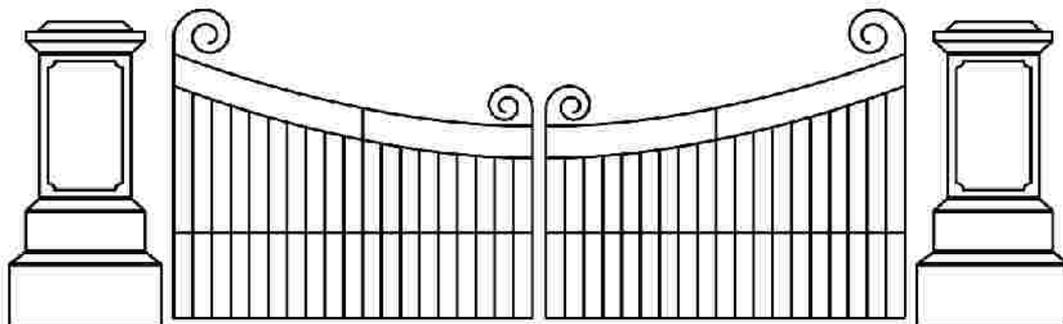


Preserving our past is our future



Chermside & Districts Historical Society Inc.

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NEWSLETTER

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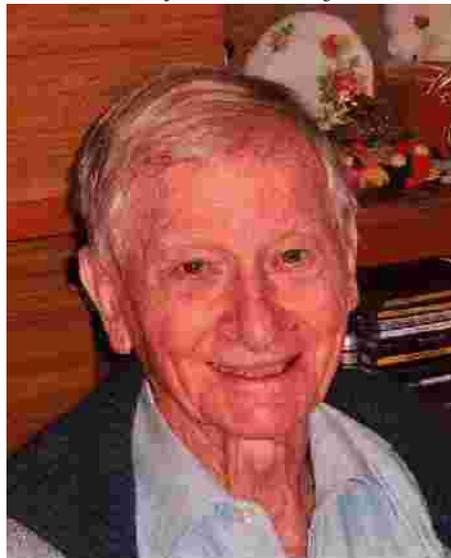
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Located in the Chermside Historical Precinct at 61 Kittyhawk Drive, Chermside but **DO NOT** send post to this address. Printing courtesy of Cr Fiona King.

Vale Lindsay Staib who joined the society in



Lindsay Gordon Staib
06/09/1926 to 11/10/2016

1999. He supplied a great deal of information on his parents and their farm which occupied the eastern end of the present Prince Charles Hospital grounds. Lindsay was a carpenter and when vandals smashed the balustrading on the front veranda of the

old school he was one of the volunteers who helped repair the damage. He also was a source of information about the old manual building technology and used to bring tools used in the early

days such a pit saw, maul and wedges. He drew a map of the family farm and supplied many photos of the family and the houses they built themselves.

Lindsay was a very active member of the Society and a great story teller. He had a vivid memory of the struggles his parents had to build their little farm, clearing the land by lantern light with the baby in a basket; his father worked at the tannery by day. He had some interesting stories about the tannery, about driving a lorry backward up a hill, about building barges during the war, about storing high explosive bombs on the site of the present Prince Charles Hospital. Farewell old mate.

Australia's Greatest General

John Monash (1865-1931), soldier, engineer and administrator, was born in West Melbourne, to Louis Monash and Bertha, née Manasse both of

whom migrated to Australia from Prussia. He was brought up in a bilingual household and educated in Victoria graduating from the University of Melbourne as Master of Engineering, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Legislative Law as well as becoming a virtuoso pianist and a Patent Attorney, Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of Melbourne University, top Public Servant and company director. He was outstandingly intelligent and learned to plan his activities meticulously while at the same time being able to make quick changes when necessary. He was one of those very rare individuals, a polymath aka Renaissance Man..

He worked in civil engineering projects of bridge building and railway construction setting up his own business and becoming a pioneer in the use of reinforced concrete in Victoria. At first he made only indifferent progress but eventually became very successful and, in the process became wealthy.

In 1884 he joined the university company of the 4th Battalion, Victorian Rifles and within fourteen months rose to become colour sergeant. His part time soldiering career continued and in 1897 he was promoted to major and given command of a coastal defence battery. It was in this context that he developed his talents as an administrator and learned how to command without being authoritarian.

In 1908 he was promoted to lieutenant-colonel and became involved in general staff-work. When the war broke out he was appointed Colonel and given command of the 4th Infantry Brigade A.I.F., responsible for training of thousands of men for war, he was in his element and they sailed as the second contingent on 22-12-1914 for Egypt and Gallipoli.

