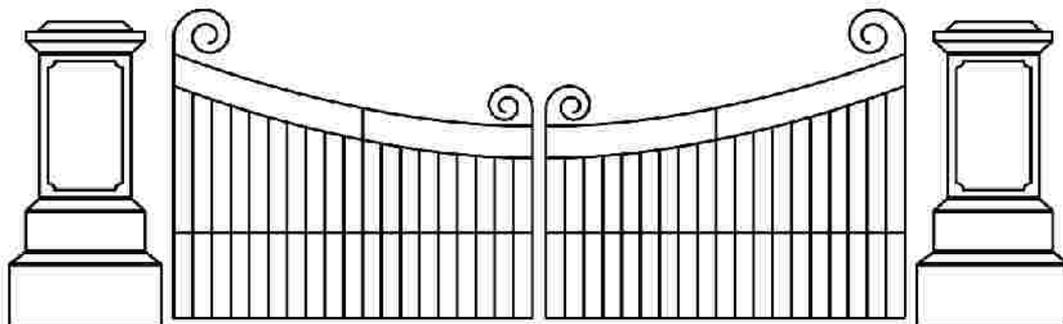


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

Website: <http://www.chermsidedistrict.org.au>

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NEWSLETTER

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Located in the Chermside Historical Precinct at 61 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside but DO NOT send post to this address. Printing courtesy of Cr Fiona King.

Four Fallen Soldiers from the Marchant Park Gates Beverley Isdale has spent many hours researching information about all of the 53 men listed on the marble Plaque of the Fallen. She has recorded information on 49 of them; of the remaining four local men who gave their lives in the Great War of 1914-18 she found only their names. Lest We Forget!

Each one of these 53 young men was somebody's son, brother, uncle, husband, father, fiancé, cousin, etc. There was hardly any family in the Kedron Shire not directly or indirectly affected by at least one of their deaths.

The gates were dedicated on 3rd May 1924 by Major General Sir William Glasgow. They were vandalised in the early 1970s and several marble plaques were smashed, the BCC replaced the plaques but not the names. These were restored by the Chermside & District Historical Society Inc. in 2003 with a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund Qld. Government. Lest We Forget!

Frank Abbott: His parents were born in Lancashire and lived at Kedron, a carpenter by trade he enlisted at 19½ years with both parents consenting. His two

older brothers also enlisted. Frank saw action at Mouquet Farm, Pozieres and Passchendaele Ridge at the Third Battle of Ypres, was hospitalised with trench feet. Killed in 1917 aged 21 and is buried in the Hooge Crater Cemetery, Flanders. He lies among the 5,153 graves of which 3,578 are unknown soldiers. Lest We Forget!

Historical Information

Hooge Chateau and its stables was the scene of very fierce fighting throughout the First World War. On 31 October 1914, the staffs of the 1st and 2nd Divisions were wiped out when the chateau was shelled; from 24 May to 3 June 1915, the chateau was defended against German attacks and in July 1915, the crater was made by a mine sprung by the 3rd Division. On 30 July, the Germans took the chateau, and on 9 August, it and the crater were regained by the 6th Division. The Germans retook Hooge on 6 June 1916 and on 31 July 1917; the 8th Division advanced 1.6 Km beyond it. It was lost for the last time in April 1918, but regained by the 9th (Scottish) and 29th Divisions on 28 September. (Source CWGC)

James Buchanan Crawford was born at Sandgate and served in the Australian Field Artillery. In 1918 he Died of Wounds inflicted while asleep in an old trench,

where they usually slept. One of his mates reported "we all thought that Crawford was to be recommended for the V.C. because of the work done on the 7th August when seven supply tanks were on fire. By himself, he drove out one tank, put out another and carried out of danger a wounded officer who was in a third." He was 24 and is buried in Heath Cemetery, Harbonnieres, among the 1,492 identified graves. He is remembered by one of the trees specially planted at Bald Hills. Lest We Forget!

Historical Information

Harbonnieres was captured by French troops in the summer of 1916. It was retaken by the Germans on 27 April 1918, and regained by the Australian Corps on 8 August 1918. (Source CWGC)

James Mellis (Scotty): Born in Aberdeen, migrated to Queensland with wife and two children aged 34, killed 1918. He was in a rations party of five taking food to an outpost at Saily-le-Sec when a shell landed in front of him at 3am, he and two other soldiers were killed. A cousin, James Drover, provided eye-witness information about the incident. He was buried that night beside a French cemetery at Vaux-sur-Somme and his grave was marked with a military cross carrying the 49th Battalion colours. He is remembered at Villiers Bretonneux Military Cemetery among the 10,738 identified graves. Lest We Forget!

