was the Military Medal to Staff Nurse Corkhill A.A.N.S in 1918, "for her courage and devotion on the occasion of an enemy air raid. She continued to attend to the wounded without any regard to her own safety".

The hospital and its staff came under great strain during the outbreak of the epidemic influenza with its pneumonic complications in 1918. Its highest number of deaths in Nov/Dec 1918 was due entirely to the epidemic.

Military funerals were conducted for those who died at the Hospital, with burials taking place at Harefield Parish Churchyard. Through the instrumentality of Mr F.A. Newdegate (later to be Governor of Tasmania) a portion of the churchyard was given, by him, to be reserved for Australian soldiers who died at Harefield Park Hospital.

The hospital had many important visitors during its life, including the King & Queen, H.R.H the Duke of Connaught, Hon. W.M. Hughes (PM of Australia), Rt. Hon. Alfred Deakin, Dowager Marchioness of Linlithgow and the Bishop of Kensington, who were but a few. By the time the hospital closed a complete listing of all visitors would read like a Who's Who.

The hospital continued to function until January 1919, when it was gradually closed down.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P0229

## 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).

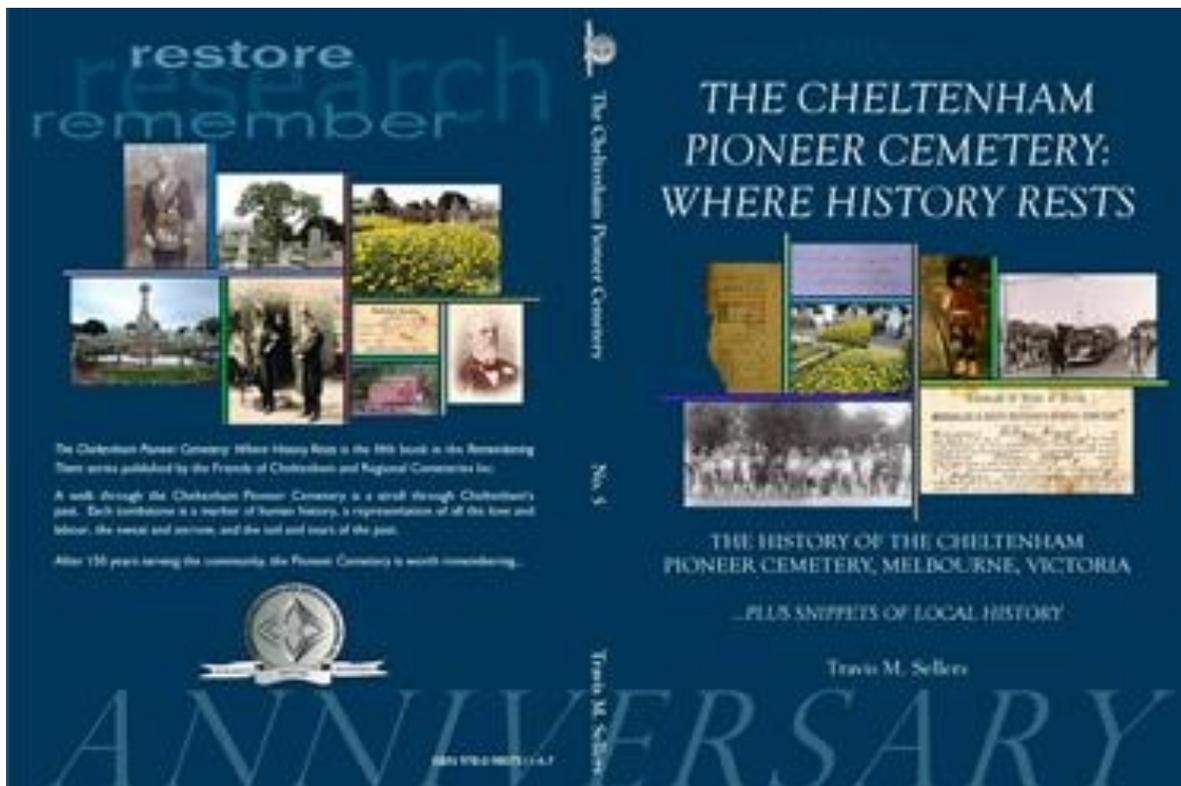
**[Download the index and see if your ancestor is included!](#) [PDF-177KB]**

**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)

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



#### **Directory**

##### **Current Sponsors:**

- Astral Monuments,  
ph: 1300 729 432
- Janet Tacken – Civil Celebrant.  
[www.jennyfuneralcelebrant.com.au](http://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)

## **Tours/Walks**

**Proposed tours/walks dates & themes, at  
Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery**

**May/June 2016  
Convicts & Felons**

Other details to be announced

**October 2016—Children's Week**  
Other details to be announced

**November 2016  
Military  
Remembrance Day.**

Other details to be announced

For insurance purposes, bookings are essential.  
To book your place, e-mail [info@focrc.org](mailto:info@focrc.org) or  
use the Tour Booking Form on our website,  
[www.focrc.org/tours](http://www.focrc.org/tours).

## **Upcoming Tours at Affiliated Cemeteries**

**St.Kilda Cemetery**

**Notable & Notorious Women Tour**

Sunday 3rd April 2:00pm

For further details please contact  
[www.foskc.org](http://www.foskc.org)

**Brighton General Cemetery**

**Angels of Mercy WWI**

Sun 17th April at 2pm,  
For further details please contact  
[www.brightoncemetorians.org](http://www.brightoncemetorians.org)

**Coburg Cemetery**

**ANZAC Tour**

Sun 17th April at 2pm,  
For further details please contact  
[focc.group@gmail.com](mailto:focc.group@gmail.com)

## **Springvale and District Historical Society 'A Family Home of a Soldier on Enlistment in 1914'**

**11 Feb—30 June 2016**

**Open Thursdays**

**1—4 pm**

Or by appointment  
School groups and other groups welcome  
Please call 9547 6460

*FoCRC*