



Raves from the Graves

President's Report

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter, *Raves from the Graves*. Greetings to all and hope you are managing to stay warm this winter – as it seems to be cold all over Australia. 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.

The year started with a wonderful tour, in March, which was well received. However our second tour had to be cancelled due to unforeseen personal circumstances, so we apologise to all who may have been intending to join us. Our next tour will be on Sunday 9 Sept, starting at 2pm – and will focus on **Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure!!** You will know by now that I sing the praises of our tour leader and main researcher, Sue Beazley – and the praise is well deserved. Sue always presents an interesting, thoughtful and factual tour, telling it how it was – but being mindful of sensitivities. We hope you can join us, and we look forward to seeing you.

Our memberships are currently due and to date we have had a great response for renewals, as well as wonderful feedback from some members. The Friends committee understands that we all face pressures on our limited incomes, so we do appreciate your continued support

You may recall in a previous newsletter I reported our attempts to restore, or at least halt the deterioration of the oldest headstone at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery, had been thwarted by time itself. We were advised by a world renowned conservator – who kindly donated his time – that our efforts would be in vain. However, the committee has made the decision to at least place a

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Current Committee :

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

Ordinary Committee Members: Ric Norman

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FoCRC



plaque on the gravesite so that a record of the exact wording from the headstone may be around in perpetuity – for future generations. We will now begin the process of contacting a Tilley relative to gain approval for the plaque. If you are a direct descend of Richard Tilley we would love to hear from you

The main article in this edition of our newsletter is about the Fairlam family, who were pioneers in the Cheltenham area, but unlike most other pioneering families they were not market gardeners. The Fairlam's were auctioneers, real estate agents, photographers and local retailers. Their mixed retail business, which was almost next to the railway line on Charman Road, opposite the railway station, was well known to many locals.

And in this edition we have begun a series of snippets from a manuscript written by Fairlie Taylor (Addie Fairlam) about her reminisces of life in Cheltenham and Beaumaris, in what she calls 'the early years'. We hope you enjoy the read.

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 thank you all for your continued support for The Friends of Cheltenham Group and I 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. 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

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.

School Tour

In June we conducted a tour for year 6 students of St. Patricks of Mentone. There was one group of 26 in the morning and another group joined us in the afternoon.

Our illustrious tour leader, Sue Beazley, put together an amazing program to keep the kids interested. It was a great history tour, where they learnt about some of the earliest burials, including that of indigenous lady Eliza, who was the last of her Bunurong tribe from Mordialloc. Sue included what life might have been like for a child back in the 1860s, and how different it would be compared to present day. They heard about the first cemetery of the area in Beaumaris, some of the notable pioneers of the area, and even learnt about the history of their school.

The teachers and students were engrossed in the tour, learning about a cemetery and how some of the ordinary people buried at Cheltenham Pioneer were in fact extraordinary people, and some were part of their own families. The children asked lots of questions and we were delighted to receive quite a few research enquiries afterwards. We hope it has inspired some of them to start researching their own family.



St. Patrick's Primary School, Mentone
Original Building



St. Patrick's Primary
School Tour
June 2018



RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Fairlam Family of Cheltenham, Melbourne

Researched and written by Rosemary Reddick

The Fairlam family contributed greatly to the Cheltenham community. William Percy Fairlam was the local Auctioneer, his son Richard William Percy Fairlam assisted in that business. Richard also became a well-known photographer, and later established a mixed retail business which included hardware. Richard Fairlam also served in WW1.

My connection to the Fairlam family is through my great, great uncle William Ruse, as William Percy Fairlam married William and Betsy Ruse's daughter, Elizabeth Ann. There are many other connections to other Moorabbin Parish pioneering families, as will become evident as you read on.

The Fairlam family, like many families of the era, seem to confuse us present day researchers with the repetition of names throughout the generations. And it seems the Fairlam's were no different, as William, Richard or Percy appears in every one of the six generations I researched – with all three names occasionally belonging to one person, or spread throughout each generation with cousins, brothers, fathers, uncles and grandparents!

William Percy Fairlam's ancestors were quite industrious and prosperous. His great, great grandfather, Richard Fairlam was a wealthy man, making his fortune in Taverns and Public Houses around London. Richard was

born C1779, and by the time of his death in 1848 he owned many properties, public houses and land. He resided in Oxford Street, Westminster, as well as owning other property in that street. He had amassed significant fortune, comprising freehold land, premises and businesses in Hoxton and surrounding areas, and as far afield as Lowestoft where he owned a brewery and other property. At the height of his wealth, Richard owned the Bulls Head and Black Bull pubs in Whitechapel, Bird-in-the-Hand in Oxford St and the White Hart – amongst others. Some of these establishments are still in existence today. In his Will, Richard bequeathed £1000s of pounds to his wife Mary Thornton, and their children. There were annuities established for his servants, as well as donations to the British Museum.



