

For GOD, KING *and* COUNTRY

The
City Tabernacle

ROLL OF HONOUR

1914 to 1919
FIRST WORLD WAR

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William J. BRAMLEY
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FOR KING AND EMPIRE

1914 to 1919
FIRST WORLD WAR

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David Driver & Hope Colegrove



For GOD, KING *and* COUNTRY

The life stories of the World War I servicemen and
women of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church,
Brisbane

‘In twenty years from now, the new generation will, to a great extent, have forgotten this war – the bloodiest since Creation’, said Rev WG Pope, preaching in the City Tabernacle on 23 February 1919.

Looking back over almost a hundred years since that statement, another world war in 1939–45 was to eclipse all wars in human history for the record of the greatest loss of life, but we have not forgotten those who served their God, King and Country. The aim of this book is to put flesh and bones on those whose names are recorded on the City Tabernacle WWI Honour Roll so that their life stories live on in our memories.

Lest we forget.

David Driver and **Hope Colegrove**

Published by City Tabernacle Baptist Church

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Foreword

There is no doubt that Gallipoli and the AIF service in World War I defined us as a nation. But with growing numbers in attendance at Anzac ceremonies each year, it is important that we neither mythologise nor underestimate the sacrifice of those who went so willingly to serve their country.

With each new generation the danger of these errors grows. There are no living veterans and in the era of mobile phone and microwave we are increasingly unable to relate to that of the ‘Coo-ee’ and the wood stove. The nature of family and community have changed dramatically and with that the place of faith in the nation, all making it ever more difficult to fully appreciate the context of the personal decisions that led people to risk all, in history’s bloodiest war.

In these circumstances it seems essential to have a common prism through which to look back on these men and women and their service. Shared community offers the best prospect for that and no shared community allows us to do that as well as that of the Church, with its enduring unifying purpose and values.

This is the great contribution of this book to both the City Tabernacle and this final year of the Centenary commemoration of the Great War.

This book honours members and adherents of the church who served. As Christians we can rip away the haze of myth and time and relate to these men and women in a real heart sense. David and Hope’s extensive research provide letters and contemporary reports that expand and deepen our relationship with them. But they don’t stop there; wherever they can they put them in their families, not only immediate, but within the generations that grew and formed them, all adding depth and relational quality to the record.

In the introduction David draws on contemporary material from church leaders and other senior Baptists that give an often-missing insight to their nuanced opinions as men of faith to the war. It is useful context and helps explain why there were both combatant and non-combatant volunteers from the Tabernacle, although both paid the same heavy price.

This is a valuable contribution to the Centenary commemoration in general, but for the congregation of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church it of course holds special relevance. The names on that Roll of Honour will be given new life through familiarity and you will find many with a generational thread of faith and service clearly inherited from those who founded the church.

It can be seen to glorify war to hail its heroes. But such a view is seldom formed with a knowledge of the individual men and women and their place in families or community. These men and women in particular came from a community formed

around the person of Jesus Christ, who while being at the same time God, sacrificially served, even to the cross. Following that example deserves to be honoured and by this book David Driver and Hope Colegrove have done that for them.

Brigadier Jim Wallace AM (ret)

Royalla

June 2018

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Ultimately, all praise and thanks go to our Lord who saves us and who, through His Spirit, enables us to carry on His work. He has used a variety of people to help bring about the publication of this book.

Firstly, I would like to thank the living descendants of the servicemen and women whose lives, service and ministry are summarised in the following pages, with whom we have had the privilege of sharing their forebears' stories. It has not been possible to use all of the material that they have made available, and their contributions are further acknowledged in the chapters recording their forebears' stories.

Secondly, several past and present members of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church have made significant contributions in a variety of ways. The initial inspiration for this book came from Bill Hughes in February 2015, or possibly earlier. He asked Hope Colegrove to research some aspects of the project. Hope was to do the nurses on the Roll of Honour. Because so many nurses were the descendants of Rev BG Wilson, and several of his male descendants were also listed on the Roll of Honour, it was decided that she would do a separate section (Part 2) on BG Wilson's descendants, plus the remainder of the nurses, and her labour is acknowledged with thanks.

In September 2015, Bill withdrew from the project. Hope was delighted when Daniel (Danny) Davison volunteered his services to continue from where Bill had left off. He set to work with a zeal and undertook much of the initial research. Then, when the mounting pressures of work plus becoming Church Secretary caused work overload, he relinquished his involvement in the project with regret, though not his interest in seeing it come to fruition. I then offered my services to continue the impetus of research and writing.

The possibility of obtaining an Australian Government grant towards the project provided a time-line for the project, with publication to be completed by the Centenary of the Armistice, 11 November 2018.

My thanks go to Rev Dr Stan Nickerson (Researcher into the life of Rev BG Wilson and past Principal of Malyon College) and to Rev Dr David Parker (Baptist Heritage Queensland Archivist and Historian) for their letters of endorsement of our application for an Armistice Centenary Grant.

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The use of file images from the Australian War Memorial (AWM) throughout this book is acknowledged and appreciated.

I would also like to thank my wife, Charmaine, for allowing me to indulge my passion for research and writing to bring this project to fulfilment.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Department of Veterans' Affairs for their financial contribution through the Armistice Centenary Grants Project towards the cost of publishing this book.

David Driver

Sources

The names of the servicemen and women's forebears, siblings, spouses and children, together with the dates and places of their births, deaths and marriages, have been obtained from Ancestry (ancestry.com.au) and MyHeritage (myheritage.com). Where possible, these details have been checked using the births, deaths and marriages registers of Queensland (familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au) and New South Wales (bdm.nsw.gov.au), and Free BMD (freebmd.org.uk).

The National Archives of Australia (recordsearch.naa.gov.au) have been used to view the service records of the servicemen and women. The Australian War Memorial (AWM) archives have provided photographs and details of the battles in which the servicemen fought and their citations for military awards.

Trove (trove.nla.gov.au) has been used extensively to locate and transcribe newspaper and other published material relating to the men and women whose lives are recorded here.

The *Year Books* of the City Tabernacle have provided details of the involvement in the church of the men and women and their families. This material is held at the City Tabernacle Baptist Church archives, and access to it was made available by the Secretary of the church.

Photographs of the servicemen, where available, have been obtained from the *Pictorial Supplements to The Queenslander*.

Various family members have provided anecdotal comments and photographs. Their contributions are duly noted throughout this publication.

Introduction

When war broke out in August 1914, Rev James Cuthbert Mursell (1860–1948) was the minister at the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, often called the City Tabernacle or simply the Tab, but referred to as the City Tabernacle hereinafter.

A sermon by Rev Mursell, quoted at some length below, indicates that he viewed involvement in the war effort as service to God, King or empire, and country. This is not to suggest that this was a holy war. It was, however, a just war for those fighting for righteousness, against the oppression of the German army.

In his historical review of the 1914–15 year in the life of the church, the acting Secretary Thomas AG Colledge made the comment: ‘the following members and adherents have left these shores, to serve their King and Country, in the cause of Freedom and Righteousness’, before going on to name the seven men and one woman who by June 1915 had commenced their service.

The flag under which they served is depicted on the logo shown on the inside front cover. It was adopted in 1909 and replaced by the current flag in 1953. Known as the red ensign, it was identical to the current flag except for the background colour. Although both flags were in use between 1909 and 1953, only the red ensign could be flown by private citizens.¹

In the *Year Book 1915–1916*, after the deaths of three of the servicemen from the City Tabernacle, John Keith, in his Secretary’s report wrote: ‘Our sincerest sympathy goes out to the families of those who have fallen. They also have the consolation that they died fighting bravely for God, King and Home’. The Sunday School Report in the *Year Book 1916–1917* states, ‘During the year the following, who were old scholars of the school – viz., W.A. Carson, F.J. Marriott, W.J.F. Cooksley, W.J. Marshall, A.H. Ross, Herbert Hicks, C. Albert Dennis, Walter Newman have left for distant lands to fight for God, King, and Country’.

The City Tabernacle was originally known as the Wharf Street Baptist Church, but renamed when the facilities in Wharf Street became too small and the present building was constructed and opened in 1890. William and Elizabeth Grimes were two of the 13 men and women who formed the Wharf Street Church in 1855. Their great-grandson, Alister Bailey Grimes, is listed on the church’s Roll of Honour. Rev Benjamin Gilmore Wilson was the minister of the Wharf Street Church from 1858 until 1878 and was probably the most significant figure in the early history of the church. Four of his grandsons (Lindsay, Harry, Kenneth and

¹ <https://www.pmc.gov.au/government/australian-national-flag>, accessed 15 October 2018.

Frederick [David]) and three of his granddaughters (Marjorie, Madeline and Elsie Patterson) are listed on the Roll of Honour.

The terms ‘Honour Board’ and ‘Roll of Honour’ are often used interchangeably. The Australian War Memorial uses both terms.

Honour boards and rolls were erected in many local schools, halls, churches and offices as a means of acknowledging the commitment made by the community to the military forces.

The criteria used for inclusion of names on an honour board were determined by those creating the board and can vary. For example, the board may only include those who were born in the town, those who enlisted in the town, those who were living or working in the town when they enlisted or veterans who became associated with the area after the war when the honour board was being created. Some honour boards include all those who served and others only list those who died in the war. In some cases an individual may appear on more than one honour board.²

Since the current list of servicemen and women in the foyer of the City Tabernacle is labelled Roll of Honour, this terminology is used throughout this book, unless the term Honour Board is used in a direct quotation. The criteria used by the leadership of the church for inclusion in the roll is unknown. The level of involvement of those listed is summarised below and detailed in the individual servicemen and women’s biographies.

The City Tabernacle was a very significant organisation within Brisbane at the time. The membership as at 30 June 1915 totalled 403. This included some very high-profile people, such as Hon Digby F Denham, a former premier of Queensland, who was elected as a deacon in 1917. Apart from two services each Sunday and one on Wednesday, other programs of the church included a Sunday School, Junior Christian Endeavour and Men’s Own Meeting (which all met every Sunday), Mothers’ Meeting and Christian Endeavour (held every week), and a Mission Class and Ladies’ Work Meeting (held every fortnight or monthly).

In addition to the minister, the church leadership (diaconate) in 1914–15 consisted of: Edmund JT Barton of New Farm; Thomas Biggs of Milton; William H Bush of Windsor; Thomas A Colledge of South Brisbane; William P Cooksley of Hendra; John A Goldsmith of Fortitude Valley; George Hiron of Toowong who died 2 June 1915; Alfred Kent of Woolloowin; John C Keith of Auchenflower; Charles Martin of Hawthorn; George A McFarlane of Bowen Hills; John McKenzie of Indooroopilly; William R Smith of Taringa; Thomas E White of Toowong; and Benjamin G Wilson of South Brisbane.

² <https://www.awm.gov.au/research/guide/honour-board>, accessed 21 September 2018.

The *Year Book 1914–1915*, in its historical review, stated:

Since the publication of the last year-book, the whole world has been shocked by the plunging of the greater part of Europe into war. Great Britain, by her treaty obligations, has had to take her place by the side of Belgium against Germany.

Australia has made Great Britain's cause her own, and has nobly responded by sending the best of her sons and daughters to serve at the Front, and the City Tabernacle Church has contributed her quota.

Up to the 30th June, the following members and adherents have left these shores, to serve their King and Country, in the cause of Freedom and Righteousness:

NURSE WILSON, WM. S. BELL, H.K. DENHAM, T.W. HAM, E.G. HERRINGTON, LLOYD SIMMONDS, ROBERT HOUSTON LIND, L.B. McNEIL,

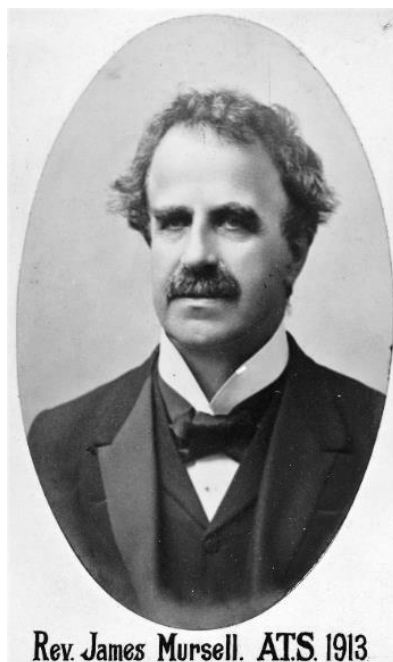
and others already have taken steps to follow their noble example.³

Rev. James Mursell was one of the first to offer his services and was chosen as the armed services' first senior chaplain for the group comprising Baptists, Congregationalists, Churches of Christ and Salvation Army.⁴ He served in this capacity from July 1911 (before the outbreak of war) until March 1915 when he left Brisbane to return to England.⁵

During his time in Brisbane, he frequently preached on the Christian's duty to God, King and Country in time of war. This is typified in the report in the secular press of special services in November 1914.

PRAYER FOR THE EMPIRE AND FOR PEACE.

A special day of intercession for our King, our Empire, and for peace was yesterday observed in the Baptist



³ City Tabernacle, *Year Book 1917–1918*, p. 7.

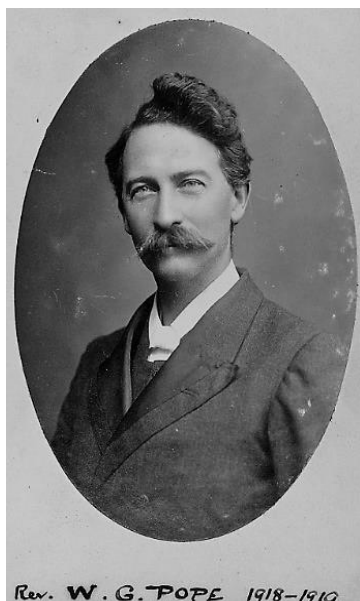
⁴ John E White, *A Fellowship of Service: A history of the Baptist Union of Queensland* (Brisbane: Baptist Union of Queensland, 1977), pp. 199–200, quoted in Les Ball, *Grow the Vision: The Sesqui-Centennial History of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, 1855–2005* (Brisbane: City Tabernacle Baptist Church, 2005), p. 38.

⁵ *The Brisbane Courier*, 24 July 1911, p. 7.

Churches throughout Queensland, on the invitation of their association. Both Services were to be devoted to “deep heart searching, and to fervent prayer for an early and righteous peace amongst the nations now at war. Further, that God, in His great mercy, may safeguard our beloved Homeland and her dependencies in this, her, hour of stress and trial.” Appropriate hymns and special prayers both for our country and for the men who have gone to the front were printed, and circulated in all the churches, and there was a very hearty response on the part of the various congregations. At the City Tabernacle, both morning and evening, the written prayers were read by pastor and people together, and the occasion was both solemn and impressive. Rev. Jas. Mursell preached on both occasions, speaking in the morning on the Christian’s attitude and duty during the war, and in the evening on the call to seriousness and earnestness of life and purpose involved in the momentous events through which we are passing, in addition to the selected hymns, the choir sang, in the morning, the anthem “I Was Glad,” and in the evening “When the Day of Pentecost Was Fully Come.” The recitative and aria, “If With All Your Hearts,” was also given by a member of the choir. At the close a large proportion of the congregation remained to take part in a special prayer meeting, and it may be said that throughout the day there was a very marked sense of the solemnity of the occasion, whilst the opportunity for united and special prayer was generally appreciated.⁶

Mursell’s son, James Lockhart Mursell (1893–1963) was drafted in both World War I and World War II into the United States of America forces. He became a US citizen in 1917 while completing a PhD at Harvard University and married Alice Ethred May in New York in 1919. James Jnr and Alice visited England in 1922, presumably to visit James Snr and Jeannie.

In the interim, between the departure of Mursell and the arrival of his successor, Rev William George Pope in August 1916, Mr Edmund JT Barton (1854–1937) was an outspoken advocate for the involvement of Christian men and women in the war effort. Barton became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1891–92, was elected as a deacon in 1914, and was President of the Queensland Baptist Association in 1912–13. He had been editor of *The Courier* in 1903–05.



Rev. W. G. POPE 1918–1919.

⁶ *The Brisbane Courier*, 23 November 1914, p. 8.

William Pope's attitude to war can be clearly seen in the following report.

The One Big Union of Nations.

Speaking at the City Tabernacle, Brisbane, on Sunday evening, February 23rd, on the subject of the One Big Union of Nations against war, the Rev. W.G. Pope said that at the outbreak of the recent great war Christianity and the Church were arraigned and blamed for not having power to stop it or to oppose its evil power. But if the Church was at fault, so also was Education, and Commerce, and International Conventions and Social Ideals. To discard these because they did not prevent war was like a man who sawed off his legs because they did not help him enough to catch the train. The war has revealed the necessity of true education and culture, of essential trusted international commerce and conventions as well as perfected social ideals. The war was not caused by any one or all of these, but by their lack. Not less is wanted, but more. Alas, after nearly twenty centuries of Christianity, it is a great blow to faith and courage to discover that civilisation in some places has but the thinnest veneer of Christianity. Not a century ago, slavery was in full exercise. Christianity had not caused it to cease then; but it has now. It looked impossible then, but the impossible only takes a little longer. In any case, slavery and the cockpit and the burning of Indian widows – against which Christianity is truly opposed – are gone, and the spirit of Christianity did it! Will it take another century to abolish war, intoxicating liquor, and gambling? The spirit of Christianity is only just awakening to fight this trinity of evils, and as certainly as the others disappeared, so will these!

The present opportunity is a challenge to the Church. Compared to the larger community its strength is not probably more than one to ten yet it is the portion of the community that counts for more than thrice their number. This is a climacteric day in history. Five years ago the militaristic spirit in many nations, large and small, itched for exercise. For five years most of them have had their sway. Militarism has been tested and found less than vanity! Since the days of history – say B.C. 1491, to this day – over 3400 years, the world's records reveal but 227 years of peace! and every thirteen years some great war. And yet the world had not enough. In twenty years from now, the new generation will, to a great extent, have forgotten this war – the bloodiest since Creation? In our recent South African campaign of three years – we called it a war! – the total casualties amounted to 38,156, whereas in the first six weeks on Gallipoli the British losses alone amounted to 38,636!!! Australia's final army doubled that of [General] French's "Contemptibles" at the start! We have fought, and we have won. In the history of all wars hitherto, the winner has never been strong enough to propose a true league of peace! If the proposition of a league of nations against war is not a triumph of Christianity in its truest spirit – then I fail to discover its origin! When

passion is awakened, Christianity is not wanted. When the battle is over the discarded spirit of Christ usually creeps back slowly, but this time, whilst we are still discussing terms of peace, it is here!

Is it possible to do without force? Not more than it is possible for a father or the schoolmaster to wholly cease corporal punishment, or the city to discard its police. Force and love are neither antagonistic nor antithetical! The Christ of love used a scourge of cords, and on the Pharisees a scourge of woes! The damnatory clauses were not wholly eliminated from His discourses! War is sometimes necessary! There was, once a war in heaven to expel that which cursed even that sacred place! War, as a surgical operation, is sometimes essential – but unlike the surgeon's knife, it never cures anything! In the League of Nations have we discovered the more excellent way? If so, the whole Church of God will bless the framers and leaders of it. The Church is against war – and would fain, at this time, discover a moral equivalent for the enthusiastic war spirit that seized our young men. We curse war, for it claims our best young men, it breaks the mother's heart, it robs the State, the Commonwealth, the Church, and the world of its best men. We shall pray and labour and die to beat it out of the world.⁷

Rev Pope's son, Douglas Hamilton Pope enlisted in August 1918 and served in a non-combat role on Australian soil.

The church leadership would also appear to have been supportive of the war effort. The fathers or guardians of six of the servicemen were on the diaconate of the church when they enlisted, and the fathers of two more servicemen were deacons either before or after the war.

The men and women who are recognised on the Roll of Honour had a range of levels of involvement in the City Tabernacle. Given their ages when they enlisted and the requirements for membership of a Baptist church, it is not that surprising that only 18 of the 54 men and three of the five servicewomen were in membership when they enlisted. Many of these became members within a year of their enlistment. Another five servicemen came into membership soon after they returned from the Front. Several others were actively involved in a variety of programs within the church, such as Christian Endeavour and the choir without having come into formal membership.

One or both of the parents of 36 of the men and five of the women were in membership and, of the seven who were married when they enlisted, three of their wives were in membership. The parents of three servicemen's wives were in membership, suggesting that their wives were also actively involved in the church before their future husbands went to war.

⁷ *The Australian Baptist*, 4 March 1919, p. 7.

Enlistment

Given that Queensland was a very young state when war broke out, it is not surprising that many of the men who enlisted were recent immigrants. Of the 54 servicemen, 34 were born in Australia (including two who were born in New South Wales) and 20 were born overseas (nine in Scotland, seven in England, three in Wales and one – AJW Chisholm – in New Zealand). Only one of these had been in the colony for more than four years when war broke out. These recent immigrants, almost all of whom were from Great Britain, were highly motivated to go back and help defend their motherland.

Of the 36 born overseas, the ancestral home of 30 of the servicemen has been identified. The parents or forebears of 13 were from England, seven from Scotland, four from Ireland, five from a mix of sovereign states within the United Kingdom, and one from Germany. The motivation for this serviceman to fight against the birthplace of his father and grandparents is unknown.

Decade in which migration occurred	Born overseas	Born in Australia, migrant generation			Total
		parents	grandparents	great grandparents	
1830–39			1	1	2
1840–49			3	1	4
1850–59			6	4	10
1860–69		5	2		7
1870–79		1			1
1880–89		7			7
1890–99	1				1
1900–09					0
1910–19	17				17
Total	18	13	12	6	49

The numbers of servicemen who immigrated (if they were born outside Australia), or if they were born in Australia when their forebears migrated, are shown in the table above.

The date of enlistment and involvement in the war effort of 53 of the 54 men who are listed on the Roll of Honour can be identified. Thirty-one were in combat roles and 20 were in non-combat roles. Two servicemen were initially in combat roles, but during the course of the war changed to non-combat roles. The intended role of one serviceman's service is unknown. (He arrived in England after the Armistice.)

There was a noticeable spike in the numbers enlisting between 15 September 1915 and 21 September 1915 – seven men, including two sets of brothers, enlisted, three in combat roles and four in non-combat roles, all as members of the Field Ambulance. It is probably not coincidental that this was shortly after the young men of the church heard of the death of Robert Lind at Gallipoli and the patriotic resolution, outlined below, was discussed.

It would seem that the attitudes of Baptists in Queensland regarding involvement in the war may have changed significantly in the period immediately before this. A report in the secular press includes the following report.

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

Patriotic Resolutions.

The Baptist Association's annual assembly held its third business session yesterday afternoon. The Rev. A.B. Mursell (Warwick) conducted a brief, but inspiring preliminary devotional session.

The President-elect occupied the chair at the evening meeting. The Rev. A.O. Shaw led the assembly in prayer.

On the motion of Mr. E.J.T. Barton, the following resolutions were unanimously passed –

1. That we, the members of the Baptist Association of Queensland, in annual meeting assembled, desire to reiterate our expressions of unswerving loyalty to our King at this crisis in the history of the British Empire. Deeply impressed with the justice and righteousness of the cause of Britain and her Allies, we heartily support the efforts of the Empire to bring the war to a successful termination. At the same time, recognising the menace of German militarism to the liberties and to the best life of the world, we call upon all members and adherents of Baptist churches, to exert themselves to the uttermost, whether by personal service in the field, or by intercession and self-denying labours at home. And we urge upon our churches and upon all their members, the paramount duty of unceasing prayer to God that He may

restore peace to the world, as speedily as may accord with His sovereign purpose to remove hindrances out of the way of His kingdom, and to establish the rule of His Son on the Earth.

2. Whilst expressing gratitude that so many of those associated with our churches have nobly volunteered for active service, we wish to place on record our admiration for the heroism and endurance displayed by all our Australian soldiers, and our prayerful sympathy, not only for the wounded and the sick, but also for the many thousands who are suffering heart-breaking bereavement, and for those in continuous anxiety, from day to day for the safety of those dearest to them.

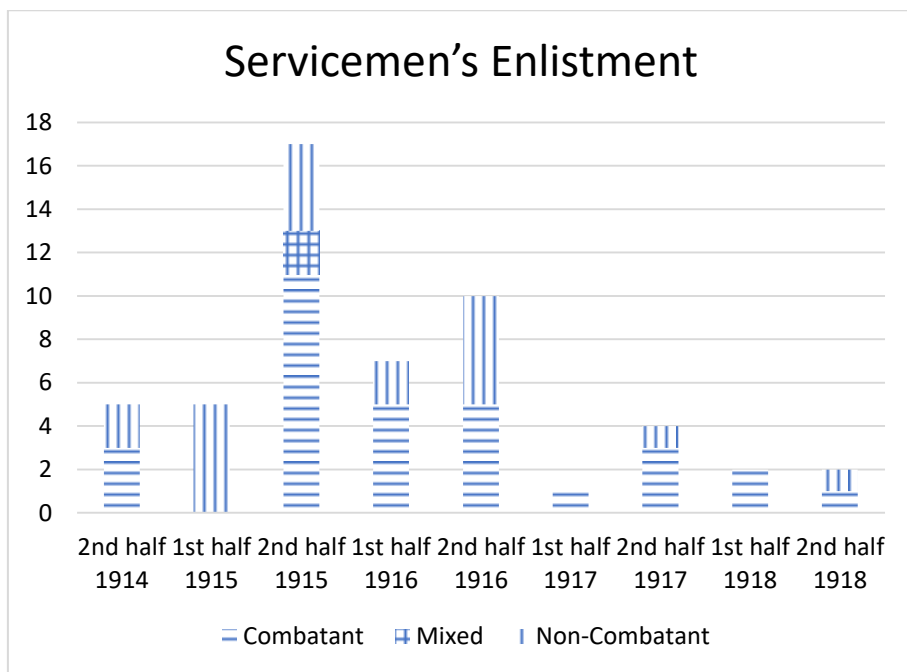
3. That in view of the tremendous issues at stake in the present war, this assembly would affectionately urge that it is our duty as Christians, to cultivate by every means in our power, that chastened and contrite spirit which is most fitting in time of public stress and anxiety and that we should avoid everything tending to foster indifference to the claims of patriotism and the call to action and self-sacrifice. Very specially the assembly urges that there is at present a high call for attendance at public worship, whether on the Lord's day or at the midweek services as a duty we owe to our God, to our country, and to our own highest interest ...

In the evening, a public meeting at which the subject of Christian patriotism will be discussed, will take place.¹

The proportion of servicemen in non-combat roles is considerably higher than in the services generally and although there appears to be a tendency for those who enlisted earlier in the war to have been in non-combat roles, this does not appear to be statistically significant. The relatively high proportion of servicemen who volunteered for non-combat duties can be explained by their desire to contribute to the war effort and serve their fellowmen (for their God, King and Country) but had legitimate Christian concerns about direct involvement in the conflict. Alister Grimes's son, Ken states, 'The Grimes family were staunch Baptists and opposed to killing of any kind. Some of his friends and relatives were in the Ambulance Corps ... so when he (Alister) enlisted it was in the Ambulance as a non-combatant'.²

¹ *The Telegraph*, Friday 17 September 1915, p. 8.

² Grimes, Ken G, *Alister Bailey Grimes at War: Diary and Letters – 1915–1919* (self-published, 2010).



The tone of Barton's motions is quite different from that expressed in a series of sermons by Rev J Mursell, pastor of the City Tabernacle, not long after Australia declared war.

Special attention is being directed by our pastor to various phases of our responsibility as Christians in view of the terrible war now absorbing the attention of the whole world. During the past two Sunday evenings, the subjects of Mr. Mursell's addresses have been respectively, Christianity "Before the War" and "During the War." In the course of a powerful sermon last Sunday, he quoted from the message of the Council of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland to the Baptists of the Empire, which so ably sets forth Christian duty in these difficult times. "We must look at every issue as it may be presented to us, from the standpoint of the Cross, and of our Saviour's love. It must never be forgotten that this is Christ's world, and that all peoples are the sheep of his pasture, for whom He died." Throughout the discourse there was strong insistence that the Christian attitude towards the war and those who are engaged in it must, in important respects, be different from that of other people. We have to exemplify in our whole conduct, inwardly and outwardly, the Christian spirit, and the Christian attitude, and we have to do so at a time when a great deal that is in us, and much more that is round about us is of a temper far from Christian. This is what Christ our Lord demands of us. But more, it is what he enables us to do. The spiritual

man can take the spiritual view. In this connection striking contrast was drawn between a recent statement by Dr. Clifford in its intense horror and hatred of war, and the writings of the German, von Bernhardi, in their adulatory championship of war for its own sake and their callous indifference to massacres and burnings and ruinous destruction associated therewith. Amongst other things, the preacher warned his hearers against the danger of growing callous towards the horrors of war. He insisted on the Christian's duty to honestly search for a true understanding of the war. He cannot rest until he gains and understands Christ's thought of it, which is the real truth about it. In this connection were quoted Mr. Asquith's words, "It is not merely a material, it is a spiritual conflict." The poet laureate put the truth even more forcibly: "We are engaged in what is manifestly a war declared between Christ and the devil." As had been truly said, "It is the clash of two totally different and quite irreconcilable ideals. On one side is the ideal to which mankind has been painfully climbing, that of love of righteousness and the law in the life of nations as truly as in the life of individuals. On the other is the ideal openly avowed by German philosophers, statesmen and soldiers, that brute strength reinforced by science is supreme in international relationships. "The law of love," says Bernhardi, "can claim no significance for the relationships of one country to another. Christian morality is personal and social, and in its nature cannot be political." Force on one side, which is the devil's ideal; love on the other, which is Christ's. Moreover, this understanding of the war justified the desire and prayer for victory, and our righteous indignation at the barbarities that have disgraced German actions and methods from the very first. The Christian view of the war carried with it these two things – an understanding of who our real foe is, and of the temper in which as a Christian nation we should carry on this war. We were not as Christians, intent on the destruction of Germany, but on her salvation, if need be from herself. German Christians, he went on to say, shared that desire, and in this connection was quoted the following passage from the letter of a German gentleman to a friend in England. He said, "I quite agree with you as to the position in England, and that after doing her utmost to preserve peace she could not do otherwise than declare war with Germany, after the latter had violated Belgium's neutrality. Germany's plea of necessity does not excuse the wrong act – one of whose effects is that Germany and Germans are now hated all the world over. Yet the nation itself did not wish this war. I believe there is more sorrow, suffering, and humiliation amongst the German people at the present moment than is supposed in your country, and it is certain that untold numbers of Christians amongst us are looking at this awful war in the same light as you do – as an iniquitous war brought on by the powers of darkness – a kind of spiritual warfare; and surely these Christians condemn as much the pride and arrogance shown before the war

began, as they do the cruelties perpetrated since then, in poor innocent Belgium.” There, said Mr. Mursell, speaks the better heart of Germany; and in these days when our attention is so fixed on the baser side of German life, we need to be reminded that is there.³

Mursell concluded his ministry at the City Tabernacle in March 1915. His nephew, Arthur, enlisted in the 17th Field Ambulance, Army Medical Corps, a non-combat role, on 17 September 1915. Details of his life, service and ministry are detailed later.

The varying views on whether Christians should be involved in war, and if so, in combat roles, is evident in the address by the Rev William Bell, the retiring President of the Baptist Association of Queensland, delivered in the City Tabernacle in September 1916.

The retiring President took as the subject of his address, “The Bible and the War”. He said he was satisfied that every thoughtful person must realise that the world could not be the same after the war as it had been previously. There was reason to hope that one effect of the war would be to make the Bible a more interesting book, and that in future it would more than ever before help faith, stimulate hope, and inspire appropriate action. The history of the Israelites showed clearly that God did not despise the instrumentality of war in the carrying out of His purposes. Some people might say, “We live for a higher law. Our authority is not Moses, but Christ,” and he was quite willing to grant that it was true that Christians were told to turn the other cheek to the smiter, to let the man who took one’s coat take the cloak also, and to go voluntarily the second mile after one had been compelled to go the first; but this was an appeal for personal forbearance and magnanimity only. There was nothing in Christ’s teaching which would justify a man in sacrificing the rights of others. If a scoundrelly ruffian appeared at a man’s door and threatened violence to his wife or children the man surely would not go to the Sermon on the Mount for guidance as to how he should act! Under such circumstances it would be well to act on another piece of Biblical advice – “He that hath no sword let him buy one.” For Great Britain to have looked on while Belgium was over run and crushed by a fierce and cruel tyrant would have been not forbearance, but cowardice. And the nation which would not strike a blow for such treasures as truth, justice, and freedom forfeited all right to possess them. (Hear, hear.) “Peace at any price,” was the cry of some, and to that he would say, “Yes, peace at any price, even at the price of war.” But while the Bible did not forbid a righteous war, it did not encourage them to look on the issue as likely to be decided merely by brute force, or even by human skill and efficiency. If he

³ *The Australian Baptist*, 24 November 1914, p. 11.

were addressing a meeting of citizens he would say that whatever service their country required of her able-bodies [sic] manhood for the winning of the war she was entitled to ask for. (Hear, hear.) But he was not addressing a meeting of citizens; he was speaking to representatives of the Christian Church. They should remember that in any struggle which had righteousness as its objective God was the main factor, and He was not necessarily the God of the big battalions and the 10in. guns. There were a hundred ways in which God could get His hand in to affect the fortunes of war apart from the mere clash of arms.⁴

The City Tabernacle was without a pastor until August 1916, when Rev WG Pope commenced his ministry. Pope's son, Douglas enlisted 24 August 1918, also in a technical, non-combat role on Australian soil.

⁴ *The Australian Baptist*, 10 October 1916, p. 8.

The Roll of Honour

The City Tabernacle began recording the names of its members year by year as they enlisted for active service during the Great War. The annual record of names can be found in the church's *Year Books* from 1914–15 to 1918–19, with the *Year Book 1918–1919* containing a detailed cumulative listing of all those who served overseas. Thus, the Roll of Honour presents a carefully prepared and accurate record.

Unfortunately, despite this, there are a few errors and omissions. These are detailed in the biographies of the servicemen and women concerned. The ordering of the names is not strictly alphabetical. The grand-children of BG Wilson, almost all of whom had Gilmore as their last given name, were positioned as though their family name was Gilmore Wilson. Yet this is not hyphenated on the Roll and Gilmore is in lower case whereas Wilson is in upper case as for all the other family names.

Interestingly, the Roll of Honour does not include the rank or role of the servicemen and women, although this was published in the City Tabernacle *Year Books*. It seems likely that the church leaders wanted to recognise all of them equally, without distinguishing their rank or whether they were in combat or non-combat roles. The only notation apart from their names was the inclusion of citations and identification of those who were killed in action.

The list seems to include a small number of adherents who attended the church on a regular basis before enlisting. The *Year Book 1914–1915* says at page 7 that, up to 30 June 1915, 'the following members and adherents left these shores to serve their King and Country in the cause of freedom and righteousness'.

The original Roll of Honour was unveiled in 1916.

PATRIOTIC GATHERING.

Speaking at a patriotic gathering in the City Tabernacle on Saturday night in connection with the unveiling of an honor board, Mr J.J. Kingsbury gave a brief but impressive outline of the historical events that led up to the war. Referring to the atrocities committed by German soldiers and sailors on land and sea, Mr Kingsbury asked if it were possible that (as some persons had recently implied) we did not know what we were fighting for? Was it possible that in England 5,000,000 people had volunteered, left their businesses and their professional occupations – left the universities and the Houses of Parliament, and given their lives on the battlefield, and yet did not know what they were fighting for? Australia had sent over 300,000 volunteers to the Front. Did they not know what they were fighting for? Did they not know that they were fighting for the liberty of the wide world?

(Cheers.) Did not the Boers know what they were fighting for when they gave so freely of their lives? Did they not know – as all the world now knew – that Germany was only a tiger thirsting for blood – the maddest dog of Europe – the cruellest nation that had ever existed since God made Adam and Eve? The dark races of India had sent their hundreds and thousands to the Front. (Loud applause.) We were not fighting individuals – we had no desire to humiliate the German people, but we had a desire to cut out the cancer that would destroy liberty – a desire to curb the Hohenzollern family, the mad Kaiser and his madder son. (Applause.)

Brigadier-General Lee said he had great pleasure in unveiling an honor board that would record the names of those who had fought and died, for their flag and country. Young men had gone to the war willingly; he always felt for the families who were left behind. It was nice, indeed, to have records put in proper places so that families could, get some comfort from the sacrifices their fathers or sons had made. The response in Australia had been something marvellous for a young country. He felt as an Australian-born that he could be proud of the country and of the men brought up in. (Applause.)

After the “Last Post” had been sounded, the honor board was unveiled, and the Brigadier-General said he trusted that many of those whose names were on it, would return, happy and well, to their homes. (Applause.)

The honor board – a handsome piece of woodwork – contained 34 names, including those of three men who had been killed in action. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Kingsbury and Brigadier-General Lee, on the motion of Senior Chaplain A.G. Weller, seconded by the Rev. W.G. Pope.

A patriotic musical programme was rendered during the evening, organ solos being played by Mr. Percy Brier, and songs and recitations given by Mr. S. [Stephen] Best, Miss Lily Paton, Miss Ruby Hill, Mr. L. Jarrott, Mr. T. Starkie, Miss G. [Grace] Symonds, and Miss Mildred Bell.¹

A similar report was published in the secular press.

Baptist Association.

PATRIOTIC DEMONSTRATION.

UNVEILING HONOUR BOARD.

A largely attended patriotic demonstration was held in the City Tabernacle, under the auspices of the Baptist Association’s annual assembly, on Saturday evening. The Rev. C.J.W. [Charles] Moon (president) introduced Brigadier-General [George] Lee (State military, commandant), who presided ...

¹ *The Australian Baptist*, 10 October 1916, p 8.

The Chairman, unveiling an honour board containing the names of members of the church who had enlisted, spoke of the patient heroism and valuable assistance rendered by the women of Australia, as well as by the men who had enlisted. He also complimented Senior Chaplain Weller on the good work which he had done amongst the troops. (Applause.)

The “Last Post” having been sounded by a bugler, the Commandant unveiled the honour board, which contains 34 names. A vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. Kingsbury, and the vocalists was moved by the Rev. A. [Alfred] S. Weller.²

The proceedings appropriately concluded with the military doxology.

God Save our soldier men,
Bring them safe home again.
God save our men.
Make them both strong and brave,
Our Empire’s cause to save.
Keep them on land and wave
God save our men.

A photograph of the Roll of Honour was sent to AB Grimes at the front in France by his brother Ben. Its receipt is mentioned in a letter home on 23 November 1916.

There was provision for names to be engraved on individual wooden strips and fixed to the board. Additional names were added up to 1919. Names were listed alphabetically and the end result was not as attractive as a board that was prepared after the event when all names were known, rather than being added one by one over time. The final list included 54 men and three women. This Roll of Honour is thought to be similar to the one in the Jireh Baptist Church, shown here.



Roll of Honour from the
Jireh Baptist Church
(detail)

There is also a memorial tablet inside the church on the back wall of the sanctuary. Initially this marble tablet contained the names of all those who gave their lives in World War I. It was officially unveiled at a Memorial (Peace)

² *The Telegraph*, Monday 25 September 1916, p. 10.

Service held on Sunday 21 September 1919. At the unveiling ceremony it had a prominent place in front of the pulpit before later being moved to its present permanent position. The names of the two men who gave their lives in World War II were added to the tablet after that war.

