

Newsletter Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

July 2016

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Welcome to the July 2016 newsletter

Call for Volunteers to assist us

WE HAVE SEVERAL SPOTS TO FILL ON COMMITTEE AND WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US. We need assistance in preparing the newsletter, putting together a new Facebook page, organizing and assisting on tours and many other interesting and challenging things.

COME AND HELP THE FRIENDS BE A WONDERFUL HISTORICAL GROUP.



Printing of newsletter



Printed copies of our newsletters are provided courtesy of
SCOTSBURN NURSERIES

www.scotsburn.biz

The Friends thank Scotsburn. Their kind assistance is most appreciated.

Contributions to our newsletter are welcomed

Would you like to write an article (small or large) for the Newsletter? Email The Secretary info@foskc.org.

Recent tour highlights

Anzac Day Tour – Elizabeth Hore speaking at the Lawrence grave



A picture of Clarice Daley and Ernest Lawrence at their wedding on Lemnos, Greece, WW1 AWM image.



Law Week Tour a great attendance!



Anzac Day Tour, Monday 25 April

16 people, together with our volunteer guides, attended our Anzac Day Tour on Monday 25 April. Graves visited included Major General Frederick Hughes, Herbert Warland, James Bennett, Richard Herbert Joseph Fetherston, Sir William George Dismore Upjohn and others. The highlight of the tour was a visit to the grave of Clarice Daley and Ernest Lawrence, who married on the Greek island of Lemnos during WW1.

Law Week Tour, Saturday 21 May 2016

What a Way to Go – unusual deaths and a history of the Melbourne morgue

28 People enjoyed this unusual tour for Law Week 2016, visiting the graves of Edmund Samuel Parkes, Violet Edwards, Henry Cawsey, Frederick Pirani and Crawford Mollison (coroner's surgeon, forensic pathologist) and others. Thank you all who attended for making this tour so enjoyable. A great group.

Facts and finds

The secretary frequently receives items of interest from members and others regarding residents of St Kilda Cemetery.

Some recent additions to our research portfolio include a member Jan Brooks referring us to Arthur Tilley (buried Bap B 0116), soap manufacturer. The business of Tilley Soaps still continues and we hope to include a visit to this grave on a future tour this year.

We also thank Sandra Pullman for referring us to much information about Frances Georgina (Ina) Higgins (buried Bap B 0258). Ina studied at the Burnley Horticultural College and later practiced as a landscape gardener. She was the honorary secretary of the United Council for Woman suffrage and sat on its executive committee from 1900. Come and hear more about Ina on a tour later this year.

We were also able, with Geoff Austin's kind assistance to provide help to an inquirer regarding the stone mason William Stanford. Geoff had written an article on Stanford for a 2006 issue of the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery newsletter including inter alia reference to the Thomas Irwin memorial which is on the main path walking around the cemetery (CE B compartment). We are hoping Geoff will speak about Stanford and his extraordinary life on his August tour through the cemetery, "Monumental St Kilda".

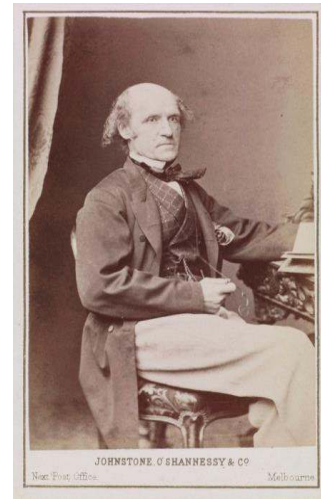
The Friends welcome all research contributions and are always happy to assist with inquiries if possible.

Featured Article

SIR ARCHIBALD MICHIE (1813-1899)

Lawyer; Politician; Attorney-General; Agent-General for Victoria.

Buried: CEB 15; 24 June 1899



"Sir Archibald belonged to a generation of public men in Victoria who were liberal by culture as well as in opinions; and who combined high character and rectitude of conduct with exceptional ability, and a disposition to devote much valuable time in the discharge of political duties, in the fulfilment of which they were often called upon to make considerable personal sacrifices". So stated his obituary in *The Argus* on 23 June 1899.

Born the son of a London merchant in the suburban Maida Vale, Michie was educated at the Westminster School and entered the Middle Temple in 1834 and was called to the Bar in 1838. His contemporaries include men of the school of philosophical radicals, such as John Stuart Mill.

