



Raves from the Graves

President's Report

Welcome to the 2019 Spring edition of our Newsletter, *Raves from the Graves*, and greetings to all. The Committee of The Friends extends a warm welcome to all our new members, and thanks to our valued current members for their continued support of the group, and our aims.

The Friends have had a good solid start to the year with two successful tours, with our next tour to be conducted in October – ***The Streets Where We Live, 27th October, Sunday, 2pm*** – at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.

It will be based on streets named after some of the families and individuals buried at Pioneer Cemetery. Streets that will be included are – *Comport Street* Beaumaris, *Cullinane Street* Black Rock, *Tootal Road* Dingley, *Bloxside Lane* Mordialloc, *Kingston Road* Heatherton, *Watkins Street* Aspendale, *Ferdinando Lane* Sandringham, *Crawford Street* Cheltenham and Charles Edward Booker who had three streets named after him in Cheltenham. We look forward to seeing you on the day, or if you can't make that, at one of our future tours.

Please note: Park Road will be closed from Hall Street to the gates from 7am Friday 25 to 7am Monday 28 October.

One of our hard-working Committee members, Sue Beazley, who you may have already met on one of our many tours, has joined the Community Reference Group for Cheltenham & Mentone Stations Crossing removal. Sue has attended their meetings, and is a voice for the local community, in an effort to ensure that the historic station buildings are retained within the Cheltenham Historic precinct. Often these types of volunteer activities can be thankless tasks, and most of the local community are unaware of the hours and work that goes into these roles. We thank Sue for her extensive contributions on behalf of The Cheltenham Friends and the local community.

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Current Committee :

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Margaret Osborne
Secretary:
Sue Beazley
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Our Committee has had some success with our restoration and plaque project for gravesites, especially on otherwise unmarked graves – such as WW1 Veterans, and unsung heroes of the local area. We recently contacted the Director of the Australian War Memorial – Brendan Nelson, and the Minister for the Dept. Of Veterans Affairs – The Hon. Darren Chester, in regard to Pte John (Ernest) Dunbar, who has lain in an unmarked grave since 1925. The War Memorial sells Pte Dunbar’s wartime art work to the public, so we appealed to their sense of fair play, and requested that some of the profits they receive be directed towards a full grave for Dunbar and they agreed it was only fitting they afforded this soldier a proper grave.

Our next undertakings in this project will be another WW1 soldier – Edward Leake, who was a feature article in an earlier edition of this newsletter, and the first local GP, Dr Richard Goldstone. Both of these men are buried in unmarked graves.

We hope you enjoy the articles in this edition. Mick Ward was a Private in WW1, and has recently become significant due to a small suitcase he kept, which contained memorabilia from his time in WW1, and the years following the war. The suitcase, and artefacts contained within were part of an exhibition at the Melbourne Museum in 2018. Our ongoing Cheltenham memories from the Fairlie Taylor series – a descendent of the Fairlam’s, a well-known Cheltenham family who ran a local business in Charman Road for many years, will continue in the December edition of *Raves from the Graves*.

As always, I would like to thank The Committee of The Friends for all their continued hard work and tireless efforts to keep the group relevant. All have their own strengths in various fields, which makes for a very cohesive and unified group.

We look forward to hearing from you, if you have feedback, concerns or stories you would like to share.

Rosemary Reddick
President

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, perhaps even with helping with our website or social media. 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 one of our committee members, we would be delighted to meet you. There is no pressure to become 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

The Streets Where We Live

2.00pm Sunday, 27 October 2019

Have you ever wondered where our street names come from?

Many are named after local settlers and dignitaries who are buried at this historic cemetery.

Some of the streets we will look at are:

Crawford, Barrett, Charles, Edward and Booker Streets in Cheltenham

Comport Street in Beaumaris

Cullinane Street in Black Rock

Kingston Road in Moorabbin

Tootal Road in Dingley

Bloxside Street in Mordialloc

Watkins Street in Aspendale

Munday Street in Mentone

and the proposed new suburb of Pennydale

Meet inside the gate of Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery,
Charman Road, Cheltenham (next to the station).

