



Cemetery Conversations

The Newsletter of the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc.

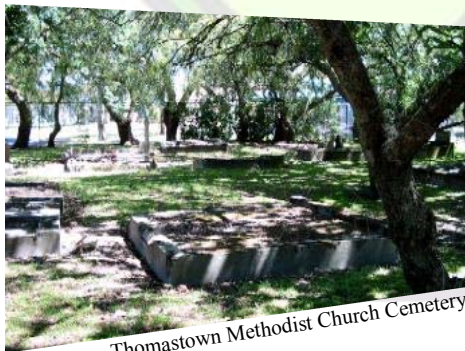
Issue 17

February 2005

Forgotten Cemeteries of Melbourne

In the last edition, mention was made in “*Around the Graves*” of a number of old burial grounds in metropolitan Melbourne that no longer exist. These included Flagstaff Hill (1836) in central Melbourne, which was the first official burial ground, the Old Melbourne Cemetery (1837) at Queen Victoria Market, Point Ormond (1840) at Elwood, where only a few interments were made and the little Gellibrand Point Cemetery at Williamstown (1842) south-west of the historic Timeball tower. Further research to hand has shown that this list is far from complete. If it is true that the measure of a civilised society lies in its respect towards the dead, then it is fair to say that Melbourne has a way to go. In this three-part series, we look at some of the forgotten cemeteries of Melbourne.

Thomastown Methodist Church Cemetery (1855-1955) (Melways Ref 8 J8) - Located in the vicinity of the Thomastown Primary School, this 100 year old cemetery at the end of Stewart Street has had a sorry history of neglect. Of approximately 25 by 60 metres, the original area was much larger (roughly 1/3 acre in size) and was part of a group comprising the Methodist



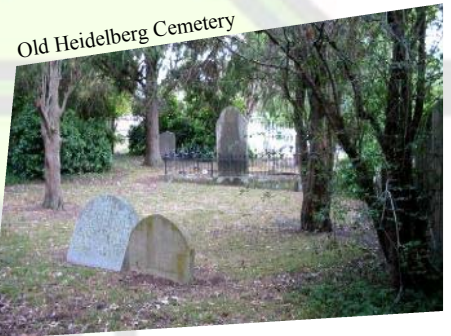
Thomastown Methodist Church Cemetery

(Uniting) church (1875) and school (1877) built to replace the original wooden school/church constructed in 1854. The first interment in the cemetery was believed to have been John Thomas who died on 30 October 1855 and whose son, Francis donated the one acre of land to the Methodist Church on which the original church was built. The cemetery is inaccessible to the public being secured by two metre cyclone fencing and is now part of the school grounds; *The Northern Times* of 11 March 1969

noted the graveyard as the “unofficial playground” favoured by the pupils. In 1968, the Education Department purchased part of the cemetery for use as an additional entrance to the school and today serves as a car park. Soon after, attempts by the Methodist Church to sell the entire area to the Education Department and have the remains exhumed to the Preston Cemetery failed. Today little more than 24 monuments survive, mainly low lying 1920s concrete. A Bicentennial memorial plaque is situated in the cemetery facing Stewart Street but cannot be read outside the fence.

Old Heidelberg (Hawdon Street) Cemetery (1852-c1916) (Melways Ref 32 A2)- Located on the west side of Hawdon Street, between Bronte Street and St. James Road, the Old Heidelberg Cemetery was established as a private cemetery for use by the district pioneers. The first recorded interment was 11-year-old Elizabeth Oswin in 1852.

Between 1852 and 1871, some 110 interments took place and in 1913, the memorials were transcribed by G. Townsend. The cemetery originally faced



St. James Road, but today a token area remains measuring the size of a house block (approximately 15 by 30 metres). In the late 1940s, the cemetery was purchased by the local council and a portion was sold to an architect who built two houses after exhuming the remains for re-burial at the nearby Warringal (Heidelberg) Cemetery. Just twelve monuments remain - mainly on the south side - surrounded by dense foliage. A rare example of a surviving private cemetery surrounded by housing developments.

