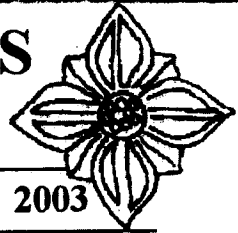


CEMETERY CONVERSATIONS

The Newsletter of the Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc



Issue 11

February 2003

Tending the Graves

There are days when the dead will have nothing to do with us
In summer mostly, when a dry wind from the north
Gusts up just as you enter the cemetery gates
And the roses are overblown, the gum trees stripping,
And you know the flowers you have bought will wither fast
And are besides the wrong size for the holder
And you've forgotten scissors, and something to carry water.

It's not reproach. They have no need to tell us 'You
Have given away my books, taken another lover into my bed.
Made of my children something I do not approve' - all that
We can say for ourselves. It is absolute absence.
They are so engrossed by death they refuse to even haunt us.
We must tend the grave and walk away; unrewarded,
Unreproached, unforgiven; our feet heavy with life.

Jennifer Strauss, 1988. (Extract from "Contemporary Australian Poetry")

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR THE FRIENDS OF ST KILDA CEMETERY

Spurred on by a very successful year in 2002 as indicated by a strong increase in membership and Cemetery tour attendances, the Friends of St.Kilda Cemetery are delighted to announce our expanded 2003 February-June tour program. (see last page of this newsletter)

We have tailored tours to coincide with community events such as the History & Mystery Tour in conjunction with St.Kilda Festival in February, the March Senior's Festival Tour and April 'Shipwrecks Tour' to coincide with the Glen Huntly descendants annual reunion and St.Kilda Heritage Day.

We welcome any ideas for tours from individuals or groups in the community who have a special area of interest which may have some link to the Cemetery. We aim to pass on the history of our marvellous treasure through a program of interesting and entertaining tours relevant to our community and we see this as best achieved by being responsive to your suggestions.

Friends of St.Kilda Cemetery Office Bearers and Contacts

Committee Member	Pearl Donald	President:	Freda Erlich
Committee Member	John Hawker	Vice President:	Kay Rowan
Committee Member	Sherryn Danaher	Treasurer:	John Hulskamp
Publicity	Debbie Williams	Secretary	Geoff Austin

Websites www.vicnet.net.au/~foskc/ www.foskc.org.au

Mail address P.O Box 261, St.Kilda.3182 Telephone contact 9527 2387 or 9531 6832

CREMATION MEMORIAL St Kilda Cemetery

Choose a memorial rose position or wall niche and you create a lasting focus for remembrance forever.

**The
NECROPOLIS
SPRINGVALE**



Service & Care Always
PO Box 1159 RMDC Clayton Vic 3169

DIGGING UP GRAVES

by Sherryn Danaher

After spending years in libraries and bothering relatives with tedious questions, my obsessive genealogical curiosity found me making endless Sunday trips from my house in Carnegie, down Dandenong Road, through the city and up the Calder Freeway to the Malmsbury area, where I was certain I would find my ancestors' graves.

I knew that my great-great father had sailed from his native Mauritius in 1853 at the age of twenty one, and landed in Port Phillip before heading for the Ballarat diggings. He and his English wife married in Kyneton in 1865 and raised their ten children in Drummond, near Malmsbury. I found Malmsbury cemetery records for two of their children who died as infants, records of local land purchases, their children listed in Drummond Primary School records and the Drummond WW1 War Memorial honouring two sons who had served in that war. I even stood on the site of their house. I tried to imagine the thoughts and feelings of a man of French-Creole extraction from a tiny, tropical island in the Indian Ocean, finding himself living on this small low-lying plot, adjacent to the Kangaroo Creek, in the central Victorian settlement of Drummond. There are no diaries to tell of how he and his wife lived day to day. All my research pointed to the family living in Drummond until 1886, but then my search came to a standstill. No further records, nor could I find my ancestors' graves.

I finally applied for my great-great grandfather's death certificate. To my surprise he died in 1887, in Malvern and was buried by A.J. Raybould Undertakers in the St. Kilda Cemetery. The very next Sunday, instead of driving the usual 200 odd kilometres to the Malmsbury area, I drove from Carnegie, down Dandenong Road five kilometres and pulled into the gates of St Kilda Cemetery. Starting in the North-West corner, I methodically scoured every legible gravestone. With only a small pocket left to search and fast losing heart, *there it was*. A large, clear headstone marking the grave of ARISTIDE HIVON. Also named on the stone were his wife Sarah and sons Charles, Alfred and Harry. It transpired that only Aristide and his son Harry (died 1930) are buried in this grave. Sarah and Alfred died and were buried in Perth early last century and Charles died in Belgium, 1917.

Aristide was possibly living with his son in Malvern just before his death in 1887, due to ill health. Unfortunately, while Raybould's records are available through St Kilda Historical Society, they are only in possession of records from 1889. These may have revealed further details, such as his son's address.

Hints for Prospective Gravediggers

- 1 - Always apply for birth, death and marriage certificates early in your search.
- 2 - Never assume, just because a headstone names a dead person, that they are necessarily buried in that grave.
- 3 - Unless you enjoy driving around the countryside, never assume, that because a relative lived in one place for many years, that he or she is buried in that place.