Cost:

Members - \$10

Non-members - \$15

Refreshments provided

Tour will take approximately 2 hours

Bookings required: 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.

Please note:

* *Car parking at Cheltenham Station is closed due to level crossing removal. Please park in Charman Road.*

* *Park Road will be closed from Hall Street to the gates from 7am Friday 25 to 7 am Monday 28 October.*

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Private Michael Ward's 'Suitcase of Memories'

Part One

Every now and then a story appears that captures the imagination and makes us wonder about the background of that story. Such is the story of Private Michael Ward (known as Mick or Barney), a WW1 veteran who suffered serious injuries while serving on the Western Front and subsequently returned to Australia as a result of those injuries. As was and still is protocol, all of these details were officially well documented and preserved at the time and for generations to come.

What wasn't documented was the fact that Mick had a suitcase. Not just any suitcase, a suitcase that he crammed over 100 items into, memories and memorabilia collected of his time throughout the war, along with some items and memories from immediately after his return to Australia in 1918.

Mick Ward died in 1962, with his wife, Ellen, passing away in 1986. Mick and Ellen did not have any children and, on her death, Mick's precious memories were passed down through her family until one day, years later, the dusty suitcase was discovered during a clean out of a deceased estate. Destined to be discarded, it is fortunate that it was realised that the memories contained within were a precious memory of a man's life and the suitcase was sent to auction, where it was acquired by Museums Victoria in 2016.

The stories behind many of these items may never be fully known. But it is important that they have been preserved as they provide a moving insight into the story of one man's journey to the Western Front, his time there and his return to Australia. We have lost so much of our veterans' history over the years, it is indeed a good thing when a treasure such as Mick's 'Suitcase of Memories' surfaces and is able to be saved.

This is Part One of Mick's story and will cover his early life and his journey to the Western Front. Part Two, which will appear in our December edition of *Raves from the Graves*, will pick up from the time immediately after he was injured on the Western Front and will also touch on his life upon his return to Australia in 1918.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Deborah Tout-Smith from Museums Victoria for her invaluable assistance with the provision of information and permission to use the photographs in this article. We would also like to acknowledge and thank Judy Davies from Lakes Entrance Historical Society and Lois Comeadow from Brighton Cemeterians.



Mick Ward's suitcase

The Early Years

Michael Ward, better known as Mick or Barney, was born 17 August 1889 in Eddington, a small town not far from Bendigo in central Victoria. He was the son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ward (nee Hyde) and one of eight children, having four sisters and three brothers.

In the 1890s, the family moved to Bunga Creek, Cunninghame (near Lakes Entrance), in eastern Victoria where they selected a 166 acre block and established a farm there.

The Wards were one of many large families arriving in the area selecting acreage and they and other families successfully petitioned the State Government for a school to be built to cover the education needs of their children. Land was donated by one of the families, and Bunga Creek Primary

School was established on a block adjacent to the Ward family.

As Mick got older, he helped out on the farm, cutting timber, fencing and working in the market garden business which had been established by his family.

A life-changing decision

In 1916 Mick made the decision to join the Australian Imperial Force and on 17 March that year, he completed the AIF Application to Enlist form in Lakes Entrance and was Provisionally Accepted after undergoing the Preliminary Medical Examination on the same day.

On 21 March 1916, his enlistment was formalised in Sale and he became Pte. No. 4138 Michael Ward. His cousin, Charlie Ward, aged 20 from Lake Tyers, enlisted at the same time.

Original.

APPLICATION TO ENLIST IN THE AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

To the Recruiting Officer
at Lakes Entrance

I, Michael Ward

hereby offer myself for Enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force for Active Service Abroad, and undertake to enlist in the manner prescribed, if I am accepted by the Military Authorities, within one month from date hereof.

POSTAL ADDRESS: Bunga Creek Lakes Entrance Victoria Signature: Michael Ward Occupation: Farm laborer Date: 17th March 1916

(For Identification purposes the above space should be filled in personally by the Applicant.)

