



Newsletter Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc

July 2018

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Welcome to the July 2018 newsletter and hope everyone is keeping warm as winter has arrived

Volunteers needed...

**COME AND HELP THE FRIENDS BE A WONDERFUL
HISTORICAL GROUP.**



Printing of newsletter



Printed copies of our newsletters are provided courtesy of SCOTSBURN NURSERIES

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

Contributions to our newsletter are welcomed. Email for further information to info@foskc.org

The Friends of St Kilda Cemetery are grateful to Anne Young for contributing this article about her family.

Theresa Walker is thought to be Australia's first female sculptor. She was the first resident Australian artist to be shown in the Royal Academy of Arts in London.

REFERENCES: Please contact FOSKC for full references for this article.

Photo right: Theresa Walker in 1846 painted by her sister Martha Berkeley. Oil on metal. In the collection of the Art Gallery of South Australia.



Philip Chauncy modelled in wax by his sister Theresa in about 1860. The model is in the collection of the National Gallery of Australia.

Featured Article contributed by Anne Young

Theresa Susannah Eunice Snell Poole formerly Walker née Chauncy (1807-1876)

Buried 16 April 1876 CE C 1115

Philip Chauncy and his Wife Susan (both referred to in this article) are also buried at St Kilda Cemetery

Buried together CE C 497



One of my fourth great aunts was Theresa Susannah Eunice Snell Poole formerly Walker née Chauncy (1807-1876).

Theresa was the oldest daughter of William Snell Chauncy née Brown (1781-1845) and Rose Theresa Chauncy née Lamothe (1748-1818). Her brother, Philip Lamothe Snell Chauncy (1816-1880), wrote a memoir of his sister, [*Memoir of the late Mrs. G.H. Poole by her brother*](#), first published in 1877. In 1976 it was reprinted, with a memoir of his wife, as *Memoirs of Mrs Poole and Mrs Chauncy*. Much of my information about Theresa comes from these memoirs and I quote from them below:

Her father [William Chauncy] was sent from England to be educated by his relative, the Rev. Hugh Stowell, Rector of Balaugh, in the Isle of Man, and used as a child, to play with her mother [Rose Lamothe] when she was ten years old. In after years an attachment sprang up between them, and he frequently visited the island, where they were married in 1804 – the year in which the Bible Society was founded, and in which Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French. In the course of time her father and mother went to reside at Keynsham, near Bath, and on the 19th February, 1807, was born the subject of this memoir, whom they named Theresa Susannah Eunice.



Kertamaroo, a Native of South Australia, modelled by Theresa Walker in about 1840. This is possibly one of the two models of Aborigines exhibited at the Royal Academy in London in 1841.



Havering about 1839 pastel on paper by Theresa Walker. Havering was a farm established by the Walkers on the banks of the upper Torrens, Adelaide.

I believe her mother lost one or two of her first children in early infancy, so that Theresa was the only one living at her birth. On the 18th August, 1813, Martha, now Mrs Berkeley, was born. I [Philip Chauncy] first saw the light on 21st June, 1816, and our mother died after childbirth in 1818. Our father married again in 1819, and had five children by this marriage.

In November, 1820, we went to France, where we resided, chiefly in the south, for four years and nine months. We lived at [Angoulême](#) [between Poitiers and Bordeaux] for two-and-a-half years, and while there I became ill, and well do I remember how lovingly my dear sister attended to me.

Theresa's education was conducted chiefly at home by our father. She was but a brief period at school, for he considered it injurious to the faith and morals of his children to send them to school in France. At Angoulême, M. Labouchér was her music master, but whether for want of taste or perseverance, she never continued the practice of music. She soon became proficient in the French language, and at [Mont D'Or](#) [near [Lyons](#)] took lessons in Italian.

The memoir goes on with other incidents including hearing the [Reverend Caesar Malan](#) [[Henri Abraham César Malan \(1787–1864\), Swiss Calvinist minister](#)] preach at [Geneva](#) and losing Theresa's little Italian greyhound. Theresa was sent on a visit to her grandfather at Wingfield, "where she tendered us good service by watching and partially defeating the intrigues of another branch of the family who were using every exertion to obtain an undue share of property from my grandfather in his old age. I [Philip] think Theresa must have been at Wingfield for several years".

In the 1830s Theresa lived in London.

While in London she and Martha became members of [Mr Edward Irving's \[\(1792-1834\), charismatic preacher and prophet\] church](#) at 13 Newman-street, Oxford-street, and there, too, they studied the fine arts under good masters – painting, drawing, and modelling; in these, especially the last, she was decidedly clever.

In 1836 Theresa and Martha, who had very recently married Captain Charles Berkley (1801-1856), [emigrated in the "John Renwick"](#) to the new colony of South Australia, arriving in February 1837, just weeks after its proclamation.