Black Bull Hotel

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.

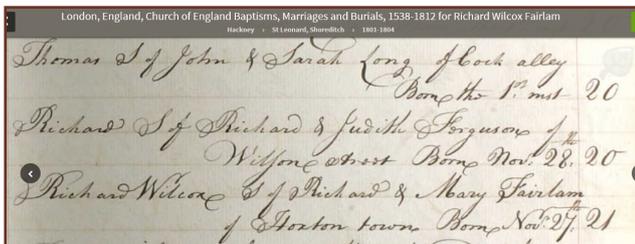
www.focrc.org. * Plus \$A10.00 joining fee for new members.

One of Richard Fairlam's children, Richard Wilcox Fairlam, started his working life in his father's business, as a wine & spirit merchant, but in later years established himself as a pawnbroker and jeweller. He resided at 396 Oxford Street, Westminster – which, to this day - is still a jeweller's shop.



396 Oxford Street, Westminster

Richard Wilcox was born in 1802 and married Mary Ann Shephard in 1826. They had eight children, with the youngest, William, being born in 1833. Possibly it was because William was the youngest, and maybe less likely to have to take on the family business, as well as the lure of gold, which propelled him towards Australia when the gold rush was at its height. William believed he would be able to 'pickup gold in the streets'. He arrived in Australia in 1853 on the ship *Walmer Castle*, and was listed as a miner.



Birth Certificate: Richard Wilcox Fairlam

Instead of making his fortune finding gold, Richard Wilcox Fairlam met Adeliza Matilda Walker and they married in 1857. Adeliza was the youngest daughter of Thomas and Charlotte Walker – another pioneering family in Cheltenham. Thomas Walker arrived in Australia in 1852, bringing his wife and family, and his own prefabricated house. The Walker home stood in Chesterville road until the 1960's. Thomas Walker, along with the Ruse siblings William, David and Hannah, the Charman's, Moysey's, Keys, Beazley's and others, settled in Cheltenham; life for them all centred around their market gardens. The area of Cheltenham where Thomas Walker

and William Ruse first settled was originally called Chesterville, as they had both been living in Chester when they sailed from England.

William and Adeliza Fairlam had seven children and they settled on land in Jasper Road East Brighton, now Bentleigh, and cultivated the property as a market garden. William Percy, their eldest son, was born in 1861, in Cheltenham. Tragically, like many families of the time, four of their children did not make it to adulthood. Their eldest, Addie Lilian, had a short life of only a year. Their second child, Adela Emily, was seven when she died in 1867, the same year as her younger sister Grace, who was only three. Alfred Ernest died after living only eight days in 1869. Their youngest, Albert Warwick survived until he was 44, sadly dying of TB in 1910. Albert never married. The remaining two children were William Percy and Minnie Cathleen.

In 1867 or 1868 William and Adeliza moved to Melbourne, maybe after they had endured the tragedy of losing two of their children in the one year? William established an estate agency in Lygon Street, however tragedy was to strike again when William senior died in 1871, at the relatively young age of 39.

When William senior died, the family moved back to the Cheltenham area, residing in Swanston Street; William Percy was sent to school in Latrobe Street, conducted by Mrs. Chambers. Later the school was operated by Mr and Mrs Frederick Meeres until a government school was opened in Charman Road, in the 1870s – Cheltenham Primary. Frederick Meeres' brother, Walter, was to be the first Headmaster of Cheltenham Primary, also becoming part of the Walker/Fairlam family by marrying Adeliza's sister, Emily.

Once William Percy finished school, he travelled up to Brisbane where he worked for five years, then moved back to Melbourne, serving 12 years altogether for the warehouse firm Shaw & Co. However, when the land boom started in Melbourne in the 1880s, William Percy seized the opportunity to open his own estate agency in Collins Street Melbourne, with a branch in Cheltenham.



W.P. Fairlam Auction Rooms
Charman Road, Cheltenham

In 1885 William Percy married my great, great uncle's daughter, Elizabeth Ann Ruse. The Ruse's lived in Charman Road, their property bounded by Latrobe, Patty and Bourke Streets, and for many years had lived next door to William Percy's maternal grandparents, Thomas and Charlotte Walker. William Percy and Elizabeth had three children, Richard William Percy Fairlam, Addie Lilian and Eugenie Aimee. Addie Fairlam, later known as Fairlie Taylor, wrote two books in her lifetime. The first, recounting parts of her life and reminisces of early life in Cheltenham, *Bid Time Return*, 1975. Her second book related to the years of her life after she married – *Time Recalled* – published in 1978. Fairlie was a teacher and later became Victoria's first full-time teacher librarian at the Presbyterian Ladies College. She was a founding member of the Library Association of Australia, and was awarded a British Empire medal in 1977 for her services to education.

