President’s Word

Dear Members

This is our last newsletter for 2020. Unfortunately we did not have any tours this year for obvious reasons. The Committee is working on preparing tours from February 2021. New contacts made with descendants who have some of their family members buried in St Kilda cemetery add interesting stories to our Newsletter.

The FOSKC Committee wishes all our faithful members and your families the very best for the remaining year, a Merry Christmas and safe New Year in 2021.

Keep safe.

Gabriel Hermes
President

Recent Arrivals

The Friends have received these publications: Malvern Historical Society July 2020 Newsletter; Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society eBulletin 21 August, 4 September. 25 September, 2 October, 23 October; Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society Newsletter September 2020, October 2020; Prahran Mechanics Institute July 2020 Recent additions; Royal Historical Society History News October 2020.

Book at a glance


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The deadline for the January 2021 Newsletter is 11 December. Please send your contribution to gkp@netspace.net.au
Marcel and Charlotte Crivelli
by Genevieve Pound

Dr James Corbett was only twenty-nine when he first met architect William Wardell. In 1858, Wardell arrived in Melbourne and was commissioned by Bishop Goold to design a new Cathedral and a new St Mary’s Church. The Church and Parish at East St Kilda were later expanded by Dr Corbett, who was parish priest from 1863 for twenty-four years. On 25 August 1887, Dr Corbett was consecrated first Bishop of Sale and he returned to St Kilda on 2 October to consecrate St Mary’s. It was the first church building in Victoria to be consecrated and only the second in Australia.

Charlotte was five when her father Dr Charles Duret, a medical doctor who graduated from the University of Paris, came with his family to Australia in 1869. He first practised in Melbourne, soon becoming known as “the French doctor in Spring Street”. He then moved his practice to Albert Park where he was one of the earliest settlers. Duret owned fifty-three by ninety-nine feet of vacant land in Crown Section 37B from as early as 1875, and by 1877 had erected his fifteen-roomed brick mansion at the now 34 Ferrars Place, then valued at £130. The Crivelli couple occupied and then became the owner of Duret’s mansion in 1899 and continued living there until the turn of the century. The 1890s depression witnessed a decline in the area’s population, with many of the houses and workers’ cottages thrown up in the boom times being vacated and allowed to deteriorate. Dr Crivelli purchased a row of four wooden houses from bootmaker Joseph Harper in 1900 and demolished them soon after to build a large residence in 1901. Now on the Victorian Heritage Register, 40 Ferrars Place, was originally named Arrou, after Charlotte’s birthplace in France.

Charlotte grew up at 34 Ferrars Place and it is likely that she was home-schooled by her mother or by tutors. She was from an early age an avid reader. From her late teens, Charlotte was enrolled for a few years as one of Berthe Mouchette’s art students, first in the city, and then in St Kilda at Oberwyl. Madame Mouchette had purchased the already established and reputable girls’ boarding school Oberwyl in Burnett Street, St Kilda, two years after the death of her husband. At the time, Australians were avid enthusiasts of French theatre and opera. They imported troupes both from Britain and directly from Paris; and productions of both French theatre and opera in Melbourne in the late nineteenth century surpassed those in German or Italian. The performances of the ‘Divine Sarah’ – Sarah Bernhardt – during her Australian tour in 1891 were all given in French – with translations provided to the audience. According to British publishers’ lists, in the first decade of the twentieth century English translations of French books outnumbered those from any other language by about eight to one. The cultural initiative

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promoting French language and literature, the Alliance Française, was founded in 1883 in Paris. Modern languages were not taught at the University of Melbourne until the 1880s. A branch of the Alliance Française opened in Melbourne in 1890, with Berthe Mouchette as president. The first classes of the Alliance took place at Oberwyl. Charlotte Crivelli was an early Committee member whose connections to France influenced the formation of the Alliance in Melbourne.

It was during World War 1 that Charlotte Crivelli made her most significant contribution. Ignoring the official French consular processes, she undertook a major fundraising campaign across southern Australia, as representative of both the French Red Cross and the Société d’assistance maternelle et infantile. Perhaps spurred by the fact that three of her sons were serving in the French Army (they would be joined by a fourth late in the war), she demonstrated tireless energy and exceptional organisational and networking skills throughout the course of the war and into the post-war period, galvanising and guiding the generosity of the Australian public into support for the French war effort. In Melbourne, she was able to depend on the assistance of people like the Lord Mayor, the Chief Justice, the Victorian Governor, the President of the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross (Lady Munro-Ferguson was also the wife of the Governor-General of Australia), and many leading business people. But she also tapped into regional and rural communities, and set up committees in Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland. Overall, she was responsible for raising the equivalent of over $20 million in today’s currency.