Monash had many enemies; most of them probably did not know him but they believed the rumours spread about him by those who wanted to cut him down to 'size'. There were four main points of attack: he was a Jew and in early 20th

Century Australia there were anti-Semites, some in influential places; he was German and they were the enemy, therefore you could not trust him; he was a 'week end soldier' i.e. militia, which derided his competence; he was a 'colonial' and therefore was not fit to command. Even when he was winning battles and had proved his ability attacks were levelled at him but no one could dominate him, he even told the Prime Minister "Billy" Hughes, 'the Fiery Particle', that he, Monash, would not resign his command and forced Hughes to back down. The official war historian C.E.W. Bean was trying to undermine Monash but became a supporter when he personally catalogued Monash's victories.

At Gallipoli his brigade performed as well as any other but Monash was not involved in the planning of the siege and had to follow orders. He was promoted to Brigadier General, went to Egypt to regroup and on to France. In July 1916 he was promoted to major general in command of the 3rd Australian Division and began training them on Salisbury Plain, England. They faced their first major battle at Messines in June 1917 where he was able to plan the battle in the detail which distinguished him. Following this the division participated in the third battle of Ypres which resulted in the greatest Australian victory to that stage.

In the New Year 1918 he was awarded K.C.B. and in March closed the gap in the defence of Amiens followed by aggressive action against the German Operation Michael offensive. On 1st June he was promoted to lieutenant general under General Birdwood who was in command of the Australian Corps i.e. the Australian Army. Even at that stage the campaign to unseat Monash was relentless but it failed.

4th July the battle of Hamel, a short, 90 minute, very sharp and a resounding victory brought about by the winning combination of, a corps commander of genius, the Australian infantry, the Tank Corps, the Royal Artillery and the R.A.F all of them trained and co-ordinated by Monash. When

he planned a battle he made sure everybody from himself to the newest private knew exactly what he was to do. The system started with Monash telling his staff what they had to do, they then passed the message on to the next rank and so on till it reached the Lance Corporal instructing his men. Then he made sure they had a hot meal before the guns began to speak.

On the 8th August 1918 the Allies moved on to a series of victories spearheaded by the Australian Army at Chignes, Mont St Quentin, Peronne and Hargicourt. Monash with, 200,000 men under his command planned the attack on the Hindenburg Line and breached it by 5th October; on the same day Prinz Max von Baden asked for an armistice. The war was virtually over and Monash played no small part in ending it.

Monash organised the repatriation of 160,000 troops back to Australia, organised trade classes for those waiting to join their ship and in civilian life became Chairman of the Electricity Board of Victoria, supervised the building of the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. On the 8th October 1931 at age 65 he died of heart failure and his funeral was attended by an estimated 300,000 people.

A British captain described Monash as "a great bullock of a man ... though his manners were pleasant and his behaviour far from rough, I have seen few men who gave me such a sensation of force ... a fit leader for the wild men he commanded".

Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery later wrote: "I would name Sir John Monash as the best general on the western front in Europe". And coming from Monty that was high praise!

(I used Geoffrey Serle's article in the Australian Dictionary of Biography as a source of most of this article as it is concise and well dated.) I recommend Roland Perry's "The Outsider Who Won A War".

Aged care in the Chermside Geebung area.

John Wesley Gardens Geebung is the latest development in the continuing story of aged care in the Chermside Geebung area which started 75 years ago.

The first step was taken in 1936 by the Rev. H M Wheller of the Albert Street Methodist Church in the City when the Garden Settlement was opened in Chermside. It consisted of an administrative block (Marchant House?), 20 small cottages for married couples and a building for men only. And it was debt free.



This aerial photo is dated C 1939 and shows the original settlement with the central building, 25 small cottages, possible a couple of vegetable gardens and the bowling green to the right of the central building.

Most of the buildings in this photo are still in use today although the asbestos has been replaced.

Over the years a series of 'Houses' were added,



each with its group of cottages; the settlement was becoming more complex. Photo of Youngman House opened in 1957 – a large building with 32 sin-

gle rooms and twelve cottages, for 56 residents. It was built on the site of the present Tax Office on Banfield Street. (Courtesy of “The Garden Settlement” R. S. C. Dingle.)

In 1962 John Wesley House, 14 cottages, Sanctuary and social hall was built fronting on 7th Brigade Park on Halsmere St., Geebung. It was a couple of kilometres from Wheller Gardens. There were 64 residents on 5,460m² of floor space.

The new settlement grew and in 2016 it was completely demolished except for the Sanctuary. The new structure was opened in October with accommodation for 144 residents on 11,228m² of floor space.