In the early 1890s, land prices crashed and William Percy was forced to give up his Collins St office and retreat to his Cheltenham branch in Charman Road next to the railway line, on the north side. The trains started running through Cheltenham in the early 1880s bringing more people out of the city and helping to expand the Moorabbin Parish, of which Cheltenham was a part.

William & Betsy's house in Charman Road, Cheltenham.



William Percy Fairlam was a well-respected Auctioneer and involved himself in the local community. He owned much real estate around the area – which included the land that the current Cheltenham Library now stands – Stanley Avenue. As well as his position as an Auctioneer, William became a Crown Bailiff, an Auditor, a Gazetted Valuer, Councillor for the Moorabbin Parish, and a great advocate of the Cheltenham Park in his later years. In 1925, before he retired from Council, William moved a motion to have Cheltenham Park proclaimed a sanctuary for Australian bird life and native game. The motion was agreed. William was also involved in many of the local sporting groups, possibly even providing monetary support. For many years William and Elizabeth lived in Charman Road, however in 1927 they moved to 3 Stanley Street, which was his place of residence when he died in 1947. Elizabeth predeceased him by only nine months, and they are both buried at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.



The Fairlam Family - Cheltenham
Seated: Elizabeth & Eugenie
Standing: Addie, Percy & William

William Percy's son, Richard William Percy Fairlam - known as Percy Fairlam – was born in 1886 in the Charman Road house. His sister Addie was born in 1887, with Eugenie following in 1892. He attended the local school, then began his working life with the Hider Smith Furniture store in Richmond. This was a great introduction to a lifetime in business. He also worked for a short time at a general store on Phillip Island and it was here that he met his future wife, Ruth Reid Kennon. Ruth's family operated the Genesta Guest House in central Cowes.

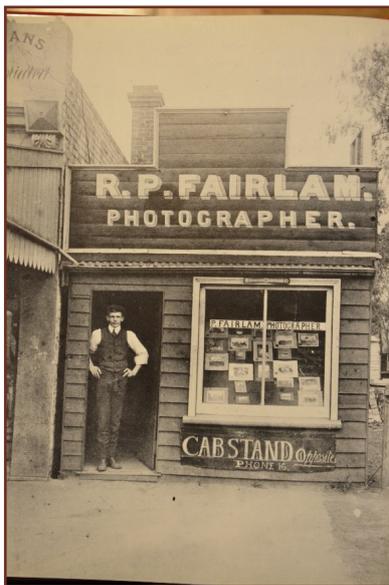
Percy's father invited him to join the real estate business, and although primarily responsible for

the general running of the store he developed a great interest in photography, recording much of the landscape of the area in and around Cheltenham, Beaumaris and Mentone. By the 1900s a small wooden shop stood opposite the railway station, next door to his father's shop in Charman Road, which displayed a large sign boldly advertising: R. P. FAIRLAM – PHOTOGRAPHER. Percy, who was now in his twenties, began to combine his passion of photography with the inherited business skills that had been prevalent in every generation of his family from as far back as the 1700s.

advertising natural landscapes by producing post cards. This was a technique he learnt whilst working on Phillip Island.



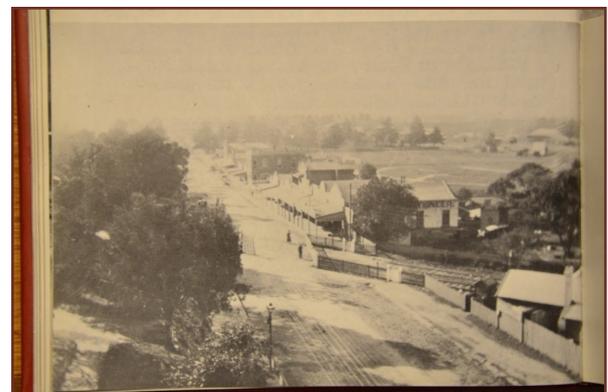
Old Postcard of Cheltenham



Percy Fairlam outside his photography store
Charman Road, Cheltenham



Beaumaris Coastline



Photograph of Charman Road, taken from the top of the pine tree inside Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery

Percy produced a significant collection of photographs of the natural and man-made surrounds of Cheltenham. He seemed fond of the beach environs, with many beautifully produced images of the local cliff faces, the sea baths, the rock pools off Ricketts Point, or the boat shed and jetty. To record these images Percy would have used a large format 'view' camera. This type of camera had a lens at the front with a glass viewing screen at the back. Light travelled off the chosen study, through the camera lens onto the back viewing screen. If you can imagine photographers who stood with a black cloth over their heads to aid them; that is what Percy would have done to gain his marvellous images. His photos would have been produced using glass plate negatives, which were fitted into the back of the camera. The glass negative would then have been processed in a dark room. Percy also developed a style of

However, Percy's life, along with thousands of other Australian men, was to be interrupted by WW1. He enlisted in March 1916 and found himself in France by August 1916. Originally he was to be a light horseman, but, instead re-trained into the infantry and served with the 10th Field Engineers. He sent many letters home, each one describing life on the Western Front. On 8 Dec 1916 he sent this missive to his family:

'I am still going strong have now been one week in the firing line and am enjoying myself, we turn out at six in the morning and walk out to the dump where the stores are kept just behind the trenches about 45 minutes' walk then each sap takes a party of infantry into the trenches and sets them to work repairing damaged trenches, the walk out and back makes one very weary, I have about a mile of trenches to go through to get to my work...I am quite used to the shells flying about they make a screeching noise going overhead after that the bang, it is some noise if three or four land together. Poor old Fritz gets a lively time he must get very down hearted building up his trenches every day. We can get hot baths about a mile away in the brewery. As you go in you give in your dirty clothes and get clean ones. The baths are in large vats about 12 men in each it great fun bobbing up and down in the hot water...I would like to write more about France but I am not allowed...One thing that you see in the trenches and that is rats, they are there in thousands.'

In January 1917 Percy was wounded near Passchendaele (Belgium) and was sent to England to convalesce. His letter home describes his situation as he was recovering at the Brewery House, in East Grinstead, Surrey.

'by this time I suppose you have been notified I was bowled over on 4 January – fancy me wounded and in hospital. It is not bad fun, much better than in the trenches.....I am in one of the finest places a fellow could wish for, it is the residence of a man that's owns a brewery here. It is run by the Red Cross and has volunteer workers, everything is done for our comfort...'

Percy was so enamoured of the English countryside that he produced a series of images that were part of another post card series.



An English village in 1917

By July 1917, Percy was back in France, and by April 1918 he wrote the following account of the last big German advance against the British Fifth Army – a battle in which the Australians were to be thrown as stop gaps.

'We are in a very hot corner just at present. When I last wrote I was about to go on leave to England and Paris but Fritz made a large advance against the Pommies with the result the Aussies had to rush off on a four day journey and put a stop to it. A frightful muddle was made of the retreat, now we have to patch it up. Our div. is in the thick of it and has tickled up the hun to some tune. He came over in mass formation at midday last week but not a man got back, the machine guns wiped the whole lot out, our infantry are getting a very bloodthirsty crowd... At present we are living in a very fine house, every convenience, two pianos and any amount of food and wine. I have a canteen going inside a room, very nice fireplace and bed plenty of coal. Two days ago a shell hit but failed to come through, lucky for me, the explosion gave me a shock, that is the only shelling that has landed on the house but we have them landing within 100 yards day and night, it is not very joyful living under these conditions but we shall have to put up with it'

Upon returning home in 1919, Percy made some life changing decisions. He would continue in the family business, rather than pursuing a career in photography, and he would marry Ruth Reid Kennon. Percy and Ruth had maintained contact during his time away on Europe, with Percy writing Ruth many warm hearted letters, including sending her fascinating photographs of his travels in England. They married in 1921 at the Genesta Guest House, and spent their honeymoon at Lakes Entrance. Ruth and Percy had three children – Graham Kennon 1923, William Percy 1926 and Beatrice Elizabeth 1930.

Ruth and Percy purchased the property next door to his parents' house in Stanley Avenue for £200, and he built their home, with the assistance of Mr Chapman, a local builder. Percy eventually took over the management of the whole family business after the death of his father, William, in 1947. Although, over the years, the business had changed emphasis from real estate to selling furniture, floor coverings and hardware. This