CONSENT OF PARENTS OR GUARDIANS. (For Persons under 21 years of age.)
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I approve of the above application, and consent to the enlistment of my {son} for Active Service Abroad.

Statement regarding Death or Absence of either or both Parents. Father's Signature _____
Mother's Signature _____
or
Guardian's Signature _____

PERSONAL PARTICULARS.
Age— 26 yrs. 7 mos. Height— 5 ft. 1/2 ins. Chest Measurement (fully expanded)— 36 inches.
Marrried. Widower. Single.

PRELIMINARY MEDICAL EXAMINATION.
Decision of Medical Authority { FIT for Active Service. } ~~UNFIT~~ for the following reasons:—

Place Lakes Entrance Date 17th March 1916 Signature of Medical Authority. J. M. Inttill

I Concur
Place Sale Date 21. 3. 16 Signature of M.O. at Central Recruiting Depot. A. Macdonald

CERTIFICATE OF RECRUITING OFFICER.
I CERTIFY that I have this day provisionally ACCEPTED this applicant for enlistment in the Australian Imperial Force.
Place Lakes Entrance (Signature) R. J. Gilsonan Recruiting Officer.
Date 16th March 1916

D. 555/7.15.—C. 3091.

[OVER.]

A

74316

29/12/16

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.

41398

Name WARD Michael

✓ 41418

Unit 38th Btn A I.F. South Coast

Joined on 26 April 1916.

Questions to be put to the Person Enlisting before Attestation.

- 1. What is your Name? ... WARD Michael
- 2. In the Parish of ... in or near the Town of Eddington in the County of Victoria
- 3. Are you a natural born British Subject or a Naturalized British Subject? (N.B.—If the latter, papers to be shown.) ... Natural Born British Subject
- 4. What is your Age? ... 26 Years 7 months
- 5. What is your Trade or Calling? ... Farm Labourer
- 6. Are you, or have you been, an Apprentice? If so, where, to whom, and for what period? ... No
- 7. Are you married? ... No
- 8. Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated) ... Father, Mr. Ward Joseph, Bunda Creek, Lakes Entrance Victoria
- 9. Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power? ... No
- 10. Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignominy, or as Incorrigible and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy? ... No
- 11. Do you now belong to, or have you ever served in, His Majesty's Army, the Marines, the Militia, the Militia Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces? If so, state which, and if not now serving, state cause of discharge ... No
- 12. Have you stated the whole, if any, of your previous service? ... Yes
- 13. Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds? ... No
- 14. Do you understand that no separation allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with pay would reach eight shillings per day? ...
- 15. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enteric fever? ... Yes

I, Michael Ward do solemnly declare that the above answers made me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces of the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limits of the Commonwealth.

And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service the support of my wife*† wife and children.

Date 21.3.16

M. Ward
Signature of person enlisted.

* This clause should be struck out in the case of unmarried men or widowers without children under 18 years of age. † Two-fifths must be allotted to the wife, and if there are children three-fifths must be allotted.

Description of WARD Michael on Enlistment.

Age 26 years 7 months.
 Height 5 feet 7 inches.
 Weight 136 lbs.
 Chest Measurement 34/36 inches.
 Complexion Medium
 Eyes Blue
 Hair Black
 Religious Denomination R. C.

DISTINCTIVE MARKS.
3 wace left arm

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I HAVE examined the above-named person, and find that he does not present any of the following conditions, viz. :—

Scrofula; phthisis; syphilis; impaired constitution; defective intelligence; defects of vision, voice, or hearing; hernia; hæmorrhoids; varicose veins, beyond a limited extent; marked varicocele with unusually pendent testicle; inveterate cutaneous disease; chronic ulcers; traces of corporal punishment, or evidence of having been marked with the letters D. or B.C.; contracted or deformed chest; abnormal curvature of spine; or any other disease or physical defect calculated to unfit him for the duties of a soldier.

He can see the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs; and he declares he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for active service.

Date 21. 3. 16

Place Sale

A. Macdonald
Signature of Examining Medical Officer.

CERTIFICATE OF COMMANDING OFFICER.