Historical Information

Villers-Bretonneux became famous in 1918, when the German advance on Amiens ended in the capture of the village by their tanks and infantry on 23 April. On the following day, the 4th and 5th Australian Divisions, with units of the 8th and 18th Divisions, recaptured the whole of the village and on 8 August 1918, the 2nd and 5th Australian Divisions advanced from its eastern outskirts in the Battle of Amiens. (Source CWGC)

Arthur George North: Born at Gympie, lived in Zillmere and worked as a clerk. Joined the Australian Army Medical Corps 1st Field Ambulance and served at Gallipoli. Moved to the Western Front and was killed in 1916 aged 19 years somewhere on the Somme Battlefield; where he lays no one knows. Lest We Forget!

Historical Information

The Battle of the Somme also known as the Somme Offensive was a battle fought by the armies of the British and French empires against the German Empire. It took place between 1 July and 18 November 1916 on both sides of the River Somme in France. The battle was one of the largest of World War I, in which more than 1,000,000 men were

wounded or killed, making it one of the largest battles in human history. (Source Wikipedia)

The price of peace did not come easily or cheap. Lest We Forget!

Note: A headstone and a grave in a war cemetery are used when remains are found, even if they are not identified. For those with no known grave their names are recorded on monuments. (Source: Comm. War Graves Comm.)



The Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing is a war memorial in Ypres, Belgium dedicated to the British and Commonwealth soldiers who were killed in the three battles of the Ypres in World War One and whose graves are unknown. The memorial is

located at the eastern exit of the town and marks the starting point for one of the main roads out of the town that led Allied soldiers to the front line.

Designed by Sir Reginald Bloomfield, built and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Menin Gate Memorial was unveiled on 24 July 1927. It lists the names of 54,896 soldiers 6,000 of whom are Australian; a memorial service is held each night at 6pm. (Source Wikipedia) Lest We Forget!

Dawn Service Anzac Day 2015 Lutwyche Cemetery!
The Police estimate that between 6,000 and 7,000 people attended the Centenary Service.

Photos by Rob Isdale



Pre-dawn and they came in thousands gathering around the Cross of Sacrifice



First Light – Calling the Roll – Flags raised the Congregation silent, listening to each name.



Full Light – Family Australia – many silent thinking, remembering, thankful in the presence of the dead.



Trooper Barry died on Anzac Day 1919 and was buried in the Monumental Section of Lutwyche before the Lawn Cemetery was dedicated. But he is still remembered.

Lorna Anderson writes an intriguing story about a family member during the Great War. Nothing much was known about the war service of Charles Beaton Egan (Uncle Charlie) but he was a family hero because he had been to war! It was all a long time ago in 1916. Several generations had passed and, while the memory was still alive it was rather vague, as is the way with ageing memories. However there were no family stories about what he did during the war.

With the passing of time and the improvements in digital technology, Lorna began surfing the internet to find out just what Charlie did in the war. What she found was very interesting and proved a contrast to what she had expected. Out of the mass of formal papers from the Army Records came a totally unexpected but intriguing story.

Charlie who was born on 01.01.1891 and raised in St. George had moved to Mitchell to seek more of life. It was here in the country town of Mitchell on the Maranoa he heeded the call of King and Country and enlisted in the Army. He was sworn in at Roma on 12th September 1916. Then followed several transfers between camps during which he and Gertrude Vida Anderson were married on 24th October 1916 in Toowoomba.

Finally he arrived at The Rifle Range, Enoggera, Brisbane where he stayed and was given leave to be back in camp on 21st December 1916, however he did not answer roll call that day.

In his sworn statement at the Court Martial later he states he spent about a week in Brisbane and then went to his father in law's place at Mitchell before proceeding to Augathella where he spent three weeks droving sheep. On the return journey to Mitchell he accidentally shot himself in the foot with a Winchester 320 on the 10th February 1917 and had treatment at Mitchell Hospital where he remained till the 28th February 1917. He claimed that he intended returning to Brisbane and reporting to the army but was arrested by the Mitchell police "The day I was coming to Brisbane."

Arrested at Mitchell on or about 5th March 1917 he was sentenced to eight days detention while the police awaited the arrival of a warrant from the Army. At the Army Court Martial on 10-5-1917 Charlie pleaded guilty to desertion and was sentenced to 'five days detention and stoppages' (They probably docked his pay.)

At the Court Martial he offered the following explanation for his deserting:
My reason for deserting was I was a married man and while in Camp my wife was sick all the time. I intended to take her back to her home in St. George before I embarked. I had no 'Home Leave' and I could not get back in time to Catch the boat (sic) on Account of her being sick had I been granted Home Leave.

Charlie's military career ended when he was Honourably Discharged on 4-6-1917 'medically unfit not due to Misconduct'. His character was assessed as Good.

Judging by the light sentence of eight days detention and docking his pay it appears that the Court accepted his reasons for deserting. Being granted an Honourable Discharge meant that he did not have a criminal record and he could start civilian life with a clean sheet. Now Uncle Charlie could stay at home and look after Gert and live happily ever after; it is somewhat like a Romeo and Juliet story with a happy ending.