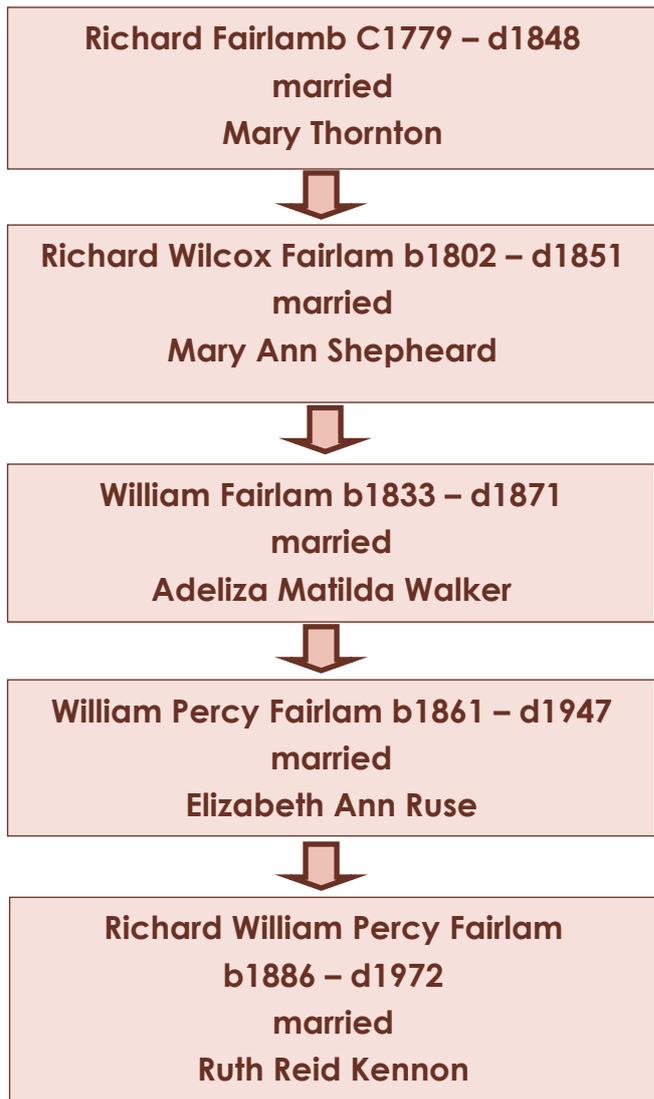
store had firmly established itself in the Cheltenham community.

In the profitable years of business, the Fairlam's were able to purchase a property at McCrae and the family would drive down for short stays away. But the depression hit them hard – as it did all. Many of the goods in the shop had to be sold at half price to enable struggling families the ability to purchase. Due to the financial pressures, Percy had to take on a second job at night, which allowed him to keep running the business during the day. Sadly, during this time Ruth and Percy's son William contracted polio, when the insidious disease swept over the world. William was eight at the time and spent much of his childhood lying flat on his back strapped to a metal frame, a contraption fashioned for him by Percy. Some years later, Cheltenham suffered a typhoid epidemic due to contaminated milk, and their daughter Beatrice (Betty) was struck down. Both children survived their illnesses and lived into adulthood.

In the early 1950s, Percy was informed that he had a genetic heart condition which would require regular medical attention at Heidelberg Repat. By 1959, Percy decided it was time for him to retire from the family business. For his remaining years, even though he suffered with poor health, Percy attended every ANZAC Day march, except when ill in hospital. Richard William Percy Fairlam died in 1972.

We have travelled almost 200 hundred years of one family, from C1779 to 1972. The entrepreneurship was evident from Richard Fairlam way back in the 1770s – right through to Richard William Percy Fairlam. There is no escaping our DNA. They were an industrious, ambitious and hardworking family, who contributed to the local Cheltenham community, shaping it for the generations that have come after them.

Fairlam Descendant Chart Main Characters



Sources:

- Ancestry
- Find My Past UK
- Trove: *Brighton Southern Cross, The Argus, The Age, Winner Melbourne.*
- Kingston Historical Website
- Local Historian: Shirley Joy
- Mordialloc Historical Society – Manuscript written by Janika Eva Granddaughter of Richard Percy Fairlam. 1999
- National Archives UK
- National Archives Australia
- Australian War Memorial
- Friends of Cheltenham database

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BAPTISMS solemnized in **CHRIST CHURCH**, in the Parish of **St. MARY-LE-BONE**, in the County of **MIDDLESEX**, in the Year **One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-three.**

When Baptized.	Child's Christian Name.	Parents' Name.		Abode.	Quality, Trade, or Profession.	By whom the Ceremony was Performed, and Date of Birth.
		Christian.	Surname.			
1833. July 17 th	William	Richard Adeliza	Fairlam	St. John Street, Clyth	Wine Merchant	W. Thornton 23 June 1833

Baptism record for William Fairlam, 1833

RESTORATION FUND

Fund Raising to providing lasting tributes to our pioneers

In past Newsletters we have reported that our fund raising, in an attempt to restore or at least halt the deterioration of the oldest headstone – Richard Tilley et al - at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery has been thwarted by time and the ravages of weather. The Committee has now decided to direct those funds towards placing a plaque at the gravesite. The plaque will comprise all the wording from the headstone, along with a statement indicating that it is the oldest headstone. This, at least, will retain the wording for future generations.