Charlotte remained active in society for much of her life. She also raised funds for the Free French cause in World War 2 (see article reference on page 5).

Marcel Crivelli was born in Saint-Louis (Réunion Island) in 1859 but grew up in Paris. From 1880 to 1886 he studied at the Paris Medical School. From Melbourne, in view of his intended retirement, Dr Duret had sought recommendations from the Dean of Forensic Medicine in Paris. The Dean was one of Dr Crivelli’s medical mentors, and Dr Crivelli accepted the offer. After spending a few months in Britain to hone his medical and pharmacological English, he set off for Australia.

His early training was in gynaecology, but his practice and his medical research were wide-ranging. His publications include studies of alcoholism and the use of electro-therapy, as well as surgical procedures of various kinds. His medical reputation was rising from the early 1900s and was still at its height during World War 1. His medical records in Melbourne do not survive.

While interested in matters of public health, his practice was very much a private one. In 1902, for example, Crivelli’s private hospital was in St Vincent Place, but the exact address is not known. Prime Minister, Alfred Deakin, was one of Crivelli’s well-known patients. And many patients were from the local neighbourhood, one being my great great grandmother Mary McCaffrey, who ran a boarding house in King Street, West Melbourne, to support her children. When in 1905, Mary fell ill and died unexpectedly, possibly due to the area’s sanitation, she was aged 60. The family’s notice in The Argus thanked “especially Dr Crivelli, for his kindness and attention.” The January 1906 annual meeting of the Medical Society of Victoria, of which Dr Crivelli was a member, included a Presidential Address celebrating the Society’s jubilee; and also included a report by civil engineer William Thwaites on the construction of Melbourne’s sewerage system, providing statistics such as the declining rates of typhoid deaths to 1.37 per 10,000 in the previous four years. Crivelli’s only sister Marie had died of typhoid fever during the 1870 siege of Paris.

Dr Crivelli and others formed the French Mining Syndicate in 1893 “to take up mining leases” in Western Australia. Unfortunately this only resulted in lengthy litigation, which of course played out in the newspapers.

The Crivelli holiday home, between 1914 and 1934 was Mintaro, an 1881 Italianate mansion near Romsey. The Crivellis then moved to a house in Shipley Street, South Yarra, which they also called Arrou. The house has since been demolished and replaced by townhouses. By the 1930s, Dr Crivelli was in semi-retirement, and while he saw some patients at home, and had rented an office in Collins Street, in 1932 he sold his large private hospital in Queens Road called Brooklawn. Built in 1881, the large Italianate villa has since been demolished.