This Google aerial photo shows the new John Wesley Gardens just before the opening in October. Even though the number of residents is more than doubled there is still more open space available by using multi floor buildings. The two bare spaces in the upper part are visitor parking and lawns.



This Google photo dated 27-10-2016 shows Wheller on the park curving around Wheller Gardens. The former is now completed and provides some 340 apartments for retired people. The ‘Dream’ of the early 1930s in the depths of the Great Depression developed into a reality which had continued to grow and prosper. We applaud

the ‘dreamers’, the present settlements are their memorial.

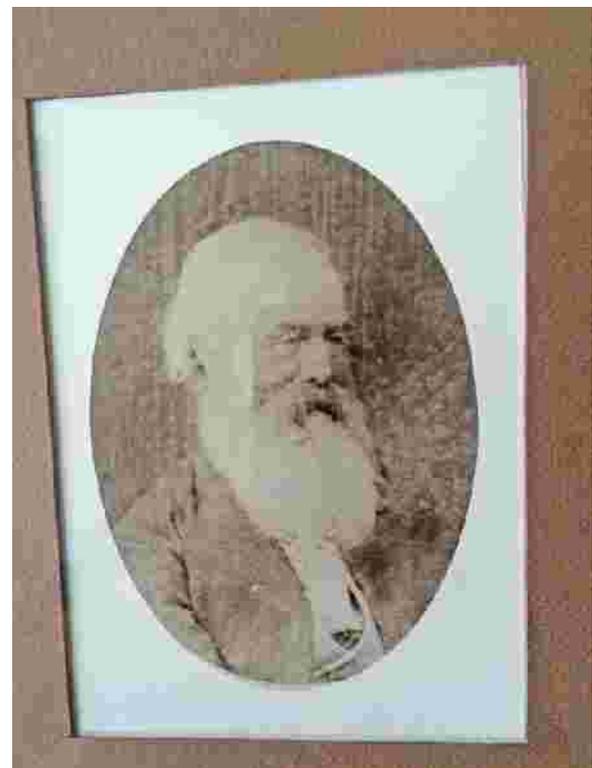
Windsor Historical Society newsletter Download [Part 1 of this quarters newsletter can be viewed and downloaded here](#) and [Part 2 here](#).

Lorna Anderson – Talk on her family. Sunday 3rd October 2016

Palethorpes – Dawsons

Lorna seemed to have a particularly convoluted ancestry through which she skilfully navigated to tell tales of sorrow and hope of new immigrants in this very old land. I must admit I became quite lost but never lost interest in Lorna’s fascinating narrative.

It is a story of two local families living in the local area, one descended from a Convict and the other from a Free Settler. It is a story of multi-cultural-racial Australia, what the Americans called the ‘melting pot’ a “heterogeneous society becoming more homogeneous, the different elements “melting together” into a harmonious whole.” (Wikipedia) English + Irish + Scotch + Chinese + Convict = Australian



Thomas Palethorpe – You’d never guess he was a convict. But he did his time and he succeeded.

Lorna delved into the Palethorpe ancestry which she found goes back to the Battle of Hastings (1066) but she began her narrative with Thomas Palethorpe (1814-1892) who arrived as a convict in 1833 aged 17. Sentenced to seven years for poaching he received his Ticket of Leave in 1837 and his Certificate of Freedom in 1840.

An interesting aside was the attitude of Lorna's Great Aunt Isobel to the fact that Thomas was a convict. She warned "Lorna I commend you for your work but you have made a mistake." The older generations regarded a convict in the family as a disgrace and did not acknowledge it! That attitude has changed dramatically in recent decades.

Another problem facing family researchers is the loss of records, which is common, and the recovery of records, which is uncommon. In the 1970s a relative who had all the surviving family records had a 'garage sale' and 'that was that'. But not quite as the buyer, no relation, wanted to know more and began contacting the Palethorpes in the phone book, one of whom was Lorna's Uncle Norm who contacted Lorna.

Then there was the Chinaman from Amoy who married a Scottish lady in Queensland in the days of White Australia. What a scandal! Today their descendants still run the pastoral holdings started by the founding couple. But the shadow still lingered as Lorna recalled "My dear mother-in-law said to my husband (to be) when we became engaged, Kev there is something you must tell Lorna. You have Chinese ancestry." To the young couple that was 'non-event'.

A more serious event was that of a son born to a brother and sister, illegitimacy was bad enough but coupled with incest could have blighted the child's future. The solution was found when the mother

married some five years later and her husband adopted the child and changed his name. This action literally gave the boy a new chance in life.