Michie sailed for Sydney in 1838 where in 1840 he married Mary, daughter of Dr John Richardson, inspector-general of hospitals. On 29 May 1841 he was admitted to the NSW barrister roll. He soon became known as "an acute, ready witted, and successful pleader, with a quick eye for the weak points of an opponent's case; great aptitude at repartee, and a clever knack of raising a laugh at the expense of a witness whom he wished to disconcert, and of putting a jury into good humour by a caustic remark, an apposite anecdote, or a diverting sally. But in those days the profession of barrister was not as lucrative as it later

Photo: Sir Archibald Michie, State Library of Victoria.

Sources:

Australian Dictionary of Biography

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/michie-sir-archibald-4196>

Parliament Victoria

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/member/details/585-michie-archibald>

National Gallery Victoria

<http://www.ngv.vic.gov.au/essay/robert-buss-the-monopolist-and-charles-dickens/>

State Library Victoria

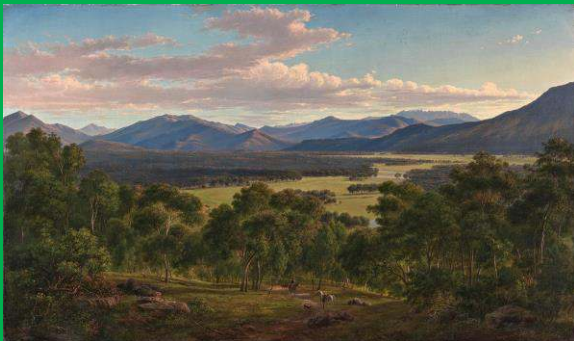
Trove: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>



Photo: The Hon Archibald Michie, State Library of Victoria



Moses bringing down the Tables of the Law, Artist: John Hervert; purchased by Archibald Michie for National Gallery Victoria



Spring in the valley of the Mitta Mitta with the Bogong Ranges to the Gallery, Artist: Eugene von Guérard; gifted by Archibald Michie to National Gallery Victoria

became and Michie supplemented his income by writing and wrote for the *Atlas* when it was founded in November 1844. He was also an enthusiastic speaker. He also ventured into politics being endorsed by the Anti-transportation League for the Legislative Council seat of Cumberland County. He was defeated, but in 1849 was a prominent speaker at the rally against the landing of *Hashemy* convicts at Sydney.

In 1949 he returned to England but soon afterwards migrated to Canada, then to Sydney and in 1852 he arrived in Melbourne where he resumed the practice of his profession being admitted to the Victorian Bar and became an associate of T T à Beckett. That same year he was appointed by the Government a nominee member of the old Legislative Council but resigned after two sessions to concentrate on his own practice. By that time he was also part owner of the *Melbourne Herald* which subsequently failed. In 1855 he was one of the barristers who defended the Eureka rebels.

In 1856 Michie re-entered politics and was elected to the new Legislative Assembly. He helped O'Shanassy bring down the Haines ministry but refused to enter O'Shanassy's government; instead he became Attorney-General in the reconstructed Haines ministry from April 1857 to March 1858. He won a St Kilda seat in October 1859 and supported Nicholson's land bill, claiming that without it much of the goldfields population would leave Victoria. He lost his seat in 1861 as, according to Duffy, he neglected the electorate no doubt due to his many other interests.

In 1858 Michie bought 73 Chancery Lane where a number of barristers were soon established and in 1863 Michie became Victoria's first QC. He subsequently recaptured a St Kilda seat in 1864 and from August 1863 to July 1866 was Minister of Justice in the McCulloch ministry and served as Attorney-General from April 1870 to June 1871 in the third McCulloch ministry. In August he was sworn in as a Legislative Council member for Central Province, but in May 1872 was given six month's leave because he had lost his voice. Throat afflictions had troubled Michie for much of his life. However he continued with his writing and lecturing, including his work published in 1860 *Victoria Suffering a Recovery*, a topic on which he frequently gave lectures as well as on other such varied themes as Shakespeare to ghosts. He continued to write for the *Melbourne Herald* and *Punch*, and for many years was Victorian correspondent for *The Times*. His many published pamphlets were reprinted in *Readings in Melbourne* (London, 1879).