...to be continued. ☞

INSIDE: *Forgotten Cemeteries of Melbourne...1 Alexander Black and Colonial Rivalry...2 Who's Who this Quarter...2 Profiles of the Past: Edward Joseph Graham...3 Albert Jacka Memorial Service...3 Around the Graves...4 Forthcoming Activities...4*



Alexander Black and Colonial Rivalry

In 1872, two surveyors forced their way through some of Australia's most rugged terrain at the source of the mighty Murray River to complete a two year survey formally marking out the boundary between the colonies of New South Wales and Victoria. The survey was prompted after the discovery of gold in the town of Delegate amid intense rivalry (*Ed - has nothing changed?*) as to which colony the town lay in. The 155 kilometre-straight line ending at Cape Howe, known as the "Black-Allan" line was named after Alexander Allan and Alexander Black (1827-97) who will feature in our forthcoming St. Kilda Cemetery Highlights tour on Sunday, 13 February 2005. A native of Banffshire, Scotland, Black migrated to Victoria in 1852 and steadily rose through the ranks of the civil service until his retirement in May 1892 as surveyor-general (1886-92). Described as "sober and cautious in outlook", he died at his home in Alma Road, St. Kilda on 13 March 1897 and was buried the following day (Presbyterian "A" 52A). He was survived by his wife Agnes Cecilia *née* Guilfoyle (d 1945), sister of the noted director of the Melbourne Botanical Gardens, William Robert Guilfoyle (1840-1912, Brighton General Cemetery). Though New South Wales won the argument over Delegate, Victoria had the last laugh. In 1984 it was found that an 'error' had been made that had resulted in a fourteen metre stretch of the Princes Highway having been repaired by New South Wales for decades! (Source: ADB 3 (AB); *The Age* 24 November 2004). 🌹



Grave of Alexander Black

Who's Who This Quarter

Over the past 150 years, St. Kilda Cemetery has been the final resting place to many who have figured prominently in our history. While now recognised as a cemetery of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance, it should not be overlooked as one of three cemeteries in Melbourne - Melbourne General and Boroondara being the others - with links to some of the most significant persons of Victoria's colonial era prior to Federation. Listed below are just a few of the many well-known identities interred at St. Kilda who passed away this quarter.

February:

1: William Henry Wright (1816-77), Gold Commissioner and Public Servant; **3:** William Clark Haines (1810-66), Premier and Politician; **4:** Sir John Warren Swanson (1865-1924), Builder and Lord Mayor; **13:** Nicholas John Caire (1837-1918), Photographer; **18:** George Edwin Emery (1859-1937), Bank Officer, James Peter Quinn (1869-1951), Artist, Crawford Atchison Denman Pasco (1818-98), Naval Officer and Police Magistrate; **24:** George Calder (1839-1903), Mariner, Sir William Henry Fancourt Mitchell (1811-84), Politician and Public Official; **25:** George Gordon (1829-1907), Engineer, Sir James Munro (1832-1908), Premier, Politician, Businessman and Temperance Leader; **27:** Sir John Grice (1850-1935), Businessman, David Martin (1841-1927), Public Servant.

March:

4: James Burston (1856-1920), Businessman and Soldier; **5:** Hugh Ramsay (1877-1906), Artist; **7:** Frederick

William Haddon (1838-1906), Journalist; **8:** John Gavan Duffy (1844-1917), Politician and Solicitor; **10:** Ernest Horatio Willis (1867-1947), Architect and Political Organiser; **13:** Alexander Black (1827-97), Surveyor; **18:** Oswald Rose Campbell (1820-87), Artist and Art Teacher; **21:** Mary McKenzie Finlay (1870-1923), Army Nurse and Matron; **22:** George Randall Fincham (1829-1901), Politician, William Howard Smith (1814-90), Master Mariner and Ship Owner; **23:** Ernest Edward Moffitt (1871-99), Artist; **28:** George Robertson (1825-98), Bookseller and Publisher.

April:

6: Kingsley Anketell Henderson (1883-1942), Architect; **8:** Thomas Howard Fellows (1822-78), Politician and Judge; **10:** Henry Keylock Rusden (1826-1910), Public Servant and Polemicist; **13:** James Mallet Bennett (1894-1922), Airman and Mechanic, Edmund Edmonds Smith (1847-1914), Mariner and Managing Director; **14:** Edmund Jowett (1858-1936), Pastoralist and Businessman; **15:** John Laurence Rentoul (1846-1926), Presbyterian Clergyman and Controversialist; **17:** Henry Field Gurner (1819-83), Solicitor, Anthony James Joseph St Ledger (1859-1929), Teacher, Solicitor and Politician; **18:** Alexander McKinley (1848-1927), Newspaper Proprietor, Politician, Councillor and Mayor; **23:** Monkton Synnot (1826-79), Pastoralist and Businessman; **20:** Frederick George O'Connor (c1873-1908), Victim of the Sunshine Railway Disaster; **25:** James Shackell (1833-99), Politician, Auctioneer and Agent; **30:** Dame Mabel Balcombe Brookes (1890-1975), Society and Charity Leader. 🌹

