

# Friends of St Kilda Cemetery Inc



## NEWS BULLETIN MAY 2014

### JAMES ANDERSON PATON

One of the graves visited on our first tour of the year, 'Notable Interments' on Sunday April 13, was that of James Anderson Paton. Paton's life epitomised that of the many emigrants who took maximum advantage of the opportunities offered in Australia. A public servant, pastoralist, explorer, vigneron and artist, he had arrived in Port Phillip in 1851 after being educated at the Scottish Naval and Military Academy where he developed an interest in drawing.



The graves of JA Panton and his wife Eleanor

Appointed by Latrobe as assistant gold commissioner to Kangaroo Flat near Bendigo, he handled the diggers' protests with tact and conciliation in contrast to Colonel Rede at Ballarat. In 1854 he assisted in organising the Melbourne Exhibition and later the Melbourne International Exhibition in 1880. In 1858 he studied art in Paris. As a magistrate at Heidelberg, he mapped the Yarra Valley, leaving his name at Panton Hills, and he also named Mount Donna Buang.

He was active as a painter in the Victorian Artists Association and regularly attended musical recitals. In Bendigo he owned prize-winning vineyards and was an early and strong advocate for the local vine industry.

Panton married Eleanor Margaret Fulton in 1860. Their daughter, Amy, was a well-known portrait painter and the exquisite Celtic headstone she designed for her father in St Kilda Cemetery is a fitting tribute to this dynamic and versatile Australian

### WHAT A WAY TO GO

We were fortunate to once again have Elizabeth Hore as our tour guide on Sunday 18th May. One of the graves visited was that of **CRAWFORD HENRY MOLLISON (1863-1949)**, Medical and forensic pathologist. Born at Sandhurst (Bendigo), son of Crawford Mollison, goldfields warden, and his wife Elizabeth, he was sent at 7 to school at Tunbridge Wells in England and later to Geelong and Melbourne Church of England Grammar schools. He then studied medicine at the University of Melbourne. After travel and study abroad for several years he returned to Melbourne, set up in general practice and became a demonstrator in anatomy at the university.



After the death of his first wife in 1891 he turned to pathology and became honorary pathologist at the Children's Hospital (1891-1904). He was appointed assistant pathologist at the Melbourne Hospital in 1892 and senior assistant pathologist in 1911, holding that post until 1938 when he was appointed consulting pathologist. In 1893 he became coroner's surgeon and was a lecturer in forensic medicine at the University of Melbourne in 1904-43



Crawford Henry Mollinson

As coroner's surgeon for over 50 years, Mollison was involved in most of the famous criminal cases of that period, including the Deeming trial, the Gun Alley murder, the Leonski murders and the 'pyjama girl' case. Mollison was quiet and unassuming with a dry sense of humour. It is said he was the ideal scientific witness who presented his findings in simple, unambiguous English and insisted on giving only factual evidence.

The tour also visited the grave of **GUSTAVE BEYER**. Beyer was a 20 year old baker living in Windsor who was consumed by intense jealousy and rage directed at Margaret Jane (Maggie) Irwin, with whom he was in a relationship. In his letters he accused her of taunting and humiliating him. Her mother arrived to take her home but Beyer fired on them as they walked down the street, fatally wounding Maggie before shooting himself.

**Note: words often confused.**

'interment': a burial, the placing (of a dead body) in a grave

'internment': the act of detaining or confining, especially in warfare

**FORTHCOMING TOURS AND EVENTS**

**Sunday 15 June 2pm Barons, Knights and Dames**

St Kilda Cemetery is the resting place for many recipients of Imperial and foreign honours. At a time when Australia is re-introducing titles, this tour will visit the graves of two nineteenth century Baronets, a Dame of the British Empire and just a few of the more than twenty-five distinguished Knights buried within the Cemetery. The tour will visit the graves of Sir Norman and Dame Mabel Brookes. It will stop at the temporary resting place of military engineer and Crimean War veteran, Sir Peter Scratchley. It will also visit the grave of a most remarkable man who was a recipient of many foreign titles, including a Knighthood from the King of the Hawaiian Islands in 1882.

*Sept 14*  
**Sunday July 13 2-4pm at the Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre, 195 Bank St (opposite the South Melbourne Town Hall)**

**If these stones could speak.**

Take an armchair tour of the historic St Kilda Cemetery with the President, Kay Rowan. Afternoon tea will be served.

**Sunday August 17 2pm Artists Tour**

This is a repeat of our popular artists' tour. We are visiting many of our old favourites, including Hugh Ramsay, but this time paying particular attention to Australian War Artists as it is 100 years this year since WW 1 commenced. Between 1918-1919, James Peter Quinn was engaged as an official war artist for the AIF in France. On his return to Australia, he continued to exhibit as an artist of renown until his death in 1951. Another favourite on previous tours is Sybil Craig. Craig was commissioned as a war artist during WW1 and her colourful and impressionist work captures the activity of women working in the Commonwealth Ordinance Factory, Maribyrnong.

**Bookings: 9531 6832 or see our web site**

**NOTE THAT TOURS ARE NOW FREE FOR MEMBERS OF FOSKC; \$10 for non-members**

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE DUE BY JUNE 30.**