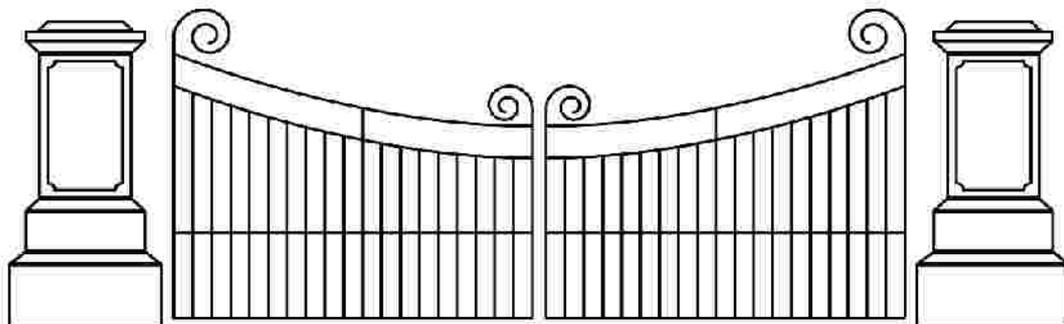


*Preserving our past is our future*



# Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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

Volume 18.No.5

NEWSLETTER

Oct - Nov 2015

(Issued Dec. Meeting)

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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.

The speaker for our October meeting was Herbert Carr who outlined the history of his family in the local area.

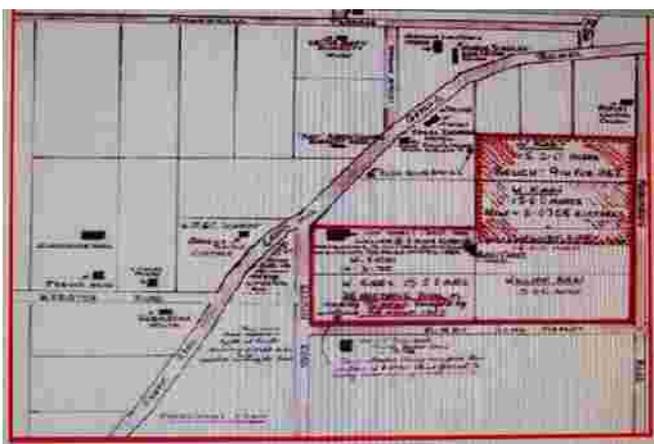
William Kirby, Great Grandfather of Herbert Carr, was a master grocer at 12 New Street, Raintree Essex. At age 38, paying his own fare, he left England on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1865 with his second wife Emma (nee Andrews) and two children from his first marriage, Elizabeth and Alice. They arrived in Brisbane on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1866, a journey of 140 days.

Soon after arriving he set up as a Green Grocer in Queen Street and worked there for two years. During this time he purchased 90 acres (36.4 Ha) at Aspley surrounded by Ellison, Kirby and Robinson Roads. He moved to Gympie during the gold rush and set up a Supply Store for the miners and, after a year, returned to Brisbane. While the family was in Brisbane the two girls attended the Normal School on the corner of Adelaide and Edward Streets, Brisbane.

In 1869 the family moved to Melbourne where William set up a General Store on the corner of Collins and Market Streets East where they stayed for the next 16 years.

Edwin and Alice Carr (Herbert's Grandparents). Edwin Carr, Herbert's Grandfather, was born in Wales in 1845. He was an Engineer by trade and married Alice Kirby in Melbourne in 1882. They had two children, Albert Rupert (Uncle Bert) and Henry Cecil (Herbert's Father). Edwin died aged 77 on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1923. (Photo of Family)

In 1884 at age 57 William retired as a "Gentleman" to Queensland, settling in Aspley on his acreage with the two families, Kirby and Carr living together; hence the



name of Kirby Road. The house was, and still is, located where Ellison Road joins Gympie Road at the northern end of Lion's Park.

William's retirement was short lived as in 1892/93 the banks failed and he lost his entire fortune, leaving him no alternative but to sell off 40 acres (16 Ha) for working capital to start a dairy farm with his daughter and son in law, Alice and Edwin Carr (Herbert's Grandparents.)

Aspley School 1890 – Albert Rupert (Uncle Bert) and Henry Cecil (Herb's Dad known as Cecil at school) were in the first 40 students to attend the school and both remained till they completed Year 7. This would have been considered a very good education at the time.