Dawson Family – John Dawson (1812-1846) from North Yorkshire arrived in Australia on the Lord Weston in 3-10-1840 aged 28. The following year on the 10th May he married Judith Burns a dairy maid from County Tipperary, Ireland who arrived on the Jane Gifford. They were married in Sydney and later came

to Gracemere, Queensland where John died aged 34 in 1846 when Judith was seven months pregnant with their second son John.

Their first son Thomas married Margaret Tredenick of Gracemere on 10-5-1870 and made their home at Enoggera where they raised five sons. By 1883 Thomas owned 116 acres stretching from Samford Rd., to Kedron Brook on the eastern side of the present Dawson Parade.

After Thomas died in 1888 Margaret remarried another Irishman, George Owens a timber getter. When the youngest son Frank came of age in 1908 the large property was split up amongst the family with the largest portion going to Margaret.

In 1902 the third son, Thomas married Maria Hannah born 1874 at One Eye now known as Milbong. Her mother died when she was 10 months old and she was brought up by her Grandmother. In 1909 Thomas was offered the job of head slaughterman at Alonzo Sparkes Slaughteryard at Chermside. They and their three children lived in one of the Sparkes houses on what is now Banfield Road off Gympie Road where another five children were born, all home births. Hannah lived to 100 years 11 months.

The Palethorpe family joins the Dawson family

The fourth Dawson child, Mary Ellen (aka 'Lyn') (1909-2005) married Fred Palethorpe and they became Lorna's parents. Mary Ellen's notes are worth a section on their own, verbatim! (Next issue.)

19th Century Burial Age in Lutwyche Cemetery by Bradley Scott.

The following is part of my research into Lutwyche Cemetery, some of which I hope to turn into a book someday.

In September I copied the available burial records of Lutwyche Cemetery from Queensland State Archives. These records cover the years 1878 – 1941 and reveal a treasure trove of information.

The age of the person being buried is nearly always noted, and this allows for some analysis. I had noticed that the first page of records (38 burials) featured a

large proportion of children. Wondering if this was an anomaly, I noted all of the ages of 1296 people buried between 1878 and 1900 (inclusive). The average age, not including stillbirths, was 19 years. This dropped to 17 if stillbirths were counted.

Analysing the data year by year, in three of the twenty three years (1878, 1884 and 1889) the average age was under 10. A further thirteen years had average ages between 10 and 20. Only seven years had average ages above 20, with the 'best' year being 1882, where the average age of death was 25.

This overall average is extremely low by today's standards of life expectancy (currently above 80 years), but is also less than half of the life expectancy for the 1880s and 1890s (<http://www.qgso.qld.gov.au/products/tables/life-expectancy-birth-years-sex-qld/index.php>). In fact, the only time in recorded history that I could source lower life expectancy than 19 years was in the Neolithic Period, about 5000 – 6000 years ago in Cyprus, where the average was 17 years. (<http://sticerd.lse.ac.uk/seminarpapers/dg09102006.pdf>).

This poses the question, why was the average age of burial so low in Lutwyche Cemetery? Surely conditions in South East Queensland weren't worse than in the Bronze Age, Classical Greece and the Middle Ages? I can't answer this, however I do have a hypothesis as to why the average age is so low in comparison with average Queensland life expectancy of a similar time. Then, as now, the majority of the population resided in cities. This would have resulted in higher standards of medical care. I would guess that cemeteries in rural areas (as Lutwyche Cemetery was in the late 1800s) would have lower average death ages. Additionally, it appears that Lutwyche Cemetery suffers from a relative lack of large monuments in comparison with Toowong, suggesting that Lutwyche serviced the poorer part of society, which generally had lower life expectancy.

Carol Cunningham writes: I have been working on keeping the CDHS Facebook current by placing small articles and photos about once a week. It would be helpful to spread our reach if our members would

SHARE the CDHS Facebook each time. Currently we average a reach of 200 to 400, but have reached up to 2000 for a popular story.

Thanks in anticipation, Carol

Link to the current edition of the Maranoa Enquirer



Maranoa Enquirer Oct 16.pdf



A new book by Beverley Isdale has reached the 'proof copy' stage. It is a series of 48 short biographies of the 53 Diggers listed on the Fallen Plaque, Marchant Park Gates.

The work is the culmination of eighteen months of continuous re-

search and is part of the Society's attempt to remember the sacrifices our Diggers and their loved ones made, a long time ago.

A New Book on Sale \$25

Lace Irish is the Pollard Family History covering the period 1860-1985 by Michelle Dursun. Michelle has access to a marvellous collection of letters, photos and documents spanning the whole period as the family kept everything. This archive enabled Michelle to lavishly illustrate her work and at the same time give a running commentary on the way of life her ancestors lived.