In 1937, Marcel and Charlotte celebrated
Social

“An aristocratic congregation assembled at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Dandenong Road, Windsor, on Tuesday morning to witness the marriage of Miss Charlotte Duret, second daughter of Chevalier Duret, of Paris, with Dr. Marcel Crivelli, Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. The church, which was prettily ornamented, was filled to overflowing, many who were anxious to witness the ceremony having to remain outside. The ceremony was impressively performed by Dr. Corbett, Bishop of Sale, after which the Nuptial Mass was celebrated, all the guests remaining till its conclusion. The bride was conducted up the aisle by her father, and looked remarkably pretty in her lovely bridal gown. It was made of rich ivory duchesse satin, with a long square train; the front of the skirt was draped with embroidered silk lace, over which fell straps of white moire ribbon caught in the centre of each pleat; the frocks had blouse fronts, with bands of applique embroidery laid on the ends with crystal ornaments. The pointed corsage was high-necked and trimmed with lace to match the skirt; she wore a tulle veil thrown back over a wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a very handsome bouquet. In attendance were her little sister and Miss Phalempin, both wearing pretty frocks of ivory China silk. The skirts were box-pleated, with bands of applique embroidery laid on each pleat; the frocks had blouse fronts, with revere and deep collars of the embroidery. The bonnets worn by the tiny maids were of ivory lisse in the Dorothy shape, with feathers of the same shade. The bridgroom was attended by Chevalier Branchi as best man. Madame Duret wore an elegant silk gown and a bonnet of shell pink, veiled with black lace, and trimmed with a wreath of faded leaves and ospreys. The wedding breakfast was held at the residence of the bride’s parents in Albert Park, where a large and beautifully decorated marquee was erected for the accommodation of the guests, who numbered one hundred and fifty. In the afternoon Dr. Crivelli and his lovely bride left for Macedon, where they will make a short stay. Mrs. Crivelli’s going-away dress was of gobelins woolen fabric, embroidered with gold and brown; bonnet of gobelins straw, trimmed with light brown and gold. The trousseau, which included a number of other handsome dresses, was made by Madame Bouteaud, at Robertson and Moffatts. The unusual number and value of the wedding presents spoke volumes for the popularity of the bride. Amongst the guests were Chevalier and Madame Phalempin, the Misses Hughes, Lady O'Loghlen and the Misses O'Loghlen, the Misses Holroyd, Mr. Gowen Evans, Mr. and Mrs. R. Curtian, Misses Curtain, Dr. and Mrs. Mein, the Misses Mein, Mr. John Gavan Duffy, Mrs. Duffy, the Misses Duffy, Mr. and Mrs. Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Raynes Dixon, Madame Mouchette, Miss Lyon, Chevalier Branchi, Captain Poidenot, the Misses Lewellin, Dr. Daish, Dr. P. Ryan and Mrs. Ryan, Dr. Stirling, Mr. Rawton. Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Blackwood, Mrs. and the Misses Ward-Cole, Mrs. L. L. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simpson, Mrs. Chomley, Dr. Charles and Mrs. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Josier, Mr. Wardell, Mrs. John Simson and the Misses Simson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bartrop and the Misses Bartrop, Mr. L. C. and Mrs. McKinnon, Dr. Bowen, Mrs. Dr. Cox, Mr. William Wilson and Miss Watts, Dr. and Mrs. Turner, Madame Boema and Mrs. Stephanie, Mrs. Colin Simson and the Misses Simson”.

Melbourne Punch, 6 October 1887, p. 11.

Happy Celebration of Golden Wedding

“More than 70 friends offered their congratulations at the informal party held late in the afternoon at Arrou, when Madame Crivelli cut a magnificent three tier white and gold wedding cake which she had iced and decorated herself. Her gown of deep blue crepe georgette was trimmed with parchment-pink Paris lace, and she carried a posy of lily of the valley, similar to her original wedding bouquet. Proof of the affection and esteem in which host and hostess are held by all ranks and classes in the community was given by the hundreds of bouquets and posies – golden tulips, lily of the valley tied with golden ribbon, clusters of primroses and sheaves of spring blossom – which were banked in the reception-room, covered the grand piano, were set on the floor against the walls and were piled on every chest and table. Not only from personal friends and acquaintances, but from business firms and grateful patients came these tributes with their small greeting cards, while one amusing and decorative gift was a gilt cage containing two blue love-birds! Most precious of all, however, to Dr. and Madame Crivelli was the beautiful little painting of the Madonna and Child, sent to them from the Benedictine Convent, in the South of France, where their only daughter is a member of the sisterhood. Assisting the host and hostess were their sons and daughters-in-law . . .” The Argus, 5 October 1937, p. 7.
Cemetery tours in 2021

We are planning tours which include Prahran mayors; hoteliers; publicans and vigneronss; ancient mariners; Law Week; and military. More details to come.

their 50th wedding anniversary at Arrou (see article on page 4). In 1948, Marcel’s health declined and Charlotte wrote to her son Louis, “Despite all the horrors of the wars, we have always been happy in ourselves and with our children . . . Our children’s marriages . . . have brought us great joy.” Marcel died on 1 April 1948 and the newly-established French Legation in Canberra insisted that there should be a diplomatic and military send-off. The Crivelli grave now needs some attention; but on the day of Marcel’s funeral a Requiem Mass was said in the morning at St Mary’s, East St Kilda, and in the afternoon, a large crowd gathered, including various French associations, to accompany the coffin, draped in the French flag, to St Kilda Cemetery. The following day, the French International Radio broadcast a generous obituary which underscored both Crivelli’s love for his adopted home Australia, and his unstinting fidelity to France and the French spirit.

On 30 March 1956, Charlotte died peacefully at Arrou. Her funeral took the form of an early morning Requiem Mass at St Mary’s, attended by family and a few old friends. She was buried with her husband Marcel in St Kilda Cemetery in Roman Catholic Compartment D Grave 629.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Emeritus Professor Colin Nettelbeck, School of Languages and Linguistics, The University of Melbourne, for his generous assistance in my writing of this article. I recommend Colin’s forthcoming book, The Maison Crivelli: a French Dynasty in Australia.