In conjunction with the unveiling, a letter was sent by the City Tabernacle Secretary, John Keith, to Mrs Lauchlan in Scotland, mother of one of the servicemen who was killed, and presumably to the parents of the other servicemen whose lives were cut short, as follows:

Dear Mrs Lauchlan,

As you have more than likely been made aware of our intention to erect a tablet in honoured memory of those who paid the supreme sacrifice during the great war on our behalf, I have now pleasure in informing you that the desire has been accomplished and on 21st of last month we had a Peace service. The tablet was placed in the forefront of the Church surrounded by beautiful floral wreaths worthy of the loved ones we wished to honor. I enclose a small photo showing the tablet, but of course it gives only a faint idea of the efforts of loving hearts and hands to make the surroundings of the best and helpful to a reverent feeling. Our Pastor Rev W.G. Pope conducted both services preaching in the morning from

Daniel chapter 3, verses 17 and 18

And in the evening

Hebrew chapter 11 verse 13.

At each service all of the soldiers present stood up while Mr Pope read the names of the fallen ones, then the congregation stood while the Last Post was being sounded and the organist closed with the funeral march of Beethoven in the morning and Chopin in the evening.



Memorial Tablet

Both services had the ring of Triumph predominant for we do not think of our dear ones as dead only gone before, and one day with clearer eyes and our vision we shall know the reason of it all when we shall be able to fully and frankly say

“Our God hath done all things well.”

We closed the meetings of our Baptist Association on Saturday last and I am sure that you will be glad to know that our meetings have been the most successful in the history of the Baptist Association in Queensland. Although the war clouds dark and heavy at times hung over us there have been more additions to our Church Membership, two new Churches built and another started also many additions to our preaching stations in some of which your dear Boy had a large interest and took a prominent part. I feel sure that he knows of this and was able with many others to rejoice with us in our success and joy.

Trusting you and all your dear ones enjoy the best of health and all the troubles and trying conditions in your land and which are ours also and that you will have the care of our dear Lord in all your needs agreeable to His promises.

The supreme sacrifice of Robert Lauchlan and the other ten servicemen from the City Tabernacle who did not return, was a human one which helped secure the temporary, physical freedom of their countrymen. It pales into insignificance when compared to the supreme sacrifice of their Lord and Saviour, which secured their eternal, spiritual salvation. In the words of Paul:

Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.³

Or in the words of Jesus:

Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.⁴

After the war had concluded, the central portion of the current Roll of Honour was installed. It is not known when this occurred. A photograph of this Roll of Honour is shown on the front cover of this book.

The service of unveiling the Honour Board in the Church Vestibule was conducted on Sunday, 7th September, 1947, preceding the morning service. the Board which was designed to include the names of those who served in the Great War of 1914–1918, preserved the original Honour Board then

³ *The Bible*, Romans 5:7–8.

⁴ *The Bible*, John 15:13.

erected, on which the names were renewed so as to match the names of the men and women associated with the Church, who served in World War II, 1939–1945.

Rev. Eric Evans, of Melbourne, who was serving the Church for the month of September, dedicated the Honour Board to the memory of those whose names appeared thereon, and whom he eulogised for their great service, loyalty and courage. Two of our members of the Fighting Services paid the Supreme Sacrifice. Mr. Evans then called on Mrs. L. Butler who, in the following words, unveiled the Honour Board, “To the Glory of God and in honour and gratitude to the men and women whose names are inscribed thereon, I now unveil this Honour Board of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church.” After a Prayer of Dedication this impressive service was concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.⁵

The *Year Book 1918–1919* included the following brief details.

OUR HONOUR ROLL

We hold in honoured memory the following, who were KILLED IN ACTION.

Anzac J.D. STREET. Served in Light Horse from December, 1914, in Gallipoli. Wounded 15th August. Chatham’s Post, 5th November, 1915.

Anzac R.H. LIND. At Gaba Tepe, 8th August, 1915.

E.R. SMITH. In France, 22nd August, 1918 after three years’ service. Won Military Medal for bravery.

Lance-Corporal L.B. McNEIL. By a bomb. Y Corps. Resting camp, Buire, France, November, 1916.

Driver H.G. WILSON. France, 23rd July, 1916.

Corporal W.P. SIMMONDS. Served from August, 1916. At Zonnebeke, Belgium, 4th October, 1917.

Lieutenant W.J.F. COOKSLEY. France, April, 1918.

GEORGE BREMNER. France.

HENRY HACKETT. France.

Rev. R. LAUCLAN. France.

WILLIAM N. SMITH. France.

“These all died in Faith.”

“Not having obtained – but were persuaded.”

We have also secured some details of services rendered by other members whose names are on our Rolls.

⁵ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Year Book 1947–1948*, p. 9.

Sisters –

Sister M.K. WILSON (two stars). Served four years in hospitals at Heliopolis, Abbassia, Port Said, Gallipoli, and on various hospital ships. R. August, 1918.

Sister M.J.G. WILSON (one star). Served from April, 1917, in England and France.

Sister A. WILSON. Home service four years, Kangaroo Point and Rosemount.

Sister E. PATTERSON. Served in Welwyn, Hampstead, and Birmingham Hospitals. R.

Staff Nurse F.A. ENGLAND. Served over two years, Randwick Hospital, Sydney, and on troopships. R.

Sister L.B. DENNIS. Served since September, 1916, in Hospitals, Bombay, Deccan, Egypt, and Southall (England).

Ministers –

Rev. A.B. MURSELL. Served in France. R. April, 1919.

Rev. Horace PAGE. Served in France.

Anzacs –

Corporal W.S. BELL (Military Medal). Served in A.A.M.C. from May, 1915, in Gallipoli. Wounded, and later in France again wounded. R. May, 1919.

Lance-Corporal T.W. HAM. Served Gallipoli and France from December, 1914. R. December, 1918.

Staff-Sergeant J.L. SIMMONDS. Served from May, 1915, in Gallipoli, Egypt, and England. R. December, 1917.

F.D. GILMORE WILSON. Served from July, 1915, in Gallipoli and Somme. Shot through lungs, Mouquet Farm, Pozières. R. May, 1917.

Officers and N.C.O.s –

Lieutenant-Surgeon Probationer H.K. DENHAM. Served from April, 1915, as surgeon on H.M. destroyers Lark, Heather, and Q16 mystery ship, convoying and submarine destroying. Mentioned in despatches.

Lieutenant C.W. CAMERON. Served from November, 1915. Wounded by a bomb. Invalided home 1917. Instructor of Citizen Forces at Ipswich.

C.Q.M.-Sergeant J.E. ENGLAND. Served in France nearly four years. Gained Meritorious Service Medal. R.

Staff-Sergeant F.G. MARRIOTT, M.P.S. (N.C.O.). Dispenser in Charge, Weymouth Hospital. Served from December, 1916.

Sergeant E. CARSON. Severely wounded, Passchendaele. Invalided home May, 1918.

Sergeant C.A. DENNIS. Served from November, 1916. Gunner in France. R. June, 1919.

Sergeant V. SAMPSON. From October, 1915. Wounded September, 1916. Served as instructor till end 1917; then in trenches until Armistice.
Corporal A.H. ROSS. Served two and a-half years, France, 111th [sic] Howitzer Battery. R.

Sergeant W.J. BRAMLEY. Railway section.

Served in FRANCE and Elsewhere –

Signaller W.H. NEWMAN. R. September, 1917.

Signaller W.J. MARSHALL. Wounded three times. Trained as signalling instructor; secured first place in classification. R. May, 1919.

Bugler G. CAMERON. Served from August, 1915, in Egypt and France. Thrice wounded – Fleurbaix, Villers-Brettonneux [sic], and Peronne. Recovered. R. May 1919.

Lead driver R.T. COCHRANE. Served from January, 1916. Wounded and gassed at Ypres, July, 1917; again wounded severely at Caestre, July, 1918. R. July, 1919.

Driver L.P. WILSON. R. April, 1919.

K.J.G. WILSON. In training camp at end war.

DOUGLAS H. POPE. Training in Flying Corps at end war.

Driver ALISTER GRIMES. R. April, 1919.

W.A. CARSON. Served from 1916. Wounded at Villers-Brettonneux [sic]. Not yet R.

Driver A.K. HALL. R. August, 1919.

R. WARRY HALL. Wounded, Passchendaele. R. August, 1919.

LESLIE WATTS. Gassed and invalided home. R. May, 1919.

HERBERT R. HICKS. Served in France and Belgium. Not yet R.

G.N. LEWIS. Served from July, 1915; France. Not yet R.

W.E. LEWIS. Served from August, 1915. Shell shock. R. July, 1919.

A.G. LEWIS. Served from August, 1915. Invalided home, September, 1916.

ALBERT CHISHOLM. Served October, 1917. Wounded at Hamel, France, July, 1918. R. May, 1919.

H.T. BURT SAULT. Served from September, 1918, in France and Belgium. Not yet R.

W.P. McLACHLAN. Enlisted July, 1915; discharged November, 1915.

COLIN LIND. Served from December, 1917, as munition worker in England. R. July, 1919.

H.C. MOORE. Served from July, 1915, as Y.M.C.A. military worker, Thursday Island and on Troopships. R.

ED. Guy HERRINGTON. R.

ERNEST GEORGE DAUTH.

REUBEN KENT. Wounded.

REG. C. KEITH. Wounded.

ROY BISSETT. Not yet R.
W.C. HODGSON. R.⁶

More details of the life, service and Christian ministry of these men and women are provided in the chapters that follow.

Lest We Forget

In November 1919, a few days before the Armistice, WD Grimes, in his capacity as secretary of the Baptist Association of Queensland wrote letters, presumably to all of the Baptist Churches throughout Queensland, as follows.

Dear Sir & Brother,

The Queensland Baptist Association felt it would be appropriate and fitting in every way to issue some suitable memento card to every returned soldier in connection with our churches, also to the parents of such men who laid down their lives in the war. After careful research such a card has been found and printed, finely picturing the scenes of battle and peace, with a centre for printed matter and written names and with suitable poetry inside.

Will you now kindly assist us in their distribution by sending immediately the names and addresses

- (a) of parents whose sons died in the war
- (b) of returned men.

and the Ex-President (in whose term of office peace came) will sign and issue these cards by post.

Your careful and immediate attention to this will greatly facilitate the work.

Yours heartily,
W.D. Grimes
Hon. Secretary

⁶ City Tabernacle, *Year Book 1918–1919*, pp. 8–11.

The Armistice

When hostilities ceased on 11 November 1918:

Eleven servicemen listed on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour had been buried in various war cemeteries on Turkish, French and Belgian soil, having made the supreme sacrifice;

Harold Denham resumed his medical studies in England;

Burt Sault, Alexander Tannock and Bert Hicks were in transit to the front, having enlisted in June, July and September 1918. Alexander was discharged the same year without having reached the Front, while Burt and Bert served in France after the Armistice had been signed. Kenneth Wilson had enlisted in August 1918 and did not leave Australian shores;

Two men, Douglas Pope and William McLachlan, had served on home soil;

Twenty-nine servicemen returned over the next year and a half; the last to return was Reg Keith, who didn't step back onto home soil until the end of March 1920;

Eight servicemen had either already returned or were on their way home, mainly as medically unfit for further participation in the war effort. This group included Charles Cameron, Ernest Carson, Thomas Ham, Edward Herrington, Gordon Lewis, Walter Newman, John Simmonds and David Wilson. There is little doubt that these men, who had experienced the horrors of war first hand, would have led the rejoicing that their brothers and mates would soon join them, safe and sound, back in Australia.



Armistice Celebrations, Brisbane
(State Library of Queensland)

The Allied victory guaranteed that the sacrifices of all of our servicemen and women and their loved ones were not in vain.

The celebrations commenced almost immediately after the signing of the Armistice. Official celebrations, some of which are reported below, took

place later that month. Within 48 hours of the signing of the Armistice, on Wednesday 13 November, a thanksgiving service was held in the City Tabernacle.

A congregation fairly representative of the Baptist churches in and around Brisbane assembled in the City Tabernacle yesterday morning for a united thanksgiving service. The chair was taken by Rev. W.G. Pope (President of the Baptist Association of Queensland), and with him on the platform, in addition to those taking part in conducting the service, were Mr. A. [Alfred] H. Richer, vice-president, and Mr. W.D. Grimes, hon. secretary. Mr. Percy Brier presided at the organ, and the singing throughout was of a hearty congregational character. It included the *Te Deum*, and several well-known hymns expressive of gratitude for victory. The opening prayer was led by Mr. Pope, and the 27th Psalm, sometimes known as the Soldiers' Psalm, was read by Chaplain Captain A.G. Weller. Prayer was also led by Rev. W. Bell, M.A, South Brisbane, and by Rev. Wingfield, Albion. A spirited address was given by Mr. Digby F. Denham, who dwelt first on the noble sacrifices which have been made to attain the deliverance in which we to-day are rejoicing. The World for all time, he said, would be their debtors. Full recognition must be given to all the human agencies; but over and above all praise must be given to God, who had once more vindicated His power as disposer of human events. The claim that might is right had once more been overthrown, and it had been proved that the Judge of all the earth will do right. No military writer had yet explained the reasons of Germany's failure of her long-prepared effort to secure world domination, and he believed there was no other explanation than that of divine interposition. The service closed with the singing of the National Anthem, after which the organist played the "Hallelujah Chorus".¹

Unfortunately, due to the fallen nature of man, some of the hopes and dreams expressed in the following editorial in *The Australian Baptist*, published the day after the signing of the Armistice, did not materialise.

The World's Magna Charta

This has been the greatest week in history. Besides this war all previous wars have dwarfed into insignificance, and all other victories have become local and circumscribed. This has been a world-war, and the victory which has come this week is a world victory. The nations of the earth have been in travail of soul and body and mind, and out of it all a new world for mankind has been born.

¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Thursday 14 November 1918, p. 8.

And so to-day the whole world rejoices. The air is laden with music. Nations are singing their anthems of thanksgiving. The hearts of untold millions are welling over with joyous gratitude. The bells from every belfry and steeple in Christendom are ringing out their gladsome chimes. The humblest vessel capable of giving forth a sound has been commandeered, and its noise translated into the music of the hour. Every nation under the blue heavens – for there are no clouds in the sky to-day – every nation, in its own fashion, and in its own particular language, is making melody of the fact that peace has come again to a war-weary world; and, best of all, it has come bearing the promise of immunity from any similar catastrophe during the present century; at least.

It will take the world some time to readjust itself to peaceful conditions. While the whole world has been at war, everything else has had to stand aside. The threads of life cannot be taken up again where we laid them down, when the call came to sterner duty. The old looms have somehow become antiquated or dilapidated. They will be incapable of answering to the altered conditions and requirements. Life will need to be planned on a fresh pattern, and the machinery has not even been designed.

It will not be easy to realise that the world has been born, not to a new timetable, simply, but to a new calendar. Many old things have passed away – some of them good enough in their way, others quite undesirable – and we face a new dawn in history with the complexion of things entirely changed. During the night of gloom, a moral and social earthquake has, as it were, transformed the face of the world, completely altering our perspective, and changing our sense of values. Valleys have been exalted, mountains have been swallowed up, tiny rivulets have swelled into great rivers, oceans have become mere land-locked basins, many rough places have been made smooth.

And the arithmetic of it all is the sum of human happiness, offering the opportunities, if righteously employed, for sweetening the fountains of life, holding more evenly the balances of social and political justice, and generally making it easier for men and nations to do right, and more difficult for them to do wrong. In the highest sense of all, if we so desire it, the unexampled opportunity is at our hand to build up out of the debris and desolation of the last four years, a highway for our God, along which the nations of the earth may travel to lay their honours at His feet.

The paper signed at that stately chateau in France on Monday, the news of which has just come through while we are writing, is the greatest document since Runnymede. This is no mere “scrap” of paper. It is the Magna Charta, not for one nation or two, but for the world. It means liberty, not for ten

million slaves in America, or 40 million serfs in Russia, but for the whole human race. It is the death-warrant of tyranny, in whatever guise, in whatever country, for the League of Nations which must evolve out of the Peace Congress will be a league of world domination, by mutual consent, "broad-based upon the people's will."

It means liberty and equality to every down-trodden nation in Europe – the right to think, the right to vote, the right to pray as they like, none hence daring to make them afraid. One needs to have lived in Austria, in Poland, in Russia, in the Balkan Provinces, to know what that means. The serfdom of the body is as nothing to the serfdom of the soul. But, thank God, there will be no more soul-slaves by Act of Parliament or Royal Ukase [arbitrary command] in Europe. There will be no more Congo atrocities, no more oppression of inferior races by bullying Powers. Automatically with the signing of the new Magna Charta, the flag of liberty has been hoisted as a protection for all races without distinction of colour or creed.

There will be losses as well as gains under the new Magna Charta, but, paradoxically as it may appear, the very losses will be gains. The Kaiser is not the only tyrant whom this war is going to dethrone. The death-warrant of Alcohol has been signed, however slow we may be in Australia to learn and act on the news. The tyrants of Capital and Labour – and they are not all on one side – will have to go. Before the war, says Dr. Reuben Saillens, money had right of way. "To-day it is not the man who has money who has the right of way. The king of France to-day is not the millionaire, but the man who may not have a penny in his pocket, but has courage and believes in the great cause for which it stands. The values of life have changed. The great man today is not the man who gets, but the man who gives. And he who gives most is the one we put highest in our estimation. Invisible things have taken the right place. Spiritual values have taken their right place."

Militarism also has to go. Even the war-lords of Germany recognised that, before ever the armistice was signed. The most significant cable of the week was the message of the German Imperial Chancellor, as published in Monday's papers. In his proclamation to Germans abroad he says:

"Forsaken in the fifth year by their allies, the Germans could not carry on the struggle against the growing superiority of their enemies. The victory for which many hoped has not been granted us, but the German people has [sic] won a greater victory, for it conquered itself and its belief in the justice of might."

The last sentence is the enemy's vindication of the Allied cause. Above all our songs of thanksgiving and paeons [sic] of praise for victory, that

testimony of the German Chancellor's sounds out as the transcendent note of victory. The greatest victory of the war is not that we should have conquered Germany, but that Germany should have conquered herself and her belief that "might is right." It is the surest guarantee for the future peace of mankind.

And so we do well to thank God with unrestrained hearts, remembering all the way in which He has led us, and now, for the great deliverance which He has vouchsafed to the world. Still more, let us thank Him for the greater victories, the spiritual victories, which are to follow, and for which He has so wonderfully prepared the way. And beyond all, let us pray that every one of us – individuals as well as nations – may be found worthy of the sacred trust which has come with this greatest day in history.²

Another service, scheduled to coincide with the official celebrations, was conducted later that month.

QUEENSLAND.

CITY TABERNACLE (Rev. W. G. Pope).

In the programme for the armistice celebrations in Brisbane on the 29th and 30th November, provision had been made for thanksgiving services in the churches, early on Friday morning, before the great procession, and it was thought by many that the engagements would clash, so as to render public worship scarcely practicable. Some of the churches refused, on that account, to announce any meeting for the occasion. However, the Baptists were loath to let the occasion go by without some attempt to fall in with the arrangements, which had been made, it seems, without consulting any of the religious bodies. Accordingly the President, who is also pastor of the City Tabernacle, arranged for a public gathering in the church at 9 o'clock in the morning, the public procession being fixed for 10.30 a.m. At the appointed hour there was a fairly large number of persons present, representing most of our city and suburban churches, in addition to members of the Tabernacle. It had been arranged as a fitting opportunity to inaugurate the flagstaff which had been erected in a commanding position on the eastern corner of the church, and accordingly a squad of Boy Scouts, under Mr. McLaughlan, with drums and bugles, had been invited to attend for the purpose of saluting the Union Jack. The flag had been run up to the mast-head with a turn of the signal halliard round it, and as soon as the salute had been blown by the buglers, the President, with a smart jerk of the cord, unfurled the handsome flag to the breeze. This was the signal for the singing of the National Anthem by the congregation, who stood outside the church to witness the ceremony. Then all went inside, and thanksgiving was expressed in sacred song and in

² *The Australian Baptist*, 12 November 1918, p. 6.

prayer, the *Te Deum* from Jackson's Service in F being heartily sung by the whole congregation. Miriam's song, from Exodus 15, was read responsively by people and pastor, and no more appropriate words could well have been chosen. The service was limited to three-quarters of an hour; but Mr. Pope found time for a few telling words, based on the significance of the British flag just hoisted, with its crosses, symbolic of the Great Sacrifice on Calvary; nor were the heroic sacrifices of our brave Australian troops allowed to pass without fitting recognition. "God bless our Native Land," set to the tune of the National Anthem, was followed by the Benediction, and the service came to a close. Mr. Percy Briar, organist of the City Tabernacle, presided at the instrument.³

By July 1919, the City Tabernacle pastor was able to write in his annual report to the church:

PASTOR'S LETTER.

DEAR FELLOW MEMBERS, For three years we have laboured together in the bonds of unity in spite of the adverse circumstances of the world. To-day, as far as British people are concerned, the arms of strife are rapidly being laid aside and our eyes are once again turned to the ordinary lot of man. The War has awakened the Churches to see the need for greater co-operation and intense concentration. As a city Church of Brisbane, we fain would rise to our responsibilities and opportunities. Personally, I would say *thank you heartily* for all your kindly love expressed to me and mine as your pastor ... We believe He will come to reign. Perfect Peace will only prevail when He the Prince of Peace takes His place in the hearts and lives of kings and people.

Very heartily Yours,
W. G. POPE.⁴

The church secretary wrote:

HISTORICAL REVIEW

The year just closed will be noted for three special events, two calling for joyfulness and one for depression. On November 11th, 1918 an Armistice, and June 28th, 1919 the Peace Treaty in connection with the World's Greatest War were signed and on May, 1919 a Proclamation necessitated by the Influenza epidemic was issued by the State Government ...

Owing to the Armistice practically the whole of the Australian troops have been withdrawn from the seat of war, and before this is in your hands all those in whom we are specially interested will have returned. No further

³ *The Australian Baptist*, 10 December 1918, p. 10.

⁴ *City Tabernacle, Year Book, 1918-1919*, p. 5.

casualties are to be reported, but some of the returned heroes will need special treatment and tender care for a long time.

Again, we extend to the families of those who have fallen or suffered and have been injured in any shape or form our sincerest sympathy.

The honor board list is the same as last year ...

JNO. C. KEITH, Secretary.

Y.P.S.C.E.

It is pleasing to see the numbers of old Endeavourers rejoining us on their return from the war with a desire to again take part in the C.E. [Christian Endeavour], which no doubt they often thought of during the terrible experiences through which they have passed.

JOHN SYDNEY JOHNSON, Secretary.

Many of the servicemen were not discharged until July, August or September 1919. For those who returned, the disruption caused by up to four and a half years' engagement between enlisting and being discharged, varied considerably. For some, it meant major changes in career path or vocation, while others appeared to have carried on as though little had changed, resuming their former occupations as though nothing had happened apart from the interruption. Some appeared to have renewed relationships and in some cases married former close friends, while many remained bachelors, despite the imbalance in the numbers of men and women due to the casualties of war. Many started or added to their families.

Twenty of the servicemen and women remained members of the City Tabernacle after the war. Six men who had not been in membership before the war joined soon after their return. Others continued their association with the church without becoming members.

If further evidence is required of the failure of the war to bring about a lasting peace, we need look no further than the City Tabernacle's Roll of Honour which lists 78 men and women who served with the Australian forces in World War II. A further five were listed in the City Tabernacle Year Book of 1946–47 but not included on the Roll of Honour. Of these, seven were closely related to the servicemen and women whose service is described in the following pages. Leslie G Cooksley was a cousin of William Cooksley. Robert F England and Joyce England were the son and daughter-in-law of John (Ted) England. Lloyd A Kent was a son of Reuben Kent. Douglas N Praeger and Eric N Praeger were grandsons of Alexander Ross. John Mactaggart was the son of Marjorie Mactaggart (née Wilson) who was killed in World War II. Alan J Slaughter was also killed in action in World War II.

Part 1 — by David Driver

Herrington, Edward Guy, the first serviceman to enlist

Edward was born in Wandsworth, London on 5 November 1891, the son of Robert and Sarah Herrington. It seems likely that his father died in 1897, aged 49 and his mother died in 1899, aged 51, leaving him an orphan at seven years of age. In 1901 he was living in an institution in Maldon, Essex. He was living at 3 Aylmer Road on 12 October 1903 when he was enrolled in Wendell Park School. He left school on 27 February 1904 having previously attended Great Wild Street School.

Edward arrived in Brisbane from Liverpool on 13 March 1911 on board the *Essex*, aged 20, as an assisted immigrant. He was baptised and became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1911–12 and was a member of the Christian Endeavour. He was living in Chalk Street, Woolloowin in 1913, working as a salesman.

On 27 August 1914 Edward was still living in Chalk Street at the time of his enlistment in the AIF, 3rd Brigade Field Artillery, aged 24 years. He was the first [male] member or adherent of the City Tabernacle to enlist.¹ His next-of-kin was his sister, Mrs Florence Mary Worsley, of Hornsey, Middlesex, England. He was a fitter and had done a two-year apprenticeship with James Brown in London, England.

At enlistment, Edward was described as 174cm tall, weighing 67kg. He had a 97cm chest, dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair. He gave his religion as ‘C of E’, which is strange given that he was still listed on the membership list of the City Tabernacle in 1914–15.

Edward embarked for service from Brisbane on board the *Rangatira* on 25 September 1914 with the rank of Gunner and served in the 12th Field Artillery Brigade. He was part of the 1st Division raised at Enoggera in Brisbane and took part in the Gallipoli landing. His unit was heavily involved in establishing and defending the front line of the Anzac beachhead. After withdrawal from Gallipoli, his unit was added to the 47th Battalion. In September 1915, he was hospitalised at the Cardiff General Hospital with an ulcerated keratitis (cornea).

From August to October 1917, Edward was in Rouelles (France) and was involved in the Battle of Broodseinde Ridge. Wilfred Price Simmonds was killed in action in this battle.

¹ Refer to Part 2, Madeline Alice Kendall Wilson, where she is recorded as the first to enlist.

From October to November 1917, he was in the field at Le Havre, France. In November 1916, he was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital in Larkhill, Birmingham with influenza. From December to January 1918, he was a gunner in Belgium. In February 1918 he was again admitted to hospital, in Fulham, with dyspepsia (ulcer). He then had six months leave in France and returned to Australia on the *Prince George* in October 1918, arriving in November 1918.

After the war, he returned to the same address in Woolloowin.

Edward Harrington married Dorothea May Saunders on 30 July 1921. He worked as a farmer and lived at Glasshouse Mountains between 1925 and 1943. It is likely that he received a soldier settler land grant. He was a storekeeper in Mapleton in 1949 before resuming farming in Buderim in the 1950s.

Dorothea was working as a dressmaker, although probably not full time, in 1928. She was re-elected as President of the Glasshouse Mountains Presbyterian Church Women's Guild in 1937, and in 1940 was elected vice-president of the Glasshouse branch of the Comforts Fund.

Edward was an ardent advocate and spokesman for the fruit growers of the district, frequently writing letters to the editor in support of their cause.

FRUIT INDUSTRY'S PROBLEM

Grower's Marketing Suggestions

"Your articles on the sorry plight of Queensland fruit growers are, unfortunately, only too true," writes Mr. E.G. Herrington of Glass House Mountains. "The conditions are very difficult to remedy, but the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, if it would only take its courage in both hands, could effect a marked improvement."

Referring to 'Agricola's' article on the position of the citrus industry, Mr. Herrington writes: "You have hardly painted the picture black enough. A man who can maintain a citrus orchard of 500 trees in good condition with only 1½ tons of fertiliser would be difficult to find."²

Edward was one of the key organisers involved in fundraising to build a Presbyterian Church at Glasshouse Mountains. He became Secretary of the Building Committee and spoke at the stump-capping ceremony in May 1939. When the church was opened in July 1939 by the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Queensland in the presence of a large crowd, he was called on to give a history of the effort involved in building the church. He was reported to have said the intention had been to build a cool, airy and well-ventilated building to meet the Queensland climatic conditions.³

² *The Courier-Mail*, Monday 26 November 1934, p. 17.

³ *The Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, Friday 19 May 1939, p. 7.

Appearing before the Fruit and Vegetable Royal Commission in 1944,

Edward Guy Herrington, fruit grower, Glasshouse Mountains, said in his district, growers felt that improved rail transport and unloading facilities were needed. Usually one truck of goods was filled from Glasshouse daily, and some from the other stations all along the lines enough to warrant a special train. An approach had been made through the local association to the C.O.D., but that was an organisation very hard to shake.

Mr. Justice Philp (Chairman): The C.O.D. is C.O.D., not G.O.D. Has the local association tried approaching the Commissioner for Railways?

Herrington: Not on this matter, but on others, but we never had any luck.

Herrington said that his return for the year was £200. About 70 per cent of growers in his district were similarly circumstanced. He agreed with the chairman that he was “not as well off as a labourer on the basic wage”. Some growers, however, were very much better off of late years.⁴

Edward was vice-president of the North Coast and Mary Valley Council of Progress Associations in 1951. He frequently wrote letters to the editors of local and state newspapers on a range of subjects, often in relation to local government matters such as beach erosion, road works, and water supply.

MAPLETON BUSINESS CHANGE

Mr. E. G. Herrington, who has conducted the Mapleton store business for the past three years, has disposed of his interests ... Mr. and Mrs. Herrington will take up residence on Buderim, where they have purchased a residential property ...

Associated with various public bodies, and having represented the Mapleton Association on the North Coast and Mary Valley Association, Mr. Herrington will, no doubt, find new avenues for his activities in the Buderim community. He was in the forefront in the launching of the Mapleton flower show ... and also a great advocate for a water supply scheme for the district.⁵

On 4 January 1953, he was a passenger on the Gympie–Brisbane express which crashed into the rear of another train at Eagle Junction injuring 11 persons.

Dorothea was president of the Buderim Branch of the CWA from 1951 until 1954. It was in this capacity that she was invited to a reception for Queen Elizabeth II.

Edward and Dorothea had two sons, Robert Edward (1922–2001) who enlisted in World War II. Robert was a research worker in Canberra in 1949. In 1954 he was the officer in charge of the Scone Research Station of the New South Wales Soil

⁴ *The Courier-Mail*, Wednesday 15 March 1944, p. 4.

⁵ *The Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, Friday 9 September 1949, p. 9.

Conservation Service. Their second son was Maurice George (1926–97) who remained in Buderim, where he was President of the Buderim Community Centre Tennis Club. On his headstone, his parents are referred to as Ted and Dorry.

In 1954 Edward was the noxious weed supervisor for Maroochy Council, secretary of the Buderim Bowling Club, and honorary secretary of the Buderim Cemetery Trust.

Regret was expressed at a meeting of the Buderim Bowling Club's committee at the resignation of Mr. E.G. Herrington, who has held the office of secretary since the inception. The meeting, in accepting Mr. Herrington's resignation, referred to the valuable work performed by him.

Mr. H.K. Howes (president), in voicing his appreciation, said that the advance in organisation and works carried out were largely due to Mr. Herrington's interest and enthusiasm, and he regretted that he was unable to continue in the active work as secretary.⁶

Edward died on 26 April 1957 and was buried in Buderim Lawn Cemetery. His obituary states:

Mr E.G. HERRINGTON

Following a period of indifferent health, Mr Edward Guy Herrington of Buderim passed away in the Nambour District Hospital on Friday evening at the age of 66 years. He came to Australia from England as a youth, and served with the 3rd Australian Brigade (Artillery) at the Gallipoli landing. On his return, he engaged in farming at Glasshouse Mountains for 27 years and also conducted a storekeeping business at Mapleton.

The late Mr Herrington was employed as a noxious weeds inspector by the Maroochy Shire Council until his state of health compelled his retirement last year.

Surviving him are his widow and two sons Messrs M. and R.G. Herrington (New South Wales).⁷

Dorothea died on 11 June 1988 and was also buried in Buderim Lawn Cemetery.

⁶ *The Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, Friday 26 December 1952, p. 7.

⁷ *The Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, Friday, May 3 1957, p. 17.

Lind, Colin; and Lind, Robert Houston, the first to be killed in action

Colin Lind

Colin was born on 6 October 1874 at Abbey Paisley, Renfrew, Scotland, the son of Robert and Mary Lind. In 1901 he gave his occupation as coal salesman.

He married Mary Dyer Houston on 27 April 1894, in Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Mary was born on 19 August 1874 in Kilbarchan, Scotland, the daughter of Robert and Elizabeth Houston. In 1910 they left London in April and arrived in Brisbane in June aboard the *Perthshire* with their five children, Robert Houston (1894–1915), Andrew (1895–1977), Mary Rea (1896–1977), Elizabeth Walsh (1901–81), and Agnes Kollmar (1903–49). Their children were aged 15, 13, 11, 10 and 6. Colin gave his occupation as farm labourer.

They had two more children after arriving in Brisbane: Jenny (1911–2005) and Colina (1917–2000). There is some uncertainty about whether Andrew may have been adopted. He was not living with Colin and Mary at the time of the 1901 census and was not in the family portrait (shown on the right), taken in about 1905.

Colin and Mary became members of the City Tabernacle in 1910–11 on transfer. They were in membership when Colin enlisted but were removed from the roll in 1928–29 after they had moved to the outer suburbs of Brisbane. Their daughter Mary also became a member in 1914–15 following her baptism and remained in membership following her marriage, although her husband was not a member. She ceased to be a member, probably due to transfer, in 1926–27. None of their other children became members of the City Tabernacle.



Colin & Mary Lind with Robert, Mary, Elizabeth and Agnes, c1905

The family moved frequently, living at Beatrice Street, Paddington (1913–17) and ‘Glentyan’, Charlotte Street, Paddington (1921–23) while Colin was a storeman. They moved to ‘Kilbarchan’, Margaret Street, Manly Qld in 1924 when Colin was a labourer. They moved to Kelsey Street, Coorparoo (1929) and Stanley Street, East Coorparoo (1934) when Colin variously described himself as a waterside worker or wharf labourer.

During World War I, Colin served as a munition worker in England from December 1917 until his return in July 1919. The Roll of Honour shows him as killed in action. This is incorrect.

Colin died on 25 June 1937, and Mary died on 15 February 1967, both in Brisbane.

Robert Houston Lind, the first to be killed in action

Robert Houston Lind, the son of Colin Lind (above), was born in Kilbarchan, Scotland in 1895 and migrated to Brisbane with his parents in 1910. He had qualified as a plumber when he enlisted to serve on 30 September 1914, less than two months after Australia entered the war on 4 August 1914. The reason for initially nominating his mother of Beatrice Street, Paddington Qld as next-of-kin is unknown. This was later changed to name his father of Charlotte Street as next-of-kin.

In August 1920 the Officer in Charge of base records wrote to Mary.

Dear Madam,

It is noted that you are registered on the records of the late No 615 Private R.H. Lind, 15th Battalion, as next of kin, but, in order that the file may be brought up to date, it is desired to learn whether the above named has any nearer blood relations than yourself living. If so, I shall be obliged if you will furnish me with their names and addresses in the following order of relationship. Thanking



Robert Houston Lind



Robert Houston Lind

you in anticipation of the favour of an early reply.

Both his parents signed the letter granting permission for him to enlist. He had 16 months' service in the artillery in Brisbane prior to enlisting.

At enlistment, aged 19, he gave his religion as Presbyterian.

After being based at Enoggera barracks, he was shipped by train to Melbourne where he joined the 15th Infantry Battalion. While in Melbourne, he was reported on one occasion as being absent without leave (late for roll call). He embarked aboard the *Ceramic* in December 1914. TW Ham travelled to the front on the same vessel.

He understood that he was sailing to England to join the war in Europe but, after Britain determined to seek to capture the Dardanelles in Turkey, the troop ships were diverted to Egypt where they trained in the desert for several months. During these months, Lind's younger sister Mary was baptised and brought into membership of the City Tabernacle.

At 2.00 pm on 25 April 1915, Lind's 15th Battalion landed on the beach at Anzac Cove, making them some of the very original Anzacs. He survived the fighting until the Battle of Lone Pine where he was killed on 8 August 1915. The battle has been described as follows:

One of the most famous assaults of the Gallipoli campaign, the Battle of Lone Pine was originally intended as a diversion from attempts by New Zealand and Australian units to force a breakout from the ANZAC perimeter on the heights of Chunuk Bair and Hill 971. The Lone Pine attack, launched by the 1st Brigade AIF in the late afternoon of 6 August 1915 pitched Australian forces



Battle of Lone Pine (AWM)

against formidable entrenched Turkish positions, sections of which were securely roofed over with pine logs. In some instances, the attackers had to break in through the roof of the trench systems in order to engage the defenders. The main Turkish trench was taken within 20 minutes of the initial charge but this was the prelude to 4 days of intense hand-to-hand

fighting, resulting in over 2,000 Australian casualties.¹

Initially, on 8 August, he was reported as missing. This was changed to 'killed in action' on 18 August.

This was the battle depicted in Peter Weir's 1981 film *Gallipoli*. He is one of 3,268 ANZAC soldiers whose bodies were never recovered, so there is no known grave. Their names, however, are recorded on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli and on the Wall of Remembrance at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The Army commissioned the Red Cross to investigate all soldiers missing presumed dead, as identification of their bodies was not possible. The report of the Red Cross inquiry, which is included in Robert's war record, states:

Lind and witness were in the same section. They were in the charge on 8th August. Lind was shot in the shoulder going over the first gully in the charge. He became paralyzed, could not move. Pte. W. Walsh, A Coy. 15th Battalion, tried to get Lind in, but Walsh's leg was smashed, and he could do nothing. The first words witness heard after the charge was that "poor old Lind was done for. He must have died". Pte. C. Nash of A Coy. 15th Battalion and Walsh both spoke to witness about Lind.²

Robert Lind was 20 years and 7 months when he died. He was the first of the eleven City Tabernacle servicemen killed in action in the Great War. The fact that he was wounded and missing was first reported in *The Queenslander* on 25 September 1915. A cable had been sent, presumably to his mother as next-of-kin on 5 September 1915. It is not known when his mother was advised of his death. It is possible that news of his death may have prompted the spike in the number of enlistments from other members of the church, mentioned previously.

He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, British War Medal and the Victory Medal. The Roll of Honour does not include him in the servicemen who were killed in action. It gave this honour to his father Colin by mistake.

His mother was granted a pension of £26 p.a.

His personal effects consisting of a safety razor, shaving brush, razor strap, tobacco pouch, match box, and money belt were sent to his mother in September 1916. His father received his memorial scroll and the King's message in August 1921. His Victory Medal wasn't received until October 1922.

¹ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/E71?query=Lone+Pine>, accessed 25 August 2018.

² <https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=8203374>, accessed 25 August 2018.

Bell, William Stewart MM

William was born on 26 October 1893 at Sandgate, the eldest son of William and Elizabeth Bell who were married in the Bald Hills Presbyterian Church by Rev J Stewart, Elizabeth's brother, in 1889. The Bell family had migrated and settled in Sydney before 1840. William's grandmother, Mary Amelia Grimes, was the sister of William Douglas Grimes Snr, the grandfather of Alister Bailey Grimes whose details are given elsewhere.

William's father, Mr WH Bell, was a solicitor in Fitzroy Chambers, Adelaide Street, Brisbane; was a deacon of the City Tabernacle; and was Honorary Legal Advisor to the Baptist Association of Queensland. William's mother was also a member of the City Tabernacle in 1911. She died in 1947. William's father died in 1937.