Henry and Bert Carr in Year 1 at school – no uniforms in those days

In 1899 Emma Kirby died and William went to live in Melbourne with his daughter Elizabeth till he died in 1905.

The Carr family continued to run the dairy farm with about 25 cows, all hand milked. Edwin had a milk run in the local area, assisted by the two boys even after they left school and started their own jobs

1915

Dad and Mum's Wedding

Henry Cecil Carr married Elsie Johanna Muller on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1915 at the Lutheran Church, Zillmere.

They had seven children, Gladys, Norman, Reginald,

Colin, Allan & Herbert (twins) and Ronald. (Family Photo)

Norman was accidentally killed by a car load of police recruits near the intersection of Gympie and Webster Roads; he was only 17 years old. Colin died around three years of Pneumonia.

In 1929 the house was raised and the underside was paved with bricks from the old chimney which had to be demolished.



House and Shed C1936 – Storage Shed, Wash House and Dairy Shed. Cows roamed the streets with tags to show that payment to the Brisbane City Council had been made – Rented Marchant Park also from the Council for grazing

1946 The farm was sold and the family bought another property at Samsonvale.

Uncle Bert Carr's Blacksmith's Shop – At age 14, in about 1895, Albert Carr was apprenticed to a Blacksmith at Rocklea and rode a bicycle to and from work each day. The current distance via the Legacy Way Tunnel is 28km and 36 minutes by car. He would have had to travel further on much rougher roads, probably crossing the river on the Victoria Bridge. Uncle Bert was a very fit man; he used to box, right up to his death.

In the early 1900s he moved into a small 9m X 4.5m forge beside the site of the future Dawn Theatre (Built 1928). In the 1930's a small shop was built between the two buildings which William Argo rented as his first bike shop in Chermerside.

In the mid-1930s Bert went to work for Hugh Hamilton in his Coach Building business where the Commonwealth Bank is today. At the time they may have been moving into building car bodies on imported chassis. At the same time Bert had a small workshop at Zillmere where Eddie Baumann, his step son, used to work and another at Nudgee.

Sometime later, about mid to late 1940s, Bert went to work as a blacksmith at J. C. Hutton's Bacon Factory at Zillmere where he remained, still blacksmithing, till his death at 79 in 1962.

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J. C. Hutton's Bacon Factory Zillmere  
When Henry Cecil Carr (Herbert's Father) turned 15 he started working in various departments at Hutton's and when he turned 18 he was appointed Head Salesman in the Sales Department. He remained in that position until the age of 63. During the 40 years he worked at Hutton's he never missed a day.  
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## Vale Joan Elizabeth Hamilton 1924-2015



Joan was the kindly matriarch of the historic family of Hamilton which played a pivotal role in the development of Downfall Creek/Chermside. Her Great Grand Parents settled here in about 1870 and founded the family business of Carriage Building and Blacksmithing. Joan grew up in a family committed to the commercial growth of the area and the flourishing of the Methodist, later Uniting Church.

Joan absorbed the ideal of Community Service early and lived it all her life so that she became Aunty Joan to generations of Chermsiders. She was especially committed to helping young people cope with growing up in a rapidly changing society. She gave many people hope in the future.

Joan was a foundation member of the CDHS and contributed greatly to our Archives with a seemingly endless stream of photographs, documents, writings of her ancestors and contemporaries.

We miss Aunty Joan who always sat in the back row of our monthly meetings.

Memories of Teachers at Chermside State School in the 1930s.

Val Ross (nee Fullwood) grew up in Chermside during the 1930s and now lives in Victoria. She has contributed many short stories to the Society all of which are on our website. Recently she wrote the following letter which will, in due course, be added to our website.



Unfortunately we do not have photos of the teachers from these early days so this Grade 4 class of 1932 will have to do. This was the era of the Great Depression and times were hard - there was little money around. Of the 32 pupils only two are wearing uniforms, bare feet were common but teachers had shoes, there are few smiles, taking pictures was a serious business. It is a good photo.

To the Secretary,

Tonight I was thinking of my past, of which most of my childhood was spent living at Chermside. Actually I was born there in a street which since then has been re-named to Kidston St., from Victor Drive, and I was Valma Fullwood.

In my memoirs I wrote about many things, and how privileged we were to have such dedicated school teachers, and I realize how little we have mentioned them to the Historical Society. But I would like to name a few and a couple that were dear to me, with their special talents.

Miss Helen Rees, she taught me when I was in grade 3. By the time we were ready to move on to a higher class, all of us knew how to be well mannered. She was kind, and I loved using the sewing machine in her class room which she allowed me the privilege of using it, beyond sewing classes.