"Cemetery Conversations" is now available in colour via e-mail. If you would like to be e-mailed future copies, please contact us at info@foskc.org. 🌹



Profiles of the Past: Edward Joseph Graham

As the last of the Anzacs pass into immortality, gone will be the living links of a time in our history that affected so many and spared so few. The original Anzacs who enlisted during the heady days of the first recruitment rush were a motley bunch of adventurers keen on the chance to see the world, reckless daredevils with a competitive sporting streak and romantic idealists brought up on tales of the British Empire. All had a characteristic determination to be part of 'it' and for many, this meant truth had to be dispensed with at the recruitment table.

And so it was that on 4 November 1914, a lad of 15 years and 8 months was accepted into the 1st Australian Imperial Force. Described on his enlistment papers as "fit for active service as a bugler", 62.75 inches (159 cms) tall, and weighing 8 stone 12 pounds, Private Edward (Eddie) Joseph Graham (1899-1980) was assigned to "E" Company (later absorbed into "A" Company) of the 14th Battalion, 4th Brigade known originally as "The Bacon Stealers". The Brigade comprised the 'rough diamonds' considered too difficult to handle by the other brigades. Graham was born on 11 February 1899 at Balaclava, Melbourne the son of John Graham and Mary *née* Rowley who married in 1897; they also had at least another son, Clarence Roy (1903-61).

From the Broadmeadows training camp, the unit embarked on the 15,000-tonne transport ship *Ulysses* ("the flagship of the convoy") for operations in the Middle East. At Gallipoli against the formidable Turks, Graham survived the ill-fated landing through the hellish operations at Quinn's and Courtney's Posts and later the attack at Hill 60 before evacuating on 18 December 1915. In fact, his only sickness was a bout of diarrhoea (19 to 29 September). By the end of the campaign, the romance of war had passed and to Marseilles, France the 4th Brigade arrived in June 1916 a group of battle hardened warriors with a fatalistic outlook. Though the men were still a handful behind the lines, they were considered one of the foremost fighting brigades.

During the period of June-August 1916, Graham was involved in operations at Bois Grenier at Flanders, where the Brigade's first stunt took place (2 July) and the major battles on the Somme at Pozieres (6-16 August) and Mouquet ("Moo-cow") Farm (17-31 August) where he was severely wounded in action on 30 August having suffered a shrapnel wound to his right hand. Evacuated to Boulogne and later the Epsom Military Hospital in England, Graham was mercifully spared the bitter winter of 1916-17. After recovering, he was assigned duty to Harefield Military Hospital as a bugler



Grave of Edward Joseph Graham

on 7 April 1917 only to be further hospitalised with concussion and abrasions to his face having fallen from his bicycle on 23 July 1917. He thus missed the major battles of Bullecourt, Messines, Ypres ("Wipers") and Polygon Wood in 1917. Fined for being absent-without-leave on 24 September 1917, the following month Graham was

sent to the overseas training brigade at Deverill before rejoining "A" Company on 30 May 1918. The following night a single artillery shell killed 13 comrades and wounded 56. He later fought in the decisive battles of Hamel (4 July) and Amiens (8-20 August) before being granted Anzac leave on 12 October and arrived back in Melbourne on Christmas Day long after hostilities had ended and still not 20 years of age. Married to Irene *née* Taylor (b 1900) on 11 August 1922, Graham died on 21 June 1980 and was buried five days later at the St. Kilda Cemetery (Wesleyan "B" 0134) with the distinction of being the youngest of the original members of "Jacka's Mob".

(Source: *Research Notes (EJG)* by Neil Smith of "Mostly Unsung"; Wanliss, N., "History of the Fourteenth Battalion A.I.F.")

ALBERT JACKA MEMORIAL SERVICE

The 73rd Albert Jacka Memorial Service was held at the St. Kilda Cemetery on a pleasant Sunday afternoon last month. The service, which is possibly the longest running of its kind in Australia, was attended by the Friends and about 75 members of the public to reflect on the extraordinary life of Albert Jacka V.C. (1893-1932), described by Keith Rossi as "Australia's greatest Anzac...who embodied everything a man should be". Speakers included Cr. Darren Ray, Mayor of the City of Port Phillip, Keith Rossi, AM OBE RFD ED of the Returned and Services League of Australia and Ken Jacka, a proud descendant of Albert's closest brother Sidney (1894-1950; Springvale Necropolis, married Florence *née* Stevens, 1923). Sidney was one of seven children of Nathaniel Jacka (c1861-1943) and Elizabeth *née* Kettle (c1864-1940) who both lie interred nearby (Church of England "B" 715B), the others being (David) Samuel (1886-1943; Lilydale Lawn Cemetery), Fanny (1887-1980; Wedderburn Cemetery, married Isaiah Olive, 1911), Elsie (1891-1977, married Alfred Saunders, 1918), William (1897-1979) and Bessie (1899-1982; New Cheltenham Cemetery, married Harold Dowrick, 1926). *Lest we Forget.*