Mr. William Henry Bell, of Auchenflower, died at his home early yesterday morning at the age of 74. He was born in Brisbane, and was educated at the Brisbane Grammar School. He had the distinction of being a solicitor of the Supreme Court for 50 years, and when he was admitted his father was Registrar. He was Mayor of Sandgate three times, and had a keen insight into local authority matters. He was a foundation member of the old Norman Masonic Lodge, and was a member of Jubilee Lodge.

Mr. Bell was honorary solicitor for a number of religious and charitable bodies, and was associated for over 23 years with the Baptist Union in that capacity. A staunch ambulance supporter, he had been chairman of the committee of the parent centre ...

He is survived by his widow and three daughters. His son, Mr. W.S. Bell, died two years ago as a result of war service.¹

William Stewart Bell became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1912 and remained in membership until his death. He was a member of the Christian Endeavour Society in 1916–17.

In 1915 he was living with his parents and sisters Evelyn (1890–) and Nellie at 'St Aidan's, Gray Road, Brisbane South. He had two other sisters, Florence (1898–1980) and Amy (1892–1964), and a brother Clifford (1907–08). Florence married Burt Sault who also enlisted and was a member of the City Tabernacle.

William enlisted in the Army on 15 February 1915, stating he was 21 years of age and living at Sandgate. He had served a three-year apprenticeship and was employed as an engineering assistant. He nominated his father as next-of-kin. He

¹ *The Courier-Mail*, Monday 15 November 1937, p. 14.

was described as 171cm tall, weighing 59kg. He had an 84cm chest; fair complexion, brown hair; brown eyes. He gave his religion as Presbyterian.

William left Australia in May 1915 and disembarked at Gallipoli in September 1915. He later served in Malta, Alexandria and France in the 7th Field Ambulance. He was hospitalised on several occasions with health problems such as influenza, bronchitis and trench feet. He was wounded at Gallipoli and again in France. He was promoted to lance corporal in September 1917.

Given the conditions in which the ambulance men were working, it is not surprising that he suffered the health problems described. They were often working in ankle-deep mud and unable to defend themselves while retrieving wounded servicemen from the front lines.



Stretcher bearers on the Western Front (AWM)

William and a fellow member of the 7th Field Ambulance (Private Joseph Elliott) were each awarded the Military Medal for an action in France on 26 August 1916. The citation for the award reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty as stretcher bearers attached to the 21st Battalion at Mouquet Farm, during the attack on 26 August 1916. These men carried out their dangerous duty under continuous heavy fire in the open, and were able to bring in many men whose service would otherwise have been lost to the force. Their conduct is worthy of the highest praise.²

Private Bell was presented with his MM by Lt-Gen Sir William Birdwood on 8 September 1916.

Mr and Mrs WH Bell, received a cablegram from their son, Private WS Bell, notifying that he had been awarded the Military Medal. William was also awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.



Military Medal

² <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au>, accessed 20 October 2018.

William returned to Australia and was discharged from the AIF in Brisbane in July 1919. He returned to his parents' home where his sister Amy was also living.

HOME AGAIN.

THE KASHMIR'S CONTINGENT MEN LANDED ON SATURDAY.

The troops from H.M.T.S. Kashmir were landed at Kangaroo Point Hospital on Saturday morning. The *Beaver*, with Major Jackson, lady helpers from the Red Cross Kitchen, and the A.A.R. Band on board, left at an early hour for Lytton, where the men embarked for town. On the trip up they were regaled with refreshments. The *Beaver* reached the wharf at Kangaroo Point at 11 o'clock, and, notwithstanding the fact that rain was falling heavily, were welcomed by a large gathering of relatives and friends. His Excellency the Governor, Lady Goold-Adams, and the State Commandant (Brigadier General Irving) at once boarded the *Beaver*, and his Excellency, in welcoming the men home, said he was there, as his Majesty's representative, to join with their kith and kin, and the citizens of Brisbane and Queensland, to extend to them a hearty welcome. He congratulated the men on their glorious deeds and safe return. Many of them had suffered injuries, but he hoped they would soon be restored to health. He expressed the hope that the efforts to secure a lasting peace would be successful. His Excellency then called for cheers, for the men, which were heartily given ...

The troops then disembarked, and as they crossed the gangway were simply besieged by their relatives. There were many emotional reunions, and, after these were over, the men proceeded to quarters, where arrangements were immediately made for the release of those who were anxious to go with their relatives and friends.

There were 191 all told, including four officers and one sister – Sister E Puller – from France. The men were looking remarkably well, and their excellent behaviour in camp was highly spoken of by the officials and the Red Cross and Y.M.C.A. attendants. Some had distinguished themselves in battle, gaining the Military Medal and the Distinguished Conduct Medal. These included ... Private W.S. Bell, M.M. 7th Field Ambulance.

The men state that they had a splendid voyage and that there was no sickness.³

William married Lilian Emily Williams on 16 November 1921. Lilian was also born in 1893 in Brisbane. They were living in Orleigh Terrace, Kurilpa in 1925 and moved to the corner of Lloyd and Stewart Streets, Enoggera between 1925 and 1928.

William was a member of the City Tabernacle in 1921 when they married, but Lilian did not come into membership.

³ *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 5 May 1919, p. 9.

William Bell died at his home at 174 Samford Road, Enoggera on 17 April 1935, aged 41 years, and was cremated at Mt Thomson Crematorium. He left a widow, Lilian, and three young daughters Joyce (Thompson), Dorothy (Schlecht), and Patricia Bell. Lilian applied for a war pension following his passing and remained in their home in Samson Road. His death was attributed to his war injuries.

BELL – Ark of Safety Lodge, No. 14. P.A.F.S.O.A. – Officers and Members of the above Lodge are invited to attend the Funeral of their deceased Brother, William Stewart Bell.⁴

⁴ *The Courier-Mail*, Thursday 18 April 1935, p. 1.

Bissett, William Herbert Roy

Roy, as he was commonly known, was born in Charters Towers on 14 June 1890, the son of Matthew and Isabella Bissett. Matthew and Isabella arrived in Townsville from Glasgow aboard the *Scottish Lassie* in 1883 with their three daughters Johanna (1874–1921), Elizabeth (1871–1945) and Lily (1876–1953).

Roy attended Mr T Martin's Grammar School in Charters Towers. At the end of Class IV in 1903, he was awarded first prize in grammar, geography, writing, reading and exercises, and second prize in mental arithmetic, arithmetic, composition, and mapping.

In 1909, at the distribution of prizes of the United Baptist Sunday Schools, Roy, who attended the Manners Street Baptist Sunday School, was awarded first prize in Mr A Howell's class and a special prize from Miss Costello for best boy.

In 1913 Roy was working as a grocer and his father was a carpenter. His parents died in 1913 and 1916. It appears that Roy may have left Charters Towers by late 1915 as he was included in a 'list of enrolled Electors who appear to be "Dead", "Left", or "Disq." and whose names it is proposed to omit from the Roll of the abovenamed Electoral Districts [Charters Towers, Queenton and Kennedy]. Dated at Charters Towers this first day of September, 1916'.¹

Roy's involvement with the City Tabernacle is unknown, although he was listed on the electoral role as living at the YMCA in Turbot Street, working as a grocer in 1919. Given its proximity, he may have attended the church briefly between leaving Charters Towers and enlisting.

When he enlisted in the AIF on 29 April 1918, Roy gave his address as C/– H.H. [Horace Herbert] Shaw, Pyrites Road, Charters Towers. In 1919 his sister Lily also gave her address as c/– Shaw, Day Dawn Ridge, Charters Towers. Horace Shaw was William's and Lily's brother-in-law, having married their sister Elizabeth in 1892.

Roy was described as 178cm tall and weighing 64kg. He had an 86cm chest, fair complexion, blue eyes and fair hair. He gave his religion as Baptist.

He embarked from Sydney on the *Orontes* in June 1918 and disembarked in Liverpool in August. He served with the 9th Battalion and the 1st Australian Training Division in France and was returned to Australia and discharged from the AIF in September 1919. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

¹ *The Northern Miner*, Saturday 18 September 1915, p. 4.

He married Lily Hardie in 1925. Her parents were Peter and Maggie Hardie. At the time of the wedding, Lily's mother was their only surviving parent.

BISSETT–HARDIE.

At the Park Presbyterian Church, South Brisbane, on January 31, the marriage was celebrated of Mr. William Herbert Roy Bissett (late of the A.I.F., and now of Mossman, North Queensland, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bissett, of Charters Towers) and Miss Lillie Cooper Hardie (daughter of the late Mr. Peter Hardie, and of Mrs. Hardie, Hope Street, South Brisbane). The Rev. James Walker (of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, and formerly of Charters Towers) officiated. The church had been prettily decorated for the occasion by girl friends of the bride, a handsome wedding bell being suspended over the bridal couple ... During the signing of the register, the solo, "A Song of Thanksgiving", was sung by Mrs. F. L. G. Rabbets, the accompanist being the church organist, Mr. Roach, who later played "The Wedding March" ... Among the numerous presents received was a crystal water set from the teachers of the Park Presbyterian Sunday School, with which the bride had been connected for a number of years ... After spending the week-end at the sea-side, Mr. and Mrs. Bissett left by the Townsville mail train en route to the Barron Falls and Mossman, where they will reside in future.²

In 1925 Roy was working as a labourer in Mossman, but they had moved back to Brisbane by 1928.

They were living in Sherwood Road, Toowong in 1936–38 and Roy was then a storekeeper. In 1940 he enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces.

In 1943 he was a storeman and they were living in Barton Street, Rainworth. They had moved to 51 High Street, Toowong by 1949.

Roy died at the Royal Brisbane Hospital on 14 May 1952 and was buried in Dutton Park Cemetery. Funeral notices were published by his family, the Toowong Lodge of the United Grand Lodge Queensland, and the Toowong Sub-branch of the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia.

After William's death, Lily moved to Greenslopes and died in Queensland in 1961.

² *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 7 February 1925, p. 22.

Bramley, William James

William was born in Rugby, Warwickshire, England. There is uncertainty, however, about his year of birth. He may have been born in 1868 in Rugby which would make him 10 years older than the date he gave on his enlistment, or maybe he is being confused with someone who has an identical name, place of birth, occupation as a fireman, and whose father's name is the same as his father's name. From English Census records, there is such a person (aged 2) whose father, James Bramley was a coal carter and his mother was Martha J Hague. He had a younger brother, John F Bramley and they were living in Rugby in 1871. Later, William, at age 22, was living in Leicestershire, working as a fireman. This may be him but his birth date would have been c1868. It is possible that he lied about his age when he enlisted (this was not an uncommon occurrence, although in most cases it would be soldiers who said that they were older than they really were, not younger).

In 1916–17 William became a member of the City Tabernacle. He was already a member of Brisbane Men's Own PSA (Pleasant Sunday Afternoon) Brotherhood. The PSA held weekly meetings with the aims of Bible study, fellowship and evangelism. The City Tabernacle *Year Book 1916–1917* stated:

We are sorry, and yet glad, that three of our brothers have seen fit to enlist in the A.I.F., and are now somewhere abroad fighting our battles, one of whom is brother W.J.F. Cooksley, our Secretary, and another, Bro. Bramley, both of whom were good workers, and are sadly missed. We pray to God to bring them safely back to us again.¹

William enlisted in the AIF on 22 December 1916 and gave his birthplace as Rugby, England, and said his age was 38 years and seven months, which makes his year of birth 1878. Initially he was assigned to the 4th Railway Unit, but in France he was transferred to the Australian Broad-Gauge Railway Operations Unit, in a non-combat role.

At enlistment William had a scar on his left shin and gave his religion as Baptist.

At the time he was living at 426 Upper Edward Street Brisbane, which was the



BRAMLEY

¹ City Tabernacle, *Year Book 1916–1917*, p. 24.

former Pastor's manse next to the City Tabernacle. This was during the period when the manse was leased and run as a boarding house. He was a single man who worked for the Queensland Railways at Enoggera. He had no family in Australia, so he listed his friend, Mr Robert Horn, as his next-of-kin. Rev Horn was the Pastor of the Fairfield Baptist Church.

William was shipped overseas to France from Melbourne via Southampton in 1917 and served as a Sergeant in the engineering division driving railway engines for the duration of the war. He was admonished or severely reprimanded on three occasions: once for returning late from leave, once for reporting late for duty, and on the third occasion, for neglecting to get his engine out on time. On the first two occasions, he forfeited one-day's pay.

His service documents show that, before returning to Australia he married a widow, Sarah Sewell, at the Church of St John the Baptist in Knighton, Leicestershire, England in May 1919. On the marriage record his age is given as 25 years and his father was James Bramley, a carter. His wife is shown as a 39-year-old widow. She was the daughter of Samuel Perkins and the widow of Philip Sewell. If William's correct age had been recorded on the extract of marriage certificate, he would have been 41 years old (or 51 if he had lied about his age at enlistment). The extract of marriage document has errors. The date of marriage (22/5/93) and the date of the production of the extract (13/5/19) are obviously reversed. It could then be conceived that the typist made a similar mistake when typing William's age as 25 instead of 52. This age would concur with English census records (with an acceptable tolerance) and means he lied about his age on enlistment.

William returned to Australia in November 1919 aboard the *Aeneas*, disembarked 14 January 1920, and was discharged on 22 January 1920. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

William remained in membership of the City Tabernacle until 1920–21. He may have been one of the five members removed from the roll by erasure in 1921–22, possibly as a result of his involvement in the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

William married Agnes Selina Cozens on 16 April 1929. He was living with Agnes at 179 Kale Street, Petrie Terrace at the time of his death in April 1940.² It is not known what happened to his first wife, Sarah.

² Personal communications, Janine Armstrong and Glen Cozens.

Bremner, George Alexander Fraser

George was born in 1894 in Inverness, Scotland. By 1901 the family had relocated to Glasgow. He arrived with his parents Alexander and Mary Bremner, and siblings Sophia Mathie (1887–1965), Jessie Duckworth (1891–1950), Mary Baldwin (1895–1963), and Alexander (1910–) in Brisbane on S.S. *Ayrshire* in April 1911 as assisted migrants. George was aged 17, the middle child of five. In 1912–13, he and his parents and younger sister Mary all became members of the City Tabernacle by transfer, shortly after arriving. According to Church records they lived at ‘Langside Cottage’, Vulture Street, South Brisbane. Alexander and Mary moved to Victoria where they died in 1920 and 1919 respectively.

After arriving in Australia, George worked on the crew of several steamships, including the *Deerhound*, the *Kakapo*, and the *Konoowarra* as a fireman, which involved tending the fire for the running of the steam engine. He also worked as a trimmer, whose role was to ensure that the fireman had adequate supplies of coal at hand. There are records of at least one voyage where his father, his younger brother and he worked on the crew of the *Limerick* together.

George was 23 years of age and a bachelor when he enlisted on 25 January 1916. He was married in September 1916 just before leaving in October. His enlistment papers show that, when he first enlisted, his father was nominated as his next-of-kin, but this was later changed to his wife, Florence May Bremner. Florence was born in Devonshire, the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Booth. She was not a member of the City Tabernacle.

George joined the 25th Battalion, 17th Reinforcement and was described as 170cm tall, weighing 56kg. He had a 91cm chest, dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair. He gave his religion as Methodist.

He embarked for England in October 1916, six weeks after his marriage, on the *Marathon* and disembarked at Plymouth in January 1917, on the same voyage as William Carson. He was sent to France in June 1917 and official Army records say ‘Private Bremner was killed in action in Belgium on 20 September 1917’.

His life was taken on the first of the five-day Battle of Menin Road, Belgium, a successful offensive operation undertaken where advancing troops had to overcome formidable entrenched German defensive positions, and in which some 5,013 Australian casualties were sustained.

There appeared to be some confusion of his family members as to the exact date of his death. He died on the same day, and in the same battle as William Smith.¹

¹ <https://www.awm.gov.au/military-event/E97/>, accessed 20 October 2018.

The Brisbane Courier contains the following notice under the heading 'Roll of Honour':

BREMNER – Killed in action in France 26 September 1917, Private G.A.F. Bremner, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Bremner, late of West End.

Life's highest mission he fulfilled
And bravely answered duty's call
To fight for liberty and right
And battle for oppression's fall
Until the day dawns and the
shadows flee away.

Inserted by his sorrowing father,
mother, sisters and brothers.²



Wounded men at the side of a road
after the Battle of Menin Road Ridge
(AWM)

The Brisbane Courier reported on 25 October 1917 in the Personal Notes, that Mrs George AF Bremner, who had been staying for the previous five months at Mrs TA Whiting's, Raymond Terrace, South Brisbane, had received information that her husband had been killed in action.

The Queenslander of 27 October 1917, also contained a notice worded as follows:

Mr and Mrs BREMNER and Family desire to THANK all kind friends of the City Tabernacle and elsewhere for their sincere sympathy in their sad bereavement.

His wife inserted a notice in *The Queenslander* on 3 November 1917 with a notice in memory of her husband, 'Thine for ever, God of love'.

Similarly, after the one-year anniversary of his passing, these touching notes were published:

BREMNER – In loving memory of our dear brother, Private G.A.F. Bremner, killed in action, 29 September, 1917.

We picture your safe returning,
And a clasp of your loving hand;
But God has postponed that meeting;
'Twill be in a better land.

Inserted by his loving sister and brother-in-law, T. and S. Mathie. [Thomas and Sophia]

² *The Brisbane Courier*, 23 October 1917, p. 6.

BREMNER – In loving memory of my dear brother, Private G.A.F Bremner, killed in action France, 26 September 1917.

Somewhere in France my brother lies,

Somewhere beneath the sod;

But his soul, so brave, is beyond the grave,

Somewhere, somewhere, with God.

Inserted by his sister Jessie [later Jessie Duckworth]³

A number of members of family placed further memorial notices in later years.

George was buried at Hooze Crater Cemetery, Passchendaele, West Vlaanderen, Belgium, two miles due east of Ypres. The message on his headstone selected by his wife reads ‘The Lord Giveth, The Lord Taketh’.

His name is listed on Panel 103 on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

When George first went to war, Florence was living in South Brisbane. She then went to live with Mrs W Williams in Sydney, having married William John Williams on 24 December 1918 in St Stephen’s Anglican Church, Newtown (Sydney).

George’s personal effects, consisting of a gold ring (damaged), silver charm, notebook, wallet, cigarette cards, letters, badge and photo were returned to Florence in 1918. His identity disc was not returned until 1920. She was also sent a memorial scroll and plaque in 1921 and 1922 respectively, potentially causing ongoing grief as each item was received.

Florence was granted a war widow’s pension of £2 per fortnight.

George’s surname is incorrectly spelt on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

Some of George’s relatives are still in membership of the City Tabernacle.



Hooze Crater Cemetery
(Findagrave.com)

³ *The Telegraph*, 26 September 1918, p. 6.

Cameron, Charles Wilson and George Carstairs

Charles and Ann Cameron migrated from Scotland to Queensland on the *Otway* in 1910 with their daughter Isabel, aged 29. Their sons Charles (Chas) (aged 25) and Peter (aged 22) migrated in the same year on the *Orvioto*; and George Carstairs (aged 16) and Ralph (aged 20) on the *Ormuz*, also in 1910. It is not known why the family were split up in this way for the voyage. Charles Wilson Cameron was accompanied by his wife Margaret. They were all nominated migrants. Charles (Snr) and Ann both died in Manly, Qld in 1936 and 1929 respectively.

Their son, James Cameron of Fourth Avenue, Wilston, became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1909–10 by transfer. It is very likely that he nominated his parents and siblings for migration from Scotland.

It is uncertain whether Charles Cameron, who became a member by transfer in 1911–12, is Charles Wilson Cameron or his father. Mrs Cameron, Peter, Ralph and Miss Cameron (presumably Isabel) also became members in 1911–12. Peter's marriage to Winifred Howorth at City Tabernacle in 1913 was performed by Rev HP Wright. Winifred became a member in 1914–15, and Peter remained in membership until his death in 1959.

Charles Wilson Cameron

Charles Wilson Cameron (known as Chas) was born on 1 March 1885 in Edinburgh. The date of his marriage to Margaret McLachlan in Scotland is unknown. It is likely that Margaret was born in 1890 in Glasgow. Chas and Margaret migrated with their daughter Margaret Jane.

Chas and Margaret were living at 'Kinnenwood', Dover Street, Wilston when he enlisted on 26 November 1915. At the time of his enlistment, Chas was a Company Director and he and Margaret had two children. He had previously served for four years in the 6th Volunteer Battalion Royal Highlanders in Kirkcaldy, Scotland.

On his enlistment, Chas was assigned to the 15th Battalion. At 30 years and 8 months, he was described as 160cm tall weighing 57kg,



Margaret Cameron

with an 84cm chest, dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair. He gave his religion as Baptist.

He was quickly trained for a higher role in the Army and was sent to Corporal School, Sergeant School, and then to officer training and bombing training at Duntroon. He was appointed a Second Lieutenant in August 1916. Chas embarked from Sydney on board the *Beltana* in November 1916 and disembarked at Devonport, UK, in January 1917.

He served in France with the 66th Battalion, but his service was cut short when he contracted a serious case of malaria and was shipped to England where he was in hospital for a period. After being returned to France, Chas was wounded by a bomb and invalided home in July 1917. On returning to Australia, he was appointed an instructor of the Citizen Forces in Ipswich with the rank of Captain until 1922.

Chas and Margaret were members of the City Tabernacle until 1921 when they moved to Wynnum where Margaret, with the assistance of Mrs Leah McLellan, established the Bethel Mission in 1924. They were living at 'Carlisle', Melville Terrace, Wynnum at the time.

Chas returned to business and later moved to Sydney as a manufacturing chemist. He operated a company known as the Thistle Chemical Products Company. Chas and Margaret were then living in Tintern Road, Summer Hill.

In 1923 Chas applied for a trade mark for 'Zikk', a liquid gum or adhesive paste. In 1926 he dissolved his partnership with William Fraser and continued the business in Day Street, Sydney on his own.

In January 1929 Chas and Margaret set up a non-denominational mission known as the Greenacre Park Gospel Mission. They were living at 23 Angel Road, Enfield. Although it does not appear that he was ordained, in 1936 he was recognised in New South Wales as an Officiating Minister for the celebration of marriages under the auspices of the Greenacre Park and Waterloo Road Gospel Mission. Chas's role in the mission seems to have been largely one of supporting Margaret, although he was one of the members of the first council in 1930 and presided at the opening of the first church building, Bethel, in 1933. He was President of the council for three years immediately prior to his death in 1938.

In 1957 the mission fellowships, then under the leadership of their son Rev Bruce Cameron, who acted as Moderator, sought affiliation with the Baptist Union and, on 12 July 1957, they were constituted as the Greenacre Baptist Church.¹

¹ <http://greenacrebaptist.org.au/about/>, accessed 15 October 2018.

The Greenacre Baptist Church commenced as a non-denominational mission in January 1929. It was known as Greenacre Park Gospel Mission. Mr and Mrs C.W. Cameron were the leaders of the work. Meetings were held in buildings in Shellcote Road and Waterloo Road. In 1957, these fellowships sought affiliation with the Baptist Union and were constituted the Greenacre Baptist Church on July 12, 1957. The services were consolidated in the Shellcote Road building in 1960.²

Margaret's role in the formative years of the Greenacre Baptist Church has been described as a distinctive and effective leader: '... there was a need and it was met by the gift to the emerging church of a remarkable lady'.³

Chas died while living at 27 Newton Road, Strathfield, NSW in April 1938 at the age of 52. He left a widow, three sons and a daughter. A memorial service was held in the Greenacre Mission Hall.

His widow Margaret was appointed Matron of the Sydney Bible Training Institute in 1943. Their son, Baptist Pastor Rev Bruce MacArthur Cameron, had a number of pastorates and also acted at different stages as Vice-Principal and Principal of the Sydney Bible Training Institute. Rev Bruce Cameron was regarded as an 'outstanding speaker from Casino'.⁴ Bruce married Jean Kirkpatrick and was still alive in 2018, living on the South Coast of NSW, aged 91.

Chas and Margaret's son, Daniel Cameron, (1915–1975) married Dorothy Burrell (1915–1987) in 1938 at Burwood Baptist Church. Margaret and Richard Cameron were attendants of the bride and groom. Dan was an industrial chemist like his father, but later became a Church of Christ pastor.

Their daughter Margaret Jane Cameron married Ronald Burns in 1942 in Ashfield. Ronald was also a Baptist pastor in Temora and Silkstone (Ipswich).



Rev Bruce Cameron

² <http://greenacrebaptist.org.au/about/>, accessed 15 October 2018.

³ R Seton Arndell, *Golden Jubilee: The history of the first fifty years of the Greenacre Gospel Mission and the Greenacre Baptist Church* (Sydney: Greenacre Baptist Church, 1980), p. 2.

⁴ *The Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coastal Districts of New South Wales*, 26 February 1954, p. 8.



Margaret Cameron with her sons Dick, Bruce and Dan, and daughter Margaret and her husband Ron Burns

George Carstairs Cameron

George Carstairs Cameron was born in Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, Scotland in 1894. He did a five-year apprenticeship with Yule & Sons in Brisbane and qualified as a saddler before enlisting in Brisbane at the age of 21 years on 18 August 1915.

He was a member of the Christian Endeavour Society in 1915–16 at the City Tabernacle, but does not appear to have become a church member.

He nominated his father who was living at 'Annethorpe' (or 'Ainsthorpe'), 52 Fifth Avenue, Wilston (Eildon Hill), Qld as his next-of-kin.

He embarked from Brisbane on the *Wandilla* in November 1915 and joined the 31st Battalion in France. There is a possibility that he was a bugler. Reg Keith travelled to the Front on the same voyage.

George was hospitalised several times due to



George Carstairs Cameron

appendicitis. He was initially listed as 'wounded and missing' on 19 July 1916, but this was corrected by the AIF on 18 August 1916.

The confusion regarding his fate is not surprising. This was the day the 31st Battalion fought its first major battle at Fromelles, having entered front-line trenches three days previously. The attack represented a disastrous introduction to battle for the 31st Battalion as some 572 casualties, over half its numbers, were sustained. The 31st Battalion played no major offensive role for the rest of the year.⁵

Around this time, his father Charles was concerned regarding the confusing information. He wrote to the AIF stating that he had received news that his son had been wounded and missing in France but the wrong service number had been given. Presumably his family was so distressed by the misinformation that they sought the assistance of the Australian Red Cross Queensland Division and the Salvation Army Men's Social Department. These agencies in turn made representations to the AIF seeking particulars on 30 August and 2 September 1916 respectively. On 5 September 1916 the AIF wrote to his family, Salvation Army, and Red Cross advising that he who was 'previously reported wounded and missing' is now reported 'wounded not missing' and that 'it is regretted that the nature of his wound and the name of the Hospital in which he is located are at present unknown here'. He was shipped to England and admitted to London General Hospital on 9 October 1916. He was wounded in action on three occasions, Fleurbaix, Villers-Bretonneux, and Peronne.

On 6 January 1917 he was absent-without-leave for 16 days and was given 168 hours of detention and forfeited 32 days' pay as punishment.

George returned to Australia in May 1919 and was discharged from the Army in July 1919.

In January 1923 George married Esther Fullerton, the daughter of William and Mary Fullerton. They lived with his parents at 52 Fifth Avenue, Wilston after their marriage and remained in the family home until at least 1980. Esther died in July 1983 at 89 years, and George died in January 1989 at 94 years. There is a plaque in his honour at the Queensland Garden of Remembrance situated in Pinnaroo Lawn Cemetery at Bridgeman Downs, Brisbane.

They had a son, Ralph, and two daughters Grace and Winifred. In 1980 Grace and Winifred were both unmarried and living with their parents. Winifred died in 1985 and was buried with her parents. Ralph became a Baptist minister and served in Beaudesert and Gatton. He married Marilyn Anita. Ralph died in Chermside in 2004.

⁵ <https://www.awm.gov.au/unit/U51471>, accessed 15 October 2018.

George was on the wrong side of the law in 1927.

TRAFFIC BREACHES.

DIRTY NUMBER PLATES.

Numerous Offenders Fined.

In driving along muddy and dusty roads the number plate of a motor car is apt to become dirty, thus causing the numbers to be scarcely discernible. Some motorists, in embarking on a joy ride have frequently been known to smear oil on the plate, so avoiding being “arrested” by a policeman; who finds he is unable to “jot down” the numbers because they are unreadable owing to the presence of a coating of dust.

That the authorities are endeavouring to carry out the Main Roads Board regulations governing clean and legible number plates, was evidenced in the Traffic Court yesterday, when 25 motorists were fined for failing to keep their plates clean and legible. Mr. J.J. Leahy, acting P.M., was on the Bench. The fines were ... for failing to keep their number plates clean and legible ... George Carstairs Cameron, of Fifth-avenue, Wilston ... 10s on each charge.⁶



⁶ *The Daily Standard*, Tuesday 3 May 1927, p. 10.

Carson, Ernest and William Albert

William Carson and Ruth Wright were married in Fortitude Valley in 1877 by Rev TL Davies, pastor of the South Brisbane Baptist Church. They had eight children, Ruth (1879–1967), Isabella (1881–89), Edith (1883–84), Mabel Gold (1885–1958), Ernest (1889–1964), Victoria (1892–93), Emily Ham (1894–1983), Edward (1898–1950) and William Albert (1887–1979). Two of their children died in infancy and another, Edith, died in childhood. Her death notice was recorded in *The Telegraph*.

CARSON – On November 25th, at the residence of her parents, Roma Street, Edith, youngest daughter of William Alexander and Ruth Carson, aged one year and one month. “He shall gather the Lambs with His arms and carry them to His bosom.”¹

William and Ruth were in membership of the Wharf Street Baptist Church by 1885 (the earliest existing record). By 1891 they were living in Commercial Road, Fortitude Valley and in Ann Street by 1893. Miss Carson (probably Ruth, who was a senior scholar in the Sunday School) became a member in 1898. Mabel was in membership by 1905. She commenced teaching in the Sunday School in 1906. Emily became a member in 1914–15.

In 1884 and again in 1892, William was involved in court cases resulting from thefts from his grocery shops in Roma Street and in Fortitude Valley.

William became the owner of the Federal Cash Store in Bulimba Street, Fortitude Valley in 1892. The business was liquidated in 1893, partially due to the depression of the 1890s.

He was summonsed at the instance of the Inspector of Factories and Shops for failing to close his shop at the prescribed hour, and was ordered to pay a fine of 20s, with £3/6/4 costs, in default seven days.

William was a member of the Royal Orange Institution of Queensland Grand Lodge. He was also a Justice of the Peace and Chairman of Committees of the Valley State School for Boys. He was vice-chairman of the Fortitude Valley branch of the People’s Progressive League.

LOYAL ORANGE INSTITUTION CELEBRATIONS IN BRISBANE.

The July celebrations of the Loyal Orange Institution were begun yesterday by an afternoon service in the Centennial Hall, which was largely attended. Preceding this there was a procession through the streets of some 500 male

¹ *The Telegraph*, Friday 28 November 1884, p. 4.

and female members, in regalia, accompanied by the Ithaca Concert Band and the Pipers' Band of the Brisbane Caledonian Society and Burns Club. Rev. W.H. Greenwood (Grand Master) presided, and others on the platform included Messrs. A. Cannon, W.A. Carson, C. Scrivens, and R. Dowie, P.G.M.s, [Past Grand Masters] Mr. C. Fish (Assistant Grand Secretary), and Revs. A.C. Jarvis [pastor of the Jireh Baptist Church], and E.S. Short. After the opening hymn, "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," and prayer by the Rev. E.S. Short, the Chairman acknowledged the bounty of Providence in the recent genial rains which had so greatly blessed the State ... He went on to refer with satisfaction to the fact that Protestant clergymen were still allowed to give Scriptural teaching in State schools, and said that if any political party attempted to deprive them of that right then they would find the whole body of Orangemen dead against them. (Applause.)

The Chairman delivered a vigorous address, in which he said that the Bible was the foundation of the Orange Institution, and of the Protestant Alliance, and the best asset in the British Empire was the open Bible. (Applause.)

Rev. A. C. Jarvis dealt with the qualifications of Orangemen in an earnest address, in which he declared that Orangemen were not going to apologise for being Protestants. (Applause.)²

Shortly before his death William was working at the Waterloo Cash Store in Ann Street, Fortitude Valley. This may have been the same store as the Federal Cash Store which he had previously managed and owned. William died in October 1912 in Queensland.

IN MEMORIAM

CARSON – In loving memory of my dear husband and our father, William Alexander Carson, who departed this life October 21st, 1912.

Where the mourner, weeping,

Sheds the secret tear,

God his watch is keeping,

Though none else be near.

Inserted by his sorrowing widow and children.³

Ruth and her surviving children placed further 'in memoriam' notices in various newspapers in 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1922.

Their daughter Emily married Frank Ham, younger brother of TW Ham, whose involvement in the war is outlined elsewhere. Their marriage was reported as follows:

Social and Personal

² *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 8 July 1912, p. 8.

³ *The Brisbane Courier*, Tuesday 21 October 1913, p. 6.

The City Tabernacle, Wickham Terrace, was the scene of a pretty wedding last Wednesday afternoon, 23rd April. ... The bridegroom was Mr. Frank H. Ham, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Ham, Chelmer, and the bride Miss Emily Evelyn Carson, youngest daughter of the late Mr. and of Mrs. W.A. Carson, of Oakwal Terrace, Windsor. This happy union means the uniting of two of the oldest Baptist families of Brisbane. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W.G. Pope, and Mr. Percy Brier presided at the organ. The bride was given away by her cousin, Mr. R. Carson (in the absence of her two brothers, the eldest still abroad with A.I.F., and the other a patient in the Kangaroo Point military hospital), ... Corporal [TW] Ham, a returned Anzac, was best man.⁴

Ruth remained a member of the City Tabernacle until her death in 1922.

THE LATE MRS. CARSON.

The late Mrs. Ruth Carson (of Oakwal Terrace, Windsor), whose death occurred on July 10, was the widow of the late Mr. W.A. Carson, who, during his lifetime, was a well-known business man in the Valley. After her husband's death the late Mrs. Carson lived a retired life, surrounded by her family. Of a very amiable and affectionate disposition, she occupied herself in assisting others in distress. She is survived by a family of three sons and three daughters, also six grandchildren. Two of her sons Messrs. William and Ernest Carson served with the A.I.F. ... the service at the house and at the grave side being conducted by the Rev W.G. Pope of the City Tabernacle, at which the deceased lady had been a regular attendant.⁵

Ernest Carson

Ernest was born in Brisbane on 22 September 1889.

By 1912 he had his driver's licence and a car.

TRAFFIC ACT

Number of Breaches.

In the City Summons Court on Monday, before Mr. T. Mowbray, P.M., a number of persons were proceeded against for breaches of the Traffic Act. Subinspector Carroll (Superintendent of Traffic) prosecuted.

For failing to drive as near as practicable to the left-hand footpath ... Ernest Carson was fined 10s, with 3s 6d costs, in default three days' imprisonment.⁶

⁴ *The Telegraph*, Wednesday 30 April 1919, p. 8.

⁵ *The Brisbane Courier*, Friday 18 August 1922, p. 11.

⁶ *The Telegraph*, Tuesday 30 July 1912, p. 2.

In 1913 he was living with his parents in Ann Street, Fortitude Valley, working as a grocer's assistant, presumably in what had been his father's grocery store. By 1916 the family had moved to Lisson Grove.

Ernest enlisted on 17 November 1915, in the 15th and subsequently the 47th Battalions. He nominated his mother, Ruth Carson of Miles Street and Lisson Grove, Woolloowin, then Oakwal Terrace, Windsor, as his next-of-kin. His father had died three years previously. He was quite short, 160cm tall and only became eligible for enlistment in June 1915.

Ernest embarked from Sydney for France in March 1916 aboard the *Star of Victoria*. He experienced fairly rapid promotion in the field to lance corporal in February 1917, corporal in July 1917, and sergeant in September 1917.



Ernest Carson

Ernest was wounded in action in October 1917 (gunshot wound to both legs and left arm). Over the next six months his mother was sent regular updates of his progressive return to health by the military authorities. He was in hospital in Horton (County of London) War Hospital, Epsom, England.

On his return to Brisbane in April 1918, he completed his recovery in Kangaroo Point Military Hospital. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He was discharged from the army in August 1918, after which he lived with his mother in Oakwal Terrace.

By 1925 Ernest was living with his brother William at Buderim where they were both employed as fruit growers. Sometime between 1949 and 1954, Ernest and William moved to Taylor Avenue, Golden Beach Caloundra where they lived in retirement with their sister Ruth. Ernest was still a bachelor at the time of his death in June 1964. He was buried in Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens.

William Albert Carson

William Albert was born in Brisbane on 22 August 1887. He was named after his paternal grandfather. In 1908 William was working as a grocer's assistant and living with his parents in Ann Street, Fortitude Valley. Like his brother, he was

probably working for his father. There is some evidence that he took on responsibility of the shop after his father's passing in 1912.

The City Tabernacle Sunday School report states that,

During the year the following who were old scholars of the school – viz., W.A. Carson, F.G. Marriott, W.J.F. Cooksley, W.J. Marshall, A.H. Ross, Herbert Hicks, C. Albert Dennis, Walter Newman – have left for distant lands to fight for God, King and Country, and we would lovingly commit them to our Father's keeping, knowing that if it be His will, they will return to work amongst us again.⁷

William enlisted in the 49th battalion on 12 September 1916, aged 29. He may have delayed his enlistment because, after Ernest left for the battlefield, he was the only adult male living with his widowed mother.

Like his brother, he was quite short at 163cm.

William embarked from Brisbane on the *Marathon* in October 1916, arriving at Plymouth in January 1917, on the same voyage as George Bremner. He served in France and was discharged in September 1919, having been awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



William Albert Carson

In April 1918 William was wounded in action. He sent his mother a cablegram stating, 'In hospital, England, wounded: doing well'. The wound was probably a gunshot wound to his right hand.

After the war he lived with his mother for a short period before moving to Buderim where he lived with his brother Ernest.⁸

William enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces in World War II. His sister Ruth, with whom he was living, was nominated as his next-of-kin.

He died in July 1979 and was also buried in Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens.

⁷ City Tabernacle, *Year Book 1916–1917*, p. 11.

⁸ Personal Communication, Carmel Binaisse.

Chisholm, Albert Joseph Wilson (later Rev)

Albert was born in Rockhampton on 30 April 1899, the son of Alfred and Sarah Chisholm. Albert's grandfather migrated from England to New Zealand in the 1850s. Albert's father, Alfred, was born in New Zealand before migrating to Australia in 1883, marrying Sarah in Rockhampton in 1891, and moving to Brisbane before 1908. Albert's mother and sisters, Hazel Shute (1892–1039) and Ethel Pitt (1893–1979), moved to Brisbane sometime later, but before 1909, and resided at 57 Little Edward Street, Brisbane North.

In 1914 Albert was employed as a messenger boy at Mr Davies's chemist shop in Queen Street. He entered Flavelle's jewellery business and later became a District Manager in that business. His father was a journalist who moved to Mackay just before or during the war. His father died in 1928. His mother remained in Brisbane. (It seems that the marriage had broken down. When Albert enlisted he said he was his mother's sole support. By 1918 she had reverted to the name Mrs SA Chisholm.)