I CERTIFY that this Attestation of the above-named person is correct, and that the required forms have been complied with. I accordingly approve, and appoint him

to Quoth Regts.

Date 24/16

Place Geelong

E. M. Long
Quoth Regts.
Commanding Quoth Regts.
10/29

The local Bairnsdale paper, the *Every Week*, reported on 30 March 1916 that 'Mr Mick Ward (Mick) son of Mr J. Ward, a well-known resident of Cunninghame, has enlisted for active service. His cousin Mr C. W. Ward and son of Mr W. Ward of Lake Tyers has also joined the colours. Both recruits will go into camp on 22nd April.'

Mick's service record states that at the time of his enlistment he was 26 years and 7 months old and 5 feet 7½ inches tall. His marital status is listed as Single, religion as Roman Catholic and his occupation as a Farm Labourer.

Mick's records indicate that during his training he spent some time at a military hospital named *Osborne House* in Geelong, and afterwards at the *Ascot Vale* isolation camp. His illness at the time is not recorded, however the isolation camp was a place that soldiers were sent if they had contracted or been in contact with infectious diseases along the lines of measles or mumps.

Miss Daylana
4-6-18
Sent 65/0

Clay B. Bairnsdale
11/17

Statement of Service of No. 4138 Name **WARD, Michael**

Unit in which served.	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Period of service in each rank.		Remarks.
		From—	To—	
<i>19th Coy Bktn Geelong #SP</i>		<i>26/5/16</i>	<i>23/10/16</i>	<i>Transferred to Osborne House</i>
<i>Isolation Camp Ascot Vale</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>10/7/16</i>	<i>20/7/16</i>	<i>Osborne House Geelong</i>
<i>4th Coy Bktn Geelong</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>10/9/16</i>	<i>19/9/16</i>	<i>Geelong</i>
<i>10/29 R/Co Nelson</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>20/9/16</i>	<i>6/10/16</i>	<i>Transferred to Royal Park</i>
<i>10/29 R/Co</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>7/10/16</i>	<i>20/10/16</i>	<i>Royal Park</i>
<i>10/29 R/Co</i>	<i>Pte</i>	<i>21/10/16</i>		<i>H.M.T, A 16</i>
Embarked Melbourne		21-10-16		
Port Melbourne				L.R. 8976
Disembarked Devonport		28-12-16		

Upon discharge from the isolation camp in Ascot Vale, Mick was despatched to the training camp at Royal Park, before a final home leave where he was farewelled by his community with speeches

and the presentation of a wrist watch and fountain pen.

Embarkation and Service

Pte. Michael Ward finally departed Australia on 21 October 1916 aboard the A16 *HMAT Port Melbourne*, disembarking at Devonport in England just after Christmas on 28 December 1916.

It is not known exactly when Mick started collecting his memorabilia, but it was probably around this time. Rosemary Reddick from the Friends group visited with staff from Museum Victoria earlier this year where they very kindly provided access to the contents of his suitcase.



Some of the contents found in Mick's suitcase

Upon arrival in England, Mick remained in training before being transferred to the 38th Battalion in late 1917. In December 1917, some 21 months after his enlistment in March 1916, he marched out to France with his battalion.

Not long after, in March 1918, the German Spring Offensive, or "Kaiser's Battle", a series of German attacks along the Western Front, commenced. A month later, the 38th Battalion was located at Buire, in the Somme region, when the trenches there were shelled. Mick was seriously wounded, with the transit label found in his suitcase years later stating that he was wounded in his left knee, while his service record states that he received a shrapnel wound to his left knee and a fracture to his right knee. They also indicate that the middle finger of his right hand was wounded and eventually had to be amputated in 1920.

As a result of his injuries, Mick was transported



Transit tag attached to Mick's hammock after he was injured: from his suitcase

from the front to the first of several medical facilities for treatment.

Mick's story will be continued in the December edition of *Raves from the Graves*, along with more images of his service and photographs of the contents of his 'Suitcase of Memories'.