The headstone was erected sometime after 1865 and represents eight individuals buried in three graves, with four being babies. Richard Tilley d 1865, George Tilley d 1927, Mary Ann d 1908, Thomas Tilley d 1876, Alice d 1882, Emily d 1886, Reginald d 1887 and George E 1889.



As our Headstone Restoration Fund represents an ongoing project, we are also looking at the possibility of placing blue historic plaques at the graves of two local notables, Dr. Richard Goldstone and Alexander Vause MacDonald.

Richard Goldstone was the first doctor in the area and was responsible for the health of those inhabitants of Cheltenham, Beaumaris, Mentone and surrounding areas. Originally from Bath, Somerset, he arrived in Melbourne in the August of 1853. He was the local Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1855 to 1861, as well as serving as the Public Vaccinator in 1862 and 1863. Richard passed away in 1888 and, along with his wife, Mary Ann Buckley, is buried in an unmarked grave at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.

Alexander Vause MacDonald is acknowledged as the first settler to Mordialloc. He was a squatter, grazier, publican, mail conveyancer and honorary provider of government stores to the Bunurong tribe, who lived at Mordialloc Creek. Originally from the Isle of Skye in Scotland, Alexander left his home in 1838, arriving in Sydney in January 1839, before making his way to Melbourne, eventually settling in Mordialloc. He built the primitive, bark-roofed *Travellers' Rest Inn* at Mordialloc Creek, before another small hotel was built on the site in 1853. This hotel grew over the years and prospered as the *Mordialloc Hotel* and then the *Kingston Sporting Club*. Alexander's wife, Isabella, was a favourite of the area and was known to all as Granny MacDonald in her later years. Isabella had arrived in Australia aboard the ill-fated fever ship, *Glen Huntly*, in 1840, making her the earliest Port Phillip arrival buried at Cheltenham Pioneer. Alexander passed away in 1893 and, along with Isabella, is also buried in an unmarked grave at Cheltenham Pioneer.

Richard Goldstone and Alexander MacDonald were esteemed citizens of the area and made significant contributions to the community and its growth. It is sad that they both lie in unmarked graves and we believe the placing of historic plaques on these graves will provide a lasting tribute to the legacy that they have left us.

However, we require the approval of people from both the Goldstone and MacDonald families and are seeking contact from family who may be related to either who can either prove Rights of Burial for this gravesite, or be prepared to be the appointed family person for this project. There will be no costs incurred by these people. If you are a Goldstone or a MacDonald, preferably a direct descendant, we would appreciate hearing from you.

If you believe you can assist, please email us at: info@focrc.org

If you would like to donate to our overall restoration fund:

Bank: Bendigo Bank Limited

Account name: Friends of Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Inc.

BSB: 633-000

Account: 130896830

Or take advantage of paying by PayPal.

It's free and secure. Just visit our website -

<http://www.focrc.org/joining> and click on the "Donate" button.

Payment can be made by credit card.

Current Total:

\$1,863

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

Tours & Other Events at Affiliated Organisations

St. Kilda Cemetery

Tour: **Book Sellers & Writers**

Sunday, 14 October at 2pm

Annual General Meeting

Sat 13 Oct @ 10am, Emerald Hill Library

For further details please contact:

www.foskc.org

Coburg Cemetery

Workshop: **Headstone Impressions**

Learn how to rub impressions of a headstone

Sunday, 16 September at 2pm

Cost: \$15 members, \$25 non-members

Bookings essential

For further details please contact:

focc.group@gmail.com

Booroondara (Kew) Cemetery

Tour: **Mystery, Murder & Mayhem**

Sunday, 19 August at 2pm

For further details please contact:

www.fobkc.org

Prahran Mechanics Institute

Popping up at PMI!

Throughout the month of August everyone is invited to the Historical Society Pop Up sessions at PMI.

39 St Edmonds Road, Prahran

Phone: 9510 3393

Please note:

For costs associated to any of these events, please contact the organisation holding the event.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Livingstone Home

Original tour notes prepared by Sue Beazley, Friends of Cheltenham & Regional Cemeteries Trust Inc.

Tour notes created 9 September 2016.