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Grave of Marcel Urbain Crivelli and Marie Louise Charlotte Crivelli in Roman Catholic Compartment D Grave 629, in St Kilda Cemetery, 2020.

Newspaper Articles

A Group of Frenchmen, Table Talk, 15 March 1895, p. 3.

Exhibition of art work, The Australasian, 2 August 1884, p. 7.

Happy celebration of golden wedding, The Argus, 5 October 1937, p. 7.


Oberwyl, St Kilda, The Argus, 17 December 1887, p. 13.

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Oberwyl School, St Kilda, The Australasian, 25 December 1886, p. 15.

Obituary Dr Marcel Crivelli, Benalla Ensign, 7 May 1948, p. 5.

Sherry party aids bomb victims, The Argus, 3 October 1940, p. 8.

Social, Melbourne Punch, 6 October 1887, p. 11.

Family Notices, The Argus, 13 May 1905, p. 11.

Cemetery tours in 2021

We are planning tours which include Prahran mayors; hoteliers; publicans and vigneronss; ancient mariners; Law Week; and military. More details to come.
The Bage family by Claire Barton

In 1853, civil engineer Edward Bage (1816–1890), his wife Anna Newson Bage (née Godwin) and their two-year-old son, Edward (1851–1891), sailed from Shropshire in the United Kingdom arriving in Melbourne on the steamer Great Britain. The family grew with the arrival of Robert (1853–1873) and William (1856–1899) in Geelong while Charles (1859–1930) was born in Colac. We will now consider the life and families of Edward and Charles.

Edward Bage

Edward may have attended university. He obtained a position as a junior partner in the established firm of Felton Grimwade & Company. Was it a coincidence that younger brother Charles, was Alfred’s physician? Edward married Marie Charlotte Lange (1863–1931) and the couple had three children: Anna Frederika, or Freda (1883–1970), Ethel Mary (1884–1943) and Edward Frederick Robert (1888–1915).

When Edward died at an early age of 40 in 1891, mother Marie took her three children to England, where she enrolled them in the Oxford High School. On returning to Melbourne in 1894, daughter Freda went to Fareleight School, entered Janet Clarke Hall at Melbourne University in 1901, eventually becoming the first principal of The Women’s College, Brisbane.

Charles Bage

The youngest child Charles attended Melbourne Grammar School, so possibly his brothers before him also attended there. Charles showed great promise and was prefect and head of the school. He was also very fond of sport and a leading member of the school football and athletic teams. Between 1877 and 1881, Charles studied medicine at Melbourne University. In 1882, he became resident medical officer at the Melbourne Hospital, and held that position for a year, after which he occupied various positions connected with the hospital until 1889. He also acted as co-examiner of theory and medicine at the university, and lectured in various medical subjects, terminating in 1923. Charles was also Alfred Felton’s personal physician, and served as a trustee of the Felton Bequest from 1904, and as chairman from 1910.

Freda. Ethel and a friend (probably Alice) completed a 3,000-mile motor journey over all road conditions between Melbourne to Brisbane, sleeping out in tents at night. After Edward’s death Marie seemed to ease herself into philanthropic work. Apart from her work with the National Council for Women, she joined the Committee for the Convalescent Home for Women in Clayton, the Parents’ National Education Union, and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children. For many years, she was a member of the City Newsboys’ Society and of the Charity Organisation Society. The catholicity of her interests was shown by the fact that she was a member of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria, the Forest League, the Arts and Crafts Society and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. She died on 19 June 1931 after a short illness at her home in Kew, aged 68.

Party to the South Pole between 1910 and 1913. Enlisting on the outbreak of war, Captain Bage was killed in action during the first fortnight at Gallipoli. His mother founded a commemorative scholarship at Melbourne University. Sister Ethel earned a Master of Arts at Melbourne University and achieved some notice in 1926, by accepting management of a large garage in Kew, to honour the memory of a friend Alice Anderson, who had founded it.


Their son Captain Robert Bage, graduated in civil engineering from Melbourne University, worked on the Queensland Railways before joining the regular army. He served with distinction on the first Mawson Expedition to the South Pole between 1910 and 1913. Enlisting on the outbreak of war, Captain Bage was killed in action during the first fortnight at Gallipoli.
He was associated with the St John's Ambulance Association, and, during the war, he was a member of the advisory committee for Victoria and Council of the Victorian division of the Red Cross Society. He was also a general practitioner in South Yarra, from 1885 to 1923, and became a consultant physician in Collins Street. On retirement, he spent most of his time delivering lectures and publishing pamphlets on medical science. In 1930, he died suddenly at his Kensington Road residence in South Yarra, aged 71.