The couple stayed in Mitchell where Charlie ran a carrying business with big Mac trucks delivering goods between Mitchell, Bollon and St. George, at one stage as part of Cobb and Co. Gert too drove the trucks around Mitchell and was known to drive to her medical appointments at times in a big Mac.! For a little woman always on medication the family marvelled at this feat! Gert and Charlie became quite prominent in Mitchell where they raised their family. Uncle Charlie during my time in the family was a true country charmer and made the most of family occasions when he came to the big smoke. Gert was Auntie Gert and changed little from when they had married. They both lived until 94 years and are buried where their hearts remained, in Mitchell.



Remember Yungaba at Kangaroo Point during WWI?
Email: from Linda Johnston - My grandmother Alma Johnston (nee Robinson) is in the photograph. I hope this tiny bit of information will be of interest to your society, even if it only puts a name to one face in the photograph.

It did indeed put the name to the face which brings our identification to four individuals.



Alma was a volunteer nurse at Yungaba and nursed Harold Johnston who was badly wounded in Palestine. They married in 1920 and had three sons. Harold died in 1956 from his wounds. For a full account of the

story of Alma and Harold see the Yungaba page on the CDHS website

Links to other Historical Societies Publications

Maranoa Enquirer



Magazine Feb
2015-2.pdf

Windsor Historical Society

<http://windsorhistorical.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/May-Newsletter-2015.pdf>

Appeal for Help

Elizabeth Ellen Pollard and Sarah Isabella Pollard were 2 sisters in a family of 4 girls. They taught at Zillmere, Chermshire, Virginia Brighton and Windsor schools for many years.

Their great niece is writing a story about them and would like to meet anyone who has information about them between 1920 and 1966.

Please contact Michelle Dursun 0407 035 564

Blast From The Past

Chermshire News Apr & May 1915

Old articles often serve to remind us how much things have changed in our local area. The case in question is that of Squire Bartley, a blacksmith of Chermshire, who was kicked by a horse, fracturing his ribs. Such a name would be very uncommon today (although celebrities seem keen on outdoing each other in stupidity in this area) and the profession has long since disappeared from our parts.

On April 14th 1915, Emma Poulton died. She was the daughter of Alexander Duff, the first person to settle in Chermshire (according to the Courier Mail). Emma owned the land known as "Dead Man's Gully". There

is a considerable amount of information concerning the Duff and Poulton families on our website under the "People" section.

The Dedication of Sniper Billy Sing's Memorial 19th May 2015 on the 72nd Anniversary of Billy's death in Brisbane



The day was cloudy with a hint of rain, cool and pleasant. About 140 people, veterans, soldiers and school students were present. Two shelters covered most of the congregation but many stood at both ends of the covers while the military and veterans stood around and behind the monument. Included in the invited participants was Don Smith a great nephew of Billy Sing.



Older people made up the bulk of the attendees, partly due to the ceremony taking place on a working day. The veterans of the 31st Battalion and the Canterbury Mounted Rifles, none of them being in the first flush of manhood, stood to attention for the entire duration of the ceremony.



Two units of the Qld Mounted Rifles, with their horses, took up their stations on the wings of the monument on the cemetery roads where they kept watch.



Catafalque Party mount guard with reversed arms while the 31st Battalion and the Canterbury Mounted Rifles stand at attention. Ray Fogg (31st Batt.) conducts the impressive ceremony.

(Next Page) Major General Darrel Low Choy (Ret.) delivered the eulogy by outlining the life of Billy Sing, his service, his lonely death in a boarding house, and his burial in an unmarked grave. He concluded with the subsequent rediscovery of Billy by Brian Tate writing in the Courier Mail on Anzac Day 1993. There followed the marking of the grave and a memorial plaque on the site of his last home, a boarding-house.



The ceremony concluded with Don Cameron an ex Member of Parliament challenging the assembly to preserve the memory of Billy Sing.

TV photographers were present from the ABC and Commercial channels and both subsequently gave very good reports in the evening and other news.

A much fuller report will be posted on the CDHS website when I get time to process the much larger photo collection. (Ed.)

Donna Edwards spoke to the May meeting about the role of the community in the development of the Cattle Dip at Cherside.



Terry Hampson speaking to a group of people who were on an interpretive walk around the Dip.



This group is mixing music and singing while they go

about the clean up.



A regular group of volunteers was from the Dera Sacha Sauda of Indian migrants. This organisation undertakes community service as part of their lifestyle. They made a major contribution to the work of beautifying the Cattle Dip site.



This group of volunteers are busy with morning tea. Note the two workers with walking trolleys, you don't have to be young and spritely to help. Some of these people are in their 80s. I know!

What Now?

- The cattle dip is in the process of being heritage listed. This is very important so that the site is retained and protected in any future development in the area
- The dip has been fenced in character rustic post and pole fence style (Ex Cr. Terry Hampson and Cr. Fiona King worked hard to find the money to get this done)
- Bush regeneration needs ongoing maintenance.