Sources:

National Archives of Australia: Pte. Michael Ward, Service Number 4138. Barcode 8347184. <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8347184>

Every Week, Bairnsdale, Vic 1914/918, p4. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article153442997>

Deborah Tout-Smith, Museums Victoria.

Judy Davies, Lakes Entrance Historical Society.



Mick's 'Suitcase of Memories'

AIF notification of Mick's wounding

B.R. Form No. 9.

Don't forget to send any chance of address to—
BASE RECORDS,
MELBOURNE.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

BASE RECORDS OFFICE,
VICTORIA BARRACKS,
MELBOURNE. 30/7/18.

Dear Sir,
I regret to advise you that Private M. Ward, has been reported wounded.

His postal address will be—
No. 4138 Private M. Ward,
38th Battalion,
Australian Imperial Force,
Abroad.

In the absence of further reports it is to be assumed that satisfactory progress is being maintained, but anything later received will be promptly transmitted, **it being clearly understood that if no further advice is forwarded this department has no more information to supply.**

Yours faithfully,
J. McLean Major,
Officer in Charge, Base Records.

D.1171/1.13—C.445—226.

Cheltenham Station Level Crossing Removal

An Update

Our committee member, Sue Beazley, was invited to join the **Cheltenham Station Reference Group** representing the Friends and local residents. The Friends main concern has been the historic Cheltenham railway buildings (1882 and 1899), the last remaining example of what was known as the Cheltenham style. The Railway buildings form an important local historic precinct with **Pioneer Cemetery** (1865) and **Cheltenham Primary School** (1869) and for many years the railway was used to transport deceased for burial at the cemetery. We fully support a modern station, but have been advocating for one or both of the old buildings to be repositioned on the Cheltenham railway site and made available for the use of some of our smaller community groups and yes, that would include the Friends who currently cope with a tiny storage area at the Caretaker's Cottage. The Minister for Transport, the Hon. Jacinta Allan, has committed to save both Cheltenham and Mentone railway buildings, however whereas Mentone (1914) is included in the current plan, there has been no provision made for siting of the buildings on the Cheltenham plan. It is disappointing to us that neither the State Government nor our two local councils understand the significance of these historic railway buildings and the need to preserve them for future generations.

Parking at Cheltenham Station is now closed until mid-2021 to allow construction of the new station and level crossing removal. Free all day parking is available at **Southland Station** (Southland Shopping Centre Level 1 entry beach side), but you have to be in the designated area by 8 am. Other free all-day commuter parking is at Karen Street, (the old KFC site on the Chesterville Road side), a 7 minute walk from Southland Station. If you park in other parts of the Southland Shopping Centre, the first three hours is free, but there is a charge of \$3.00 per hour after that. Pedestrian access remains open at Cheltenham Station. Hope you are all coping, this is not an easy time for commuters or our local shops who will need our support.

November/December 2019 – parts of **Charman Road** and **Park Road** will be closed to vehicles for 4 to 6 weeks to allow equipment and materials to be moved on site. Charman Road closure is likely to be from Station Street to past Cheltenham Primary School and this will be confirmed shortly. Access from **Station Street** will be maintained, but expect right turn access only. Vehicle detours will be in place and pedestrian access will be maintained. **Balcombe Road** will also be closed at Mentone in November.

There will be limited vehicle access to the **Pioneer Cemetery** during this road closure, but they expect to maintain pedestrian access to the cemetery at all times. Special arrangements will be made for any funerals at the cemetery during this time. As you know, the cemetery driveway and station entrance are next to each other, so it is making life difficult for both the workers and the cemetery.

You will notice that our beautiful palms have already been removed, but they will be back in the entrance to the new station when all the construction work is completed. They are currently being cared for by one of our nurseries. Sadly, our much-loved peppercorn tree could not be moved and has already been removed.

LXRA now has a permanent office at Mentone where they are displaying a model of both Cheltenham and Mentone proposed stations. You can call in and have a look at the new stations and ask them any questions you may have.

If you have any queries or suggestions you would like raised at the Reference Group meetings, you can email me at chopsueysb@gmail.com.