In 1917 Sarah wrote to the military officers stating:

I, Sarah Ann Chisholm, mother of the said Albert Joseph Wilson Chisholm, give consent to him enlisting, and truly state that his Father's whereabouts are unknown to me. He left us three years gone by without support. I take it for granted that he has no lawful call on me or his son.¹



Albert JW Chisholm

Through the work of a friend, Rev AE Smith, Albert became connected with the City Tabernacle and it was largely through the faithfulness of his Sunday School teacher, Kenneth J Lethem, that he became a Christian, was baptised, and became a member of the church.

¹ National Archives of Australia, First Australian Imperial Force Personnel Dossiers, 1914-1920, Chisholm, A J W.

He joined the 9th Battalion AIF on 11 September 1917, aged 18 years. He and his mother were living at 'Poneke', Railway Terrace, Milton at the time. He had previously served four years in the Senior Navy cadets and was employed as a clerk.

After his enlistment the City Tabernacle *Year Book* records, 'Mr. Albert Chisholm also left for service abroad and the latest information concerning him states that he has been wounded in action. We trust that he will be speedily restored.'²

Albert was described as 178cm tall, weighing 57kg. He had a 76cm chest, fair complexion, brown eyes, light-brown hair. He gave his religion as Baptist, and had a scar on his left thumb.

He left Brisbane by train in October 1917 and embarked from Sydney on the *Euripides* later that month. He served in France and England, but was seriously wounded by a gunshot wound in the thigh and face while in action in July 1918 and transferred to hospital in Brighton, UK. He was removed from the seriously wounded list in August, but wounded again, a gunshot wound to the left thigh, in November 1918. He left the UK on the *City of Parramatta* and arrived home in Australia in May 1919. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the war Albert initially worked in business until 1923 when he became a Home Missionary and served in Maleny, Murgon and Mt Morgan. It was while serving in Murgon that he met his future wife. While serving in Mt Morgan he often preached in the Rockhampton Baptist Tabernacle.

OFF TO THE MISSION FIELD.

FAREWELL TO MR. A. J. W. CHISHOLM.

A number of the friends of Mr. A.J.W. Chisholm assembled at the City Tabernacle on Tuesday evening for the purpose of bidding him farewell, on the eve of his departure for Sydney, and the mission field. Before he was 18 years of age Mr. Chisholm volunteered for service in the Great War, and returned after being severely wounded. Now he has volunteered for work among the missions, and is leaving the aborigines [sic] Inland Mission, the Queensland auxiliary of which he founded and carried out the secretarial duties for a number of years. The Rev. W.G. Pope, on behalf of the members of the auxiliary, presented Mr. Chisholm with a writing-case and a "promise box." Mr. Pope and others paid a tribute to the work of Mr. Chisholm, on behalf of the mission and wished him success in his new sphere of influence. Mr. Chisholm feelingly acknowledged the gifts and the good wishes. Mr. Chisholm was farewelled by a number of friends at the Central station this

² City Tabernacle, *Year Book 1917–1918*, p. 15.

morning, where he boarded the Sydney mail train. He will proceed to headquarters, and there await orders.

Mr. Chisholm has been in the service of Messrs. Flavelle, Roberts, and Sankey Ltd., jewellers, of this city, since 11th June 1917, excepting the period spent at the front, and on Tuesday afternoon the whole staff assembled to do him honour. His colleagues made him a personal presentation, and gave him a Red Cross outfit, thinking that would be of great value both to him and to the people amongst whom his duty will call him. The firm also presented him with a tourist writing case.³

MISSION WORK AMONGST THE ABORIGINES.

For the last few weeks Rockhampton has had a visit from a missionary to the aborigines, Mr. A.J.W. Chisholm. Mr. Chisholm has addressed several meetings bringing before the church people of Rockhampton the need of the Gospel in the aborigines' camps and telling them of the ready response which followed the advent of the Word of God. At a meeting on Tuesday night in the Baptist Tabernacle School-hall an auxiliary of the Aborigines' Inland Mission was formed. Miss Hargraves was elected secretary. Those interested are invited to attend the monthly meetings or get in touch with Miss Hargraves at 92 Wood Street Depot Hill.⁴

In 1925 Albert re-entered business life, but by 1934 he followed the leading of God and commenced service as a pastor and began to study at the Baptist Theological College of Queensland. He was ordained in 1938.

He married Beryl Baty in April. Beryl was born in 1901, the daughter of John and Emeline Baty. She was working in Murgon as a music teacher prior to their marriage.

The Rev. W. K. Holman conducted a very pretty wedding in the Central Methodist Church, Gympie, on the 5th instant, when Beryl, the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Baty, of



Albert and Beryl's wedding

³ *The Telegraph*, Wednesday 8 March 1922, p. 2.

⁴ *The Morning Bulletin*, Thursday 30 November 1922, p. 8.

Gympie was married to Mr. Albert J.W. Chisholm, of Rockhampton.⁵

They had one daughter and one son: Aloise (1927) and John (1929). John married Margaret Jean Sugars at the City Tabernacle in 1952, and Aloise married Ernest Whittingham also at the City Tabernacle.

Beryl continued as a music teacher after their wedding.

MRS. A.J.W. CHISHOLM. T.M.C., M.T.S.C., Qualified Teacher, is prepared to take a limited number of pupils in Voice Production. Terms on Application. 103 Dawson Road.⁶

The income from her teaching may have been their only means of support while Albert was studying.

The latest victim to the ministerial epidemic of appendicitis is student A.J.W. Chisholm, who has undergone an operation, and we are glad to learn, is making a good recovery. Mr. Chisholm has been pastor at Lanefield for some years, where he is greatly esteemed. This year he entered upon the college course, while retaining the oversight at Lanefield.⁷

He served at Lanefield (1934–35), Lanefield/Marburg (1935–38), Maroochy District (Nambour) (1938–43), Maryborough (1943–49), Deputation Secretary and Depot Manager of the British and Foreign Bible Society (1949–55), Jireh (1955–56), Jireh/Newmarket or Grange (1956–59), Jireh/Superintendent of Clifford House (1959–64) and Superintendent of Clifford House (1965–67).

He also served on a number of Baptist Union of Queensland Committees, including the Advisory, Executive and Home Mission Committees and was involved in planning for Resthaven Garden Settlement. In 1963–64 he served as President of the Baptist Union. In his presidential address, he spoke on 'The Act and Art of Christian Living'.

He died in September 1978 at the age of 78 years. Beryl died in March 1986.



Rev AJW Chisholm in 1964, when President of the Baptist

⁵ *The Morning Bulletin*, 15 April 1926, p. 6.

⁶ *The Evening News*, 20 May 1926, p. 4.

⁷ *The Australian Baptist*, 19 July 1938, pp. 2, 3.

Cooksley, William John Farmer

William was born in Queensland on 29 November 1891, the son of William P and Ellen Cooksley. He was named after his grandfather who died in Queensland in 1892. William and Ellen were married by Rev W Whale in 1891 at ‘Cairnsville’, Breakfast Creek.

In 1885 William’s grandfather, WJF Cooksley Snr and his second wife Catherine were members of Wharf Street Baptist Church, (subsequently the City Tabernacle). William’s grandfather remained a member until his death in 1892. He was a director of the Brisbane Permanent Benefit Building and Investment Society in 1877, working as a surveyor and architect. Cooksley Street, Hamilton is named in his honour.



‘Iona’, Sandgate

‘Iona’ was likely built circa 1886 by William John Farmer Cooksley (William’s grandfather), local contractor and Mayor of Sandgate, who obtained the site in 1885. Cooksley, a skilled carpenter, had arrived in the Moreton Bay district in 1858. Although almost penniless, he went on to become one of Queensland’s most successful pioneers. He built some of Sandgate’s earliest buildings and was its second mayor.¹

William’s father, WP Cooksley, became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1893, and remained in membership until his death in 1934. WP Cooksley was a deacon and treasurer of the church for many years. William’s mother Ellen was a member from 1905 until her death in 1946.

William, together with his brother Francis (1893–1968), commonly known as Frank, were both baptised and came into church membership in 1911–12. William’s sister Edna Wendt (1898–1959) was a member from 1914–15 until her death. William had two cousins, Leslie Graham Cooksley (1908–87) who was a member from 1923 until 1942 and served as a major in World War II, and Jack Royston Cooksley (1904–45) who became a member in 1921.

¹ <http://www.everywherehistory.com/heritage-walk-along-bay-sandgate/>, accessed 20 October 2018

From 1912–14 William was appointed Treasurer of the Young Men's Bible Class and, from 1915 to his enlistment, he was General Secretary of the Men's Own P.S.A. (Pleasant Sunday Afternoon) Brotherhood at the City Tabernacle. He lived with his family at Hendra. William enlisted in the 47th Battalion of the AIF on 26 September 1916. He was an accountant and 24 years old at the time, having become an Associate of Queensland Institute of Accountants in 1916. He nominated his father of 'Hallam', Manson Road, Hendra as his next-of-kin.

William was a very tall man, being 193cm tall. At enlistment he weighed 82kg, had a chest measurement of 93cm, was of medium complexion, grey eyes, dark brown hair, and had a scar on his right knee. He gave his religion as Baptist. He embarked on the *Ayrshire* from Sydney for Devonport, UK in January 1917. Walter Newman travelled to the Front on the same voyage.

In England he undertook training courses and was then shipped to Le Havre, France. By the end of October 1917 he had been promoted in the field to second lieutenant in the 47th Battalion after attending the School of Training in Candahar Barracks, Berkshire for seven weeks. On his return to the battle field, he was reassigned to the 4th Division.

William was killed in an action at Dernancourt, France on 5 April 1918 during an attack by overwhelming masses of Germans on the Australian lines. He was 26 years of age. His father received advice of his death in a letter dated 8 April 1918 from Lt Colonel AP Imlay in which it was stated:

He and his platoon fought for five hours against twenty times their number and he was killed by a shell just as his platoon was made secure. He encouraged his men and made a very gallant stand and we are proud of him and wish we had a few more like him.

The Battle of Dernancourt involved the Australian 12th and 13th Brigades (4th Division) on the railway embankment and cuttings in Dernancourt, just south of Albert. The under strength Australian Brigades (numbering about 4,000) faced four German Divisions totalling about 25,000. Situated on the



Aerial view of Dernancourt showing the Albert–Amiens railway line and road leading under the railway bridge towards the Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, Dernancourt, France, May 1918 (AWM)

western side of the Ancre River valley, the Australians formed a defensive line at the railway embankment, from which they held back German attacks. The Australian 48th Battalion soon found itself outflanked by German to its rear. The Forty-eighth was ordered to hold at all costs but by midday was facing annihilation and the senior officer ordered a withdrawal. Much like the actions at Bullecourt the previous year, the Australian battalion withdrew successfully and in order. This action cost Twelfth and Thirteenth Brigades (Fourth Division) 1,100 casualties.²

William was buried where he died, but despite considerable efforts by the War Graves Commission at the request of his father after the war, his grave still could not be found. His belongings were returned to his father in June 1918 in a green valise. Among his possessions were one Holy Bible (Presentation) and two small religious books. It wasn't until 1922 that his father received his son's memorial scroll, memorial plaque, and King's message. His Victory Medal was received in 1923.

On hearing of William's death, John C Keith, the secretary of the City Tabernacle, wrote to his father on 22 April 1918.

Dear Will,

The day of surprises has disappeared and in its place has come something sterner, nameless, but very often bringing with it in these awful times a message of sacrifice. Such I learn has come to you and your dear ones. Your much loved son William is now with the Lord freed from all the trials and vexations that flesh is heir to but the testimony of his life and character is ours still. My business just now is to convey to you and all your dear ones a message of love and sympathy in the sad and sore bereavement from the Pastor Rev W.G. Pope, the Officers and Worshippers at the City Tabernacle. We have seen Willie as a boy, youth and man and noted with extreme pleasure that as he grew in knowledge of our dear Lord he grew in grace and freely gave of what he had received. Mr Pope speaking of him at the service this morning said he was one of the lads who had gone from the Church whom he knew and was proud of the friendship. He reviewed his character in words that would have cheered your heart even in its desolation and every word he said would be heartily endorsed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing Willie.

You were all remembered at the Throne of Grace by the Deacons, in the public service, and at the Sunday School and I know that the earnest prayers offered on your behalf will not be in vain, but our God will in His love and mercy bind up your broken heart and heal the gaping wound.

² <http://www.anzacsinfrance.com/1918/>, accessed 20 October 2018.

Kindly convey this message to Mrs Cooksley, Frank and Edna.
With very kind regards and abundant sympathy in which Mrs Keith joins.

It is presumed that the above letter was hand delivered because on the same day Mr WP Cooksley replied,

Dear Keith,

Your loving message of sympathy to us from our church has cheered us greatly. Kindly convey to our Brothers and Sisters our love and say to them that our sorrow is not without hope of a joyful reunion with our loved one.

His message to us on leaving England for France is as follows:

“God is in the heart of things, and all is well. None of His Children can be in the wrong place, otherwise they are not His Children. We are all in His Hands and He knows best what is for our benefit” Also Romans 8 chap 28, 29, 30.

This is our son’s testimony, may we reach his Ideal.

Yours lovingly

WP Cooksley

After the war his father, mother and sister visited England and the Continent. They went to Europe to see Lt Cooksley’s grave, but it could not be found. Mr Cooksley made several efforts to locate the last resting place of his son, but despite a thorough search, the site of his burial is still unknown.

On Sunday 21 April 1918 the City Tabernacle held a special memorial service in remembrance of Lt Cooksley. In speaking of him the Rev WG Pope said:

He was one of the best and finest fellows he had known in Queensland – a man Queensland and the City Tabernacle, in particular, could ill afford to lose. In less than ten months his splendid character had raised him from private to lieutenant – his superiors recognising the value of the man. He was a friend and helper difficult to replace, whose splendid Christian character and bright cheery manners had won for him the highest esteem of his fellow members in his church. Whilst honouring him that he had laid down his life for the principles for which the Baptist Church stands – all would feel his loss, and deeply sympathise with the grieving parents and relatives.³

In 1932 Mr KJ Lethem donated land in Currumbin to the Baptist Church for use as a Youth Camp. A number of buildings were erected on the site, and in 1934 one was named ‘Cooksley Memorial Hut’ in memory of Lt WJF Cooksley. Kenneth Lethem was a deacon and Sunday School teacher at the City Tabernacle in 1915–16.

³ City Tabernacle Archives

William's name is recorded on the Villers-Bretonneux Memorial, Somme, France among 10,762 casualties of the war. It also appears on Panel 143 of the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



Villers-Bretonneux Memorial
(TracesOfWar.com)

Dauth, Ernest George

Ernest was born in Beaudesert on 23 July 1896, the son of Otto and Augusta Dauth. They had married in Queensland in 1888. Otto and several of Ernest's brothers were blacksmiths. Otto was present at the opening of the new Baptist church building in Beaudesert in 1897.¹ It is not known what involvement Otto had in the church.

Ernest's siblings were Harry (1889–1960), Alfred (1890–1917), Otto (1891–1971), Herbert (1893–1968), Robert (1895–1981), Septimus (1898–1963), and Johannes (1900–1900). Later in life Ernest was sometimes referred to as George.

After Augusta died in 1900, Ernest's father Otto married Margaret Wylie. He had a further six children, Victor (1903–65), Caroline (1904–04), Margaret (1905–06), Richard (1906–87), Stephen (1908–73), Grace (1910–10), and Henry (1921–21). Otto died in 1931.

Ernest was a member of the City Tabernacle Christian Endeavour Society in 1915–16. It is not known when he moved to Brisbane from Beaudesert, or why he did this.

Ernest enlisted in the AIF on 26 January 1916. Initially, he was assigned to the 29th Company, 2nd Australian Army Service Corps, but upon arrival in France was transferred to the 3rd Division. Ernest's father and maternal grandparents had migrated from Germany. The reasons for his enlistment to fight against his homeland are unknown.

He was a clerk and 19 years old at the time of his enlistment. He was described as 175cm tall, weighed 54kg, and had a chest measurement of 77cm. He had fair complexion, brown eyes, and brown hair. He gave his religion as Baptist. He had scars on both his left and right knees.

Ernest embarked on the *Demosthenes* from Sydney in May 1916 and disembarked in Plymouth, England in July 1916.

In October 1918, while on fire piquet duty as part of a small unit maintaining watch at Base Supply Depot, Vendroux, Pas-de-Calais, France, he was accused, together with two other soldiers, of stealing a jar of rum, apparently from the Medical Comforts store. Ernest was put to trial by court martial, presided over by Lt Colonel JM Colchester Wemyss of the Royal Scots Regiment, in which Ernest denied anything to do with the jar of rum. After a full trial with several witnesses examined, Ernest was found not guilty. This incident did not appear to affect his service as he went on to serve for the rest of the war in France.

¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 21 June 1897, p. 4.

Ernest was appointed as a driver in November 1918 and was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He returned to Australia in June 1919 on the *Themistocles*, accompanied by Alex Hall. He was discharged and demobilised in August 1919.

His brother Alfred also enlisted. Like Ernest, Alfred gave his religion as Baptist. He did not have any association with the City Tabernacle however. He died in Seymour, Victoria Front in August 1917 of acute cerebro-spinal meningitis and was buried in Seymour Cemetery. He was a blacksmith, like his father, and was a machine gunner.

In 1919, Ernest was living in Bell Street, Beaudesert working as a clerk.

From 1922 until his death, Ernest was living in Brisbane Street, Beaudesert. Initially this was with his father Otto, step-mother Margaret, and his brother Otto Jr. During the next 38 years various brothers, sisters, and half-brothers, including Mary, Victor, Septimus, David, Margaret Knox, Harry, Ada, Emily and Iris, shared the house with him.

From 1922 until 1952, Ernest was the honorary secretary of the Beaudesert Town Band. In 1927 it was agreed that he should be paid an honorarium of £3/3/- per year. His brother Herbert was also involved in the band. It is not known what instrument Ernest played to accompany several artists at the Beaudesert Colts Football Club banquet in 1944.

He also played cricket in Beaudesert and was honorary auditor of the Beaudesert and District Cricket Association in 1939–45.

From 1929 until 1937, Ernest was one of the honorary auditors for the Beaudesert Hospital for which he was paid up to £2/2/- p.a. He became the hospital treasurer in 1939.

In 1930–38 he was also one of the honorary auditors of the Beaudesert School of Arts. He was also auditor for Beaudesert Ambulance 1936–37.

He played bowls with the Beaudesert Bowling Club and won the doubles championship in 1939, often travelling to Warwick, Southport and further afield to compete in tournaments, including the state championship in 1945. He was the club's honorary auditor and became the club treasurer and president.

Throughout most of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, Ernest was also honorary auditor and/or treasurer of the Beaudesert Amateur Race Club, the Beaudesert Branch of the Red Cross Society, the Fighting Forces Welfare Committee, and was a trustee of the Beaudesert sub-branch of the Returned Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (later the Returned Services League).

Ernest travelled interstate to Sydney several times and to Tasmania (in 1936 and again in 1938) and overseas to New Zealand in 1938 for his annual holidays.

He again enlisted in the Australian Army on 12 April 1942 to serve in World War II. He served with the 5th Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps and was discharged on 21 October 1945. He resumed working as a clerk.

Despite his religion being noted as Baptist in his military records, Ernest also had an association with the Methodist Church as his name is recorded on the Methodist Church Honour Roll. His name is also recorded on the honour roll on the Beaudesert War Memorial, William Street, Beaudesert.

He died on 19 March 1960 at the age of 63 and was buried in Beaudesert Cemetery. There is no record of his ever marrying and his gravestone recorded that he was survived by an uncle and a brother.

Denham, Harold Knight

Harold was born in Oxley on 30 May 1890, the son of Digby F and Alice Denham. His father was originally a member of the Church of Christ. He sought membership of the City Tabernacle and was given the right hand of fellowship, together with Mrs Denham, his son and daughter, in November 1905. Mr and Mrs DF Denham and all their three children were members of the City Tabernacle in 1910. He was elected deacon in 1918 and an honorary life deacon in 1931–32. He was the Queensland Premier from 1911 until 1915, and died in 1944. Hon DF Denham named the suburb Annerley, and Denham Street was named after him.

The Late Hon. Digby F. Denham.

The community and the Baptist denomination in Queensland suffered a great loss in the call to higher service of Mr. Digby Denham. Mr. Denham was born at Langport, Somerset, England, in 1859, and had celebrated his 85th birthday and, more recently, with Mrs. Denham, their diamond wedding day.

Mr. Denham came to Australia in 1881, moving from South Australia to Queensland in 1886 ... He entered the Legislative Assembly in 1902, became Home Secretary in 1903, Public Works and Agriculture Minister in 1905, Railways and Agriculture Minister in 1906, Home Secretary in 1907, Lands Minister in 1908,

and Premier in 1911, with the portfolios of Railways and Land. In the election of 1915 he lost his seat and did not again enter Parliament ...

He was elected deacon [of the City Tabernacle] in 1918, and an honorary life deacon in 1931, which office he retained till the day of his death ...

The service at the house and at the South Brisbane Cemetery was conducted by his minister, Rev. A. Butler, who referred to his strong character, his sterling integrity, his unwavering faith in, and humble devotion to Jesus Christ, his loyalty to his Church and his minister, and his outstanding service to the State, the community and the Christian Church ...



Hon Frank Digby Denham, 1914

A resolution voicing the loss of officers and members of the church, and paying tribute to his great work, and notable services, was passed by the church. A service of remembrance was held in the City Tabernacle, when Mr. Butler preached from the words, “Do you not know, there is a great man fallen in Israel to-day?” The choir rendered the anthem, “What are these?” and “Lead, kindly Light,” one of Mr. Denham’s favourite hymns, and “Brief life is here our portion,” were sung ...¹

In 1919 Mrs DF Denham was in charge of the kitchen at the City Tabernacle Church, preparing meals for some 80 people per day in the Spring Hill area during the influenza outbreak. She was assisted by her daughter and other ladies from the church.²

Mrs Denham was a vice-president of the City Tabernacle branch of the Baptist Women’s Union. She remained a member of the church until her death in May 1950. Harold had a brother Edward (1892–1894) and two sisters, Elsie (1887–1968) and Winifred (1889–1976). Winifred donated the pulpit in the church in memory of her parents.

Harold attended Brisbane Grammar School where he played rugby in the school’s 1st XV as hooker, was a rower and a sergeant in school cadets, where he displayed great accuracy in target shooting, winning a silver medal for the school in the ‘Schools of the Empire’ match. He graduated in 1907. The school magazine of 1908 stated: ‘Denham (front rank). He is a good hooker. Works very hard. Rather inclined to pick the ball up instead of keeping it to his toe’.³



Medal inscribed
‘Sergt H. K. Denham’
around rim

He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1911 to Oxford, arriving in London in May 1911.

**QUEENSLAND RHODES SCHOLAR, 1911.
HAROLD KNIGHT DENHAM SELECTED.**

A meeting of the Queensland Rhodes Scholarship Committee was held on Monday afternoon, when Harold Knight Denham was selected as the

¹ *The Australian Baptist*, 13 June 1944, p. 3.

² *The Australian Baptist*, 17 June 1919, p. 6.

³ Brisbane Grammar School Magazine, 1908, p. 18.

Queensland Rhodes scholar for 1911 ... The candidates ... [included] J. Byth and H.K. Denham, both of the Brisbane Boys' Grammar School, and at present attending the Sydney University. The young man on whom the honour of selection fell is a son of the Hon. Digby F. Denham (Premier). He was born on May 30, 1890, at the home of his parents, Annerley-road, South Brisbane, and was specially selected by the Brisbane Boys' Grammar School as a candidate for the Rhodes scholarship.

Mr. Denham attended the Normal School, Brisbane, for 15 months, and in 1903 he won a State school scholarship, being third in a list of 181 candidates from all parts of the State. He then spent five years at the Brisbane Grammar School, and for the last two years he has been studying medicine at the Sydney University.

He was in the Sydney University Interstate Eight last year, and was a member of the rifle team that won the Empire Cup in 1907 for the Brisbane Grammar School, when he scored 62 out of a possible 70. He also shot with the Sydney University team against Melbourne in 1909. Rowing and rifle shooting have always been his favourite sports. While at the Brisbane Grammar School he rowed for four years with the school eight, and also played tennis and football for the school. He passed the Sydney Junior Examination in 1906, with three A's, three B's, and one C. In 1908 he passed the Sydney Senior Examination with two A's, three B's, and five C's. At the end of his first year at the University he passed with credit in physics and chemistry.⁴



Harold Denham at Oxford,
circa 1911

While at Balliol College, Oxford, he won a rowing 'blue' for the Balliol College Four in 1911. He again distinguished himself in shooting for the Balliol team.

Harold gained his BA from Oxford in 1914 with Second Class final exam results in Natural Sciences (Physiology). He was part way through his medical studies when war broke out and he volunteered as a probationary surgeon, hoping to

⁴ *The Queenslander*, Saturday 11 February 1911

complete his studies at the end of the war. Mrs Denham and her daughters were in Europe when war broke out.

LETTER FROM MRS. DIGBY DENHAM

The following letter has been received from Mrs. Digby Denham, who, with her daughter, Winnie, was in Brussels at the outbreak of the war. Everyone in Queensland has sympathised with the Premier and Mrs. Denham in their anxiety regarding Miss Elsie Denham, who is still in Berlin.

On Monday morning we went to Cook's and were told we could not leave Brussels. We then tore round to the British Consul. He said, 'A train leaves at 1 p.m. Take that, or you may stay here six months.' Winnie and Miss Andrews, a friend, went to the station to purchase a ticket. I went to Rue Souveraine to pack. It was now 11 a.m., and in less than an hour we were away and at the station ...

Elsie is still in Berlin, and I am heart-sick with anxiety. I sent an urgent wire to her from Brussels to leave at once. On our arrival we found a telegram: 'Can't leave, but quite safe.' Now we get no news, as there is no mail – neither telegrams coming nor going, Harold is at Oxford. He has taken his B.A. degree; and during vacation has been helping at the general hospital there. Now war is declared the surgeons are going to the front. They have begged him to stay, but as soon as he can leave them he will try and get into a military hospital at the front if possible. So, you may imagine my heart is heavy and sore distressed ...

All faces wear a strained and grave air, but nearly all believe that England is doing the only and right thing.⁵

Later, Mrs Denham wrote:

Harold went again wanting to enlist but they urged him to continue at the hospital they will want 'dressers' later on. The Dean of St Bartholomew's Hospital also pointed out to him that next to the military the most important class for the country is the medical profession, and while advising men only just beginning their course to enlist he thought it would be a great mistake for him to do so as his service will be required to help with the soldiers and sailors.⁶

In late 1914 Harold had the honour of giving away his older sister Elsie to Major Rev Richard Henry Steacy. Their father was unable to attend the ceremony due to his responsibilities in Brisbane.

The wedding of Miss Elsie Mary Denham, elder daughter of the Queensland Premier, and Major the Rev. Richard Henry Steacy, senior chaplain of the

⁵ *Daily Mercury*, Thursday 24 September 1914, p. 6.

⁶ *Daily Mercury*, Friday 30 October 1914, p. 6.

Canadian Forces, ... took place on Tuesday last, December 29, at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate London ... The bride looked very charming as she walked up the aisle with her arm linked in that of her brother, Mr Harold Denham, Rhodes scholar at Oxford who gave her away ... Her sister, Miss Winifred Denham ... and mother, Mrs Digby Denham, were present ... Mrs Denham and her daughters have been staying at 29 Leinster Gardens, in close proximity to the church since the departure of the Premier for Brisbane last year.⁷

In April 1915 Harold joined as Surgeon Sub-Lt in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He served in 'Q Ships' *Lark*, *Heather* and *Marchfort*, operating in North Sea, Atlantic and Mediterranean. In 1917, He was mentioned in despatches.

Mentioned in despatches, 30363 – 30 OCTOBER 1917

Admiralty

Honours for Services in Action with Enemy Submarines.

2nd Nov 1917.⁸

Harold worked at St Bartholomew's Hospital while converting his BA to an MA in 1919. He then officially qualified with MRCS, LRCP (Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians) in 1922. He returned to Brisbane in 1923, and until 1925 worked at the Lady Bowen Hospital (the previous name for the Royal Brisbane Hospital), before accepting an appointment as Assistant Medical Officer, St Leonard's Hospital, London in 1928. He served in this infirmary until 1938.

On 14 February 1932 (St Valentine's Day) Harold Knight Denham married Magdalene Hughes at the Registry Office, St Pancras, London. Her engagement ring recorded the date 14.8.31, exactly six months before they were married. She was a hospital nurse at the time of their marriage. They didn't have any children.

Magdalene Hughes, the third eldest of four children, was born in Cape Town in



Nurse Magdalene Hughes

⁷ *The Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Wednesday 17 February 1915, p. 6.

⁸ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/30363/supplement/11316/data.pdf>, accessed 20 October 2018.

December 1908. Her mother Elizabeth died in Cape Town aged 29. Magdalene was four. Magdalene left Cape Town in February 1913 with her two surviving siblings, her father Thomas, and aunt (her mother's sister), arriving in Southampton in March. The children did not return to Cape Town with their father. They were 'adopted' by their aunt Ada Kember. Magdalene's father died when she was nine.

Magdalene was always frail and suffered from consumption (pulmonary tuberculosis) as a child. Before the days of antibiotics, she remembered having trouble breathing and being given an inhalation of camphor at night.

As Magdalene had been diagnosed with a psychiatric disorder, Harold may have approved electroconvulsive therapy which was being used to treat psychiatric disorders. This had a profound effect on her life, but she loved Harold throughout the ordeal.

Harold and Magdalene returned to Brisbane in 1939. Harold went into private practice at Southport, before being appointed as Government Medical Officer in 1939.

In World War II, Harold enlisted in Brisbane and was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain in the Australian Army Medical Corps in June 1941 and served until 1945. They returned from London in 1949 travelling First Class on RMS *Orcades*.

After the war, Harold and Magdalene lived at 391 Annerley Road, Annerley and later at 21 White Avenue, Coorparoo.

They returned to London in March 1949, again travelling First Class on RMS *Orcades*.

Harold had already retired from medical practice when he died in Brisbane in June 1954, aged 64. He suffered a coronary thrombosis (heart attack), the result of coronary sclerosis and atherosclerosis which he had had for some years.⁹ His funeral left from 'Ingleside', 391 Annerley Road, South Brisbane. He was buried at South Brisbane Cemetery together with his parents, Digby and Alice, and an infant brother Clem. Rev FT Smith, Pastor of the City Tabernacle, conducted the funeral.

Magdalene passed away in 1992 aged 84 years.

⁹ Personal communication, Gerald Hughes.

Dennis, Charles Albert

Charles Albert was born in Brisbane on 29 January 1879, the son of Charles (1852–1937) and Theodosia (1856–1929) Dennis. Charles Snr arrived in Brisbane aboard the *Light of the Age* in 1864. Charles Jnr attended the Kelvin Grove School. His siblings were John (1881–82) who died of dysentery aged one year and 10 months, Margaret (1882–1956), Norman (1891–93), James (1886–1962) who was married at the City Tabernacle in 1912, and Amy Glendinning (1889–1968).

Charles was a scholar in the Sunday School of the Wharf Street Baptist Church where his parents were active members. In 1877 his parents were married by Rev BG Wilson at the residence of his grandmother in Bradley Street, Spring Hill. Wharf Street Baptist subsequently became the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, which is where his mother's funeral was held in 1929. They were living in Wynnum at the time, having moved from Red Hill. The Secretary's Annual Report at the Church's Annual Meeting of August 1936 noted that the church had 359 members, 38 of whose membership exceeded 40 years, but the longest membership was that of Charles Dennis Snr at 65 years.

MR. C. DENNIS snr.

Mr. Charles Dennis, one of the oldest members of the City Baptist Tabernacle, died on Thursday night. He was born at Littleham, Devonshire, in 1852, and came to Australia with his parents and five brothers in the early sixties. He was educated at the Normal School. Mr. Dennis had been a member of the Baptist Church for 66 years, for 50 of which he was actively associated with the choir ... He is survived by one son, Mr. Harry Dennis, Newmarket, and two daughters, Miss Eveline Dennis, Wynnum, and Mrs. R.G. [Robert] Glendinning, Annerley.¹

Despite the level of Charles and Theodosia's involvement at the City Tabernacle, it would seem that none of their children became members, although Charles attended the Sunday School.

At age 20, Charles moved to Far North Queensland in July 1899, travelling on the *Cintra* to Cairns. He was living on Thursday Island in 1903, working as a sheller on the schooner *Olive*, and in 1908–09 in Ingham as an Agent. He was elected Secretary of the Ingham Hospital Committee in August 1909. On 6 September he married Amy Dean of Townsville at St Peter's Church Townsville. The wedding was a very quiet affair but, after fewer than eight months of marriage, she tragically died in May 1910. The cause of her premature death was Bright's Disease, puerperal eclampsia, coma. This would suggest that she died pre, during

¹ *Courier-Mail*, Monday 18 October 1937, p. 11.

or immediately following giving birth, but there is no record of a child being born.

Charles was living in Hale Street, Red Hill when he enlisted on 15 November 1916. At the time of his enlistment he was a widower with no children, and his recorded next-of-kin was his mother, Mrs Theodosia Dennis. His niece, Lillian Beatrice Dennis, served as a nurse in the Army Medical Corps, Indian Service and is also listed on the Roll of Honour.

At the time of his enlistment, Charles was a Mercantile Manager. He left Australia in November 1917 on the *Port Sydney*, on the same voyage as Alexander Ross, and disembarked at Southampton, bound for Salisbury Plain. From there he went to Rouelles, France. He served with the Field Artillery Brigade, 30th Reinforcement with the rank of Sergeant in the 11th

Depot Battalion. His parents placed a personal note in the newspaper advising that they had received a cablegram from their son Gunner Charles Dennis telling of his safe arrival at Boyton Camp, Wiltshire, England, and that he was well.²

Charles was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He returned to Australia on the *Leicestershire* in June 1919 and was discharged from service in July 1919. In November of that year, when he was 40 years old, he married Edith McLean, the daughter of the late William and Ellen McLean. The service was held at the City Tabernacle and was conducted by the Church's pastor Rev WG Pope. Given his address at enlistment, it seems likely that he knew Edith prior to his enlistment, and may have been courting her before he left Brisbane. The wedding service of his younger brother Harry was also at the Tabernacle, officiated by the previous pastor, Rev J Mursell, in 1912.

Charles, his wife and some other business partners incorporated a company, Auld & Dennis Limited, in November 1921. The company was registered to carry on the business of auctioneers, land, estate, and commission agents



C. A. DENNIS

² *The Telegraph*, 30 January 1918, p. 5.

Charles and Edith were living at the corner of Stanley Terrace and Railway Parade, Wynnum in 1925. They moved to the corner of Douglas Street and Logan Road, Greenslopes, where they became involved in the Greenslopes School of Arts. He was employed as a clerk.

Charles died in May 1935 at the age of 56. He was living in Railway Parade, Wynnum at the time, and was survived by his wife and two daughters, Mavis and Margaret. His wife Edith lived for a further 27 years as a widow and died in 1962 at 81 years of age.

Mavis was engaged to John Anderson, son of the late Rev John and Amelia Anderson, in 1954. She died in 1955.

England, John Edwin MSM

Ted, as he was commonly known, was born in Queensland on 6 September 1886, the son of Francis (1840–1902) and Elizabeth (1855–1923) England. His parents migrated from England to Cooktown in 1882 with their daughters Charlotte, Hannah and Alice. Their fourth daughter Mary (1881–82) died at sea on the journey to Australia.¹ Ted had an older brother James who also died in infancy. His two eldest sisters Charlotte and Hannah became school teachers and Alice became a nurse.

Ted wrote memoirs of his early musical beginnings which have been abridged and are recorded in following paragraphs.

[I was] always interested in choral music. [An] old Erard piano was brought out to Queensland with other household furniture in 1881. Two of my sisters played sufficiently well to always have music in the house. My very early memories in 1890s [were] of the family hymns before church on Sunday mornings.

As a boy of nine, I had a good soprano voice. I learnt piano for several years but found practising very irksome though I liked to sing. By the time I went to the Grammar School, I had given it away.²

Ted had previously attended the Normal School in Brisbane prior to going to Brisbane Grammar School in 1900. His father died in 1902 when Ted was 16, and he left school the following year. He continued his story saying ‘At about seventeen or eighteen [1904], I began singing in the Tabernacle choir and thoroughly enjoyed it.’ Ted sang his first solo here with the old organ, manually blown. He sang one of the solos in the Choir’s presentation of Stainer’s *The Daughter of Jairus* in 1913. His memoirs continue:

In 1908, when I was twenty-one, I had most of the year in England and,



John E (Ted) England

¹ Immigration details obtained from Queensland, Australia Passenger Lists 1848-1912.

² JE England, Untitled and unpublished memoirs held by State Library of Queensland.

though limited in funds which precluded me from going to fashionable concerts in London town, I heard much good music at the Albert Hall ...I took a holiday in September ... so that I could hear the Three Choir Festival. ...As well as *The Messiah* (an all-day performance), I attended the “*Elijah*” and “*The Dream of Gerontius*”. For all the performances at the festival, I had a choir seat.

I returned to Brisbane at the end of 1908 and to the same boarding house in The Mansions, George Street. I then joined the Brisbane Austral Choir which had been formed in 1907 as a competition choir. Choral competitions were very popular at that time with the Queensland Eisteddfod as the main annual competition. In 1910, after lessons by Mr Phillips, I entered and won the second grade bass solo at the Ipswich Eisteddfod. Mr Phillips died later during that year ... I then had lessons from Bobby Kaye. ... Rather regretfully, I dropped out of the choir as there was so much solo work for me and I was also studying for my accountancy exams which later I successfully passed in November 1911.

In 1911, All Saints [Anglican Church] invited me to be a professional there but I declined. However, I did a great deal of singing there until I enlisted in 1915 as my teacher Bobby Kaye was the church organist.³

Ted became an active member of the City Tabernacle in 1905 and served as the church’s auditor for the 1911–12 financial year. Ted married Ruby Frances Lethem in April 1914. Ruby had been a member of the City Tabernacle since 1909. They were married at the City Tabernacle by Rev James Mursell. Ruby’s father, Ebenezer Lethem, had died in 1907. Her parents had both been members of the church since 1881 (known as Wharf Street Baptist Church at that time). Ebenezer had been a deacon.

Tragically in July 1915, Ruby died at 27 years of age at their home in Hendra after only 15 months of marriage, and three days after the birth of their first child, Robert F England (Bob), presumably as a result of complications associated with



Ted England with young Robert (Bob)

³ JE England, Untitled and unpublished memoirs held by State Library of Queensland.

childbirth. Ruby had been a regular and earnest collector for the City Tabernacle Mission Board. Her loss was deeply grieved by members of the church and by her sister-in-law, Charlotte England, who was secretary of the Mission Board.⁴ It is not known why, in 1915–16, or for how long, Ted transferred his membership to the Clayfield Baptist Church which was nearer his home.

An additional organ stop for the pipe organ at the City Tabernacle was donated by Mrs Frances Lethem ‘to the Glory of God and in loving memory of her husband Ebenezer and daughter Ruby’. The memorial plaque includes the text ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God’ from Matthew 5:8.