Mr Wesley Hooper was another kind teacher, he took the time and patience to try to teach me algebra, but I kept thinking it was some secret formula used by spies. Eventually he instructed me when the class had to do algebra, I need not participate. When girls and boys were talking together during lessons, he would admonish us by saying, "Why don't you marry the girl." That ensured embarrassed silence, every time. When he needed to leave the room, he would ask us to be honourable and behave in his absence. He trusted us, and we behaved because of this trust.

There was Morris Hennessey, his family lived at Chermside, and his sister attended Chermside school while Mr Hennessey was teaching, I am almost sure you will find her name on the Honour Rolls. Mr Gaul sometimes he taught us science and the lessons were very interesting, I loved every one of his lessons.

Miss Rogers was a student teacher, and I believe she designed the school badge, or had a good deal of input into designing it.

Mr Cook was another student teacher; he was so likable the children he taught would not behave, because he was so kind and friendly.

Miss Armstrong another student teacher, one naughty boy always insisted on calling her Miss Strongarm. Miss Winks had been a teacher for many years. She introduced the girls to embroidery. I remember a period of time when she was very unhappy; I think she had a personal friend who was killed in a motorbike accident.

Miss Shock was teaching in the very early days of my schooling, and I think she was considered, fairly stern,

Then there were Ministers of religion who would come every Thursday morning and give us religious instructions, depending on our preferred domination, if it was Anglican or the other Protestant religions.

Mr Rice was too well known not to mention him. He taught us all about growing potatoes, and of course how to save a dog from being poisoned. He loved to

play his violin to us on special occasions, and also had a son Ron who would come and sing for us. The song was Keep on smiling until the clouds roll by, the final lines were, and you will get there in the morning.



Mr. Joseph Henry Rice, Head Teacher from 1934 to 1948, holding his presentation baton and seated with the prize winning choir of 1934-5. Even though the Depression was still hurting Chermside State School could rise to the occasion.

I just wanted to write these few words to acknowledge how important those teachers were and I hope some other past students will do the same.  
Yours sincerely

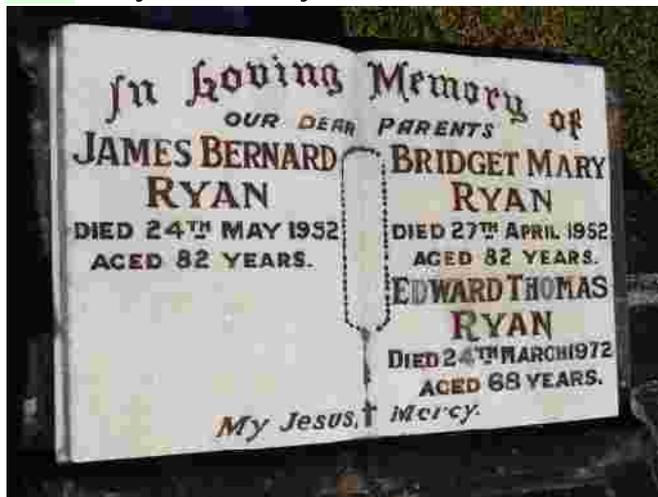
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Boer War Veterans in Lutwyche Cemetery – we are constantly searching for their graves in the Monumental part of the cemetery. Some veterans who died after the War Cemetery was created in the late 1940s are eligible to be buried in the Lawn part of the War Cemetery. However there is no indication of the war in which they served shown on their memorial plaques.

Some have been found by searching the newspaper archive of Trove where their obituaries or funeral arrangement may be recorded and their war service may be mentioned. This method has been enhanced by Trove combining with Bradley Scott's website "The Lutwyche Cemetery Project" and producing a summary of all newspaper reports on burials in Lutwyche Cemetery in a website called "Lutwyche Trove".

Our archivist Beverley Isdale made the latest find, the grave of James Bernard Ryan, which was recorded in the, now defunct, "Worker, Brisbane" (A. W. U. Paper) which, incidentally, recorded the funeral of Billy Sing in 1943. The obituary is

(The Worker, Brisbane 2-6-1952 p.2)

Mr. JAMES BERNARD RYAN, father of Mr. 'BILL' Ryan, overseer of 'The Worker', and husband of the late Mrs. Bridget Mary Ryan, whose death we reported in our May 5 issue, died at the Mater Hospital on May 24 after a brief illness. The funeral was held on May 28 at Lutwyche Cemetery.