Ken Jacka (left)



Around the Graves

Forthcoming Activities

Visitors to the cemetery may notice the first burial has taken place within the new Pavilion Lawn area. A total of 36 graves were approved for sale by the Governor-in-Council in March 2004 while another 52 will be sold within the Dandenong Road Entrance and 51 on the



The redeveloped centre roundabout area

nearby Michaelis Lawn section. In the weeks leading up to Christmas, faced with the tragic death of their daughter in Athens, the Stamoulis family decided that they would like to do some-

thing very special in her memory. The family arranged for Lodge Brothers to install a temporary memorial for the day of the interment. Later this year they will be making decisions about the final design of a significant family memorial to replace the temporary structure. There is every indication that the final work will take its place alongside the Robb monument as a fine example of the skills of our local artisans. (Source: *The Springvale Necropolis*).

Surely to be one of the highlights of 2005 is the forthcoming tour of Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery in April. Boroondara is perhaps the second most significant cemetery in Melbourne for the sheer number of historic interments (Wren, Buvelot, Santamaria) and opulent monuments (Springthorpe, Syme, Dixon). The cemetery was established to service the inner eastern suburbs, in particular Richmond and the first interment took place in 1859. The Kew Historical Society is also conducting a tour of the cemetery as part of the Kew festival on 6

**M a r c h
2 0 0 5 .**
Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting tour guide Dorothy Benyei on 9853 8758.

STOP PRESS

Wild storms last week played havoc across Melbourne. Sadly, this cypress tree near the main entrance of the St. Kilda Cemetery became uprooted and is shown leaning against the fence. 🌿



St. Kilda Cemetery Highlights Tour

Sunday 13 February 2005 at 2:00pm

This tour, which is organised as part of the St. Kilda Festival, highlights some of the more notable and interesting aspects of this landmark cemetery. Led by Geoff Austin the tour will visit the likes of Deakin, Baron von Mueller, Felton and "Pickle the Spy". The tour provides a good introduction for those that are not particularly familiar with the cemetery.

Seniors Festival Tour

Tuesday 15 March 2005 at 10:00am

This weekday tour is organised as part of the Seniors Festival. Led by John Hulskamp the tour will visit the graves of Captain Albert Jacka V.C., the *Glen Huntly* pioneers and other notable figures in a leisurely stroll through the cemetery.

Boroondara (Kew) Cemetery Tour

Sunday 17 April 2005 at 2:00pm

Boroondara Cemetery is Australia's first landscaped Romantic garden cemetery and earned the reputation as the burial ground for many of Melbourne's elite. Come and hear about the father of Australian landscape painting, the most amazing bookseller in the history of Australian publishing, the founders of Australian Rules football, the creator of the Gothic Bank on the corner of Queen and Collins Street, Melbourne, US Civil War veterans, early pioneers including the McCrae and Henty families, and much more...

Numbers are limited and pre-booking is required. Contact Elizabeth Hore on 9817 4896 (leave a message if no answer) or by email elizhore@bigpond.com. Meet at the Information Kiosk, on the left after entering the main cemetery gate. Tour cost is \$5.00.

Judges and Justice

Sunday 15 May 2005 at 2:00pm

This tour is held in conjunction with Victorian Law Week and visits the graves of lawyers, judges and other people associated with the law. They include Attorney-Generals, judges of the County and Supreme Courts and lawyers associated with famous legal cases (including the trial of Ned Kelly). This year the tour will also feature a number of police officials. 🌿

Office Bearers and Contacts

Friends of St. Kilda Cemetery Inc. (Reg no A0038728J)

www.vicnet.net.au/~foskc

www.foskc.org

PO Box 261 St. Kilda Vic 3182

(03) 9527 2387 / (03) 9531 6832 or info@foskc.org

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary

Freda Erlich
Kay Rowan
John Hulskamp
Geoff Austin

Committee Members

Pearl Donald
John Hawker
Travis Sellers 🌿