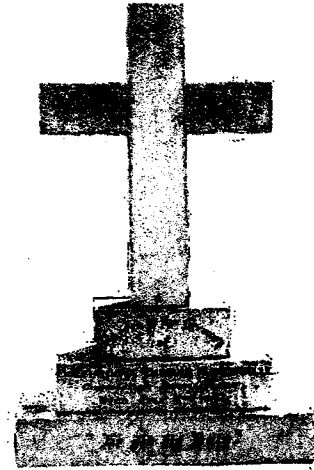
WHO KNOWS??

YOUR ANCESTOR MAY BE BURIED IN ST KILDA CEMETERY!!!!

Let us know of your discoveries.

COLOURFUL CAREER of CAPTAIN COLEBROOKE THOMAS MANDEVILLE (1846-1887)

"He did his Duty"



Captain Mandeville lived an eventful forty years. He served in the British Navy for seventeen years. His last post, as first lieutenant on the *Daring*, saw him promoted prior to voluntary retirement. In 1878, he was offered the post of commandant of the Victorian Naval Forces.

He replaced Captain Planter who resigned after his training ship, the *Nelson*, was involved in an unusual incident. A shell, fired from one of the bow guns, skipped across the water before it hit the sand and deflected away from its intended target which was somewhere around Brighton. It ended up on the streets of St.Kilda. After crashing through the property of Mr.Stone, organ builder, in Patterson Street the missile continued to the entrance of the railway station, narrowly missing a Chinaman. It then careered across Fitzroy Street coming to rest as it made a large hole in the side of a house in Grey Street.

In Williamstown in 1880 Captain Mandeville was severely wounded in an explosives experiment conducted by a Gunner Groves. His injuries left him slightly lame.

The following year, the Captain sailed the *Cerberus* to Queenscliff where the same Gunner Groves headed operations to conduct torpedo experiments. An explosion occurred, killing Groves and four seamen. Mandeville had gone ashore with the band who were to perform a concert, 'H.M.S. Pinafore', in the foreshore reserve. On hearing an explosion and seeing fragments of a boat and limbs flying through the air, the band alerted the Captain. Disbelieving them, it was not until a member of the audience confirmed the disaster, which he had viewed from the lighthouse, that the Captain instructed the band to play 'Dead March in Saul'.

A board of inquiry was unable to find the exact cause, citing an inexplicable electric current. It found that it was regrettable that the Captain had been ashore during such a risky operation and wrong practice was suggested. The board was compelled to say that the journey to Queenscliff resembled a pleasure voyage rather than for the purposes of improving the defences of the colony.

The Captain's appointment as Inspector of Fisheries in 1884 was probably a relief to the Navy. He died at his residence, 'Norval', Marine Parade, St.Kilda in 1887, after catching a cold ten days earlier, while waiting for his carriage after the Governor's levee. He was buried in St.Kilda Cemetery with full naval honours.

ST KILDA CEMETERY TOURS

FEBRUARY – JUNE 2003

HISTORY & MYSTERY TOUR – SUNDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2003 – 2.00 PM

Steal away from the hullabaloo of the St.Kilda Festival to the tranquillity of the Cemetery where you will discover its 19th century history and mystery.

FULL MOON TOUR – Saturday 15 March 2003 – 8.00 PM

Back by popular demand. Explore St Kilda Cemetery by the light of the Full Moon and your own torchlight. Adult and children's delight!! Pre-booking for this tour is required – ring 9531 6832. Numbers are limited book early to avoid disappointment.

SENIORS FESTIVAL TOUR – Tuesday 18th March 2003–10.00 AM

Come on a leisurely stroll and hear fascinating stories of Melbourne's past.

SHIPWRECKS, SAILORS & THE SEA – Sunday 13th April 2003 – 2.00 PM

St. Kilda cemetery has many associations with shipwrecks, sailors and the sea. This tour will also visit the Glen Huntly pioneers memorial. As part of the St. Kilda Heritage Day, this tour is FREE.

VON MUELLER AND HIS FRIENDS – Sunday 18th May 2003 – 2.00PM

This year celebrates 150 years of the Melbourne Herbarium, Baron Ferdinand von Mueller's significant legacy. Bring your green fingers and gardening friends or horticultural group and learn more about this remarkable man and his friends.

NOTABLE WOMEN – Sunday 22nd June 2003 – 2.00 PM

This tour focuses on notable women buried in the Cemetery and the contributions that they have made to the community and the nation. If you have an interesting story to tell of a woman buried at St. Kilda let us know, or bring a friend and join us for a different afternoon at the St. Kilda Cemetery. Why not bring a sister, niece or grandmother? *Women are welcome too!*

- LOCATION:** All tours leave from the main entrance, St Kilda Cemetery, Dandenong Road, St Kilda East (Melways 58-G8)
- BOOKINGS:** Tour bookings are not required with the exception of the Full Moon tour on Saturday, 15th March 2003. Just turn up on the day.
- TOUR COSTS:** Adults \$5.00/Full Moon Tour \$10. f. of St K. Cem. members & children free.
- DURATION:** Average tour time is about 90-120 minutes.
- OTHER:** There is little shade/shelter within the cemetery so dress appropriately for the weather. As the ground can be uneven, wear sturdy footwear and take care.
- INQUIRIES:** For any inquiries phone 9531 6832.