On 24 November 1891 a large crowd gathered in Point Nepean Road Cheltenham for the opening of the new Livingstone Home, a Wesleyan home for neglected and orphaned children. The home was situated on 2 acres and was under the care of the Superintendent Israel Trudgeon and his wife Louisa née Schneider who was the Matron of the home. This was the second home built by the Wesleyan Church Children's Aid Society, the original, Livingstone House in Carlton, was sold off and the children moved to Cheltenham.



Louisa Trudgeon

Source: Kingston Historical Website

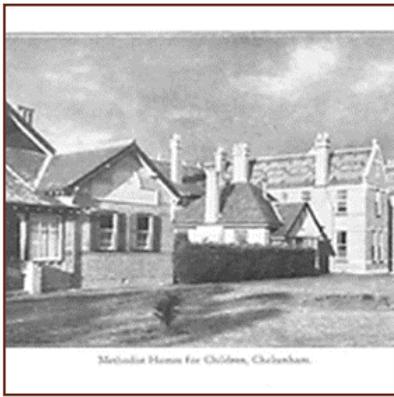
Built at a cost of £2,500 pounds the two-storey home opened with beds available for 25 children. The beds themselves were purchased from funds raised by Methodist Sunday Schools throughout the State and each bed carried the name of the School who donated. The Home received no Government funds and relied on the support of patrons, fundraising and the Church. In 1887 the Victorian Parliament had passed the 'Neglected Children's Act' which declared that all neglected and reformatory children would become wards of the State. The children of Livingstone Home were mainly placed into the care of Mr and Mrs Trudgeon by Courts throughout the State or by a widowed mother who could no longer care for all her children.

The children were educated and where possible adopted, particularly into the country. The older children were also available to be placed as a domestic servant. All placements continued to be supervised; the Home saw its duty of care to be ongoing.

In 1898 the Home was hit by a typhoid epidemic that broke out in Melbourne. One nine year old and Nurse Kate Brinton passed away from typhoid. In the same year **Sarah**, the 31 year old daughter of Israel and Louisa also passed away after a long illness. 1898 was not a good year for Cheltenham with the Cheltenham State School closed for three weeks due to a measles epidemic in November.

Israel and Louisa appear to have been very caring of their young charges, raising them in a family situation where the children called them Mother and Father and were encouraged to regard the other children as their brothers and sisters. They attended the Methodist Church and at various times Cheltenham State School, but they were not always welcome by the local community. The local community insisted that each time one of the children contracted an infectious disease at the Home the children should all be quarantined, making schooling difficult.

Livingstone Home continued to operate in Cheltenham until 1953 when the home moved to a new 21 acre site at Burwood¹, set up to care for children under the cottage system, named Orana. The Catholic Church brought the Cheltenham property which, by then, had expanded to 27 acres for £39,000. They operated it as a training centre for 'retarded boys'² run by the brothers of St John of God. Another article referred to the boys as 'subnormal boys'³, an unfortunate term that would not be acceptable today.



Livingstone Home, Cheltenham 1938

Courtesy of Find & Connect History & Information Services

The school was eventually closed in 1967 and the land sold to the Myer family for a princely sum. We now know this site as Westfield Southland Shopping Centre, which opened in September 1968. A very small plaque on the information desk on the second level commemorates the previous institutions.

Southland commemorates the service

To the children given on this site by

Methodist Homes for Children

1892 - 1953

and

The St. John of God Training Centre

1953 - 1967

The memorial below, commemorating the 16 children of Livingstone Home who died between 1894 and 1921, was generously funded by the Cheltenham U.F.S. Dispensary which was the Pharmacy across the road from the Cemetery.



Herbert Shirley was the first child to die at Livingstone Home, aged seven years old.

Research showed his mother, Susan, died in 1891 at Ballarat during childbirth. However, his father was charged with deserting his family a number of times in 1885 the year before Herbert's birth. Three of Herbert's brothers became State Wards, either after the father's frequent desertions or at Susan's death.

Herbert is not listed as a State Ward and it is likely his mother gave him into the care of Mrs. Varcoe, who founded Livingstone House in Carlton and was herself a Ballarat resident. No parents were registered at his death, so it would appear he had no further contact with his father or siblings.

We would like to research these 16 children in the future so that their lives can be marked in some way. We know some had their births registered, but many did not. Some had parents who simply could not afford to keep them and some were quite simply abandoned, but most were illegitimate births. If you are able to provide some information on any of the children we would be pleased to hear from you.



Grave of Israel, Louisa & Sarah Trudgeon

Sadly, this is one of our graves which have been damaged by vandals.

¹ 1953 - Orana Burwood

² *The Advocate*, 19 March 1953 p.2 includes photo of home

³ *The Age*, 11 May 1953 p.4

Methodist Childrens' Homes at Cheltenham,
A Time for Change Rev Norman Marshall

Future tour at Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery 2018

The Friends of Cheltenham will be running a tour on

Sunday 9 Sept, 2pm start.