When Ted enlisted on 8 September 1915, he was a 29-year-old civil servant, having previously passed the Sydney University Junior Public Service exam in 1902 and the Civil Service Exam in 1903. In 1910 he had been promoted to Clerk Class 6 in the Agriculture and Stock Department.

On his enlistment form, Ted described himself as a widower with one child. The address of his next-of-kin, Master RF England, was c/- Mrs Lethem, Union Road, Clayfield, so it appears likely that his mother-in-law and her family cared for Bob while Ted was on active duty.

Ted's sister Alice also enlisted in the Army Medical Corps as a staff nurse. She served on troop ships overseas and her story can be found in Part 2 of this book.

A few months after enlisting, Ted embarked from Melbourne on the *Port Macquarie* in November 1915, of which he wrote:

I thought this would be the end of my singing career but not so. We left [Australia] with the 2nd Division Artillery who were expected to go straight on to Gallipoli – however, by the time we got to Egypt the evacuation from Gallipoli had been decided upon so we stayed from 14th December 1915 to 17th March 1916 at various camps – Heliopolis, Maadi, Zeitoun (all near Cairo) and then to Masca on the canal and thence by train to Alexandria and by ship to Marseilles. It was much more comfortable than our trip from Australia in an old cargo ship (the *Port Macquarie*) with just on 500 horses to look after. Unfortunately, I had been classified as a driver – no fun being housemaid to four horses on a ship.

⁴ City Tabernacle, *Year Book 1915-16*, p 25.

Our CO was a permanent officer Lt Col Col Taylor and he ordered that a couple of concerts be given on the Port Macquarie. I was named as a singer, but had no music except “Mother Machree” and “Friend of Mine”. Those were very popular and I had to sing each of them over again as an encore. (Col sent for me to his cabin and censured me for not being an NCO.⁵

There were many performers at the ship concerts but in Cairo, being an NCO, the CO arranged a fifty minute appearance by four of us for the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, General Sir Arch Murray, and his immediate staff. The concert lasted over two hours and General Murray particularly congratulated me and asked where I’d got my training and was surprised to hear it had been in Brisbane.⁶

Ted initially was a driver but then went to the Howitzer Brigade as a bombardier, before being transferred to the 8th Army Service Corps. He served in France from April 1916. He continues his story:

Soon after arriving in France, the first concert party was established as a Corps activity and was appropriately named as ‘The Anzac Coves’. I was invited to join the party but declined as they were all professional, straight and variety numbers and I felt I hadn’t volunteered to leave Australia to sing. However, I was borrowed for the first couple of weeks till they could find a good “straight” bass.⁷

In October 1916 Ted was appointed as acting Corporal and was promoted to that rank in November 1916. By 24 November 1916 he had been further promoted to Sergeant. In March 1918 he was with the 4th Motor Transport Company in France.

On Armistice Night 1/11/18, we were camped near the civilian-deserted town of Amiens and during the afternoon had a march of Australian and American troops round the encircling boulevards. Life returned during the afternoon plus some of the café owners ... [who] opened straight away, and that night a number were filled with singing and drinking troops. A singing competition was got going [among the] Scots, English, American and Australian troops. I was singing for Australia and won easily on the voices. Two American officers were listening and next day they came to our camp and offered me a six months engagement in USA on a chain musical circuit at \$200 per week. I turned that down.

⁵ Non-Commissioned Officer.

⁶ JE England, Untitled and unpublished memoirs held by State Library of Queensland.

⁷ *ibid.*

From there we moved to Florennes in Belgium. By this time I was CQMS⁸ and I went forward to arrange billets for officers. [I] took [part] with the 13th Infantry Brigade concert party each night at the concert hall which seated 800. I was always put in the back row when several were on the stage together. I was no good for the dance part of the song and dance.

From there to England awaiting return to Australia ... on a 10 day parting leave while in London, I had the temerity to go to R.A.M. [Royal Academy of Music] to ask for an opinion on my voice. The Director, Sir Campbell Mackenzie, gave me an audition, sang several songs. Said I should have trained for opera but at 33 was old for lengthy training but I would do well at lieder and oratorio in England and USA. [He] gave me a letter to Div of Educ [Division of Education] A.I.F. asking that I be allowed to stay for 6 months at R.A.M. [but I] never presented the letter.⁹

In June 1919 Ted was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal 'in recognition of valuable services rendered with the armies in France and Flanders'. The particular reasons specific to his service were:

For continuous good work. This N.C.O. is the Senior Ammunition sergeant in the Unit and is most accurate and energetic. He handled his Section well and works day and night drawing and delivering Ammunition. During the last six months, in spite of the huge quantities of ammunition handled, he has never made a mistake, and his intimate knowledge of ammunition has facilitated the efficient supply.¹⁰



Meritorious Service Medal

His medal was sent to Mr RF England, Arran, Union Road, Clayfield Qld (Bob was not yet four years old) for 'safe keeping against the time of his (Sgt J.E. England's) return and I trust he will be spared to wear it for many years to come'. Ted was also awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Ted returned to Australia in June 1919 and was discharged from the Army in August 1919. At the unveiling of the memorial tablet in honour of those who lost their lives during the war, Ted sang at the City Tabernacle's Memorial Sunday Service on 21 September 1919. He presented a solo of Tennyson's *Crossing the Bar*, and in the evening service sang *Lead Kindly Light*.

⁸ Company Quarter Master Sergeant.

⁹ JE England, Untitled and unpublished memoirs held by State Library of Queensland.

¹⁰ UNSW Australia, Canberra, The AIF Project

In March 1920 Ted married Ethel Bryant, the daughter of Ernest and Edith Cole. Prior to their marriage, Ethel was living with Ted's mother-in-law Mrs Lethem in Union Road, Clayfield, working as a typist. Although they were married at the Kew Baptist Church in Melbourne, they went on to resume life in Brisbane and lived in Hendra (now Ascot). He returned to Brisbane Grammar School in July 1920 to present a sung item at a great Rally of Old Boys as part of its Jubilee Celebrations.

Ted and Ethel lost an un-named baby daughter in 1921. Ted's son Bob went to the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton. Prior to his enlistment in World War II, Bob, like his father, was in the City Tabernacle choir. Lt Bob England married Joyce Allen in 1940. She was treasurer of the Sunday School. Ted and Ethel's elder daughter Mary became engaged to, and presumably married, Lt Graham Greig RAN in Melbourne in 1944. Another daughter Diana married Graham Cavaye in about 1949.¹¹

In 1921 at age 35, Ted advanced to the new position of Secretary of the Main Roads Commission of Queensland. A public notice in *The Daily Mail* noted that he had an 'excellent record' in the Public Service in addition to having served four years at the Front. In 1923 he also became Registrar of Vehicles as part of an expansion of his responsibilities.

During World War II, Ted was Controller of Liquid Fuel and Chairman of the Liquid Fuel Board. In June 1941 Sir Frederick Stewart, Federal Minister for Supply, announced that JE England would be appointed to control petroleum products. This was necessary, because of rationing, for the public to surrender coupons to purchase petrol during this period. England carried out these positions on secondment to the Commonwealth.

The Telegraph recorded in 1940 that JE England made an official visit to the Queensland Minister for Transport who 'congratulated England upon his appointment' and 'complimented him on his capable and useful work ... and stated that the Government would be pleased when he returned'. At the largest function held at the Main Roads Commission Offices in its history up to that point, over 200 members of staff gathered to farewell him. Ted England gave a speech expressing his deep appreciation for the opportunity to carry out work of such national importance but expressed the wish to return to the Mains Road Commission as soon as circumstances would allow.

It was necessary for him to relocate to Melbourne during his secondment to the Commonwealth for the war effort, although he regularly travelled around the country on official business. He held these important positions from June 1940 to June 1943. While in Melbourne, Ted and Ethel lived at 32 Rubens Road,

¹¹ Personal communication, Jim Cavaye.

Camberwell North with their daughter Elizabeth. He is listed in the 1947 edition of *Who's Who in Australia*.¹²

On a personal level, World War II was a trying time for other reasons. Lt Robert (Bob), his son, served and lost a leg due to injuries in one of the battles at El Alamein, Egypt in 1942. He is recognised on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour for World War II.

As an old boy of Brisbane Grammar School (1900–03), Ted also became chairman of Trustees of both the boys' and girls' grammar schools. He was one of the longest-serving Trustees of Brisbane Grammar School (1937–61). After his retirement from 49 years of service with the State Public Service in 1952, he was Chairman of the Trust for nine years. He was prominent in the Grammar Schools and wider communities. He participated in various events such as in 1959 when, together with the Governor of Queensland, Sir Henry Abel Smith, he opened the new gates of Brisbane Grammar School.

Brisbane Girls' Grammar School utilises a House System to provide a framework of support for students and one of its nine houses is to this day named 'England' in recognition of his 20 years of service as Trustee, and as Chairman of its Board (1952–61).

Ted was a foundation member and later patron of the Hamilton Bowling Club. His career as a leading bass singer began in 1911. He was still singing publicly in the late 1960s and was best known for his performances in *Messiah* and *Faust*. His talent was unrivalled as is apparent from one glowing review.

It is the same in a sense with Mr. "Ted" England, of the Main Roads Department, a good comrade of the big war, who sang the bass music in the "Messiah" last year. I have followed up opera work since my young days, and have heard many of the great basses. I say that England's is the finest voice I have ever heard, and I doubt if there is a singer living who can get the thrill that he gives in the glorious "Why Do the Nations So Furiously Rage Together?" That I have said many times, but after all, "Ted" England knows his own business best.¹³

Ted was invited to the State Banquet in honour of HRH Edward Prince of Wales's visit to Queensland on 28 July 1920. Ted sang solos during this and other

¹² Alec H Chisholm (comp. and ed), *Who's Who in Australia 1947*, XIIIth Edition (Melbourne: The Herald Press, 1947).

¹³

<http://www.chapelhill.homeip.net/FamilyHistory/Other/QueenslandHistory/Moreidentitiesofthe1880steachersofficials.htm>, accessed 29 August 2018.

royal visits.¹⁴ In November 1930, with a choir of 200 members from the Queensland State and Municipal Choir, Ted sang the bass solos in a performance of *Messiah* on the eagerly-awaited first occasion on which it was performed in the newly opened Brisbane City Hall. The *Courier Mail*, in its report on the City Tabernacle's rendition of *Messiah* in 1927, reported he was a soloist and also sang *The Lord is My Light*, which he sang again at the funeral service for his former minister, Rev J Mursell, in 1948. Ted was often called on to do solo performances at the City Tabernacle. For example, *The Telegraph* reported in September 1914, that he rendered a solo at the 59th Church Anniversary.

The church's *Year Book 1968–1969* reported that he sang at the Anzac Commemoration Service and that he had served in this way over many years. As a chorister or featured soloist he also performed in countless concerts of the Brisbane Austral Choir, the Toowong Male Choir, the Windsor Musical Union, the Queensland State and Municipal Choir, and many others.

Ted and Ethel retired to Woody Point in the 1960s.

His children followed his example of service. The Dr Diana Cavaye OAM Scholarship at Emmanuel College is named after one of his daughters who taught Zoology at the University of Queensland. Amongst other things, Diana served on the Emmanuel College Council, University of Queensland Senate, the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Ethics Committee, and was awarded the Order of Australia and Queen's Jubilee Medal.

According to a death notice that appeared in the *The Age* (Melbourne), Ted died in January 1976 at the Freemasons' Home, Sandgate, Queensland. His wife died two years later in 1978. A family member described him as 'a very imposing but gentle man' who was 'very, very tall, with a deep voice and a great smile'. Brisbane Girls' Grammar School also described England in a recent publication as 'a quiet and dignified man'.

Papers relating to the musical interests of JE England consisting of scrapbooks, programs, newspaper clippings, photographs, notes and music scores are held by the State Library of Queensland. It was from this collection that a typed document was discovered of Ted's own observations on his early musical life in Brisbane and his war service years, resulting in excerpts from this being included in his story.

¹⁴ Evidence held in JE England collection at State Library of Queensland.

Hackett, Henry

Henry was born in Brisbane on 10 September 1892, the son of George and Maria Hackett. He was living at 19 Bartley Street, Spring Hill in 1914 with his parents. His mother Maria died in 1916 aged 62. His brother George also enlisted in the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance; however, he is not listed on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

Henry married Alice Coyle in February 1917 only a month before he enlisted. She was born in 1898, the daughter of William and Alice Coyle.

Henry was 24 years of age when he enlisted in the AIF Pioneers in Brisbane on 5 March 1917. He was a labourer. His wife's address was c/- Mrs Coyle (Alice's mother), Stanley Street, South Brisbane.

He was described as 178cm tall, weighing 68kg, with a chest measurement of 86cm, medium complexion, brown eyes and auburn hair. He gave his religion as Baptist. His connection with the City Tabernacle,

however, is unknown. The most likely connection is that his wife or mother-in-law attended the church but were not in membership.

He embarked for the Front on the *Hororata* from Sydney in June 1917 and disembarked at Liverpool in August 1917. From there he was sent to Le Havre, France in March 1918. He was wounded in action on 8 July 1918 by a gunshot wound to his head which penetrated and fractured his skull. He died the next day in the 47th Casualty Clearing Station. In 1917 the 4th Division suffered total losses of 12,110 men. Haig's despatch includes the remark:

On no previous occasion, had the whole ground from which we had to attack been so completely exposed to the enemy's observation. On to these flats had to be crowded the batteries not only of the attack, support, and reserve divisions, and most of the "army" brigades of the B.E.F., but even those of



Members of the 4th Pioneers relocating from the Butte de Warlancourt to Fremincourt using the light railway (AWM)

the Australian divisions then resting on the Somme (but under orders to move to Flanders), and of the 4th Australian Division then holding a quiet part of the Second Army's front south of Messines.¹

His widow, Alice, inserted a bereavement notice in *The Brisbane Courier* which said:

Mrs H Hackett of 181 Stanley Street, South Brisbane, desires to thank all her kind friends for sympathy in the loss of her husband, Pte. H. Hackett, died of wounds July 9th 1918, France.²

Henry's baby daughter Irene, who was born in September 1917 after he had left Brisbane, was dedicated in the City Tabernacle four days after his death. At the time of the dedication, his wife and family had not received notice of his death and were unaware that he had been killed in action. Private Hackett is buried in the Crouy British Cemetery, Crouy-Saint-Pierre, 10 miles north-west of Amiens.

His personal effects consisting of his ID disc, wallet, YMCA wallet, photos, cards, Bible, two coins, gold ring, metal ring, belt, two badges, two pencils, cigarette holder, buttons, and a small brush were returned to his widow Alice in August 1918. She did not receive his memorial plaque and scroll and war medals (1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal) until 1923.

Alice was the recipient of his life insurance with the Mutual Life and Citizens' Assurance Co. In 1920 she married Alfred Corless who was living at 181 Stanley Street, South Brisbane in 1919, in the same home as Alice and her mother, Alice Coyle. Alfred and Alice lived in a railway camp at Beaudesert in 1928–29 and then settled in Hazelwood Street, off Collingwood Street, Paddington. She died in the Iona Nursing Centre in 1996.

Henry's name is on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial – Panel 174.

¹ CEW Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918* (Sydney: Angus and Robertson Ltd, 1937).

² *The Brisbane Courier*, 22 August 1918, p. 6.

Hall, Kenneth Alexander and Leslie Warry Boyne

Robert B Hall and Sarah L Warry were both involved in the Wharf Street Baptist Church when they were married in 1879. They were married at the residence of the bride's parents by Rev Henry Coombs, pastor of the Church. Their parents were born in Scotland, Ireland and England. They all migrated to Australia in the 1840s and 1850s.

They had five children, Lilian (1881–1962), Leslie Warry Boyne (1883–1966), Ronald (1886–1955), Kenneth Alexander (1890–1973), and Robert (1896–1966). Leslie was known as Warry. Kenneth was known as Alex. Both brothers enlisted in the AIF.



The Hall children – Ronald, Robert, Lilian, Kenneth (Alex) and Leslie (Warry)

Mr and Mrs RB Hall were in membership of the City Tabernacle from 1898. They became foundation members of the Enoggera Baptist Church. Robert died in 1919 aged 72 while two of his sons were serving overseas. Sarah died in 1944.

On 11 March 1919, John C Keith, the secretary of the City Tabernacle, wrote the following letter to Mrs Hall.

Dear Mrs Hall,

I noticed by the Courier this morning that your beloved husband has passed away. The fact that he had entered into his rest and consequent freedom from all the troubles that flesh is heir to would no doubt give you some relief, but the pain of bereavement would still be keen and severe. As a Church we mourn with you and will remember you at The Throne of Grace, the only place where supplies of Grace suitable for such a time as this are obtainable. We think also of your dear ones who are far away on the battle fields of Europe or else on the water travelling homewards and will pray for them too.

Lilian, affectionately known as Lilla, supported the war effort by entertaining the troops from the Enoggera barracks.

MOONLIGHT CONCERT.

Entertainment for Soldiers.

Probably the most successful of the many military concerts given at Enoggera, was that held last night in the Abbotsford grounds, opposite the Enoggera railway station, organised by Mrs. Ferguson, and ably assisted by three energetic lieutenants, Misses Minnie Warry, Lilla Hall, and Jean Ferguson.¹

Kenneth Alexander Hall

Kenneth, commonly known as Alex, was born on 18 March 1890, at 'Ferniebrae', Hurdicotte Street, Enoggera.

Prior to his enlistment on 26 April 1916, his occupation was clerk, and he gave his religion as Baptist. At enlistment (aged 25) Alex was described as 166cm tall and weighing 59kg with a chest measurement of 83cm. He had a 'fresh' complexion, blue eyes, and light brown hair. He had scars on both his left and right leg.

Alex served in France from June 1917 until April 1918 with the 3rd Australian Army Mechanical Transport Company. He was promoted to lance corporal in April 1919 after the war had ended. He did not return to Australia until June 1919 and was discharged on 19 September 1919. He travelled home on the *Themistocles* with Ernest Dauth.

On his return to Australia Alex lived at 'Kenelsy', 76 Banks Street, Newmarket, and resumed work as a clerk, and then was a secretary from 1926 to 1972.

Alex married Elsie Pratt in 1925, the daughter of Thomas and Bessie Pratt who also lived in Banks Street, Enoggera. Thomas was a produce merchant in Turbot Street. Elsie was born on 27 June 1895 and died on 30 January 1961.

Their wedding was reported in *The Telegraph* and *The Brisbane Courier*. The report in *The Queenslander*, reads:

WOMAN'S REALM.

WEDDINGS.

HALL – PRATT

A wedding of considerable interest to Brisbane people was solemnised at All Saints' Church on May 18, when Mr. A.K. Hall (third son of Mrs. Hall, The Range, Alderley, and the late Mr. R.B. Hall) was married to Miss Elsie Maude Pratt (oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Pratt, (Newmarket). The Rev. F.E. [Farnham] Maynard officiated. Mr. Leslie Hall (brother of the

¹ *The Telegraph*, Friday 15 November 1915, p. 7.

bridegroom) carried out the duties of best man. During the signing of the register Mrs J.S. Kerr sang "My Prayer".²

Alex and Elsie had two children, Daphne (1926–83) and Kenneth (1930–87).

Alex died on 6 December 1973 and was buried in Grovely Cemetery (St Matthew's Anglican Church).

Leslie Warry Boyne Hall

Warry, as he was most commonly known, was born on 20 April 1883 at 'Islington', Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill. He died a bachelor on 7 April 1966.

In 1905 he was living in Swan Terrace, Swan Hill (Windsor), employed as a clerk. By 1908 he had moved to 50 William Street, off Gregory Terrace (now known as Kinross Street), Spring Hill.

Prior to his enlistment he was employed as a warehouseman and had served in the ranks as a senior cadet for three years

He enlisted on 1 March 1916 in the 42nd Infantry Battalion, 7th Infantry as an acting corporal. He was described as 170cm tall, weighing 69kg, with a chest measurement of 86cm, dark complexion, grey eyes and dark hair.

Warry embarked on the *Kyarra* in November 1916 and served in France from July 1917 until June 1918. He was wounded in action in October 1917 and awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He returned on the *Themistocles* in June 1919 with his brother and Ernest Dauth and was discharged on 19 September 1919, the same day as his brother Alex.

In 1924, while living in Samford, he made a donation towards a memorial to the departed members of the 42nd Battalion.

It is likely that Warry obtained one of the 16ha holdings in the Samford Valley which were given to returned servicemen and used primarily for growing bananas.

From 1943 until 1963, he was living in Musgrave Terrace, Alderley, employed as a Director.

Although he gave his religion as Baptist when he enlisted, when he died in 1966 Warry was buried in the grounds of Grovely Cemetery (St Matthew's Anglican Church) along with his brothers Robert, Ronald and Kenneth (Alex), sister Lilian, and their parents Robert and Sarah.

² *The Queenslander*, Saturday 30 May 1925, p. 5.

The Hall family appear to have been wealthy residents of Enoggera, owning ‘Glenalva’ (the source of the street name Glenalva Terrace) and ‘Ivanhoe’, 288 South Pine Road, Enoggera. It is listed on the Heritage Register, in which it is described as follows:

Built for James Boyne Hall circa 1883, this substantial timber house with a terracotta tiled roof, ornate chimney and bay window was designed by architect Robert Ferguson. Ferguson was employed in the Colonial Architect’s Office and later was Superintendent of Buildings in the Department of Public Instruction, where he and Hall were colleagues.³

In 1906 *The Brisbane Courier* reported, “Ivanhoe, the home of Mr J. Boyne Hall is another attractive family residence, surrounded by pleasant gardens, and situated near a running stream. Mr Hall was the first to introduce dairy cattle into



‘Ivanhoe’

the district; his Jersey stock have won prizes at the National Show, and some handsome specimens occupy his paddocks.”⁴ At that time, James Hall was Under Secretary for the Justice Department. The property remained in the Hall family until 1945.

Alex’s and Warry’s grandfather, Richard S Warry, was a Brisbane Municipal Council alderman (1862–63; 1865–66; 1883–88), and mayor 1866. Warry Street, Fortitude Valley had been named by 1868 after their grandfather.

³ https://heritage.brisbane.qld.gov.au/heritage_register/, accessed 20 October 2018.

⁴ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 17 November 1906, p. 13.

Ham, Thomas William

Thomas was born on 28 April 1884 in Brisbane, the son of Alfred W and Anna Ham. AW Ham was born in Melbourne and Anna was born in Sydney. They married in Brisbane in 1882. AW Ham was a draftsman. Thomas's parents, Alfred and Anna, died in 1935 and 1925 respectively. Thomas's great-grandfather John Ham was the first settled minister of the Collins Street Baptist Church in Melbourne. Thomas's siblings were Alfred (1883–87), Anna (1885–1966) who went by the name of Hilda, Elsie (1888–1986) who was a missionary in India, Frederick (1889–1966), and Frank (1894–1970).¹

In 1900 Thomas's mother and three of his sisters were members of the City Tabernacle and residing at Narangba. In 1903 Thomas was baptised by immersion in Hendra Baptist Church. By 1913 Mr and Mrs Ham and four of their children (Hilda, Elsie, Fred and Frank) were living at Chelmer and members of the City Tabernacle. Frank was the Sunday School librarian, a representative on the Baptist Sunday School Committee, and secretary of YPSCE (the Young People's Senior Christian Endeavour). Elsie transferred her church membership to Flinders Street, Adelaide in 1915–16. In 1920 Mr and Mrs AW Ham, Hilda, Fred and his wife Evelyn (née Bell), and Frank and his wife Emily (née Carson) were still in membership. Emily's brothers, William and Ernest Carson, both enlisted in World War I, and their stories are detailed elsewhere. Evelyn Ham (née Bell), was a member of the Church until her death in 1925. Evelyn's brother William Stewart Bell also enlisted. His biography is given elsewhere.

Thomas was a keen sailor and had a lifelong interest in ships. He built a sailing boat called the *Endeavour* which he often sailed on the Brisbane River. His parents' home backed onto the river. After the war, he spent a lot of time on the river with his children.

As a teenager Thomas was hauling his motor boat on to the bank of the Brisbane River when he noticed a little boy on the opposite bank crying out in



The Endeavour
built by TW Ham in 1914

¹ Personal communication, David & Janet Ham.

distress. He launched the boat and proceeded across the river. He dived and found the body of a woman in about seven feet [two metres] of water. He shortly afterwards recovered the bodies of her two children.²

Thomas was granted a selection of land (commonly referred to as free selection) in Roma before the war. He worked hard with his family clearing the land by hand but walked off the selection when war broke out to join the AIF.

Prior to enlisting, Thomas had served for 18 months in the cadets. When he enlisted in Sydney on 13 October 1914, he gave his religion as Baptist. He named his mother as next-of-kin. She was living at Riverside, Chelmer. His occupation was given as station storekeeper.

Originally appointed to the 8th Australian Army Service Corps, Thomas travelled to Europe and the war aboard the steamship *Ceramic*, embarking in December 1914. RH Lind travelled on the same vessel. The troops were diverted to England, but by July 1915 they were one of the first Australian companies to serve in France. Thomas served in France until October 1918 with the 1st Australian Auxiliary Motor Transport Company in a non-combat role.

A 'delightful silk-embroidered card' was sent by Private Thomas Ham, 17th Divisional Ammunition Sub Park in November 1915. It brings to mind those who were serving their country, vast distances from their families, in very unfamiliar situations.



Embroidered card

In early November 1915 Private Ham wrote to family in England from Steenvoorde, France, west of Ypres, Belgium with early Season's Greetings. His unit was an ordnance supply depot from which ammunition was moved by motor-truck and railway as far forward as practical. Staff and the depots were split and dispersed to suit the movements of Ammunition Columns and against the possibility of enemy attack.



TW Ham third from right, WWI France

² *The Morning Bulletin*,
Friday 26 April 1912, p. 10.

In November 1916 Thomas was promoted to lance corporal, with the renamed 1st Divisional Ammunition Sub Park [in the field], now at Le Carcaillot, south of Albert in the heart of the Western Front. According to the Unit's War Diary, winter clothing was being issued at this time and thoughts were of Christmas presents for the men.

Lance Corporal Ham remained with his unit throughout the fierce conditions in the Western Front until it was disbanded in March 1918. He was on his way home to Australia aboard the *Kasir-a-Hind* when the Armistice in Europe was declared on 11 November 1918.



TW Ham ready for a ride at Awbridge, Romsey, 6 July 1916

In November 1918 his father wrote to him saying:

Dear Tommy,

I cannot express to you in words how thankful I am that you have been spared to us and that you have really returned to Australia. I cannot yet really realise it. I am so glad that you have got away from that awful nightmare in France. Hoping to see you soon. Bring Vida [Thomas's fiancée] up to Riverside for a holiday if you can. Remember me to her and give her also my congratulations that the twain is about one.³

Thomas returned to his family in Chelmer and became a draughtsman like his father.

A pretty wedding was celebrated on November 8 at the Kogarah Congregational Church, Sydney, when Mr. Thomas W. Ham, late A.I.F. (eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Ham, of Riverside, Chelmer), was married to Miss Vida Ambrose (daughter of the late Mr. Edward Ambrose and Mrs. Ambrose, of Kogarah). The ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. Tenchell.⁴

³ Personal communication, David & Janet Ham.

⁴ *The Queenslander*, 3 January 1920, p. 15.

Vida became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1921–22 following her baptism. Initially they lived at ‘Newlyn’, Riverview Terrace, Chelmer Qld (1919–38), just down the road from Thomas’s parents; followed by 20A Sackville Street, Bexley NSW (1943); and finally at ‘Alton’, 6 Gardinia Street, Herne Bay NSW (1949–54).

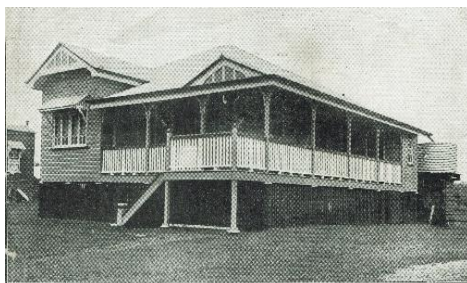
In 1924 Thomas was the author of a literary work entitled *City of South Brisbane*.

They had two sons, Thomas Jnr and Donald.

Thomas and Vida stayed active in the Baptist Church all their lives. They were involved in the establishment of Narwee Baptist Church in Gardinia Street, which was directly opposite their home in Narwee. The church was formed in 1954 with a fellowship of 15 members.

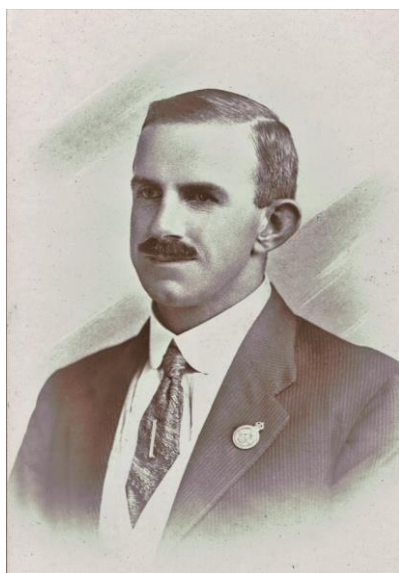
Thomas and Vida owned the block of land (opposite the church) and also more land along the same side of the street. It was a deceased estate from Vida’s mother.

Thomas was not only a foundation member, he was the very first and a highly respected treasurer of Narwee Baptist Church. Everything was meticulously written down in ‘copper-plate writing’. There were a few people at the church’s 50th anniversary service who remembered him and said he was very thorough.⁶



Design No 18, Riverview Terrace, Chelmer.

‘Newlyn’, River Terrace, Chelmer ⁵



Thomas Ham, March 1919,
wearing his returned soldier’s
badge

⁵ *The Queenslander*, 7 February 1920, p. 13.

⁶ Personal communication, Carolyn Gregson.

Thomas was an avid gardener and his grandchildren can vividly recall following him around in his vegetable garden, digging up potatoes and squashing snails, also feeding their chooks and their neighbour's sheep that were at the back of their property.

He drove a very old black car, possibly a Ford with running boards. The road could be seen through gaps in the floor boards.



Thomas Ham, Narwee Baptist Church mid-1950s

Thomas had a business arrangement making small tiles into sheets, which his sons assisted in assembling in the garage. They were the kind that were used on shop fronts etc. Peter recalls going to their place at least once a week and having dinner with Grandad and Nanna (Vida).⁷

Vida's family owned a jam-making factory at Bexley called 'Ambrose Jams'. The family sold their jams to various retailers, including 'Donuts Galore', a retail donut shop at Rockdale, where their grandson Peter visited many times with his friends.

The federal executive of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League (now the RSL) of Australia presented Thomas with a Certificate of Appreciation in 1927 for 'Honorary, Unselfish Service, and Assistance Rendered to Members of the League and the Dependants of Sailors and Soldiers who have fallen in the great World War'.⁸

Thomas died in June 1961 in Ashfield, NSW aged 77, and Vida died in October 1965 in Carlingford, NSW aged 83.



RSSILA Certificate presented to T Ham, 7 November 1927

⁷ Personal Communication, Peter Ham.

⁸ Personal communication, Jeffrey Ham.

Hicks, Herbert Richard

Bert, as he was commonly known, was born on 3 June 1897 in Red Hill, the son of Richard and Sarah Hicks who were married in December 1895 in Brisbane. He had a sister, Jessie Jean Hicks (1898–1958).

Bert was a member of the City Tabernacle Christian Endeavour, Sunday School and choir. Other family members of the church included Mrs William Hicks of Enoggera Terrace (1895–1913), Mr and Mrs R Hicks (his parents) of ‘Jeanville’, Enoggera Terrace (1895–1917), and Miss Jessie Hicks, South Brisbane (1915–58). His father Richard had been a member for 35 years when he passed away in 1930. Miss Minnie Elizabeth Hicks had been a member for 47 years when she passed away in 1936. His mother was also a member prior to her marriage and his sister Jessie was a member until her death.

Bert enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy on 1 July 1916.

He was reported ‘absent without leave’ in 1918.

FROM H.M.A.S. Brisbane, at Sydney, on the 27th July, 1918.

HICKS, HERBERT RICHARD, officers’ steward, 22 years, 5 ft. 5 in., fresh complexion, dark-brown hair, grey eyes, scar on the left thumb near the nail, and on left middle finger. His usual place of residence is Enoggera-terrace, Red Hill, Brisbane. £6 reward. —0.2094A. 7th August, 1918.¹

The warrant was cancelled in December 1919.

The circumstances are unknown, but Bert re-enlisted in Sydney on 23 July 1918 in the 3rd Battalion, under the name of Herbert Rickard. It seems most likely that his given name Richard was incorrectly read as his family name – Rickard. He stated that he had served in His Majesty’s Army for four years. He gave his religion as Church of England and was 166cm tall.

Bert embarked for England on 4 September 1918 on the *Bakana* and arrived on 14 November, three days after the signing of the Armistice. Bert Sault travelled on the same voyage. He was absent without leave again for 64 hours on 11 December 1918 and forfeited eight days’ pay. He served in a staging camp at Abancourt, France for three months in early 1919. He returned to Australia on the *Euripides*, departing from Devonport on 7 September 1919 and was discharged on 8 November 1919. Even though Australia was not at war when he served in France, Bert was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

¹ *Victoria Police Gazette*, 18 August 1918, p. 423.

In 1921 Bert returned to his parents' home in Enoggera Terrace as an engineer, living with his sister Jessie who never married. Bert had been granted leave for two months in England to attend a Motor Training Institute, training as a fitter and turner.

Bert married Annie (Nance) King in April 1927 in the City Tabernacle and they lived at: 'Carinya', Delville Avenue, Clifton Hill (Coorparoo) while he worked as a telephone mechanic (1928–37); Macquarie Street, St Lucia (1943); Cassowary Street, Longreach (1949); and 44 Fifth Avenue, St Lucia (1949–63). While living at Coorparoo, they became members of the Annerley Baptist Church.

PRE-WEDDING EVENING.

In honour of the approaching marriage of Miss Nance King to Mr. H.R. Hicks, a "China tea" was given by Mrs. R. Bowen and Miss Eva Bowen, at their residence (Cartrefla, Latrobe Terrace, Paddington) last Saturday evening. The verandas and rooms had been decorated with maroon, which is the colour of the City Tabernacle Choir, of which both parties are members. Vocal solos were rendered by Mr W. Bleeck, Misses Nance King, P McOnigly, G. Henderson, Mae King, Eva Bowen, Messrs W Donald, E King, H. Moore, G Campbell, and E Harper. The accompaniments were played by Mr Sydney May. ... During supper Mr. A. Kent, Snr, in a happy little speech, formally presented the many China gifts to Miss Nance King. Mr Hicks suitably responded.²

Nance was the daughter of Percival and Hannah King. She was born 1904 in Brisbane and died in 1985. Nance's sister, Ethel became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1923–24 following her baptism.

Nance was an accomplished soloist and sang with the City Tabernacle choir and independently. On at least one occasion she sang a number of solos when the choir performed on radio station 4QG plus a further five solos and/or duets on Friday 9 November 1928.³

Bert and Nance had three children, Rhonda, Neville, and Neil who died in infancy.

In 1928 Bert passed the necessary examination to qualify for promotion from junior mechanic to mechanic in the Post-Master General's Department.⁴ In 1935 he passed the necessary examination to qualify to be promoted from mechanic to

² *The Brisbane Courier*, Wednesday 16 March 1927, p. 20.

³ *The Queenslander*, Thursday 1 November 1928, p. 58.

⁴ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, Thursday 9 February 1928 [Issue No.13], p. 168.

senior mechanic.⁵ In 1955 he was promoted from Senior Technician (Telecommunications) to Supervising Technician at Chapel Hill.⁶

MUSICAL RECITAL AT MORNINGSIDE.

The City Tabernacle Baptist Choir, with Mr. Sydney May as conductor, gave a concert in the Morningside School of Arts on Thursday night, and the fine chorus work of 50 mixed voices, as well as the solo items, delighted the large audience. The soloists [included] Mrs. H.R. Hicks.⁷

Q.W.E.L. Activities

Members of the Queensland Women's Electoral League, are reminded of the meeting, as advertised in another column, for women to be addressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. S.M. Bruce) on Tuesday next, October 16, at 3 p.m. in the City Hall, Stanley and Vulture Streets, South Brisbane ... A programme of music arranged by Mrs. W.H. Debnam, assisted by Miss Jean McLaren (violin), Mesdames H. Spanjer and H.R. Hicks and Mr. Max Aronsten (vocalists) will be held.⁸

Bert enlisted for World War II in the Citizen Military Force in 1939. While he was on transfer to Longreach, they were associated with the Presbyterian Church.

LEAVING FOR BRISBANE

P.O. OFFICIAL TRANSFERRED

Mr. H.R. Hicks, who has been on the staff of the Longreach Post Office for the past 12 months, has been transferred to Brisbane where he will be engaged on special installation work in connection with carrier wave equipment. He left on Monday, accompanied by his wife and daughter for Brisbane.

Prior to his departure, he was the recipient of a wallet of notes from the Post Office staff, the presentation being made by the postmaster (Mr. T.M. Ryan).⁹

On their return to Brisbane, Bert and Nance became members of the Annerley Baptist Church.

Bert and Nance both died in Queensland in 1966 and in 1985 respectively.

⁵ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, Thursday 6 February 1936 [Issue No.24], p. 216.

⁶ *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, Thursday 25 August 1955 [Issue No.40], p. 2717.

⁷ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 20 August 1927, p. 10.

⁸ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 13 October 1928, p. 15.

⁹ *The Longreach Leader*, Saturday 5 September 1942, p. 14.

Hodgson, Walter Carr

Walter was born on 17 November 1883 in Ashfield NSW, the son of Thomas and Lucy Hodgson, who married in Warwick in 1876 after his father migrated from Scotland to Maryborough in 1864. It is not known when they moved to Sydney, but between 1886 and 1905 the family moved to Stanthorpe. Walter was living with his mother in Ballandean in 1908, his father having died in 1905. Walter described himself as a farmer. In some documents his surname is given as Carr-Hodgson, and in numerous newspaper reports he is referred to as Carr Hodgson.

From a young age, Walter was interested in sign writing. In 1901, aged 17 or 18, he won the State (NSW) Signwriting Competition and was presented with a silver medallion duly inscribed.

Walter excelled at playing football (soccer) and played for Ipswich. He also played tennis. He had a very good football coach by the name of Rev James Mursell, minister of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, who commenced his ministry there in 1909 and left for England in 1915. We can safely assume that Walter was attending the City Tabernacle at some time before he came into membership in 1917–18. James Mursell continued coaching in England while ministering at High Wycombe. He also kept in contact with Walter and his family in Australia.¹



The 1901 prized silver medallion now worn by Walter's granddaughter, Jennifer Stewart (née Colledge)

Prior to enlisting, Walter married Edith Foster in Killarney in September 1909 at Edith's parents' home, by the Church of England minister. Edith was the daughter of Francis and Mary Foster, born in Wallangarra in 1889. Her father was living in Sugar Loaf (Darling Downs) in 1903 and Killarney in 1925. Their honeymoon was in a shearing shed on the granite belt of Queensland. Walter lived at Ballandean, where he worked as a farmer prior to enlistment.

Walter enlisted on 20 November 1917 and joined the 41st Battalion. (He had previously been rejected for enlistment due to a hernia.) He was described as 175cm tall, weighing 64kg. He had an 86cm chest, dark complexion, hazel eyes, and brown hair. He gave his religion as Baptist. His wife was his next-of-kin.