In 1873 on his return from a visit to Europe, the Victorian

Government offered him the Agent-Generalship in London replacing George Verdon. He occupied that position until 1879 when he returned to Melbourne, having been created KCMG in the previous year. He then resumed his practice as a barrister but with "no flashes of the old fire". He had antagonised solicitors by his attitude to the proposed amalgamation of the legal profession.

Michie was appointed to the National Gallery Committee on 18 March 1870 and was responsible through that Committee for the purchase of several notable works for the gallery, including the painting by artist John Hervert, *Moses bringing down the Tables of the Law* in 1878, at the time, this was the largest and most expensive painting the Gallery had ever acquired. In 1866 he gifted a painting by Eugene von Guérard *Spring in the valley of the Mitta Mitta with the Bogong Ranges* to the Gallery.

In April 1877, during his term as agent-general in London, he acquired at auction for the National Gallery of Victoria, for the moderate sum of 18 pounds, seven shillings and sixpence, a small canvas *The Monopolist* by Robert William Buss. Had Michie known at the time of the links that existed between the artist Buss and Charles Dickens, he might have written even more excitedly of his new purchase. Buss drew a range of Pickwickian characters and situations for the third instalment of Dicken's *The Pickwick Papers*.

A widely read man and renowned raconteur with the faculty of witty expression and a dramatic manner, Michie possessed a retentive memory, in which was stored an inexhaustible fund of anecdote to enrich his conversation. Michie had strong views which he did not hesitate to publicise, such as his condemnation of James Munro ("the land boom failure") or his applauding the efforts to prosecute Sir Matthew Davies on a charge of issuing a false balance sheet for the Mercantile Bank. However, he never attained the political prominence of some contemporaries, partly because of his large legal practice and other interests and partly because his political convictions were not very strong. A superb parliamentarian, Duffy compared him with Disraeli, and Dr Evans exclaimed in 1857, "Would to God his judgment and consistency were equal to his genius".

Michie died aged 87 on 21 June 1899 at his home "Tregarie" (pictured), Alma Road, St Kilda as a result of consequences of an abscess on his leg. He had been an invalid for some years. He was survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters, one of the latter being the wife of Mr Justice à Beckett.



The Monopolist, Artist: Robert William Buss; purchased by Archibald Michie for National Gallery Victoria



"Tregarie", Alma Road, St Kilda, former home of Sir Archibald Michie.

Talk at Emerald Hill Library, Saturday 16 July, 10 am-1230 pm. Come and hear Elizabeth Hore speak on *St Kilda and Boroondara Kew Cemeteries – Sculpture, Beauty and History*. A beautiful visual talk on these magnificent cemeteries and their residents! Contact Emerald Hill library for bookings. Tel: 9209 6611



Andrew Fisher's grave at Hampstead Cemetery UK.

St Kilda Cemetery is located on the corner of Dandenong Road and Hotham Street, ST KILDA EAST

Future Tours and events

PLEASE NOTE: The Trust has provided portable toilets in the Cemetery for use during tours until such time as toilets are repaired.

Sunday 31 July 2016 at 2.00pm, Repeat of Law Week Tour due to popular demand, "What a Way to Go – unusual deaths" led by Elizabeth Hore

Sunday 28 August at 2.00pm, Monumental St Kilda tour led by Geoff Austin

Sunday 25 September at 2.00pm Supreme Court of Victoria – 175 years celebration. Tour led by Elizabeth Hore

Tour bookings essential: Email: info@foskc.org or Tel: Pearl 9531 6832.

Other news

Friends of Williamstown Cemetery – a new group formed and launched on 10 April. Congratulations to Meg Jenkins and their hardworking team. Find their page on Facebook.

Did you know that **Andrew Fisher (1862-1928)**, who served as **Australian prime minister on three separate occasions**, is buried at Hampstead Cemetery UK?

At Easter, Elizabeth Hore was pleased to take Gwyneth Stokes, **Secretary to the National Federation of Cemetery Friends, UK** on a walk around St Kilda Cemetery on a warm and sunny day.

Committee news

At our meeting held on 2 May 2016 at Brown Room, St Kilda Library Kelly Slatter and Vivienne Dacey were coopted as ordinary committee members. Welcome Kelly and Vivienne.

Become a member of the Friends...

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US...

Membership costs \$15, includes free tours throughout the year and newsletter. Email info@foskc.org for a membership form.