They were married for over 60 years, they died within a month of each other and they rest together.

The late Mr. Ryan, 82, who was born at Toowoomba, where his late wife was also born, served his apprenticeship as compositor on the 'Darling Downs Gazette.' He resigned to join 1st Contingent for South Africa. He was mentioned in dispatches. On his return to Queensland the late Mr. Ryan enlisted again and left for South Africa. Peace was declared whilst he was on route. Back in Australia he joined the Military Forces on the Instructional Staff and rose to rank of Captain.

Ill-health forced him to retire at the age of 58. The late Mr. Ryan was one selected to represent Queensland at the Queen Victoria Jubilee. He was a prominent athlete in his younger days, being a good sprinter and high jumper.

A daughter-in-law of the late Mr. and Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Harriett Ryan, of Gympie, died the day before her father-in-law. The late Mr. Ryan and his wife would

have celebrated their 63rd year of married life next August. As mentioned in a previous issue there are five sons, two daughters, and several great grandchildren to mourn the death of the old couple. 'The Worker' sympathises with Mr. 'Bill' Ryan, whose cup of sorrow has been full within recent weeks.

Meetings. There will be no Monthly meeting in January 2016 as it is the holiday season. The first meeting of the year will be on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2016. We will be doing a Special Presentation for members

### Bald Hills Memorial Hall gutted by fire

The Brisbane Times, (Sunday) November 8, 2015, reported "Queensland Fire and Emergency Services were called out to the Bald Hills Memorial Hall on Gympie Road, Bald Hills at 8.49am and it took five fire units almost 30 minutes to control the blaze."

The 95 years old wooden building was built to commemorate the memory of the men who enlisted from the local area to fight in World War I.

The CDHS Inc. received an email requesting assistance in the form of a photo of and list of names on the Honour Board; we happily obliged.

The CDHS had photographed the Honour Roll back in 2001 when we were researching for information to restore the one hundred names which were missing from the Memorial Gates on Marchant Park.



# Blast From The Past

Chermside News Oct & Nov 1915

Strangely, given the state of the war at the time, the Chermside State School committee was discussing the raising of funds for a swimming pool. Understandably, there was quite a backlash from the general community, and it was later clarified that the ideas were for what to do after the war, and there was no intention to build a pool at that time.

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In October we farewelled Joan Hamilton, and 100 years ago the matriarch of the Hamilton family, Margaret Hall Hamilton, also died. Like Joan, she lived to a ripe old age, having been born in 1825. She was the wife of Andrew, mother of Thomas and great-grandmother of Joan.

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Beverley Isdale Reports on the Archives.

One of the treasures in our archives is the collection of admission registers from Chermside School. They are in large A3 folders and someone copied and stored them, waiting for the day when a historical society would be formed. This must have been just before the school closed in 1996. I am very grateful for the foresight.

The information in an enrolment changed over the years. Our registers began on 7 July 1900 and the first name on the roll is Alfred Paul Maggs. His younger brother started the same day. Some of the pages have had a hard life, with names at the bottom of pages illegible.

The columns in the register call for a great deal of information. The first column gives the admission number, followed by the date of starting school, the child's name and age. Some of the registers have the actual date of birth. The next column gives details about the parent/guardian – name, address and occupation. It's surprising how many children were wards of the State – many children had a guardian's name, rather than a parent noted in the column. The occupations of fathers on the first page range from tanner, farmer, joiner, hairdresser, carpenter, butcher, and milkman.

The main religious denominations were EC (English church) and Catholic, with some Methodist as well. The next columns show the student's passage through the school, showing the month and year that the student moved to the next grade.

The last two columns are very interesting – year that student returned to school/year that student returned to school. Many children left school for a period and some returned to the school. Some went to other schools to be closer to grandparents/carers because of some disturbance at home; others left the district because of the father's work situation, only to return later.

We are very fortunate to have an index of these records. Not long after we received them, a member of a historical society asked if we would lend the collection for indexing. What could we say? These records are very helpful in finding records of siblings and generational attendance at the school.

Most schools would have similar records and for Queensland, most schools have deposited their records with Queensland State Archives so whether you went to school at Thursday Island or Coolangatta, there should be some records available on the school.



Photo shows the top of the first page of the School Register for Downfall Creek State School, later Chermside S. S. The pupils were entered in the order in which they were enrolled. The first two were sons of Paul Maggs, a Tanner who lived at Kedron but there was no school there.

Have a Happy Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.