¹ Advised by grandson, Des Colledge.



Walter and Edith Hodgson with Fred and Joyce, c1917

It is not known why he enlisted so late in the war. The death of his father in 1905, leaving him responsible for the family orchard or his previous rejection due to a hernia are possibilities. At enlistment, he was declared medically fit for light duties only. Only four other men offered their services on the day he enlisted.

Walter embarked for England in May 1918 aboard the *Osterley*, arriving in Liverpool in July 1918. He underwent training for the procedures to be followed in the event of a gas attack. This involved a group of servicemen positioned in a tent-like building, being issued with protective equipment, following which the flaps were lowered and mustard gas turned on. One fateful day, this went horribly wrong and the protective gear was not issued until after the gas was turned on.

Walter, along with 32 others,

was seriously burnt. He received permanent lung damage which caused serious breathing difficulties.² He returned to Australia in January 1919 without having entered the battlefield and was discharged medically unfit in April 1919.

Walter and Edith had four children, Frederick (1910–74), John (1921–2001) who was an able seaman in the RAN in World War II, Edward (1927–2002), and Joyce Colledge (1913–2008) whose husband, James Mursell Colledge, named after Rev James Mursell, served in the RAAF in World War II.

After his return Walter took up a soldier settlement grant at Ballandean. Walter and Edith then moved to Southport, first at Racecourse Road followed by 'Stanton House', Esplanade, while he worked as a painter, then at 'Kinya Mitcha', Cloyne Road from 1929 to 1943, and 'Bethany', Welch Street, as a

² Advised by grandson, Des Colledge.

signwriter. The smell of the paints he used in his work aggravated his already compromised lungs, making a puffer a necessity.³

Walter continued his connection with Ballandean, spending a holiday there with Edith and the family in 1931–32 for several weeks. Walter crafted the honour board of the Ballandean Church. In gratitude, he was presented with an ornate citation, which reads:

To Mr Hodgson

Dear Sir and Brother,

We, the Honour Board Committee of the Ballandean Church, desire to convey to you our heartiest thanks for the work you have done so willingly and so well in connection with our Honour Board. We desire also to convey to you our Heartiest Christian Greetings, and would assure you that your Patriotism, Devotion to Duty and Self Sacrificing Service to a Great and Righteous Cause have won our Admiration and most Sincere Appreciation. We join with you in Thanksgiving to God for your Safe Home-coming, and pray that you may be spared to enjoy the Happiness and Prosperity which you as a Victorious Soldier of the Empire so richly deserve.

Wishing You God's Abundant Blessing,

We remain, yours in Christian Bonds, J.W. Luke, W. Smith, C. Johanson, G. Chapman, H. Smith, J. Dickie, L.A. Tayler, Secretary.



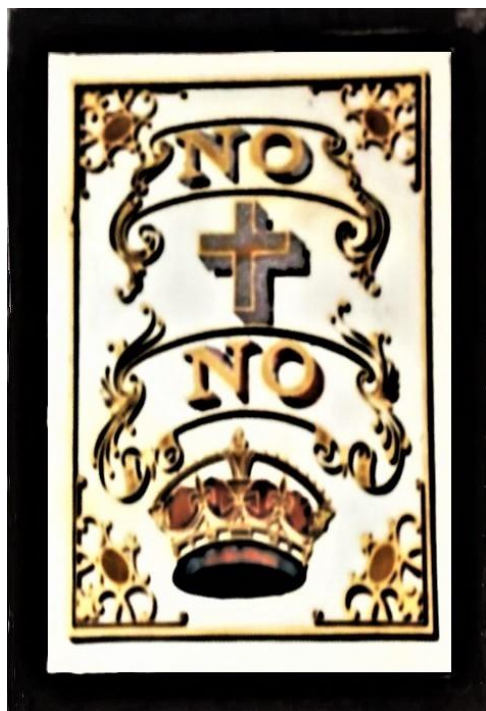
Walter Hodgson's citation

In 1925 Walter was sent a letter by the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia of Southport, thanking him for his 'free gift of [a] notice board suitably painted'. This was in recognition of the Governor-General's visit to Southport to lay the foundation stone of The Southport School.⁴

Walter and Edith were actively involved in the Southport Methodist Church Choir. Walter was on the choir committee and Edith also assisted with church fetes, often working on the sweets and jumble stalls, and was honorary secretary of the Methodist Church Aid Society.

³ Advised by grandson, Des Colledge.

⁴ *The Brisbane Courier*, 26 May 1925, p. 14.



‘No Cross No Crown’ – a sample of Walter Hodgson’s signwriting expertise, which was gilded on a large glass panel.

Walter was unanimously elected a member of the Southport Chamber of Commerce in 1928. Later that year a four-roomed house off Racecourse Road, Southport, which was owned by Mrs Hodgson, was completely destroyed by fire.⁵

Walter had a ‘run in’ with his union in 1940.

Edward John Hanson, general secretary of the Operative Painters and Decorators Union of Queensland, yesterday proceeded against Carr Hodgson, signwriter, of Southport, before Mr. A.E. Aitkin, P.M., in the Industrial Magistrate’s Court, on a charge of having committed a breach of the award by working outside the prescribed hours on [Saturday] November 9. Hodgson, who pleaded not guilty, claimed that the work he was doing was of an urgent nature. He was fined £1, with £1/10/2 costs.⁶

Walter was an employee of the Ten City Electric Light Co Ltd as an air-raid warden in 1941 when he successfully gained his St John Ambulance Association certificate.

Walter and Edith died on the Queensland Gold Coast in February 1952 and October 1955 respectively.

HODGSON, Walter Carr – At Southport Private Hospital, on February 20th 1952 of “Bethany”, Welsh Street, Southport, beloved Husband of Edith and Father of Fred (Southport), Joyce (Mrs. J.M. Colledge, Beerburum), John (Banjo), Edward (Southport), age 69, late 41st Batt., 1st A.I.F.⁷

⁵ *The Daily Standard*, 24 September 1928, p. 2.

⁶ *The South Coast Bulletin*, 13 December 1940, p. 1.

⁷ *The Courier-Mail*, Monday 25 February 1952, p. 10.

Keith, Reginald Correy

Reg, as he was commonly known, was born in Queensland on 19 June 1896, the son of James and Elizabeth Keith. His parents were married in Brisbane in 1884. In some records his second given name is Connell.

His father died of pneumonia, aged 44, in 1899, and his mother died in August 1901, so Reg was orphaned at the age of five. It is not known who raised the seven surviving children aged between three and 14 when his mother died. It has been suggested that James Keith's extended family, the descendants of his parents William and Mary Keith of Yandina, may have taken care of the children.¹

Although Reg was 19 on the date of his enlistment on 9 July 1915, he gave his age as 21 years, engine cleaner. In June 1915 the minimum age for enlistment in the AIF was reduced from 19 to 18, so there was no need to lie about his age, which was not an uncommon event. It could be that Reg wanted to avoid any need for the parental permission required for those under 21 years of age. As he had no living parents, he may have been trying to avoid the need for his Uncle John mentioned below to give his permission as such may not have been forthcoming.

Reg gave his religion as Baptist. His next-of-kin was his brother Harold. Harold was a farmer living in Highfields from 1913 until 1916, then Eden Street, Toowoomba.

Reg's siblings were Mary Low (1886–1901), Emma Hynes (1886–1907), James (1888–1917), Harold (1890–1966), Bertram (1892–1951), Winifred (1894–1959) and Edwin (1898–1986). His older brother James was killed at Passchendaele, Belgium on 13 October 1917. He is not listed on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

Reg's uncle John C Keith was a highly respected member of the City Tabernacle from 1891 to 1929. He occupied the position of Secretary of the Church from 1899 to 1904, following which he lived in Nanango for a number of years. On returning to Brisbane in 1916, he resumed his position of Secretary of the Church² until relinquishing it before his death in 1929, a total of 17 years. He was a deacon for 27 years, and at times a vice-president of the Christian Endeavour Society. In 1901 he was treasurer of the Baptist Association of Queensland. If Uncle John was one of the extended family who was caring for the orphaned children of James and Emma, then it is likely that Reg grew up in the City Tabernacle.

¹ Personal communication, Bob Petty.

² City Tabernacle *Year Book 1924–25*, p 7.

A PRESENTATION AND SEND-OFF.

A very pleasant function, in the form of a presentation and send-off, took place at the North Australian Hotel, on Saturday evening last, when a large gathering of locomotive running-shed employees assembled to bid good-bye to six of their number Messrs. N.A. Perrett, C.A. Perrett, C. McKay, R. Keith, C. Thompson and J. Lobbeiger, who are in camp, and will shortly be leaving for the Front. The chairman, Mr. H. Mercer, proposed the toast of "The King, the Empire, and Our Allies," which was drunk with musical honours ... after which ... R. Keith suitably responded ... Mr. J.R. Bell presented to ... Pte. R. Keith, a fountain pen ... The recipients suitably responded, expressing appreciation of the gifts and stating their attention of writing to their workmates with the pens, at every opportunity.³

Musical and recitation items included *The Veteran's Song*, *The Sleeping Camp*, *It's a long, long way to Tipperary*, *My Old Shako*, *The Soldiers of the King*, *The Lads in Navy Blue*, *Good Old Jeff*, *Bonnie Mary of Argyle*, *Auld Lang Syne*, and the *National Anthem*.

He embarked with the 31st Battalion from Melbourne on board the *Wandilla* in November 1915. George Cameron travelled to the Front on the same voyage.

In July 1916 Reg sustained serious wounds in action in France (gunshot wound to both buttocks and testicles, left testicle removed, no fracture) and was subsequently admitted to the 14th General Hospital. He was promoted to acting lance corporal in November 1918.

He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Reg was the last of the City Tabernacle servicemen to return to Australia, leaving on the *Wahahe* in late March 1920, 16 months after the cessation of hostilities. His Army record indicates that the reason for his late return was that he was doing duty at Warminster and Warwick, UK, releasing those who had been involved in



Reg Keith

³ *Queensland Times*, Tuesday 14 September 1915, p. 6.

fighting, thus relinquishing the opportunity to return home sooner. On his return from the war, he worked as a railway fireman in Toowoomba.

APPRECIATION OF SOLDIERS IPSWICH, October 5.

The employees of the railway running shed at North Ipswich on Saturday tendered a welcome to several of their colleagues who recently returned from the front. Mr. P. McNally presided, and those who were welcomed home [included] R. Keith.⁴

In 1937, Reg was living in railway quarters, Charleville. In 1943, he was living at the Columbia Hotel, Gympie as an engine driver; and in 1949–80, he was living at Hutton Street, Clayfield with Minnie Keith. The identity of Minnie Keith is uncertain. She was living with Reginald in 1922–37 (in Toowoomba) and 1949–80 (in Clayfield), but not in 1943 (when she was alone in Albion).

Reg was seriously injured on 4 March 1938 in his work as a fireman. He slipped while working on the engine of the Brisbane–Toowoomba train at Helidon. He remained on the engine until the train reached Toowoomba and was then conveyed to hospital.

Reginald T Keith, the son of Reginald Keith and Minnie Howard, was born in 1924. There is no record of a Queensland marriage between Reg and Minnie Howard. Reginald Jnr enlisted in World War II at the age of 19 in 1942. He died in 1965.

Reginald Snr died in 1986.

⁴ *The Brisbane Courier*, Wednesday 6 October 1920, p. 8.

Kent, Reuben Henry

Reuben was born in Maryborough, Queensland on 4 November 1891, the son of Henry (1863–1930) and Alice (1864–1940) Kent. His parents became members of the City Tabernacle in 1908–09. His uncle Alfred Kent of Lisson Grove, Woolloowin was a deacon for 28 years. He had also been president of the Men's Own Meeting. Following Uncle Alfred's passing, the City Tabernacle received a legacy of £100 in 1938.¹ He was described as an esteemed and faithful honorary deacon having been in membership since 1905. Reuben's mother Alice then moved back to Maryborough, where she died in 1940.

Reuben became a Sunday School teacher at the Maryborough Baptist Church in 1911. In October 1915 he married Daisy Gadd, the daughter of Charles and Lavinia Gadd. Daisy was born in 1893 in Maryborough and was one of the two Sunday School librarians in 1911. Daisy's father died in 1893. In 1896 her mother married Charles Pugh who was an active member of the Fort Street Baptist Church, Maryborough.

On Saturday evening, October 2nd, a very pleasant evening was spent in the school hall, when about 40 young people assembled in honour of the approaching marriage of Miss Daisy Gadd to Mr. Reuben Kent. The Rev. Albert L. Leeder presided ... Mr. F.H. Stephens, superintendent of the

Sunday School, eulogised Miss Gadd's work as a teacher, she had ever been conscientious, and was one of the most efficient of their teachers.

Mr. Thomas W. Bates spoke of the excellent services rendered by Miss Gadd in connection with the Endeavour Societies, and made special reference to the ability she had shown in the work of the juniors.

Mr. McConnell spoke in similar terms, as did the chairman, who, on behalf of the Sunday School teachers and other friends, presented Miss Gadd with a silver cake basket and jam dish.



Reuben Henry Kent

¹ City Tabernacle, *Year Book 1938–39*, p. 22.

Miss Gadd and Mr. Reuben Kent suitably responded, and a very pleasant evening was brought to a close with the singing of the appropriate hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds."²

Reuben enlisted in the 25th Battalion, 14th Reinforcement on 31 January 1916 in Brisbane. He gave his religion as Baptist. He had scars on his right shoulder, right arm and under right arm and nominated his wife Daisy as next-of-kin.

He had previous service for three-and-a-half years with the Wide Bay Regiment, having lived at Ferry Lane and York Street, Maryborough where he was employed as a metal moulder.

Reuben embarked on the *Itonus* in August 1916 and served in France and Belgium. He was wounded in action twice in 1917 and twice more in 1918. He was promoted to temporary corporal in late 1918, and was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Daisy remained in Maryborough during the war.

LETTER FROM THE FRONT.

BOMBING OF BRITISH HOSPITALS IN FRANCE

Mrs. R.H. Kent, York street, has received an interesting letter from her husband, L. Corporal R.H. Kent, who was wounded some time ago (second occasion), giving a graphic description of the recent deliberate bombing of British hospitals behind the lines by German airmen. The letter, dated June 2, was written at a hospital near Etaples, and states:

"I am feeling tip-top and my wound is next door to right. This is not a very peaceful locality. There have been three big air raids just lately, one on the railway on a big bridge, and two deliberate attacks on the hospitals and convalescent depots. On each occasion hundreds of bombs were dropped and a big percentage were of a huge size making craters in the ground 15ft in diameter and about 8ft deep. The concussions from these demolish everything in the vicinity. Wards and tents have been blown to fragments and many fires have occurred; nurses, doctors and helpless wounded and sick have been killed and wounded in considerable numbers. We are not the only ones 'copping' out, for at present all hospitals are being frequently bombed. I think Fritz is out to win or lose this summer and nothing is too bad for him to do. Since the first raid, trenches have been dug near the wards for patients to go into if they are able. On each occasion I've been caught in bed and have hopped out slick and made for the nearest cover-in trench. During these raids I've had three of those huge bombs drop within fifty yards of me, besides quite a number of small ones. The concussion is terrific and shakes one up

² *The Australian Baptist*, 16 October 1915, p. 4.

considerably, and makes one feel as though his heart is hanging out of his mouth.”

Later, June 4th. – “On account of the raids our hospital is being evacuated and I’m being sent to some convalescent camp in another part of France.”

Later, June 14th. “I have been sent to a convalescent depot at a place called [censored]. Our camp is only a few hundred yards away from the beach, so we are living in the sea breeze all the time. No doubt it is an ideal place for a convalescent camp. Up to the present Fritz hasn’t worried us. Of late, I’ve seen lots of American soldiers and must say they are a fine lot of men; no doubt they are selected lots they are sending for a start, similar to those we sent from home at the beginning of the war. The ‘Yanks’ are beginning to show themselves well on certain sectors of the battle line in conjunction with the French, and they will soon get broken in.”³

Reuben returned to Australia disembarking on 20 July 1919, and arrived home in Maryborough three days later. This happy occasion was reported in the newspaper the following day:

SOLDIER’S WELCOME HOME.

Corporal R.H. Kent, who arrived in Maryborough from Brisbane yesterday morning, enlisted three and a half years ago, and he has been on active service three years, the whole of which has been spent in France and Belgium. He enlisted with the 25th Battalion and was later transferred to the 26th Battalion. Corporal Kent, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H.J. Kent, Ferry Lane, on arrival at Maryborough yesterday, was met by his wife and parents and then went to the residence of his wife’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. Pugh, York Street. The front of the house was gaily bedecked with flags, bunting and a message of welcome. Corporal Kent, considering the times he has passed through, is looking exceedingly well. In the afternoon he was given a reception. Numerous friends and relatives of the returned soldier were in attendance, and a good time was spent. The welcome was extended into the evening. Corporal Kent, who saw much service was three times wounded. He returned home on the troopship *Mahia*.⁴

Two months later:

Mrs. R.H. Kent, York Street, leaves by to-day’s mail train for Brisbane where she in future intends to reside at Paddington. Mrs. Kent’s husband, Corporal R.H. Kent, late 25th Battalion, who only recently returned from

³ *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser*, 8 August 1918, p. 3.

⁴ *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser*, Thursday 24 July 1919, p. 3.

France, where he saw three years active service, left for Brisbane some weeks ago to resume his old calling of moulder with a metropolitan firm. Mrs. Kent has been connected with the Baptist Church, Fort Street, ever since her childhood and has been an ardent church worker. She has also been a teacher in the Sunday School and Junior Endeavour classes for many years, and was a member of the choir. The good wishes of a large circle of friends go with Mr. and Mrs. Kent in their new sphere of life.⁵

Reuben and Daisy lived at 'Kentford', Empress Terrace, Upper Paddington, while he continued to work as a moulder. They transferred their membership to the City Tabernacle. In their letter of transfer Mr Thomas S Warry, the secretary of the Maryborough Baptist Church wrote, 'Mr. Kent ... prior to enlistment was a Sunday School teacher for some time. His wife was an ardent Christian Endeavourer and Sunday School teacher and a most useful member with us – we are very sorry to lose them both'.⁶

After the war, Reuben established a flourishing chicken hatchery in Upper Paddington.

YOUNG CHICKS LONG FLIGHT.

To fly from Brisbane to Camooweal when little more than a day old was the experience of 50 chickens recently. Mr. R.H. Kent, proprietor of the Kentford Poultry Farm at Upper Paddington (and formerly of Maryborough) took the chicks out of the hatchery on a recent Monday morning, sent them down to the Archerfield aerodrome, from which airport they were despatched by 'plane to Mrs. E. Dawson, at Camooweal, on the following day, arriving safely at their destination at 3 o'clock on the Wednesday afternoon. It is understood that this consignment was the first of its kind to reach Camooweal.⁷

Until at least 1943, Reuben and Daisy lived in Kelvin Grove where they had two children, Reuben (1920–2015) and Lloyd (1923–2012). Lloyd married Winifred Denning, the daughter of Rev EH and Mrs Denning of Ashfield. Winifred worked with the Australian Baptist Missionary Society in Birisiri, India for a while before their marriage.

There is a possibility that Daisy transferred her membership to Petrie Terrace Baptist Church and then returned to the City Tabernacle in 1939. She lived in Empress Terrace, Bardon until at least 1980. She passed away in 1989, aged 95. A memorial at the Albany Creek Memorial Park reads, 'Lovingly remembered by family and friends, her faith in Christ and life of prayer are her testimony'.

⁵ *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser*, 25 September 1919, p. 3.

⁶ City Tabernacle Archives.

⁷ *Maryborough Chronicle, Wide Bay and Burnett Advertiser*, 20 August 1932, p. 8.

Reuben died on 11 November 1946 (Armistice Day) and was buried in Toowong Cemetery.

Their son Lloyd went to Brisbane Grammar School and then worked for the Post-Master General's Department as a telegraph messenger. He enlisted in the RAAF in World War II, and his service is recognised on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour. He became a member in 1943–44 following his baptism. His membership was transferred to Brunswick Baptist Church in 1946–47. In 1949 he was living in Errol Street, North Melbourne, enrolled as a student at the Victorian Baptist College. He was ordained in the Collins Street Baptist Church in December 1949.

The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Kent went to be with his Lord in April this year (2012) after losing his final battle with cancer. He was a history-maker and visionary, a man of unwavering faith. Lloyd could well be called the founding father of Baptist work in the Top End of the NT. He and Win travelled to Darwin from Melbourne in 1963 with the specific aim of establishing a Baptist Church in Darwin. Not only was this achieved, but Lloyd's vision and energy drove much of the development of Baptist work in the Top End, including the establishment of other churches at Casuarina, Katherine and Palmerston. He was instrumental in the setting up of a number of other Baptist ministries in the NT and was an inaugural committee member of the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory serving as Secretary during its early years.⁸

⁸ Newsletter of the Baptist Family of Churches in the Northern Territory, July 2012, p. 4.

Lauchlan, Robert (Rev)

Robert Lauchlan was born in 1891 in Maybole, Ayrshire, Scotland, the son of John and Jeanie Lauchlan. He had two sisters, Jeanie Hamilton and Mary.

Robert migrated to Brisbane on the *Devon* arriving in 1912 aged 21 as an assisted immigrant.

In 1912 the Queensland Evangelisation Society employed him as staff evangelist. In July 1912 *The Brisbane Courier* reported that he was to commence on a mission to Leyburn (a town in the Southern Downs Region) and ‘had just received tidings of the sudden death of his father whom he left a few weeks ago in Scotland in perfect health’¹. The same year he went on to lead a mission to Nambour and also preached at several churches including Taringa Baptist Church, Tweed Heads Presbyterian Church, Thompson Estate Methodist Church, and Pratten Presbyterian Church (now Warwick Presbyterian Church).² A direct involvement in the City Tabernacle has not been established. However, given that the Queensland Baptist College was housed in the Tabernacle Tower Room, he would have been seen frequently around the church during his training.

From March 1913 as a student pastor, Robert was set apart to minister to the Baptists of Lake’s Creek and Nerimbera (12km east of Rockhampton), and assisted in other churches in the region. He was an evangelist who initially worked in and around the Rockhampton area. He also took part in open-air services which were held on Friday evenings in the streets of Rockhampton.

Robert accepted a call to Wynnum Baptist Church as their first pastor. A large number of people gathered for a send-off at Rockhampton on the eve of his departure for Wynnum late in 1914. He was described as an ‘extremely humble brother’ who had a ‘happy way of getting on’. He was also commended as one who had done his best in the interests of the church and would be sincerely missed. Robert was quoted as saying he had endeavoured to do his duty and had never met more hard-working people than those at Lake’s Creek.³

On 14 September 1914, having been in Brisbane for only two weeks, he attended the Baptist Annual Assembly held at the City Tabernacle. Eight days later, also at the City Tabernacle, he was extended the right hand of fellowship as a new minister by the President of the Baptist Association.

The Australian Baptist of 24 November 1914 records:

¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 13 July 1912, p. 16.

² *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 18 May 1912, p. 16.

³ *The Capricornian*, Saturday 5 September 1914, p. 38.

Wynnum. – Since the advent of the Rev. R. Lauchlan, the church has taken a forward move. As the result of faithful work and systematic visitation, the church is well filled on Sundays.”⁴

In December 1914 Robert served on a committee with representatives from the Methodist, Church of England, and Presbyterian churches, to organise a Patriotic Service complete with orchestra and united choir at Wynnum where a collection was taken in aid of the Belgian Fund.

After a short but successful stay at Wynnum, he asked to be moved to Maleny where, according to the *Queensland Baptist Year Book 1915–1916*, it was reported that ‘he is doing splendid work’. His ministry at Maleny ended when he enlisted in the AIF.

Robert was described as a 27-year-old clergyman when he enlisted on 10 April 1916. He was 187cm tall, weighing 70kg, with an 89cm chest, medium complexion, brown eyes, and dark brown hair. He gave his religion as Baptist.

He continued to labour for the Lord up to the commencement of active service and had a number of speaking engagements. It seems likely that he was granted leave to complete these engagements made prior to his enlisting. Now known as Private R Lauchlan, he gave an address to the Queensland Evangelistic Society in June 1916 when it was noted that he was previously on staff as an evangelist.

Described as Rev. R Lauchlan, A.I.F., Robert spoke at the Nundah Baptist Church Anniversary in July 1916. At the 1916 Annual Assembly held at the City Tabernacle, his enlistment in the AIF was acknowledged together with two other student pastors who had also signed up.



Pastor Robert Lauchlan,
circa 1913/14 before he
enlisted, when he was Home
Mission Pastor of the Maleny
Baptist Church.

⁴ *The Australian Baptist*, 24 November 1914, p. 16.

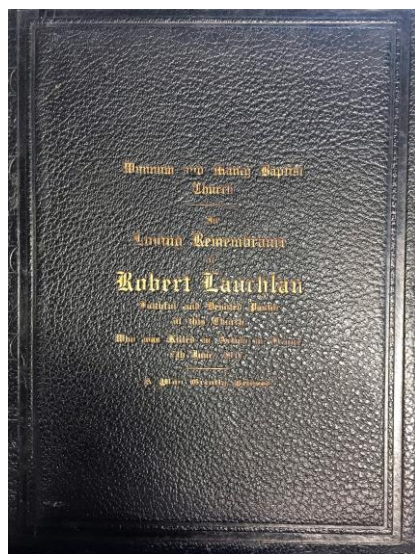
He embarked from Brisbane on the *Seang Choon* in September 1916 and arrived in Plymouth in December 1916 where he completed training at the grenade school at Lyndhurst. He then proceeded to Etaples, France in April 1917.

Robert's time at the Front was brief as he was killed in action in Belgium on 7 June 1917 while serving with the 52nd Battalion. The nature of his 'wound(s)' and the location of his grave are unknown. He is memorialised at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, West Vlaanderen, Belgium.

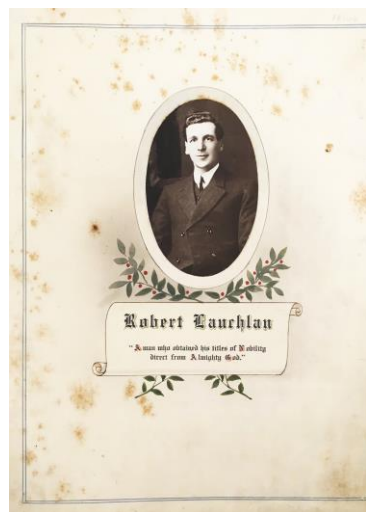
The sad news has just come from the front that Rev. Robert Lauchlan who was one of the most promising of the Queensland Home Missionaries, has been killed in action. Mr. Lauchlan hailed from Scotland, and much sympathy is felt for his widowed mother and family.⁵

Deep sorrow was expressed at his death at the Baptist Assembly held in the City Tabernacle in September 1917 where it was noted he had resigned from his pastorate to 'answer his country's call'.

On Friday 5 October 1917, the City Tabernacle choir with additional voices, rendered the cantata *The Woman of Samaria* (Bennett) where a special collection was taken in aid of the fund for relatives of the late Rev Robert Lauchlan and also for the literature committee.⁶ His memory was also celebrated on 15 January 1919 at a special mid-week gathering at the Wynnum and Manly Baptist Church when a good company



The Robert Lauchlan memorial Bible



Rev Lauchlan Memorial Bible presentation page

⁵ *The Daily Standard*, Saturday 11 August 1917, p. 3

⁶ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 29 September 1917, p. 9.

of friends met to honour his memory by unveiling a memorial pulpit Bible. It was covered with a Union Jack and was unveiled by the pastor of the Church. Although not in regular use, the Bible is still on display in the Chapel of the Wynnum Baptist Church where regular prayer meetings are held. The outer cover bears an inscription in gold letters:

Wynnum and Manly Baptist Church. In loving Remembrance of Robert Lauchlan, faithful and devoted pastor of this church who was killed in action in France, June 7, 1917. A man greatly beloved.

The first page also contains an inscription, 'Robert Lauchlan, a man who obtained his titles to nobility direct from Almighty God'.

In 1922 before a large crowd at Maleny Baptist Church, a memorial tablet in his memory was unveiled to him as a former Pastor who had paid the supreme sacrifice during the Great War.⁷

His friends called him 'Big Bob Lauchlan'. His ministry touched so many in what was not much longer than four years after his arrival from Scotland to his embarkation to the Great War from which he never returned. His name is recorded on the Roll of Honour at the Australian War Memorial (Panel 155) in Canberra.

His mother was granted a pension of 40 shillings per fortnight.



R Lauchlan memorial tablet,
Maleny Baptist Church

⁷ *The Daily Mail*, Saturday 11 February 1922, p. 13.

Lewis, William Ewart, George Norman and Arnold Gordon

William, George and Arnold Lewis were born in Montgomeryshire, Wales, the sons of John and Annie Lewis. John and Annie migrated to Australia in 1911 on the *Orsova* as nominated immigrants with their children Mavis, George, William, Arnold, Gordon, and Osborne. Prior to their immigration, the family lived at Pontypridd, Glamorgan, Wales. They were living in Upper Cairns Terrace, Red Hill in 1913 when John was employed as a saddler. Annie transferred her membership from Windsor Road Baptist to the City Tabernacle in 1914–15. Three of her children, Gordon, Osborne (who was generally referred to as Llewellyn) and Mavis were already in membership. They had moved to Montague Road, West End by 1915 and then back to Upper Cairns Terrace, Red Hill.¹ Following Annie's death in 1948, a legacy was established in her memory at the City Tabernacle. John and Annie both died in Brisbane in 1948 and 1945 respectively.

Estate of the late Annie Lewis. – In June of this year a cheque for the amount of £215/8/11 was received from the Estate of our late member, Mrs. Annie Lewis, to be used for the support of Home and Foreign Missions. The sum of £200 has been invested in Commonwealth Loan and the annual interest will be equally divided between the Home and Foreign Missions. This will establish a permanent memorial to the late Mrs. Annie Lewis. The balance of the amount received, viz., £5/8/11, was passed on to the two funds concerned.²

William Ewart Lewis

William was born in Newtown, Wales in 1887. Prior to enlisting he lived at 'Brynfryd', Upper Cairns Terrace, Red Hill where he was employed as a foreman.

He enlisted in the 2nd Light Horse on 16 September 1915. He was later transferred to the 3rd Australian Light Rail. He gave his occupation as tram conductor. William and his brother Arnold were two of the seven men associated with the City Tabernacle who enlisted in a seven-day period in September 1915.

He left Australia for France on the *Lake Manitoba* in August 1916. He served with the Australian Light Horse and the Australian Light Railway in France and returned in July 1919 on the *Rio Negro*.

He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

¹ Personal Communication, Peter Arnold Murrell.

² City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Year Book 1949–1950*, p. 10.

William married Ethel Viner in June 1920. Ethel was born in Brisbane in 1891, the daughter of Robert and Matilda Viner. William and Ethel lived at 'Bryntirion', 101 Arthur Terrace, Red Hill. (Bryntirion is near Bridgend, Wales, which is a short drive from his childhood home in Pontypridd.) William resumed his employment as a conductor.

They had two children. Alan (1921–), who was living next door at 99 Arthur Terrace in 1949 and was employed as a warehouseman. Alan enlisted in World War II.

Ethel and William died in Brisbane in 1956 and 1960 respectively.



William Lewis

George Norman Lewis

Norman, as he was commonly known, was born in 1894, in Newtown, the second of six children. He was listed as a member of the Christian Endeavour Society at the City Tabernacle in 1916–17.

When he enlisted in the 2nd Light Horse on 27 July 1915, aged 20 years and 10 months, he gave his occupation as labourer, and nominated his mother as next-of-kin. He had scars on his right thigh and left knee.

He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Following his discharge he was living at 6 The Beeches, Pencoed, Wales. Prior to his return to Australia he married Sarah David in April 1919 in the Hermon Chapel, Bridgend, Glamorgan under the rites of the Calvinistic Methodist Church. Sarah was born in 1894 at Llanelly, Wales, the daughter of William David.

Norman and Sarah disembarked the *Indarra* in Brisbane in September 1919 and settled initially with his parents at 'Brynfryd', Upper Cairns Terrace, Red Hill where Norman was employed as a labourer.

By 1921 they had moved to Park Street, Kelvin Grove, three doors along from his father John, where Norman was employed as a greaser. They moved again to Devoy Street, Ashgrove where Norman was a tramway employee. They named their home 'Pencoed' after the place of their marriage.

They relocated again to 131 Brougham Street, Fairfield when Norman became a salesman, and finally retired to 16 Peters Street, Enoggera.

Their daughter Lillian was born circa 1922. She was living at home with her parents in 1943 working as a saleswoman.

Norman and Sarah were actively involved in the St David's Society, Norman as treasurer and secretary at various times. The goals, objectives and purposes of the Society are to perpetuate awareness and appreciation of Welsh history, traditions and culture. The Society is named after the patron saint of Wales. Norman's father John was a vice-president of the society for a number of years.

In 1940 *The Sunday Mail* published a report entitled, 'Welsh Meeting in English', in which it stated:

About 25 per cent of the Welsh people at the St. David's Society annual meeting last night looked blank when addressed in Welsh.

The only Welsh many knew were the words of the Welsh National Anthem. 'Land of My Fathers.' And the last few lines of that were sung in English. The words 'Dioich yn fawr' and 'Cvmanfa Ganu' in the annual report of the retiring president (Rev. Gwilym J. Morgans) proved too much for many. Many more were at a loss when the new president (Rev. Grey Thomas) said, 'Y mae'r tan ynn llosg'n tufewn.'

Rev. Thomas expressed regret that meetings were conducted in English instead of Welsh. 'If my mother heard me now, speaking English, she would turn her back on me,' he said.

'There is nothing wrong with English, but it is not our mother tongue. It is second hand. Welsh is the finest tongue of all, and if you lose it you lose your personality.'



Norman Lewis

Three generations of one family Mr. John Lewis, 81, his son, Mr. G.N. Lewis, and his granddaughter, Miss Lillian Lewis – were present. Although Mr. John Lewis was born in Montgomeryshire – and although his mother could not speak English, he cannot speak Welsh. Neither can Mr. G.N. Lewis nor Miss Lewis.³

Norman and Sarah died in 1973 and 1977 respectively.

Arnold Gordon Lewis

Gordon, as he was commonly known, was born in Llanwnnog in 1898. He became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1915 along with his brother Llewellyn and mother.

He enlisted on 17 September 1915, the day after his brother William. He was assigned to the 2nd Australian Light Horse Regiment, AIF, and embarked from Brisbane, on board the *Wandilla* in January 1916. He was later transferred to the 4th Cyclist Company.

He nominated his father Mr J Lewis who was living in Upper Cairns Terrace, Red Hill as his next-of-kin and gave his occupation as stockman. At enlistment he gave his religion as Baptist.

Gordon had a cleft palate, which was known at enlistment, but eventually resulted in his medical discharge. He was discharged in 1916 (invalided home on the *Borda*), returning to Brisbane in September 1916.

On his return he also lived with his parents at 'Brynfryd', Upper Cairns Terrace, Red Hill working as a fireman. 'Brynfryd' is Welsh for 'Pleasant Hill'.

Gordon was on the committee of the Musicians' Union.

At a program of music presented by the Brisbane Municipal Concert Band in Wickham Park on Australia Day 1919, Gordon played a cornet solo *For all Eternity* by Mascheroni.

In July 1921 he married May Gilbert. May was born in 1900, the daughter of Ernest and Ada Gilbert.



Gordon Lewis

³ *The Sunday Mail*, Sunday 28 April 1940, p. 7.

They settled at 'Bingera', Bishop Street, Kelvin Grove where Gordon worked as a labourer until 1943. They later moved to Murrell's, Curtis Street, Norman Park where Gordon was working as a boiler operator. They moved again to 7 Drummond Street, Alderley where he had the job of engine driver. Their final move was to 236 Ekibin Road when he was working as a boiler attendant,

Their only child Amy married Noel Murrell at St James's Church of England, Kelvin Grove.

May and Gordon died in 1945 and 1966 respectively. Gordon remained a member of the City Tabernacle until his death.

Marriott, Frederick George

Frederick was born in Brisbane on 8 April 1892, the son of James (1864–1935) and Sophia Marriott (1869–1938) who were married in Queensland in 1891. James was an assisted immigrant to Queensland from England as a 20-year-old in March 1884. His parents and brother Samuel also migrated to Queensland.

Death of Mrs S.M. Marriott

The death occurred at her home at Bank Street, Newmarket, early yesterday morning, of Mrs. S.M. Marriott, widow of the late Mr. James Marriott, formerly chief engineer of the Government Printing Office. ...

Mrs. Marriott was also one of the founders of the Christian Endeavour movement in Australia, and worked in it for some years after its first formation at the Wharf Street Baptist Church, and for two years prior to her husband's death in 1935 was his devoted nurse during a long illness.

She is survived by two children – Miss Grace Marriott, private secretary to the Lord Mayor, and Mr. F.G. Marriott, chief chemist to the Brisbane and South Coast Hospitals Board and District Grand Prior of the Order of the Temple under the Great Priory of Scotland.¹

Prior to enlisting in 1913, Frederick was living at 60 York Street, Brisbane North, working as a chemist's assistant. His mother, father and sister Grace, were living at the same address. Grace was born in 1894. Their mother was a member of the City Tabernacle throughout the war years. Frederick was a member of the Sunday School.

Frederick enlisted on 10 October 1916 and was attached to the Army Medical Corps as a dispenser. He nominated his mother of Victoria Street, Gregory Terrace as his next-of-kin. At age 24 years and six months, he was described as 168cm tall, weighing 54kg and had a 76cm chest. He had a medium complexion, brown eyes, black hair and a scar on his forehead. He gave his religion as Church of England.

Frederick embarked from Sydney on 23 December 1916 aboard the *Demosthenes*. He served as a pharmaceutical dispenser at Monte Video Camp, Weymouth, UK and was brought to the attention of the Secretary of State for War for valuable service rendered in connection with the war. He was promoted to staff sergeant by the end of the war.

¹ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 11 June 1938, p. 13.

Frederick returned to Australia on the *Ypiranga*, waiting until November 1919 to return. It is likely that he was required in England to assist in the medical care of those who had returned from the Front with injuries. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the war, Frederick returned to York Street, living with his parents and sister.

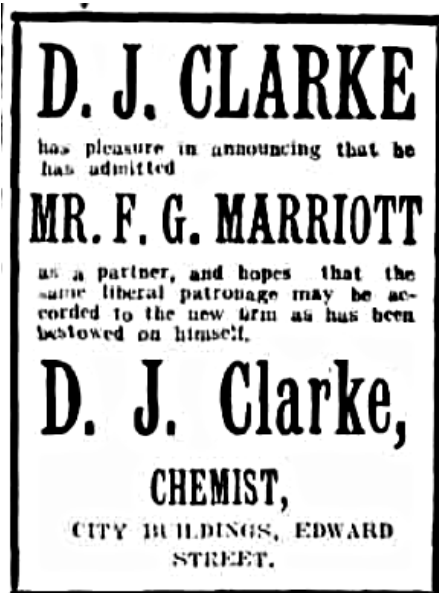
In December 1922, while trading as ‘D.J. Clarke and Marriott’, Frederick was adjudicated as insolvent. He was discharged from insolvency in 1924.