We would appreciate any Kingston and Bayside residents contacting their local councillor to express their support for the two old station buildings.

Upcoming Local Events

The Friends of Cheltenham Regional Cemeteries will be presenting displays and have volunteers present to assist with any queries you may have at two events which will be occurring throughout October.

If you have some free time, please come along and say hello.

HISTORY WEEK 2019

When: Sunday, 13th to Sunday, 20th October

Where: Beaumaris Library, 92 Reserve Road, Beaumaris

OPEN DAY

Beaumaris Modern, a group interested in the architectural history of Beaumaris, are conducting a history / tour day which will also host local history groups like FOCRC.

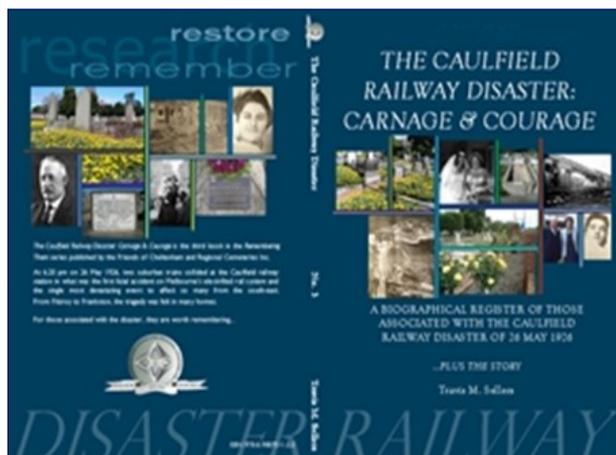
When: Sunday, 20th October

Where: Beaumaris Bowling Club, 1 Martin Street, Beaumaris

Time: 10am to 4pm

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

Catherine Childerhouse

Researched and written by Sue Beazley

Catherine Childerhouse lies in a dirt grave at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery (15*3CE*O), her resting place forgotten by all but the cemetery records. Catherine passed away 18 September 1923 at the grand age of 105 years at the Melbourne Benevolent Society in Cheltenham where she had lived for nine years. Catherine recorded some of her story herself, firstly when interviewed for her 105th Anniversary and later when interviewed by a reporter from 'The Argus' not long before her death.



Catherine Childerhouse

The article below appeared on page 3 in the *Northern Star*, Lismore on Friday, 6 July 1923.

Mrs. Catherine Childerhouse celebrated her 105th birthday on Sunday last at the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, Cheltenham, in which institution she has been an inmate for the last nine years. Since she attained her centenary the authorities at the home have arranged a birthday party each year. Mrs. Childerhouse was born in England. She was brought to Australia by her father, Colour-sergeant Foley, who is reputed to have been in charge of the first batch of convicts transported to Van Dieman's Land, when she was aged only twelve months. When she was aged only 12 years, she returned to England with her parents, and later went to India, where she was married to John Childerhouse. The greater part of her married life was spent in India, but Mrs. Childerhouse had travelled to Australia several times before finally settling here. She was the mother of 18 children, all of whom, however, are dead. There are

several grandchildren resident in Australia. One of her sons, aged 72 years, died in the Cheltenham asylum in 1921, and it was when visiting him that Mrs. Childerhouse was persuaded to enter the home to be cared for when she was aged 96 years.

Catherine was born 1 July 1818 to Michael Foley and his wife Nancy in Norwich, in the County of Norfolk, England. Colour Sergeant Michael Foley was a member of the 27th Inniskilling Regiment during South Africa's Frontier Wars of 1835 - 1847. He is listed as having been awarded the South Africa 1853 Medal.

At the age of 12 months Catherine travelled to Australia with her father Colour Sergeant Michael Foley, who is reputed to have been in charge of the first batch of convicts transported to Van Diemen's Land. She remained in Australia until returning to England with her parents at 12 years of age. Catherine lived a remarkable life travelling freely between England, Van Diemen's Land, India, Ireland and Western Australia, finally settling in Melbourne in her later years. It is likely that she also visited other countries as she travelled first with her parents and then with her husband, both English military men.