Unfortunately there was "an incompatibility of temper and disposition between the two sisters that rendered their further residence together undesirable", so that in 1837, Theresa left Adelaide to visit some friends in Tasmania. On 17 May 1838 at Launceston, Tasmania, Theresa married John Walker (1796-1855), a retired naval officer. They moved to Adelaide, where Walker carried on business as a general merchant and shipping agent. The suburb of [Walkerville](#) is named after him. Philip emigrated to South Australia in 1839. When he arrived he found the Walkers were doing very well and entertaining in style. Unfortunately, in 1841 John Walker



A wax portrait by Theresa Walker in the Town of Walkerville Civic Collection is of the artist herself, made in 1840. From the Town of Walkerville Collections Policy 2014-2018 : *This wax portrait of Theresa Walker is described as neo-classical in style and regarded as one of her finest works. While the association of the Walkers with the settlement of Walkerville was short lived, (as the unfortunate Captain Walker ended up bankrupt and in prison in 1841) nearly a hundred years later in May 1948, the great-nephew of Theresa Walker, Sir Trent de Crespigny, gifted these valuable and rare artworks to the Town of Walkerville. Sir Trent de Crespigny [my great grandfather] stated that these gifts were in recognition of Theresa Walker's historical connection to the township. These works are of national significance because of their historical association with Australia's first female colonial sculptor and because they are of great aesthetic merit and provide a rare and unique representation of the people themselves.*

became insolvent, having “*failed for a large amount*”. He was imprisoned.

In 1846 John and Theresa Walker moved to near Sydney, New South Wales, and then to Tasmania where John Walker became Port officer at Hobart and later, Harbour Master at Launceston. John Walker died in 1855 aged 58.



John Walker painted in 1846 by his sister-in-law Martha Berkeley. The painting is now hanging in the Art Gallery of South Australia.

Theresa had for some time fallen in with the religious tenets of Mr. George Herbert Poole (1806-1869), who was the founder of “[The New Church](#)” [[Swedenborgian](#)] in Adelaide. He [Poole] had returned from Mauritius, where he had been a professor in the Royal College, to Sydney in January 1850, had left Melbourne for England in 1852, and returned to Launceston in 1856, where they [George Poole and Theresa] were married.

The Pooles first had a farm in Tasmania bought, her brother notes, “*with Theresa's money*”. About two years later they sold the farm and moved to Victoria where George Poole tried gold mining. In 1861 the Pooles joined a vineyard enterprise near [Barnawartha on the Murray near Albury](#) with, among others, Theresa's half-brother William Chauncy (1820-1878) who was then at [Wodonga](#). George Poole “*was supposed to be a thorough vigneron, as well as a connoisseur of the best methods of tobacco growing.*” He was appointed local manager. For a number of years all went well but the scheme collapsed in 1864.

While at Barnawartha Theresa collected some of the first drawings of the Aboriginal artist Tommy McRae (1835-1901) who was also known as Tommy Barnes.



FACEBOOK

Our Facebook page **Residents and Friends of St Kilda Cemetery** has become very popular. As well as news about FOSKC, other items of interest and news from other Cemetery Friends Groups, both here in Australia and also in UK are included, as well as shared pages providing details of WW1 veterans bios and graves, newspaper articles and so much more. We have special featured posts from time to time with bios and photos of historic persons buried at St Kilda Cemetery and elsewhere on our born this day/died this day posts.

We can't put everything into a newsletter, but try to include up to date news and events on our Facebook page on a daily basis.

Why not Follow us on Facebook and see for yourself

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

Future Tours and events

PLEASE NOTE: The new toilets in cemetery are near front gate and now require a code to open door. Please ask tour leader.

FURTHER TOURS FOR 2018:

Winter Tales from the Grave Tour at 2.00pm on Sunday 29 July

Booksellers and Writers Tour at 2.00pm on Sunday 16 September

AGM, 10.00am Saturday 13 October at Emerald Hill Library

Wonderful Women Tour at 2.00pm Sunday 21 October

PLEASE FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK OR LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE FOR NEWS OF ALL FUTURE TOURS AND EVENTS

Tour Cost \$10; members free. Afternoon tea included. Bookings: email preferred info@foskc.org; or tel: Sheila 9531 3648 or Liz 0422379053

All our tours leave from the main entrance to the cemetery in Dandenong Road. Please wear suitable clothing and footwear as we go all weathers, rain, hail or shine.

Private Group Tours for 2018

We hope to do some tours for private groups in 2018. If your group is interested, please email info@foskc.org for more details. We charge \$10 per head for group tours and if possible, an afternoon/morning tea will be provided.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON OUR TOURS IN 2018. WON'T YOU COME AND JOIN US!

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.