He was the director of ceremonies of the Naval and Military Lodge in 1930.

By 1936, Frederick, his mother and sister had moved to Banks Street, Newmarket. He was then a chemist. He rode a Harley motorcycle with sidecar in the Morgan and Wacker Easter trial the same year and was the chemists’ representative on the executive of the Miscellaneous Workers’ Union.

In 1937, he was nominated by the Chemists’ Assistants Branch of the Miscellaneous Workers’ Union for a position on the Pharmacy Board.

Frederick was living with his sister in Newmarket before he moved to Sydney sometime after 1943. He died suddenly on 12 July 1949 in Sydney. He was a bachelor. He was living at 114 Oxford Street, Paddington, NSW at the time of his death. His funeral was held in Brisbane.



2

Death Notices

MARRIOTT – Suddenly, at Sydney, on 12th July, 1949, Frederick George Marriott, only son, of the late Mr. & Mrs. James Marriott, & brother of Miss Grace Marriott.³

Items from Frederick’s estate, including superior furniture and household appointment, and a Cramer boudoir grand pianoforte in a burr walnut case, were auctioned in Sydney in August 1949. It is not known who the beneficiaries of his estate were.

² *The Telegraph*, Tuesday 2 March 1920, p. 1.

³ *Brisbane Telegraph*, Wednesday 13 July 1949, p. 6.

Marshall, William James

William was born in Brisbane on 10 August 1890, the son of George and Christina Marshall, who were married in the Wharf Street Baptist Church in 1889 by Rev W Whale. In 1903, his parents were living at 460 Leichhardt Street, Fortitude Valley. Christina and her mother, Isabella Henderson were in membership of Wharf Street Baptist Church in 1885 and George became a member in 1899–1900.

William had two siblings: Reginald (1892–1931) and Sylvia (1895–1946). Reginald died a bachelor. Sylvia remained a spinster, in membership of the City Tabernacle until her death. When William's father died in 1940, his estate was valued at £1,151 realty and £3,599 personalty.¹

Prior to enlisting, William was living in Hill Street, Woolloowin, working as a chemist's assistant. His father was a chemist, having been registered as a chemist and druggist in 1882.

William's mother was a member of the City Tabernacle until her death in 1909, and William, his father and sister were all members in 1919. Sylvia and William became members in 1911 and 1913. He was a member of the Sunday School in 1916–17. William resigned his church membership in 1943–44.

William was 26 years of age when he enlisted on 29 September 1916, giving his next-of-kin as George W Marshall (his father) of Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley. He was living at 'Brisina' [sic – 'Crisina'], 28 Hill Street, Woolloowin. Initially he was assigned to the 15th Battalion, but this was later changed to the 13th Battalion.

William embarked from Sydney in November 1916, aboard the *Beltana*, bound for Southampton, arriving in France in May 1917. In October 1917, he was shipped back to England suffering from a gunshot wound to the thigh. He returned to France in May 1918. He was wounded again in July 1918 (a gunshot wound to the head), before being returned to Australia in March 1919 aboard the *Port Denison*. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.



William Marshall

¹ *The Courier-Mail*, 3 December 1940, p. 13.

After the war, he returned to 'Crisina', Hill Street, and resumed work as a chemist's assistant. His sister was living with him until her death in 1946.

By 1940 William was working as a chemist. He was the president of the Rosalie–Milton–Torwood–Paddington Progress Association (a non-political and non-sectarian association) in 1948.²

William married Ann Reen in Brisbane on 8 February 1941 and they moved to 7 Atwell Street, Hendra some time between 1954 and 1963. Ann, the daughter of Denis and Delia Reen, was 12 years younger than William, having been born in 1902. Ann's mother died in 1936 before the wedding, and her father died soon after the wedding in 1942.

MARSHALL – REEN

Summer felt hats will be worn by the bride and her attendant, with frocks of blue and burgundy, respectively, when Miss Nancy Reen is married to Mr. William J. Marshall (son of the late Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Marshall) in the Holy Cross Church, Woolloowin, this morning. ...

The bride, who is the daughter of Mr. Reen, of Woolloowin, and the late Mrs. Reen, will add a shoulder spray to her ensemble, with white accessories.

Miss Nell Reen, who will attend her sister, has chosen a frock of figured sheer, relieved with a spray.³

In 1949 when he was living at 199 Baroona Road, Rosalie, William inherited some land in North Brisbane from his mother's sister, Elizabeth Henderson.

Ann had four siblings, Mary (1900–), Jeremiah (1904–1972) who served in World War II; Denis (1907–07), and Kathleen Spencer (1910–).

It appears that William and Ann did not have any children. William died in Brisbane in July 1977.

² *The Courier-Mail*, Saturday 11 December 1948, p. 4.

³ *The Courier-Mail*, Saturday 8 February 1941, p. 9.

McLachlan, William Peter

William was born on 14 December 1894 in Kirkaldy, Fifeshire, Scotland, the son of Daniel and Jeanie (Jane) McLachlan. He was a wholesale grocer, and had served a three-year apprenticeship with Mr Herriott in Fife.

William aged 15 arrived in Brisbane in May 1912 aboard the *Paparoa* with his parents and sisters Elizabeth Wighton (1893–1973) and Helen (Nellie) Wolstenholme (1884–). His older sisters Maggie (1885–), Christina (1890–1972) and Mary (1891–) had migrated to Brisbane as nominated migrants in 1910 and 1911 on the *Osterley*. Maggie had married Charles Cameron in 1909 immediately prior to their emigrating. Charles nominated William and Jane's migration. The nomination was £10 plus £2 for ship's expenses, i.e. they were 'ten-pound Poms'.

The electoral roll indicates that in 1913, William was 'living' at Roma St Police Station. The reason for this is unknown.

Charles Cameron and his wife and his parents were members of the City Tabernacle in 1913, as also were William McLachlan, three of his sisters and his parents, Daniel and Jeanie, all of whom were living in the suburb of Wilston. William's sister Christina, a church member since 1913, married Alfred Reed in November 1914. Her membership continued after marriage, but Alfred did not become a member until after his baptism in 1920–21. William's sister Helen became a member in 1915–1916 following her baptism. Her marriage to Percy Wolstenholme was conducted at the City Tabernacle by Rev J Mursell in 1926. William's mother died in 1940 and her burial was presided over by Rev A Butler of the City Tabernacle. She remained a member until her passing. William's cousins, Charles and George Cameron also enlisted. Their story is told elsewhere.

When William enlisted on 27 July 1915, he was attached to the 1st Depot Battalion. He was 163cm tall which was less than the minimum height for enlistment at that time. He gave his next-of-kin as his father, Daniel McLachlan of Wilston.



William McLachlan

Captain John Redmond wrote from Bells Paddock that he recommended him for discharge from the AIF as he was unlikely to be an effective soldier on account of his repeated failure at musketry.

He did not serve overseas and was discharged in November 1915, medically unfit due to being unable to drill with a pack because of a knee injury sustained in a football (soccer) match before enlisting.

On his return to Brisbane, William was living at 'Acharu' (or possibly 'Acharn', which is a village in Scotland), Fourth Avenue (renamed Angliss Street in 1938), Wilston. He was working as a warehouseman.

He married Dorothy Laidlaw in Brisbane in January 1920. Dorothy, the daughter of George and Sarah Laidlaw, was born in Brisbane in 1895.

He was fined, at least twice, for driving offences. 'William Peter McLachlan, of Amelia street, Coorparoo, was fined 6s. 6d., with 3s. 6d. costs of court, for ... leaving a motor car standing on Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly, without any lights affixed, on the night of March 8'.¹

'For having driven a car without a licence, a fine of £1 was imposed on ... William Peter McLachlan, Lytton Road, East Brisbane.'²

William and Dorothy lived at 189 Caroline Street, Fitzroy in 1925 when William was an insurance inspector, and at 'Kaledin', Sinclair Street, East Brisbane, in 1934–43 as a salesman. After William's death, Dorothy lived with her daughter and son-in-law at 110 Mountjoy Terrace, Manly, Queensland (1954–58).

They had three children, Arthur (1920–72), Frances Sewell (1924–2013) and Peter (1934–99).

William died of leukaemia on 10 December 1946.

McLACHLAN – Relatives & Friends of Mrs. W.P. McLachlan, Mr. & Mrs. R. Sewell, Mr. Arthur & Peter McLachlan are invited to attend the funeral of her beloved husband, their father & father-in-law, William Peter McLachlan, to leave the Residence, Sinclair Street, East Brisbane, this (Monday) afternoon at 3.30 o'clock, for the Mt. Thompson Crematorium.³

Dorothy died in 1958.



Dorothy and William McLachlan

¹ *The Telegraph*, Tuesday 8 April 1924, p. 11.

² *The Telegraph*, Tuesday 13 March 1928, p. 5.

³ *The Telegraph*, Monday 9 December 1946, p. 4.

McNeil, Louden Bain

Louden was born in Glasgow on 21 June 1891, the son of William and Mary McNeil. His parents had married in 1883. His father died in 1908.

Louden had five siblings, Gordon (1884–), William (1886–), Douglas (1888–), Charles (1890–1916) and Lex (1894–) who were all living in Scotland in 1901. In November 1911, he departed from London for Queensland on the *Waipara*.

In 1913, while Louden was working as a bookkeeper, he and his brother William lived at 43 Gipps Street, Fortitude Valley. In 1915 Louden lived at Fairymead (Wide Bay) where he was the shire clerk. It is not known whether William and Louden travelled to Australia together. Their brother Gordon also immigrated to Australia.

Louden played cricket for Fairymead and was a brother in the Star of Fairymead Lodge. He did a recitation at a Lodge concert in 1913.

Louden enlisted in the 3rd Field Ambulance on 3 February 1915 in Bundaberg. He gave his next-of-kin as Mrs MG McNeil of 239 Kilmarnock Road, Glasgow. He was described as 164cm tall, weighing 59kg and with a 77cm chest. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes and light hair, with a mole on his left forearm. He gave his religion as Baptist and said he was employed as a clerk.

He embarked on the *Karoola* in June 1915. He served at Gallipoli, and then in France. In June 1916, Louden was given leave to go to Scotland, probably to visit his mother, returning 1 July. In August 1916, he was promoted to lance corporal.

Louden was wounded in action on 11 November 1916, by a gunshot wound to his right thigh, and died of his wounds at the 38th Casualty Clearing Station.

The AIF were in action on the Somme during the winter of 1916. The conditions in mid-November were described in the official records as having 'deteriorated almost to chaos.

Approach trenches [for stretcher bearers] were impassable. Each sledge took three horses, those of the Field Ambulance being supplemented by the Army Service Corps. To extricate and clear the four hundred casualties, slight and severe in this



Stretcher bearers in the mud (AWM)

action, required the utmost efforts of two bearer divisions and the help of some 400 infantry'. Elsewhere, it states that six to eight men were required in relays to transfer one stretcher patient. Loudon was buried at Heilly Station Cemetery, 2½ miles NNE of Corbie, Méricourt-L'Abbé.¹

He was posthumously awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal. A memorial scroll and a memorial plaque were issued to Loudon's mother.

His comrade, Private Harold Larsen, MM, who enlisted in the 3rd Field Ambulance on the same day, was also killed in action at Zonnebeke two days before Loudon.²

Loudon's personal effects consisting of a devotional book, two note books, Geneva Red Cross badge, first-aid book, box containing Gillette safety razor, blades, knife, spoon, cards, letters, photographs, identity disc, letters, wristlet watch and strap, purse and coins, scissors and a tin box containing pins, needles, pencils, photo, writing pad, 4 pairs of scissors, lock (broken), two brushes, shell band, leather case, belt, two pairs of mittens, 20 handkerchiefs and gloves, were sent to his mother in Scotland.

Loudon's brother William had also enlisted in Brisbane in the 3rd Field Ambulance on 18 August 1914, six months before Loudon. He served in Egypt and at Gallipoli, but in January 1916 was discharged medically unfit due to an injury to his knee. In April 1917 William re-enlisted in the Australian Medical Corp in the Field Ambulance Section, for which the medical requirements were probably less strict. He then served in France. His name is not included on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour so presumably he had no involvement in the church or attended another.

Loudon's brother Charles also enlisted and served with the 17th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce Battalion. Charles McGregor McNeil died on the first day of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 1916, the same day that Loudon returned from leave to visit Scotland.

Loudon and Charles are both listed on the plinth of the war memorial in Pollokshaws, Glasgow.

¹ Australian War Memorial, *First World War Official Histories*, Section 1, p. 87.

² *The Bundaberg Mail*, 10 November 1920, p. 2.



Pollokshaws War Memorial

On 29 November 1916, Loudon Bain McNeil's death was record in *The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser* as follows:

Many sincere friends in this district will regret to hear that Lance Corporal L.B. McNeil died of wounds in France on the 11th November. This gallant young soldier, who was about 25 years of age, was, previous to enlisting, chief accountant at Fairymead. Early in the war, he, and three other of his brothers, offered their services, and were accepted for active service abroad. One brother lost his life on the battlefield some time ago. Lance Corporal McNeil was possessed of many excellent qualities and enjoyed the friendship of quite a host of families, with whom he kept up a fairly constant correspondent [sic] since going abroad. He belonged to a Scottish family but had been many years in Queensland.³

³ *The Bundaberg Mail and Burnett Advertiser*, Wednesday 29 November 1916, p. 3.

Moore, Herbert Charles James

Herbert was born in Bedminster, Bristol, England on 18 July 1877, the son of Charles and Mary Moore. His father died before Herbert was 23.

In 1904, Herbert married Ellen Challenger in Taunton, Somerset, England. Ellen was born in Taunton in 1877, the daughter of Henry and Mary Challenger. Henry was Secretary of the Norwich YMCA in 1909. Herbert and Ellen were living in Norwich, Norfolk in 1911.

The Bible Class continued to progress splendidly and 19th January 1908 was described as a 'red letter day' following a visit from Mr. H.C. Moore of Norwich YMCA. There were more than 30 at the meeting and the first Bible Class tea and evening gathering was followed by singing round the fire.¹

Herbert and Ellen migrated to Australia in 1913. Herbert was in membership at the City Tabernacle in 1914–15, having transferred his membership from England. He continued in membership until 1925–26.

In 1914, Herbert was employed as a YMCA military worker on Thursday Island and on troopships.

Y.M.C.A. AND THE TROOPS.

Secretary H.C. Moore will leave by *Tango Maru* this afternoon for Thursday Island taking with him letter writing, conveniences, literature and general equipment for the military camp there. Mr Moore has only recently been added to the local Y.M.C.A. staff, having arrived from Great Britain where he has had considerable experience in work among men, including that which he is now taking up.²

Y.M.C.A.

To-night, 7 o'clock, Men's P.M.; 8 o'clock, "Social Sing" and farewell to Y.M.C.A. Military Secretaries H.C. Moore and A.V. Soul. Members and their lady friends invited. Good musical programme.³

SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE TO Y.M.C.A.

In a letter to Mr. D.P. Roberts. of Sandgate, Colonel Flewell-Smith says: "By the way if you see Frank Woodcraft tell him the chap for the Y.M.C.A. on this boat, Mr. H.C. Moore, is a real brick, quite one of the best, and doing no

¹ Barringer, C and Larter P, 2007, *A History of the Young Men's Christian Association in Norfolk and Lowestoft*, YMCA Norfolk, Norwich, p. 114.

² *The Brisbane Courier*, Friday 7 August 1914, p. 8.

³ *The Daily Standard*, Saturday 8 July 1916, p. 6.

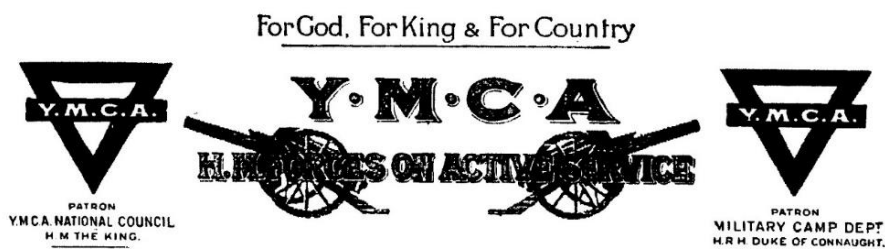
end of good. These chaps are a great comfort to the commanding-officers, as they look so thoroughly after the comforts of the men.”⁴



YMCA memorabilia in the Passchendaele Memorial Museum, Belgium

YMCA records indicate that he was ‘nominated by Brisbane’. He embarked in August 1916 on the *Boorara* from Brisbane, serving in England and France. He returned in July 1917 on the *Runic* and his service was terminated in August.

The YMCA letterhead leaves no doubt as to who Herbert and his colleagues were fighting for:



The electoral rolls give Herbert and Ellen’s address as Toowoomba in 1916, and Tara 1917–20 where he was the shire clerk. He resumed work as a YMCA secretary in 1921, living at the YMCA in Edward Street, Brisbane. Herbert and Ellen were living in Indooroopilly in 1923–27.

⁴ *The Week*, Friday 12 January 1917, p. 30.

Y.M.C.A. MEN'S MEETINGS.

Tomorrow afternoon, at 3 o'clock, Mr. H.C. Moore, who has just vacated the shire clerkship of the Tara Shire Council to rejoin the staff of the Brisbane Young Men's Christian Association as military camp secretary, will address a meeting of men in the front hall, Edward Street building, to which an invitation to all men to be present appears in our advertising columns. At the outbreak of war Mr. Moore went off to Thursday Island and landed there before the troops arrived, having made ready for them two marquees, which served the large number of troops during the months they spent on the island. On his return, he accepted the post of shire clerk at Tara. Mr Moore has been in Y.M.C.A. work in Great Britain for ten years, and had charge of two large associations.⁵

Herbert and Ellen had five children: Herbert, also recorded as Hubert (1905–); Stewart, also recorded as Stuart (1907–); Henry (1907–) who was a corporal in the Royal Australian Air Force in World War II; Kathleen Summerson (1912–96); and Geoffrey (1915–74) who served as a warrant officer in the Citizen Military Forces in World War II.

Henry was also a keen debater.

Y.M.C.A. DEBATERS

At the annual general meeting of the Young Men's Christian Association Literary and Debating Society at the Y.M.C.A. rooms the annual report was adopted.

Office bearers were appointed as follows: President, Mr. H.C. Moore; ...

The president and the honorary secretary were appointed delegates to the council of the Queensland Debating Societies Union ...

The society will meet next Wednesday evening at the Y.M.C.A. rooms, when impromptu and prepared speeches will be given by members with criticism by the president.⁶

Herbert and Ellen were living at 'Taunton', Silva Street, Whinstanes at the time of his death in 1932. The house was named after Ellen's birthplace and the town in which they were married. He was the President of the Toombul branch of the ALP and a candidate for the State Parliament on behalf of the Labor party. He died at the wheel of his car the day before the election. He had earlier stood as the Labor candidate for the Brisbane City Council, having previously served in the Hamilton Town Council.

At the time of his death in the 55th year of his life, he was a Knight Commander in the Order of Knights, Hamilton Court.

⁵ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 1 July 1916, p. 8.

⁶ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 13 April 1929, p. 6.

TOOMBUL SEAT.

Labor Campaign Opened.

MR. MOORE AT HAMILTON.

The Labor campaign in the Toombul Ward brought about by the retirement of Alderman H.M. Russell from the City Council was begun last night, when Mr. H.C. Moore, the endorsed Labor candidate, addressed a meeting in the old Hamilton Town Hall.⁷

DEATH IN CAR.

Labor Candidate for Hamilton

While driving his car at Ashgrove yesterday morning, Mr. Herbert Charles Moore, the Labor candidate for Hamilton, became ill, and died before a doctor could be called. ...

The news of Mr. Moore's death came as a shock to his many friends in the city. Those who had seen him in hearty spirits earlier in the day were particularly affected by the sad tidings. The late Mr. Moore, who was a representative of the T. and G. Insurance Co., Ltd., was a familiar figure in the Ashgrove district, where he had numerous clients. About 10:40 a.m. yesterday he drove up to Doyle's Garage, Waterworks Road, and had a slight adjustment made to his car. After conversing with the proprietor and employees for several minutes he left, apparently in the best of health, and called on a client only a short distance away, in Woodland Street. Soon afterwards the car was seen proceeding along Woodland Street in the direction of Waterworks Road, when it was noticed that Mr. Moore had collapsed, and was drooping over the side. An employee of the garage, whose attention was attracted, rushed out, and stopped the car just before it reached the garage, Mr. Moore, whose foot was on the brake, was then seriously ill. He was helped from the car, and a doctor, who lives nearby, was summoned, but Mr. Moore had expired.



HC Moore, 1932
Labor candidate for
Hamilton⁸

⁷ *The Worker*, Wednesday, 8 June 1932, p. 1.

⁸ *Daily Standard*, Friday 10 June 1932, p. 1.

The late Mr. Moore was identified with sporting and youth movements for many years. He was born and educated at Clifton, Bristol and became deeply interested in the Young Men's Christian Association holding the position of general secretary of the organisation in England for a number of years. When he came to Australia in 1913 his interest in the movement did not wane, and during the war he was engaged in Y.M.C.A. work at Thursday Island and in Europe. He lent his gifts as a public speaker to patriotic affairs during the war, and organised the war savings and other movements. His love of debate led to his founding the Queensland Debating Society Union of which he was president for seven years, and a vice-president at the time of his death. He was an ardent supporter of Soccer football, and was chairman of Football Association (Code) Ltd. His interest in hockey extended beyond this State, for, besides holding the presidency of the Queensland Hockey Association in 1927, he was president also of the Australian Association in the same year. For the past six years he had been honorary secretary of the Queensland Life and Fire Insurance Union of Employees, and had been actively associated with the trade union movement for some time.⁹

Election Candidate's Death.

Ellen Moore, widow of the deceased, said she believed the stress of contesting the election for the Hamilton seat was the cause of her husband's death. He had addressed two meetings on the day prior to that on which he died, and had complained of being very tired after attending meetings.¹⁰

Henry was involved in a wide range of church, sporting and community groups, as is evidenced by the many tributes at his funeral.

OBITUARY

Funeral of Mr. H.C. Moore.

The funeral of the late Mr. Henry Charles Moore, Labor candidate for Hamilton, whose death on the eve of the election caused the postponement of the poll in that electorate, took place on Saturday afternoon from the Hamilton Methodist Church to the Lutwyche Cemetery. The chief mourners were the widow (Mrs. H.C. Moore), Messrs. Stewart and Geoffrey Moore (sons), Miss K. Moore (daughter), Mr. A.J. Mirams (brother-in-law), and Miss Betty Mirams (niece). The service at the church and grave-side was conducted by the Rev. H.C. Larkin.¹¹

On the Saturday following his death the YMCA and Wynnum football (soccer) teams wore black arm bands out of respect for the late Mr Moore.

⁹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 11 June 1932, pp 15,18

¹⁰ *The Brisbane Courier*, Tuesday 5 July 1932, p. 3.

¹¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 13 June 1932, p. 19.

Impressive Tribute

LATE MR. H.C. MOORE.

REPRESENTATIVE FUNERAL.

The funeral of Mr. H.C. Moore, Labor candidate for Hamilton, whose death occurred suddenly on Friday, was attended by a representative gathering on Saturday.

BEFORE the cortege moved to the Lutwyche Cemetery, a brief service was conducted in the Hamilton Methodist Church, of which the late Mr. Moore was an adherent. The Rev. H.A. Larkin, in the course of an eloquent eulogy, referred to the sudden demise of their late brother, who, he said, had given of his best in endeavouring to promote the interests of manhood and womanhood. The wealth of his mind and the beauty of his thoughts were always available, and it was with great sorrow that they mourned his passing. "He has fought the good fight, and now enters into the joy of the Lord," concluded Mr. Larkin.

The church, in which the body of the late Mr. Moore lay, was taxed to its utmost capacity, and the casket was covered with beautiful tributes testimonies to the popularity of and the esteem in which the late Mr Moore was held.

Among those who sent floral tributes and messages of condolences were:— Hamilton Methodist Order of Knights, congregation of the Myrletown Methodist Church, Brisbane Hockey Association, Hamilton Methodist Choir, Hamilton Methodist Christian Endeavour Society, Hamilton Methodist Tennis Club, trustees Kingsholme Methodist Church, Harrisville Tennis Club (Pinkenba), Hamilton Methodist Ladies' Guild, official and players Football (Association Code) Ltd., members Breakfast Creek A.L.P. committee, Hamilton A.L.P. committee, Penny's staff (Burns, Philp and Co.), management Burns, Philp; office staff, Burns, Philp ... Roma Post Office staff, wife and family, Mr. and Mrs. L. Price, Mr. and Mrs. H.M. Russell, M.L.A., Mr. and Mrs. M.E. Werzel, residents of Silva Street, Doomben, Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Williams, Mrs. Morrison and family, Y.M.C.A. Club, Mr. Edgar Ferguson (W.E.A. Debating Society), and many others. Members of the Methodist Order Knights, of which the late Mr. Moore was a member, formed a guard of honour at the church and at the grave side. The Rev. H.A. Larkin also conducted the service at the grave side.¹²

Ellen died on 3 June 1953. She was buried in the same grave as Herbert in Lutwyche Cemetery.

¹² *Daily Standard*, Monday 13 June 1932, p. 7.

Mursell, Arthur Berkeley (Rev)

Arthur was born in Raglan, New Zealand, a small beachside town in the Waikato region of New Zealand, on 12 November 1884. His father William Mursell, was a teacher who migrated from England to Melbourne in 1877. His mother Clara Cooper was born in Tasmania. They married in Oatlands, Tasmania. Arthur had a brother Vere (1882–1956) and three sisters, Ida (1887–1973), Ella Holder (1887–1973) and Edythe MacLure (1892–1961).

Prior to 1907, Arthur was the assistant pastor of Casino Baptist Church in NSW. From there he moved to Victoria to attend the Baptist Theological College of Victoria as his parents lived in Victoria and there was no Baptist Theological College in New South Wales. The Queensland Baptist College had commenced in Brisbane in 1904, housed in the City Tabernacle, but Arthur's uncle Rev James Mursell did not become the City Tabernacle's pastor until 1909, an appointment he filled until 1915, and then again for a year between 1926 and 1927. Arthur's grandfather and great grandfather were also ordained ministers.¹

Arthur resided at 13 Ballarat Road, Footscray North, Victoria while he was a student at the College. It has not been possible to find any record of his ordination; however, in 1912, he was consistently referred to as Rev Mursell in the *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*.

Beechworth Baptist Church. – The Rev. A.B. Mursell, who succeeds the Rev. J.S. Beasley in the pastorate of the Beechworth Baptist Church, preached his initial sermons on Sunday last. The Rev. Mr. Mursell is a comparatively young man, and created a very favourable impression on his congregation. His manner of speech is calm, collected, extempore and deeply earnest, and he delivered two most earnest and practical sermons. In the evening the church was well filled, and Mr. Mursell's address was listened to with rapt attention, and the congregation generally was much impressed by the earnest manner in which the preacher delivered his discourse. Mr. Mursell is a man of energy, and is evidently possessed of ability of no ordinary order, and great hopes are entertained that he will be a power of usefulness to the church in Beechworth.²

When Arthur moved to Nambour in 1913 where he served as a Baptist pastor, he was often referred to as Mr Mursell. *The Australian Baptist* refers to him as pastor in 1913 but as Rev, Mr, or Pastor in 1914. His mother and father remained in Victoria where they died in 1926 and 1936 respectively.

¹ *Clarence and Richmond Examiner*, Tuesday 17 December 1907, p. 4.

² *Ovens and Murray Advertiser*, Tuesday 20 February 1912, p. 2.

In 1913–14 Arthur was a Home Mission Agent, in charge of the Nambour Baptist Church. He then spent two years in Maleny where he was reported as seeing the opening of ‘the new and attractive buildings’. The Maleny church building was constructed by voluntary labour. Arthur would walk approximately 28km from Nambour to conduct the Maleny services. He was known as ‘Able-bodied (A.B.) Mursell’, a nick-name which no doubt is self-explanatory.

The Baptist Church came into being when a small group of Baptists decided to sever connections with the Maleny Union Church, where they had been holding their meetings. Their request for use of the Union Church facility for one full day a month was refused. This occurred on 13 September 1913 and, within three days, on 16 September, a meeting was held to discuss the building of a Baptist Church in Maleny, attended by Rev TU Symonds (Secretary of the Home Mission in Queensland, in the Chair), Mr and Mrs Eben Smith, Mrs Roderick, Mr Stan and Mrs Charlotte Pattemore, and Pastor A.B. Mursell, Maleny Baptist’s first minister.

After a very successful period of work in the Maleny district he became the pastor at Warwick in May 1915. He had taken the pastorate on the understanding that his family would move there from Melbourne, but this did not occur. At the time his father was living in Warwick and his mother in Box Hill, Victoria.

WELCOME MEETING BAPTIST FUNCTION.

A very successful public welcome was accorded the Rev. A.B. Mursell in the Baptist Church last night. The church was comfortably filled with an enthusiastic audience. The Rev. C.J.W. Moon, of Toowoomba, occupied the chair, and in an appropriate address welcomed Mr. Mursell, on behalf of the Baptist Association. In doing so he spoke of the good work accomplished in other places by Mr. Mursell, and bespoke for him the earnest cooperation of the church members. ...

The Rev. A.B. Mursell, in a short, pointed address, expressed his appreciation of the kind things said by the ministers from the other churches, and hoped that the Rev. C.J.W. Moon would keep in touch with affairs here, as the advice of a man of his stamp would be a big factor in the success of the work. Mr. Mursell mentioned that his message to the church was given on a recent Sunday morning, and stated that if the people would endeavour to act on the thoughts given he was confident that a good work would be accomplished.³

Arthur remained at Warwick until he enlisted in the 17th Field Ambulance, Army Medical Corps in Toowoomba on 15 September 1915, aged 28 years and nine

³ *Warwick Examiner and Times*, Wednesday 28 July 1915, p. 4.

months. He was described as 180cm tall, weighing 64kg. He had a 92cm chest, dark complexion, brown eyes and black hair. He gave his religion as Baptist.

Arthur embarked from Sydney on the *Ballarat* in February 1916. Private Mursell served in Heliopolis (Egypt), Rouen (France), and Windmill Hill Camp (UK). He had several stays in hospital during his service and was returned to England after episodes of influenza and bronchitis. He resumed service in France in mid-1918. In March 1919 Arthur travelled back to Australia on the *Anchises* with Lindsay G Wilson, leaving from Le Havre, France. He was discharged in Brisbane in June 1919.

He was welcomed back home by the Home Mission Department in their annual report in the *Queensland Baptist Year Book 1918–1919*, but there is no record of his returning to work as a pastor for any length of time following the war. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Arthur returned to the Nambour district in 1919.

RETURNED PASTOR.

Pastor A.B. Mursell, who a few years ago had charge of the Baptist Church in Maleny, but who volunteered for service in the interests of the Y.M.C.A. returned here on Tuesday last. He was met and enthusiastically welcomed when the car reached the bridge. Flags were flying everywhere, and the bridge was gaily decorated with bunting. Representatives of the Baptist Church as well as other local citizens expressed the greatest pleasure in welcoming home Mr. Mursell, who had responded so nobly to his country's call, and expressed the pleasure it would give them, to see him back in their midst again. Mr. Mursell feelingly responded. During the function the school children under Mr. Breusch sang appropriate songs, concluding with the national anthem.

On Wednesday evening a social was extended to Mr. Mursell in the School of Arts, which was well filled. The chair was taken by Mr. Breusch, who on behalf of the citizens gave a very hearty welcome to Mr. Mursell. Other gentlemen also spoke, expressing the high esteem in which Mr. Mursell was held, not only by the members of his late congregation, but also by Maleny citizens generally, and the hope was expressed by all that eventually he would take up his work here again. During the evening Mr. Mursell was presented with two medals, one on behalf of the Maleny citizens, and the other from the members of the Baptist Association. Mr. Mursell responded with considerable amount of feeling, and assured all present of the great pleasure it gave him to be back again in the presence of old friends, and to receive such a warm greeting. He thanked them heartily for their generous

tokens of esteem, and hoped that they would be long spared to enjoy each other's friendship and esteem.⁴

Arthur settled in Mapleton and eventually became a farmer. Having spent a few years in the area prior to the war, he was obviously drawn to the region. He was very much involved in community work in Nambour–Maleny and his name appeared in the local newspaper because of his work in the local community.

Arthur was in Papua New Guinea for a period of time. When his mother died in 1926, he was recorded as being resident in New Guinea. He had gone to New Guinea to take up a short-term appointment as manager of a plantation when the job was offered to a returned soldier. He returned to his farm in Mapleton soon after and in 1928 married Agnes Murray. He and Agnes had four daughters, Margaret who died before her first birthday, June, Rosemary and Janet. Rosemary and Janet attended St Stephen's Presbyterian Sunday School in 1945–47, and were members of the Presbyterian Fellowship Association in 1954. Janet was injured in a car accident in 1954 but the extent of her injuries is not known.⁵



Arthur Mursell

The great Depression was probably the cause of the mortgagee sale described below:

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION AT OUR MART, CURRIE STREET, NAMBOUR. ON SATURDAY, 24th FEBRUARY 1934, AT 12 NOON.

We have been favoured with instructions from the Agricultural Bank, as Mortgagees in possession, to submit to Public Auction, at our Rooms all that Property standing in the name of ARTHUR BERKELEY MURSELL known as Freehold Resubdivision 4 of Subdivision 4 of Portion 69V, Parish of Kenilworth. The area of the Property is 56 acres 3 roods 11 perches. It is

⁴ *Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, Friday 2 May 1919, p. 2.

⁵ *Maryborough Chronicle*, Monday 19 July 1954, p. 2.

situated one (1) mile south-east of Mapleton, at which centre the nearest school is situated. The Property consists of chocolate volcanic soil, with small arable patches, and has been used for growing bananas and sugar-cane. WHALLEY & KITCHIN, Auctioneers, NAMBOUR.⁶

Arthur enlisted in the Australian Citizen Military Forces from 1940 until 1947.

Arthur died in Mapleton in 1958 at the age of 72 years and was buried in Nambour General Cemetery. The officiating pastor at his funeral was Rev Kenneth NR Innes of the Presbyterian Church. Arthur's name is recorded on the Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Maleny Roll of Honour and the Shire of Landsborough Roll of Honour, Caloundra, in addition to the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

His wife Agnes died in 1981 and was buried in Brisbane.

⁶ *The Nambour Chronicle and North Coast Advertiser*, Friday 19 January 1934, p. 6.

Newman, Walter Humphrey

Walter was born on 26 March 1887, the son of Leon Newman. His father and grandparents had arrived in Brisbane in 1862. His father married Hannah Grice in Queensland in 1880. His father and mother died in 1920 and 1942 respectively. Their grave in Toowong Cemetery has a headstone bearing the words: "Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come." (Heb. 13:14)

Walter had four siblings, Herbert Leon (1880–1951), Beatrice Trotter (1883–1963), Holly Coyle (1884–1973), and Annie Heck (1889–1977). In 1905, Walter's elder brother Herbert (HL Newman) was appointed to the position of organist and choirmaster of the City Tabernacle at the age of 25, which is probably why Walter, his parents, and sisters Beatrice and Holly became members at that time. His sister Anne became a member in 1908–09.

When Walter enlisted he was living with his parents in Victoria Street, Red Hill and working as a whip maker. At the time he was a member of both the Sunday School and Christian Endeavour at the City Tabernacle.

Walter enlisted in the 49th Battalion on 16 September 1916 at 26 years of age. Even though his father was still alive, he nominated his mother Hannah as his next-of-kin. In January 1917 he was granted 48 hours leave to return to Brisbane from Sydney to visit his parents and relatives but, more especially, to assist his father whose health was poorly at the time.

Walter was 164cm tall, weighing 57kg, and with a chest measurement of 79cm. He had dark complexion, brown eyes and brown hair. He gave his religion as Baptist.

Before embarking from Sydney in January 1917 aboard the *Ayrshire*, on the same ship as William Cooksley, Walter was sent to signalling school. It appears that he did not reach the Front. He was taken off the ship in Cape Town and admitted to the infectious hospital in March and, after his recovery, continued to Devonport, England before returning to Australia. He was suffering from cerebrospinal meningitis and was discharged in October 1917. This infectious disease was a relatively common cause of death during World War I. In some reports it is said to have had a mortality rate of 48%.

On his return he resumed his former roles at the City Tabernacle. The *Year Book* report for the Young People's Christian Endeavour records, 'We are glad to have Mr Walter Newman back with us again as vice-president'. He married Eva Hiron in September 1918. She was born in Brisbane in 1883, the daughter of George and Mary Hiron who became members of the City Tabernacle in 1894–95. George later became a deacon of the church. Both George and Mary Hiron died before their daughter's marriage to Walter. George died in Adelaide in 1915 while

visiting another daughter Ruby. His wife and Eva were with him in Adelaide when he passed away. At his funeral at the City Tabernacle, addresses were given by Rev AC Jarvis and Mr EJT Barton. George was a founder of George Hiron & Son, biscuit manufacturers, and was described as the 'well-known Brisbane biscuit maker'. He was the patron of the Toowong Fire Brigade, and for 19 years was actively involved in the YMCA as a member of the directorate.

Eva Hiron became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1905, the same year as Walter, 12 years before Walter left for the war. They may have been courting or even engaged before he left. Their families were well known to each other, and Eva's parents are on record as inviting the choir to an evening at their Toowong residence in 1906. Walter's brother was the choir conductor. Eva's sister Ruby married Walter Abotomey at the City Tabernacle in 1911. The ceremony was conducted by Rev J Mursell. Eva was one of Ruby's bridesmaids. Eva's sister Ethel was the Church Missionary to the neighbourhood around the City Tabernacle from 1911 to 1915 and was known as Deaconess Sister Ethel. She was the extension secretary of the YWCA in 1918, and supervised a six-day YWCA camp at South Wynnum over the 1917–18 New Year. Ethel came into membership in 1901.

Eva's mother died shortly before her marriage to Walter.

An old and esteemed resident of Brisbane recently passed away in the person of Mrs. George Hiron, whose name will long be remembered in connection with the Young Women's Christian Association in Brisbane, and other benevolent work. ...It is interesting as evidence of the sturdy activities of residents in the earlier times that Mr. and Mrs. Hiron, then identified with the Jireh Baptist Church in Fortitude Valley, used regularly to walk [approximately 7km] across from their home at Toowong every Sunday to attend the services. For many years past the deceased had been a member of the City Tabernacle.¹

Walter and Eva had a daughter, May (1921–2014), who was engaged to Private Edward (Ted) Brett in 1943. Six years before this, they both sang in the Windsor Road Baptist (Red Hill) Sunday School Choir, the 1937 winner of the Grand Choral Contest of the Baptist Union of Queensland Sunday School Departments.² During the Second World War, Ted Brett married May Newman at Ashgrove Baptist Church.

Walter and Eva settled at 'Toowong', 40 Fraser Street, Ashgrove. He worked as an insurance agent. Walter died in 1955 and Eva in 1956.

¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 24 August 1918, p. 15.