In her 20s, Catherine travelled to India where in 1843 she met and married John Childerhouse, Colour Sergeant with the 40th Foot Regiment based in Bengal at the time. They married 10 April 1843 at Meerut and their first child, Agnes Clare, was born the following February in Bengal. No other births have been found in India, but it seems likely that there may have been others who died young. Catherine herself tells us that she had 18 children; it has been impossible to confirm them all given the number of birth countries. In 1850, Catherine gave birth to Alice in Ireland, followed by Kate in 1853 and Robert in 1856 in Limerick, Ireland. The first child recorded in Western Australia is Maria Jane 1861, followed by a number of other children, with their youngest daughter, Victoria, born in 1870 in Richmond, Victoria.

John Childerhouse was born in Bandon, Cork in 1814. In 1826, at the age of 12, John joined the 40th Regiment of the Foot and was to remain with the Regiment for 37 years until his

discharge in 1853; serving in England, Ireland, India, Afghanistan and Australia. In 1860, John was recruited to the Western Australian Pensioner Guards as Sergeant Major and arrived with a group of convicts on the 'Palmerston' in February 1861. With the English military engaged in a number of conflicts at the time, there was a shortage of guards to accompany the convicts and to control them in the colony. A solution was found by recruiting retired English military officers to fill the shortage. To encourage them to stay in the colony, they were offered an allotment of ten acres of land which they could lease for seven years and then own freehold. As an extra incentive, a gratuity of £10 was given to each of them and they were promised the use of convict labour to help clear the land. They became known as the 'Pensioner Guards'. The 'Palmerston' had a contingency of 30 Pensioner Guards accompanied by 20 wives and 49 children.

Shortly after their arrival, John, Catherine and Agnes faced court charged with 'receiving, harbouring, and maintaining Edward James Salter, alias Edward Holmes, an escaped prisoner of the Crown under a sentence of 18 years' penal servitude for uttering a forged note.' This was a sensational trial at the time and was fully reported in the Western Australian papers, it is certainly worth logging onto Trove to read the account of this intriguing story. From the evidence presented there is little doubt that Agnes had formed a relationship with Edward on the 'Palmerston' and her parents helped him escape the Swan River prison settlement. This seemed very naive from someone so high up in rank and my own thoughts were that perhaps Agnes was pregnant to Salter? The Childerhouse family were defended by a very good counsel who managed to convince the jury that the family had been duped by Salter and they were acquitted.

The known children of Catherine and John Childerhouse were:

Agnes Clare b. 1844 Meerut, Bengal India
Anna b. 1845
Fanny Jane b. 1849 Dublin, Ireland
Alice b. 1850 Dublin, Ireland
Kate b. 1853 in Ireland
Lucerne Robert b. 1855 Limerick, Ireland
Emma Mary b.c. 1858
Mary Jane b. 1860 Western Australia

Maria Jane b. 1862 Western Australia
Eva Teresa b. 1864 Perth, WA
Victoria Esther b. 1870 Richmond, Victoria

Around 1866, the family moved to Melbourne where John took employment as a letter carrier. John passed away on 23 June 1876 at the family home in Ophir Street, Richmond. Catherine again brushed with the law, with son Robert facing court a number of times for various offences. On 17 February 1880, Robert was sentenced to Pentridge for one year with hard labour for robbery in company. It took a while to realise that the Lucerne Childerhouse bootmaker, who Catherine was living with in Richmond on the 1914 census, was the Robert Childerhouse who had been charged in 1880.

With failing health, Lucerne was admitted to the Cheltenham Benevolent Asylum around 1914, where he passed away in June 1921, aged 65 years. He was buried at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery by the Asylum and lies on his own in a dirt grave in the Catholic section (15*27RC*O). It was while visiting Lucerne that Catherine was persuaded to move to the Benevolent Asylum at the age of 96 years. 'Granny', as she was known by all, quickly became a favourite and the home arranged a 100th birthday party for her in 1918. She was treated to a birthday party every year until her death on 18 September 1923 when she was the oldest resident. Catherine was survived by a number of her grandchildren.