Charles, his wife Gertrude (née Lange) and daughter Jessica are buried in Church of England Compartment D, Grave 0141 while his brother Edward is in Other Denominations, Compartment C, Grave 192. Their parents are interred in Church of England Compartment C, Grave 685.

**Family controversy: Lange vs Bage**

As we have seen, brothers Edward and Robert Bage married two daughters of Mr F. C. and Mrs Annie Lange – respectively Marie Charlotte and Gertrude.

The parents travelled overseas during which Mr Lange died leaving money. Edward was appointed executor of the estate and, after his own death in 1891, Dr Charles Bage was made trustee and manager of the estate.

During and subsequent to this trip, the actions of Charles on two fronts caused Mrs Lange some disquiet. The first was that she believed she was libelled in a letter Charles wrote commenting on his mother-in-law. This letter included these words:

> we all fear she [Annie] is no longer in her right mind. We do not yet know the extent of it, but we have seen enough to make us feel the deepest concern, and to oblige us to make inquiries as to her sanity.

The second concern was a allegedly slanderous statement by Charles in which he accused Mrs Lange of cribbing £250.

The result was a twenty-day Supreme Court trial with the plaintiff Mrs Lange represented by Mr James Liddell Purves QC and the defendant Dr Bage by Mr Duffy. The reporting on the trial took up many column inches in the Melbourne dailies.

On the penultimate day of the trial, the above barristers highlighted these aspects of the case.

Mr Duffy for the defendant:

> the letter did not represent plaintiff to be a lunatic unfit to be at large, and unfit to have the custody of her children. She, as was apparent to everybody in court, was a kind, generous woman and there never was the slightest pretence that this dear old lady was a raving lunatic. The question was whether what was said about Mrs Lange was really what Dr. Bage saw. . . . What Dr. Bage had done had been done in the honest belief that it was the right thing to be done.

Mr Purves QC for Mrs Lange stated there was no charge of dishonesty against Dr Bage but rather . . . Dr. Bage recklessly, foolishly, and in great haste, looked at affairs from his own point of view and, it might be even to protect his delicate honour, chose to inflict upon his relatives the stigma of the most awful curse which the Almighty had afflicted man . . . His client was one of the most gentle beings who ever was subjected to such as ordeal as this.

The jury retired for two hours before finding a unanimous verdict of libel for the plaintiff and awarding £750 damages. The charge of slander was not upheld.

Having read the court case articles, it seemed so ridiculous for a mother-in-law to take her son-in-law to court.

**References**

7. The Argus, 22 March 1895, p. 3.
8. The Argus, 26 February 1895, p. 6.
Arthur Otto Sachse was born on 22 May 1860 in Toowoomba, to Frederick Otto Sachse, medical practitioner from Halle, Prussia, and his Irish-born wife Frances Jane, née Glissan. In the ensuing 25 years, he worked as a solicitor before turning to engineering. He constructed sugar making plants in the Northern Territory and Queensland before moving to Singapore. He also worked in Indo China, South China and British North Borneo. He was made a member of the Society of Engineers, London and a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Mr Sachse moved to Melbourne in 1885 where he practised as a consulting engineer, patents and trademark attorney, and importor of Eastern woods and fibres. He was a founding member and later President of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Victorian Division), a Metropolitan Gas Company director, and councillor-member of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, and a councillor of the University of Melbourne.

He married Frederica Alice, née Lange, on 27 June 1888 and as such was brother-in-law of Charles and Edward Bage featured in this Newsletter (see pages 6 and 7).

Mr Sachse was elected to the Legislative Council as member for Northern-Eastern Province in May 1892 where he remained for the rest of his life. He held positions in public instruction, land and works as well as serving on royal commissions into state banking and the operation of factories and shops law.

Mr Sachse enjoyed art and was an accomplished singer, pianist and organist.

Arthur Otto Sachse died at his South Yarra home on 25 July 1920. He is buried at St Kilda in Church of England Compartment D Grave 0343 where his wife was buried 16 years later.¹

**References**


² *The Age*, 26 July 1920, p. 8.

Photograph: www.parliament.vic.gov.au

Geoffrey Paterson