The theme will be

Murder, Mayhem & Misadventure!!

Come along and join Sue Beazley for a fantastic tour at

Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery.

Dark tales lurk behind the walls of all old cemeteries, join us for our Murder, Mayhem and Misadventure Tour and discover some of the stories that lay buried at the historic Cheltenham Pioneer Cemetery. Sue Beazley will tell you about murder suicide, a school girl strangled, death of a speed car racer, and one of Cheltenham's most famous cases of domestic violence and murder in the early 1900s, as well as other shocking stories. .

Cost: **\$10** for financial members

\$12 for non-financial participants

Refreshments Provided

Bookings Required: info@focrc.org or call Rosemary 9497 1318

We tour come rain, hail or shine, so come prepared with suitable clothing and footwear.

Don't forget to bring a brolly if you are concerned about the sun or rain.

Memories of Cheltenham & Beaumaris

This issue of Raves from the Graves sees the first of a series of excerpts we will be bringing to you from this wonderful old manuscript of memories by Fairlie (Addie) Taylor.

Source: RHSV Box 41-2 MS 023683 1958

Annette Kellerman

It is not generally known that Annette Kellerman - whose life story Esther Williams portrayed recently in "Million Dollar Mermaid" was educated a mile from my home - she was a classmate of mine at Simpson's School. She taught me to swim the hard way, gave me several land-drill lessons then took me to the end of the diving board and pushed me in, yelling "Now swim". I swallowed an awful lot of water first, but I soon found myself swimming. We were all proud of Annette when she got a job at £10 per week in 1905 shooting the shute at Princes Court, Melbourne, in her mermaid's tail.

Hallelujah Hughes

About 63 years ago when I was coming home from school, I frequently met an elderly, bearded kindly old man known as "Hallelujah Hughes". He would stop - pat me on the head and say "Hallelujah, Bless the Lord" and then pass on his way.

I remember, too, Mr. Hall of Hall's Liver Pills and his long white coat. His white stone house still stands in Bourke St. Cheltenham, and must be well over 100 years old.

The Good Old Days

The first edition of the Moorabbin News - printed in Cheltenham - runs an advertisement for Lincoln Stuart of Flinders St. Melbourne.

Suit to order - from the best materials £3.3-d.

Dress Suit to measure 81/-d.

Elegant shirts at 2/6d.

Gents Balmoral Boots, best quality at 6/6d.

While the Cheltenham Co-operative Store had sardines at 3½d. a tin, best butter 11d. a lb., salmon 8d. tin, and kerosene at 3/9d. a tin.

Charman Road

Mr. & Mrs. Charman were very early residents who owned a mile square called Spring Grove - springs were quite common in those days. Charman Rd. is, of course, named after them

Cricket

The Cheltenham Club was formed in 1897. The first pitch was in Park Road, but soon cricketers moved to "The Green" behind the shops. Mr. W. P. Fairlam, the Auctioneer, realized that "The Green" would one day be built on, and he applied to the Lands Department for a Recreation Reserve in Weatherall Road. His request was granted, and residents rolled up with horses and drays to fill in the land and prepare a cricket pitch and football ground. The best all rounder in the history of the Club was Wally Rose - now the local Undertaker.

Grampy Beazley & Grampy Gomm

Mother also told me of two of our oldest inhabitants - Grampy Beazley and Grampy Gomm. There was a huge tree stump on the side of the sandy track which is now Charman Rd. This stump was the meeting place for the two old blind men. Grampy Beazley would come tap tapping along with his stick in front of him till he felt he was near the stump, then he would stop and say "Be ye there, Grampy Gomm" and Grampy Gomm would reply "Aye, I be here, Grampy Beazley", then they would sit together on the stump, and out would come their old pipes, and for the next hour they would gossip in the sunshine.

Beaumaris

Beaumaris originally extended from Ricketts Point to Pt. Nepean Road, now Nepean Hwy. Across Pt. Nepean Road the land was called Two-acre Village and Friendship Square. Then a Mr. Jenkins built an hotel at the corner of Nepean Hwy & Centre Dandenong Road, and called it "Cheltenham Hotel". The whole place then, from Balcombe Rd. to Friendship Square, gradually became known as Cheltenham. It is not known whether Mr. Jenkins came from Cheltenham, England. This hotel was later taken over by Mr. Ginnochio.

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

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

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

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

Purchase your copy using PayPal or download an **[Order Form](#)** [PDF-426KB] and return with your cheque or money order.

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