Sources:

National Library of Australia, Trove. *Northern Star* (Lismore, NSW: 1876 - 1924) Friday, 6 July 1923, page 3

The Argus, Saturday, 11 August 1923, page 6

The Perth Gazette and Independent Journal of Politics and News (WA 1848 - 1864), Friday, 12 July 1861 page 3, Article Centenarian's Birthday, *The Argus*, 2 July 1923, page 3

Various BDM records

PROV: Prisoner 18012 - Robert Childerhouse, Pentridge, 16 Feb 1880

Photo of Catherine Childerhouse: from FO CRC publication 'Cheltenham Cemetery: Where History Rests' by Travis M. Sellers, page 110

CHILDERHOUSE. - On the 18th September, 1923,
at the Hospital for the Aged and Infirm, Cheltenham, Gran Childerhouse,
much loved and respected by all her companions and friends in
Ward 6, where she lived for the past nine years, aged 105.

One of the best.

~ The Argus, Wednesday 19 September 1923

THE OLDEST INHABITANT.

Mrs. Childerhouse is in her 106th year.
She is somewhat deaf, but retains all
her mental faculties.



DINING-ROOM.

There are no handsomer dining-rooms in Melbourne than those for the men and women at Cheltenham. The walls are tiled and the fanlights over the windows are of stained glass.

Membership Subscription

Membership is open to anyone from around the world with an interest in the Cheltenham Cemeteries, Melbourne Australia. For just \$A20.00 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.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, Cheltenham

As a follow on from our previous piece on Catherine Childerhouse, we are including some information on the place where she spent the final nine years of her life.



Melbourne Benevolent Asylum, Cheltenham - Moving Day 27 March 1911

MELBOURNE BENEVOLENT ASYLUM. NEW QUARTERS AT CHELTEN- HAM.

MELBOURNE, Monday.
The work of transferring the inmates of the Benevolent Asylum at North Melbourne to their new quarters at Cheltenham was commenced today, when the female hospital patients, numbering 124, were moved. They were conveyed in furniture vans and ambulance vehicles. Although the change was for the better, so far as the character of the buildings is concerned and also the healthfulness of the surroundings, some of the old folks were sad at leaving a place which had been their home for so many years, and tears were shed as the last was seen of the old building. The oldest inhabitant was Anastasia Leahy, who has been an inmate of the asylum for 53 years, but others number over 40 years. The new building largely owes its existence to the liberality of the late Mr J. H. Hingston, and many regrets were expressed that he had not lived to see the realisation of his philanthropic scheme.

Interesting Facts

- ◆ 27 March 1911: Moving inmates from North Melbourne to Cheltenham commenced.
- ◆ Official opening: 11 April 1911 by the Governor.
- ◆ Home for 640 inmates set on 10 acres.
- ◆ Included The Cheltenham Home for the Aged and Infirm.
- ◆ Heatherton Sanatorium Home for Consumptives opened 27 May 1913 with 100 beds. This was located on Kingston Road, next to the Benevolent Asylum and was for the treatment of tuberculosis.
- ◆ Heatherton Hospital officially closed 30 January 1998.
- ◆ Burials at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery: 2,100 inmates of the Benevolent Asylum and Heatherton Sanatorium.
- ◆ Buried by organisations in unmarked graves, often a number of inmates would be buried together years apart.
- ◆ An example of the point above is Anastasia Leahy (Grave No. 46*CRC*O) who had been an inmate of the North Melbourne Benevolent Asylum for 53 years. *Ballarat Star 28 March 1911, p.2*. She was interred at Pioneer 17 November 1921 aged 83 years, a resident at both locations for 63 years.

'The Melbourne Benevolent Asylum: Haven of Rest' is the fourth book in the 'Remembering Them' series written by Travis M. Sellers for the FOCRC. Copies can be purchased by contacting us on info@focrc.org or via our website. Cost: Members \$36.00 Non-Members \$40.00

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.**