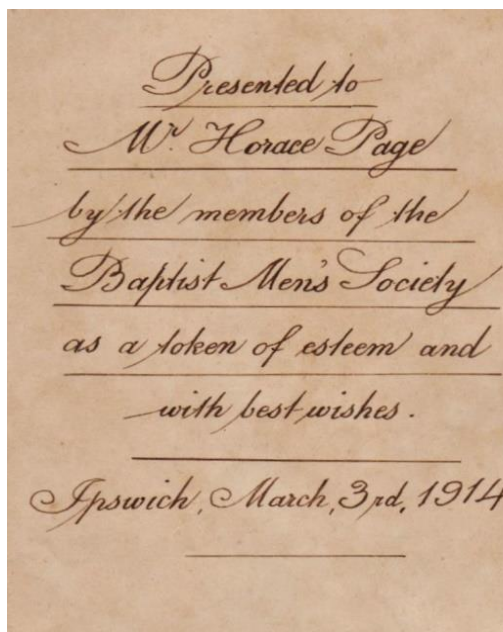
² Printed photo of the winning choir (with their names) is in the Hancox collection in the John Oxley Library at the State Library of Queensland.

Page, Horace MM (Rev)

Horace Page was born in Plumstead, London on 22 July 1892, the son of Thomas and Jane Page. In 1911 he was living in Plumstead with his parents and five of his siblings and working as an explosives operator. He had eight siblings, John, Thomas, Joseph, Jane, Theresa, Arthur, George and James. He emigrated from England aboard the *Orsova*, departing London in early 1913.

During 1914–15 Horace was a Baptist student pastor, first in Wondai and then for two months in Maleny where AB Mursell had established the church a few years earlier. He resigned to enlist in the AIF in Brisbane on 11 May 1915. He gave his religion as Baptist. No records of his involvement with the City Tabernacle have been found. However, given that the Queensland Baptist College was housed in the Tabernacle Tower Room, he would have been seen frequently around the church during his training.

Horace embarked for overseas service later in 1915 and served with the 15th Field Ambulance in England and France until the end of the war. He was twice wounded by gas shells, in October and November 1917, and admitted to hospital, but was able to return to duty on both occasions.



The inscription in
Horace Page's Bible

Lance Corporal Page and a fellow member of the 15th Field Ambulance (Private Herbert H Shean) were each awarded the Military Medal on 9 September 1918. The citation reads:

In the neighbourhood of Peronne on 31st August 1918 under intense shell and machine gun fire these men carried wounded from the R.A.P. to Ambulance Relay Post working with great courage and cheerfulness that was inspiring to all. The carry of half a mile was under the direct observation of the enemy and their fire but they carried out their duties for 12 hours until the

whole of the wounded had been evacuated. Their courage and devotion to duty with utter disregard of personal safety is worthy of special recognition.¹

Horace's older brother Joseph was a bullet maker who was killed in action in June 1915. Another brother Arthur also served in World War I. He was injured and discharged.

Horace was promoted to Lance Corporal in 1918. In 1919 Corporal Horace Page married Dorothy Robbins in the Parish Church of Bures, Suffolk, England. He returned to Australia aboard the *Benalla*, departing England in October 1919. He was not discharged until 1920.

Horace did not pursue his ministry on his return from the Front.

The committee of the West End School of Arts met recently to consider the numerous applications for the position of secretary and librarian rendered vacant by the resignation of Mr. John Wotley. Preference was given, to the applications of service men. After careful consideration, it was unanimously decided to appoint Mr Horace Page, a returned soldier, who had four years' service in France and Egypt.²

Horace and Dorothy were living in Spring Street, West End in 1922 when Horace was working as a librarian. They relocated to the Kurilpa Library in Boundary Street, West End some time before 1934.



Horace Page in uniform

¹ National Archives of Australia, B2455, Australian Military Forces.

² *The Brisbane Courier*, Wednesday 14 April 1920, p. 11.

They had a son Keith (1921–2016) who enlisted in World War II. Horace also enlisted during World War II.

Horace and Dorothy moved to Bundaberg in about 1954 when Horace retired. They lived with their son Keith and his family for several years. Horace died in Bundaberg on 16 August 1967 and was buried at Albany Creek Cemetery. Dorothy died in Bundaberg in 1969.

Horace's brother James also emigrated from England around 1924. In 1925 he was living with Horace and Dorothy. He was a missionary with the United Aboriginal Mission and set up the Nepabunna Mission in South Australia. Sadly in 1935 he committed suicide. His grand-niece Janice was told by the Nepabunna people that they loved and respected him.

Horace's granddaughter Janice, who was about 14 when he died, recalls:

In the family photo of Horace, he is carrying a child. This was Uncle Des [Desmond] who was a foster child they had, and that would have been when they were at the Library as I remember Dad telling us stories about living there. So, Dad [Keith] looks about 14. It must have been in the 1930s sometime.

We grew up with Horace calling around nearly every day after school to see if we wanted to go for a ride in the car with him when he took the dogs for a run. As we got older we didn't want him to arrive while we were doing our homework as he would ask us to explain everything we were doing.



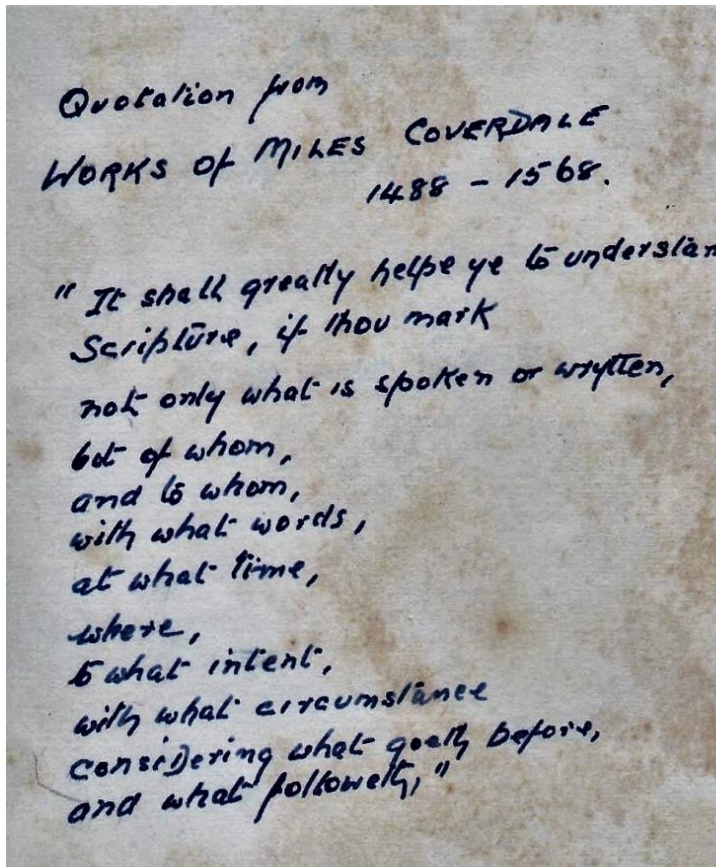
Horace Page MM



Horace and Dorothy Page
with son Keith and foster child
Desmond, 1930s

I do think he helped my brother, who is eight years older than me, with his Latin as I am sure Horace had learnt that at school.

I had always wondered why he [Horace] let Dad [Keith] become a fitter and turner as I thought of Granddad as a learned man but, after doing my family tree and finding out his father was a metal worker too, I now know why.



Inscription in Janice Page's Bible written by Horace Page

Pope, Douglas Hamilton

Douglas was born on 17 August 1896 in Rothsay, a popular holiday resort on the Isle of Bute, Scotland, the son of Rev William and Jessie Pope. He was born while his family was on vacation from Algiers where his parents were Baptist missionaries from Liverpool. William and Jessie were married in Algeria in 1892. Their daughter Olive was born in Algeria.

Around 1900 they returned to Liverpool, his mother's home town where Rev Pope became the Home Representative for Missions in Sudan, and then Travelling Secretary for five years for The Regions Beyond Missionary Union. In 1905, Rev Pope became the minister at the Toxteth Tabernacle, Liverpool where he served for eight years. In 1913 he spent some time in America and Canada.

The family migrated from Scotland to Melbourne arriving in October 1914. Douglas was 18 at the time. Until 1916 they lived in Melbourne where Rev Pope was pastor of the Auburn Baptist Church. However the southern climate caused respiratory problems for Douglas and it was decided to move north. Rev Pope indicated his acceptance of a call to the pastorate of the City Tabernacle in June 1916 and commenced ministry almost immediately thereafter.

Douglas had four siblings, Olive (1895–1980) who married Wilfred Iliffe in 1923 at the City Tabernacle, Margaret (Daisy) (1899–1971), William (1907–72) and James (1911–93).

After they relocated to Brisbane, Douglas, his sisters and mother were in membership of the City Tabernacle.

They lived for seven years in Westminster Road, Indooroopilly, in what is now called 'Keating House', an unusual landmark, heritage-listed residence, prominent in the district today although now empty. It was most likely leased by the City Tabernacle for the family. When the owners returned in 1924, the family moved to a grand house along Coronation Drive. Douglas worked as a junior clerk at the Naval Office in Edward Street from around 1916 to 1918. Rev Pope and Jessie returned to Melbourne in April 1926.



'Keating House', Indooroopilly, Qld

Douglas enlisted on 24 August 1918. In nominating his father as next-of-kin, he referred to him as Mr George William Pope of Westminster Road, which was his address as well. Initially he was assigned as a naval staff clerk. Although he had not done an apprenticeship, he considered himself a motor mechanic and, on the strength of this, he was transferred to the technical unit of the Army Flying Corps. On completion of his training at Laverton, he was given the rank of Second Class Air Mechanic. He drew 2/- of his pay for personal use and allotted a further 5/- per day to his mother.

The training of mechanics was very comprehensive and, depending on their trade, would last anywhere from 8–12 weeks right up to 32 weeks for general engine fitters. Since Douglas had no previous training and was not long out of high school in England, the Army Flying Corps would have required quite a few weeks to bring him up to the required standards, which accounts for anywhere from two to eight months at Laverton. He never left Australia because the war had ended by the time he completed his training.

Family members believe Douglas may have served briefly in North Queensland in radio communications. He was awarded the British War Medal, even though he did not enter a war zone.¹

In 1921 his father saw fit to purchase land for Douglas at Mt Stirling near the small railway siding at Glen Aplin, a good many miles south of Stanthorpe. The family's information regarding this quite extraordinary decision to move a young 25-year-old, not long from England to an isolated country area, to fend for himself alone, has always been that the father did not approve of the behaviour of the modern city life and 'jet set' that Douglas had become involved with. The less likely reason (also given by his wife) was that 'his father bought him a small orchard in Glen Aplin beside Mt Stirling, hoping life and climate would be good for him as he suffered lots of colds'. Perhaps there was some truth in both reasons!²



Douglas Pope

¹ Personal Communication, Wendy Allen

² Personal Communication, Wendy Allen.

Douglas retained his membership of the City Tabernacle after the war, even though, from 1921, he was living in Glen Aplin.

Douglas built himself a shack, referred to by family members as ‘The Joint’. He tilled the soil, planted vegetables and fruit trees, and sold mainly tomatoes, packing them off on the train to Brisbane. Sundays were spent – not at church – he was not religious, but at the home of the Litchfields who lived not too far away and often looked after this ‘hopeless’ young Englishman. Sundays with the Litchfields meant roast dinners and musical get-togethers – he played flute. All the Litchfield family played various instruments and young Trilby (Tib) had an amazing singing voice. Douglas also played piano very well, mostly by ear.³

He became ‘engaged’ to Tib who was 16 at the time. Her mother wouldn’t allow marriage until she turned 21. Life with the locals eventually became quite full of social events: tennis tournaments, musical parties, dances, picnics, and times with his future wife at her orchard home, ‘Moss Vale’, situated below Thunderbolt Hill. So Rev William Pope, whatever his reasons, had made a good decision in sending his son into the far hills.

Douglas married Trilby Litchfield in October 1927 in the City Tabernacle shortly after her 21st birthday. Trilby was born in July 1906 in Liverpool, NSW, the daughter of George and Agnes Litchfield. She was a bridesmaid at the wedding of Douglas’s older sister Olive in 1923.⁴ Trilby was living with her parents at Stanthorpe at the time. Her father was chairman and provisional director of Queensland Co-operative Fruit Products Ltd.

After Rev William Pope, Douglas’s father, returned to Melbourne, he preached at Ivanhoe for 11 years. In March 1937 he resigned and became a tourist guide taking groups all around the world with his new young wife Mary Lord who was also a retired missionary – then preached locally once or twice a month when requested while he was in his 80s.

Rev William Pope did not attend Douglas and Trilby’s wedding. The wedding had been planned for April or March the following year which is what the father had understood. However, Tib’s story is that Douglas and she had come to Brisbane in October for some reason and visited Doug’s sister Daisy (Margaret) who suggested they might as well get married while they were here and she would lend Tib her wedding dress and arrange for the wedding at the City Tabernacle. The poor father said he had been looking forward to being at their wedding but found it was all over.

³ Personal Communication, Wendy Allen

⁴ Refer to the end of this chapter for the newspaper’s report on this wedding.

Douglas and Tib lived in Camp Hill, Brisbane for a year where their first child June was born in 1929. They returned to the 'The Joint' at Glen Aplin briefly, then moved to two residences in Stanthorpe where Ian (1931) and Clive (1936) were born. Douglas had a radio and refrigerator shop in Stanthorpe. He was involved in the use of and invention of farming equipment such as sulphur pumps for spraying grape vines, and in later years set up companies manufacturing greatly improved designs of office equipment.

Douglas was declared a bankrupt in 1930 on the petition of Edgar Vincent Hudson, engineer and machinery merchant of Charlotte Street, Brisbane, owing £536/5/1.⁵

By 1936 Douglas and Trilby had moved to College Road, Stanthorpe where he was a radio dealer. In 1937 he was fined £2 for failing to submit an income tax return.

Around 1937–38 they moved to Gentle Street, East Toowoomba looking for a job, due to the ongoing effects of the Depression. Their son Arnold (1938) and daughter Una (Wendy) (1939) were born here, but Arnold died as a baby. Douglas travelled country areas as a sales representative selling farm equipment.

His World War II effort was as a Purchasing Officer commuting to Brisbane and returning to Toowoomba with food supplies, etc. for the American soldiers who were based not far away at the end of Tor Street.

At the conclusion of World War II, Douglas purchased a house on acreage at 23 Queenstown Avenue, Boondall. He set up a company, 'Pope, Mayne and Southerden', manufacturing farming equipment and fruit graders among other things, in premises below street level in Adelaide Street. He had an inventive bent of mind which he used in designing some of the products. He then went into partnership establishing Pope and Carey Pty Ltd manufacturing paper-wrapping machines of his own design with a factory at Auchenflower. Next he set up business in his Boondall backyard to manufacture more office machines – paper collators for mass printing jobs, his own design again – as sole Director of Trustees Pty Ltd. This machine was world class and was bought by many universities and other institutions handling multiple printed materials.

In 1968 he was due to fly to the USA to obtain a patent for a paper concertina-folding machine that he had designed. He apparently was terrified of flying and died of a heart attack and stroke before leaving, aged 72. The Queensland climate, the Army Flying Corps, and life in orchard country had solved his problems with coughs and colds, but not his fear of flying.

⁵ *The Brisbane Courier*, Thursday 9 January 1930, p. 14.

Tib, then 62, moved to a weekender that Douglas had built on Bribie Island, living by herself until she was 95, still healthy, gardening, walking, and singing in a local choral group. She then moved in with their daughter Wendy in Manly (Qld) and son Clive in Kenmore for alternate months. She died in 2011 aged 105 at Corinda.

As mentioned earlier, the newspaper report on the wedding at which Trilby was bridesmaid to Douglas's sister Olive in 1923 is recorded below. It is of historical interest because of the number of people named who are recorded here and elsewhere in this book.

ILIFFE-POPE.

Hundreds of spectators gathered at the City Tabernacle on Saturday afternoon to witness the wedding of Mr. Wilfred J. Iliffe, son of Mr. J. Iliffe, M.A., of Oaktowers, Sheffield, England, and Miss Olive Damaris Pope, eldest daughter of the Rev. W.G. Pope and Mrs. Pope, 'Wondai', Toowong, ... The ceremony was performed by the bride's father, the Rev. W.G. Pope, who was assisted by the president of the Baptist Association, the Rev. R. Sayce, and the Hon. E.W.H. Fowles. The bride, who was given away by Mr. B.G. Wilson, was charmingly frocked in ivory morocain ... There were two bridesmaids in attendance, Miss Margaret Pope and Miss Trilby Litchfield of Stanthorpe ... Miss Litchfield wore a pretty frock of pale pink georgette ... The duties of best man were carried out by Mr. L. Morcom [Llewellyn, who married Margaret Pope in 1924], and Mr. Douglas Pope was groomsman. ... Mr. J.E. England sang "The King of love My Shepherd Is." At the conclusion of the ceremony the Rev. W.G. Pope and Mrs. Pope entertained nearly 300 guests at a reception in the church hall.⁶

⁶ *The Week*, Friday 25 May 1923, p. 28.

Ross, Alexander Harold

Harold, as he was commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 2 January 1886, the son of Alexander and Julia Ross. His parents were married in Brisbane by Rev Henry Coombs, minister of the City Tabernacle in 1879. Alexander Snr was a draper, who died in 1909. Harold's mother Julia died in 1930. His father's death notice included the following:

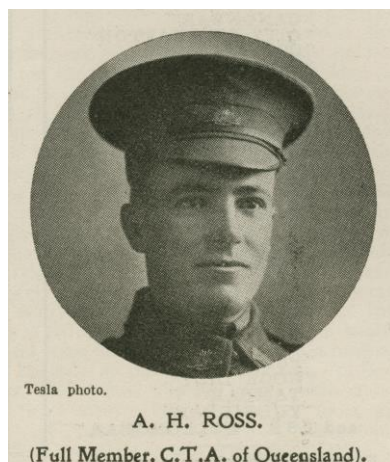
A few who have watched me sail away.
Will miss my craft from the busy bay;
Some friendly barks that I anchored near,
Some loving sails that my heart held dear,
In silent sorrow will drop a tear;
But I shall have peacefully furled my sail
In moorings sheltered from storms or gale,
And greeted the friends who have sailed before
O'er the unknown sea to the unseen shore.¹

Harold had two older sisters. The eldest, Ruth (1881–1963), who was a teacher before her marriage to William Stanley at the City Tabernacle by Rev T Leitch, was a member of the church both before and after her marriage. The second eldest, Julia (1885–1945) and her husband Arthur Praeger, were both members of the church. Two of Julia and Arthur's sons (Alexander Snr's grandsons), Eric and Douglas Praeger enlisted in World War II.

Prior to enlisting in WWI, Harold lived at 'Clinton', Wride Street, Woolloowin and worked as a warehouseman. He later became a traveller. Harold delayed his enlistment because he was his widowed mother's only son and she was dependant on him. He had been granted an exemption from enlistment on these grounds in October 1916.

Harold's mother was a member of the City Tabernacle from 1913 until her death. Harold was a student in the Sunday School.

Harold eventually enlisted on 13 December 1916 in the 11th Field Artillery Brigade as a gunner, aged 31 years and 4 months. He



¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 13 November 1909, p. 4.

was promoted to lance corporal in September 1918 and to corporal a few months later. He served in France. At enlistment he gave his religion as Baptist. He embarked from Sydney on the *Port Sydney* in November 1917 on the same voyage as Charles Dennis.

He returned to Australia in September 1919 aboard *Ulysses* with no wounds or disability. After the war, he resumed work as a traveller and continued to live in Wride Street, Woolloowin.

Harold became a director of North Australia Rubber Mills (NARM).

The directors and staff of the North Australia Rubber Mills entertained Mr. A.H. Ross (a director of the company) at dinner at the Bellevue Hotel, prior to his leaving for America to purchase new machinery.²

Harold left Brisbane in March 1925, travelling via the Solomon Islands, arriving in San Francisco later that month on his business trip.

In September 1931, the Governor paid a visit to the NARM factory, and later that year, Harold (AH Ross) became the financial director of NARM.

GOVERNOR VISITS N.A.R.M. FACTORY.



His Excellency the Governor (Lieut.-General Sir John Goodwin) yesterday paid a visit to the N.A.R.M. factory at Kelvin Grove. In the group are, left to right: Messrs. W. T. Walker (works superintendent), A. Johnson (manager), A. H. Ross (secretary), Sir John Goodwin, Mr. J. M'Cann (managing director), Colonel N. A. Campbell, Mr. K. S. Reid (chief chemist).

² *The Brisbane Courier*, 5 March 1925, p. 17.

Harold married Ethel McLeod in September 1927. Ethel was born in 1904, the daughter of John and Sarah McLeod.

WEDDINGS.

ROSS – MCLEOD.

There was a large gathering of guests and spectators yesterday in the Bulimba Methodist Church, when the wedding was celebrated of Mr. Alexander H. Ross (son of the late Mr. Alexander Ross and Mrs. Ross, of Wride Street, Woolloowin) and Miss Ethel A. McLeod (elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John McLeod, of Princess Street, Bulimba). The Rev. J. Prowse officiated. ... Subsequently Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Ross left by car for Sydney via the Northern Rivers.³

After their marriage, they moved to ‘Wyampa’, View Street, Newmarket where Harold continued his work for NARM as a secretary and company manager. The ‘news’ that they had a telephone was announced in the local press in 1927, along with the phone number – M7231.

Harold and Ethel had two daughters, Cynthia Lord (1928–2014) and Hazel (1931–). They remained at ‘Wyampa’, until Harold’s death in Queensland in 1969. Ethel died aged 94 in 1999. She was living at the HM Weller Garden Settlement, Chermside at the time of her death.

Although he was not a member of the City Tabernacle, Harold was a long term honorary auditor of the church from 1940–41 until 1949–50.



The Ross–McLeod wedding party leaving the Bulimba Methodist Church at the conclusion of the marriage ceremony

³ *The Brisbane Courier*, 29 September 1927, p. 20.

Sampson, Victor

Victor was born in 1882 at West Ham, Essex, England, one of the twin sons of Andrew and Maria Sampson who were married in London in 1877. They arrived in Brisbane in 1889 on the *Merkara*.

Victor's father, Andrew, was a school teacher who taught in Townsville in 1905, Northam (WA) in 1910, Charters Towers in 1913, Brisbane in 1915, Augathella in 1917, and Brisbane in 1919.

Victor was a commercial traveller. In 1913 he was living with his father in Hill Street, Kelvin Grove and then in 1915 went to live with his twin brother Royal and Royal's wife Edith in Guthrie Street, Paddington. Royal was a teacher and subsequently became a deacon¹ of the City Tabernacle. Edith became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1914–15 on transfer from Victoria. She joined the City Tabernacle choir² as did Victor who was a tenor. His family was very musically inclined, as many were singers and pianists. Because of Victor's knowledge of music, he was appointed the choir librarian that year³ even though he was not a church member. The new organ had just been installed and George Sampson, the City Organist and organist of St John's Cathedral, played at a fund-raising organ recital in 1915 to raise money for the new organ together with the City Tabernacle organist, Percy Brier.⁴ Any family relationship between George Sampson, organist, and Victor Sampson has not been forthcoming to date of writing. Victor's brother George was a medical practitioner.

Victor's presence in the City Tabernacle choir was short lived as he enlisted in the AIF 49th Battalion on 30 July 1915. He nominated his father, Mr A Sampson, Hill Street, Kelvin Grove, salesman, as his next-of-kin. He was described as 160cm tall, weighing 54kg, with an 86cm chest. He had fair complexion, blue eyes and light brown hair. He gave his religion as Methodist. Prior to the change



Victor Sampson

¹ City Tabernacle *Year Books 1927–28 to 1933–34* record Royal Sampson as a Deacon.

² City Tabernacle *Year Book 1934–35*, p 8 Mrs R Sampson resigned from choir owing to ill health (after 20 years singing in the choir).

³ City Tabernacle *Year Book 1914–15*, p 21.

⁴ *ibid*, p 31.

of enlistment criteria in June 1915, Victor was considered too short to be a soldier.

He embarked on the *Seang Bee* in October 1915 as a Private, but was promoted to lance corporal in July 1916, acting corporal in December 1916, and sergeant in January 1917, having attended an NCO training course, Tidworth, UK.

Victor was wounded in action in France in August 1916. His father was advised of his wounding (a gunshot wound to the back), which was considered mild, and that he had been admitted to the Norfolk War Hospital in England. He was wounded again in October 1917, requiring transfer to England again.

In January 1919 Victor married Lucy Hambly born 1889 in Watford, the daughter of William and Mary Hambly. The ceremony was held in the Baptist Chapel, Watford, UK with GHR Laslett officiating. Victor and Lucy were both living at 21 Marlborough Road, Watford at the time of their marriage. Victor and Lucy left Devonport, England in June 1919 aboard the *Konig Friedrich August*, and Victor was discharged in October 1919. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

After the war Victor and Lucy lived in 'Lonsdale', Terrace Street, Toowong (1921–37). They had a daughter Bertha who died in 1921 as a baby. During those years he worked as a grocer's assistant. Victor also had a sewing machine business in 51 Ann Street near City Hall where he sold and repaired sewing machines. He later moved to Flinders Parade, Sandgate (1943–54) where he was a shopkeeper.

Victor's father, Andrew, died in 1925 in Brisbane.

LATE MR. ANDREW SAMPSON

Andrew Sampson, who died on Monday last at his residence in Herston Road, Kelvin Grove, was well known in the western suburbs. He was born at West Ham, London, Essex, on January 17, 1856, and came to this colony in 1889 with his wife and family. City born and bred, he found employment in Brisbane and shared in the general reverses of this town's early nineties. ...Though apparently in excellent health all last week, he was taken ill on Saturday morning and passed quietly away at 8 o'clock on Monday morning. He is survived by his widow, seven sons, and two daughters, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. His remains were interred in the Toowong Cemetery on Tuesday, Rev. T. Leitch [minister of the Windsor Road Baptist Church] conducting the burial service.⁵

⁵ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 13 June 1925, p 4.

The numerous funeral announcements, from various family members, indicate that his children (Victor's siblings) were Andrew (1878–1952), Horace (1880–1955), Royal (1882–1947), Dr George (1886–1958), Peter (1888–1966), Herbert (1892–1974), Grace (1890–1970), and Christiana Ferguson (1897–1987). A set of twin daughters, Edith and Annie (1895–95), died in infancy.

In 1929 and again in 1931 and 1933, Victor and Lucy were invited guests at vice-regal garden parties given by his Excellency the Governor (Lieut-General Sir John Goodwin) and Lady Goodwin and his Excellency the Governor (Sir Leslie Wilson) and Lady Wilson at Government House.

In 1936 Victor had the honour of being appointed to be the wreath layer on behalf of the 49th Battalion at the ANZAC Day parade.⁶

Victor's mother died in 1947 in Herston, Brisbane.

Victor died in 1956 and Lucy remained at Flinders Parade, Sandgate until at least 1972.

Phone B 8887


V. SAMPSON

51 ANN STREET - near City Hall - BRISBANE

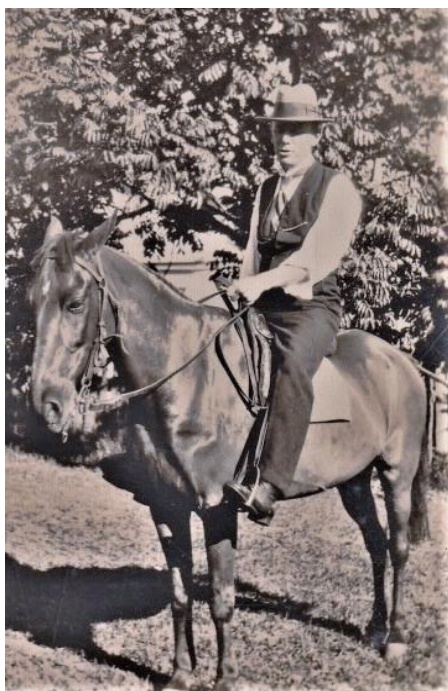
ANY SEWING MACHINE REPAIRED

**ECONOMISE! SAVE £.S.D.! HAVE YOUR SEWING
MACHINE REPAIRED —**

**MECHANICALLY.
RE-VENEERED.
RE-POLISHED.
RE-ENAMELLED.**

 PARTS, ETC.	SHUTTLES - NEEDLES
ALWAYS	PARTS FOR ANY MAKE
ON HAND	OF SEWING MACHINE

IT CAN BE REPAIRED



Victor Sampson's photo on the reverse side of his sewing machine business promotion card.

⁶ *Daily Standard*, Wednesday 22 April 1936, p. 8.

Sault, Henry Travers Burt

Burt, as he was most commonly known, was born on 4 July 1898 in Grafton, NSW, the son of Frank Sault and Charlotte McNutt, who were married in Grafton in 1897. His siblings were Charlotte McNutt (1894–), Isobel Fraser (1902–81), Grafton (1904–) and Mona Asmussen (1906–). His father and mother died in 1931 and 1953 respectively.

He attended West End Boys' School, where he was awarded a Technical College Scholarship.

Technical College Scholarships. The Successful Candidates.

The Minister for Education has granted Scholarships to the day school at the Central Technical College, Brisbane, as per list hereunder. The scholarships will be for one year in the first instance, but they may be extended from year to year in the case of deserving students. The scholarships were allotted to each State School in Brisbane and suburbs, according to the number of pupils in the sixth classes; only sixth class pupils of not less than six months standing were eligible; the selection of the pupils was entrusted to the head teachers. It was a condition of the granting of a scholarship that each pupil who was nominated passed the entrance examination of the College. ... West End (Boys) – Henry T.B. Sault.¹

In 1913 while attending the Brighton Road Congregational Church, Henry was awarded third prize in the Lower Intermediate division of the Queensland Sunday School Union Examination with 92 marks, behind Emma Carlson from Nundah Baptist and Jessie Hicks (the sister of Bert Hicks) from the City Tabernacle. He became a member of the Tabernacle in 1917–18 prior to enlisting.

He enlisted in the 9th Battalion on 12 June 1918, and nominated his father Frank Sault of Brighton Road, South Brisbane as his next-of-kin. Prior to enlisting he had served for four years in the senior cadets and two years in the citizen forces.

It is not known why he gave his religion as Church of England.

On June 1918 his father wrote to Captain P Adsett, recruiting officer in Brisbane, from



¹ *The Queenslander*, Saturday 17 February 1912, p. 40.

Ryders Imperial Hotel, Mount Morgan, stating:

I am in receipt of yours stating that my son H T Burt Sault has enlisted and asking if I have any objection. As a loyal citizen I do not object to my son doing his duty for his country, but at the same time I am surprised at the medical officer passing him as he has never been a strong lad and has had a lot of medical attention. He has a sort of cyst germ in his blood which forms generally on his face necessitating operations by a doctor to cut out the cyst and take out roots. Just look at his face. He looks an old man already. I have just had word that he has just had to go and get one cut out of his neck. It is still discharging and is affecting his head. He also has a weak ankle which frequently gives way under him. Under the compulsory training system when he has been out on marches, he has had to be brought back to camp in transport wagon owing to ankle giving way as it does often when walking in town. I am pleased with him for offering but do not think he will stand the strain.²

Burt embarked on the *Bakara* in September 1918, arriving in France in January 1919. He returned to Australia on the *Port Denison* in September 1919. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He married Florence (Gwen) Bell in June 1921. Gwen's parents William and Elizabeth Bell and her two sisters had been members of the City Tabernacle since 1910–11. Gwen's brother, William Stewart Bell, also enlisted and his story is outlined elsewhere. Burt and Gwen both became members in 1917–18 shortly before Burt's enlistment. They continued in membership after the war while living in West End and remained members when they moved to 'Torrington', Dorinda Street, Greenslopes in 1923–24 until at least 1929–30. They remained in Greenslopes and Burt continued his career as a teacher.

They had three children, Alan, Jeanne, and Hazel Gibbins (1923-2014).

In March 1924 he was successful at the first aid examination (conducted by the Queensland Ambulance Transport Board) and awarded a medallion. He became an ambulance bearer in addition to being a teacher.

At the end of 1925, Burt was transferred from West End Boys' School to Ascot school. He was then transferred back to Dutton Park Boys' State School midway through 1926. Subsequently in 1929 he was transferred to Junction Park. In 1933 at Junction Park, he taught class 11B with 28 boys and 23 girls in the class.³

² National Archives of Australia: B2455, Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office.

³ James J Dempsey, *History of Junction Park State School, 1888–1933* (Brisbane: RG Gillies & Co, 1933).

Burt enlisted in the RAAF on 27 June 1941 at Greenslopes and was discharged on 24 May 1945. His posting at discharge was the 3rd Recruit Centre.

It seems likely that Burt and Gwen joined the Seventh Day Adventist Church in 1928, although they weren't removed from the members' roll of the City Tabernacle until 1934–35. They continued to worship at the City Tabernacle from time to time and maintained friendships with members of the church.⁴ Burt died in September 1945 at the Rosemount Military Hospital and was buried in the South Brisbane Cemetery.

Obituary:

SAULT: On September 19, 1945, at Rosemount Military Hospital, Brisbane, Henry Travers Burt Sault passed to his rest, aged 47 years. Brother Sault and his wife accepted this message in 1928, under the ministry of Pastor R.A. Anderson, and he was ever a faithful member of the church. During that time he was elder of the South Brisbane and City churches. He was held in high esteem by a wide circle of friends, and had served his country in two wars; with the AIF in 1914–1918, with the RAAF in this war. In peace time too, his was a life of service, as he was a permanent member of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Board. He died trusting in the Lord and His soon return. To his sorrowing wife and children, his mother and other relatives we extend our heartfelt sympathy and trust they may be reunited when Jesus comes. Pr JD Abbey⁵

SAULT – In loving memory of my dear Husband No. 43238. Sgt. Burt Sault R.A.A.F. who passed away 19th September 1945 at Rosemount Military Hospital, just one year ago to-day.

Burt, do not ask if I miss you, there is always your vacant place;

I can never forget your footsteps or your ever smiling face.

Kind thoughts are in my heart, and tears begin to flow:

And to the place where you are laid my footsteps often go.

Mere words seem very futile, my sadness to reveal;

No pen can write my expression to equal what I feel.

My thoughts of you will always be, a cherished place in my memory.

“Gone, but not forgotten.”

Inserted by his loving wife, Gwen

SAULT – In proud and loving memory of our dear Dad, No: 43238, Sgt. Burt Sault, R.A.A.F., who departed this life just one year ago to-day, 19th Sept 1945, at the Rosemount Military Hospital.

⁴ Personal communication, Alan Geoffrey Sault.

⁵ *Australasian Record*, unknown date.

A precious one from us has gone;
 A voice we loved is still;
 A place is vacant in our hearts
 Which never can be filled.
 A memory that will never fade,
 Of one we loved but could not save.'
 Inserted by his loving Daughters, Hazel & Jeanne, & Son, Alan.⁶

After Burt's death, Gwen married Gilbert Karl Menkins at Margate in 1970. They settled in the Home Hill district where Gilbert was in a leadership role in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Gwen died in 1980.

MENKINS: Sister Gwen Menkins (previously Sault) went to her rest on November 10, 1980, in Brisbane, Queensland, just a few days before her eighty-second birthday. Sister Menkins will be remembered by many for her active participation in a variety of church activities. Her death will be felt most by her husband, Brother Gilbert Menkins, her two married daughters, Hazel and Jean, and her son, Alan Sault. The loved ones and friends who gathered were encouraged to look forward to the resurrection morning and experience a softening of their sadness as they look forward to being reunited to their loved one. Pr. I. G. Johnston⁷

⁶ *The Courier-Mail*, Thursday 19 September 1946, p. 12.

⁷ *Australasian Record*, January 23, 1981, p. 14.

Simmonds, John Lloyd and Wilfred Price

John and Wilfred Simmond's parents were Frederick Simmonds and Louisa Price, who married in 1891 at 'Waterview', Upper Roma Street, Brisbane. Frederick was born in Victoria in 1862 and Louisa was born in 1865 in Brisbane. Her father, Septimus Price was a deacon of the Wharf Street Baptist Church and the City Tabernacle between 1885 and 1901, and treasurer 1895–98.

Frederick was a pharmacist who practised in Toowong, having been registered in 1886. He was appointed honorary treasurer of the Pharmaceutical Society of Queensland in 1896 and became president of the Society in 1900. He became assistant registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages at Toowong in 1902.

Frederick and Louisa lived in Ebor Street, Toowong. They had become members of the City Tabernacle by 1892 and remained members until they moved to Victoria in the early 1930s. Frederick was a vice-president of the Young Men's Class in 1898. In retirement, they returned to Queensland to live in Clayfield in the mid-1940s.

Frederick's brother Arthur was assistant secretary of the City Tabernacle Sunday School in 1892–94. His wife was also a member of the church and they also lived in Toowong. They were living in Longreach in 1917. Frederick and Arthur's father, John Simmonds was the choir conductor of the Wharf Street church in 1885–87.

Frederick and Louisa died in 1957 and 1943 respectively in Queensland. Frederick was buried in the Mount Thompson Memorial garden, Holland Park West. Louisa was privately cremated.

They had two sons, John and Wilfred.

John Lloyd Simmonds

Lloyd, as he was most commonly known, was born in Brisbane on 10 June 1892. He lived in High Street, Toowong (1913) and worked as a chemist's assistant. Lloyd had previously served in the Australian Corps Signallers (two years) as a signalling officer, 9th Australian Infantry Regiment. In 1912 he was appointed provisional Second Lieutenant in the Regiment and resigned in 1913. In 1915 he is recorded as living in Bourbong Street, Bundaberg and working as a pharmacist.

When he enlisted in the Infantry Brigade 7th Field Ambulance on 27 April 1915, he gave his occupation as chemist. Lloyd had been apprenticed to his father for three years, and it was his father whom he nominated as next-of-kin. Lloyd was appointed as a dispenser with the rank of sergeant.

Lloyd embarked on the *Ascanius* in May 1915 and served at Gallipoli and Lemnos, for which he was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. He took ill in Egypt and was left behind when his unit went to France. After recovery he was sent to England and attached to the 7th Training Battalion, Rolleston Camp, in charge of the medical hut, until he left for Australia in May 1917 on transport duty on the *Ayrshire*. He was discharged as medically unfit for further duty later that year.¹



Lloyd Simmonds

Lloyd married Dorothy Dawson in November 1917. Dorothy was born in 1894, the daughter of John and Charlotte Dawson. Dorothy's mother was a member of the City Tabernacle throughout the war years. Given the short interval between his return from the Front and marriage, it seems likely that he was courting, if not engaged to, Dorothy before going to war.

In 1921 Lloyd and Dorothy lived on the corner of Kelvin Grove Road and School Street, Kelvin Grove while he was working as a pharmacist. He was a medical practitioner in 'Highleigh', Ebor Street, Toowong in 1928; Crow's Nest in 1936–37; 11 Windsor Road, Red Hill in 1943; 30 Gregory Street, Clayfield in 1949; and in Cole Street, Clontarf in 1958.

Lloyd was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1919.

In 1928 Lloyd joined the Australian Army Medical Corps as a provisional Captain, supernumerary pending the establishment of the AAMC.

When Lloyd and Dorothy left Ipswich, a send-off in the form of a golf day at Sandy Gallop was held. Lloyd was partnered by Mrs DE Trumpy in a Canadian mixed foursome. They played with an eleven-stroke handicap over nine holes. Dorothy was partnered by Mr SH Harding.

Lloyd and Dorothy were also guests, along with Victor and Lucy Sampson, at the garden party hosted by his Excellency the Governor Sir Leslie Wilson and Lady

¹ Owen Wildman, *Queenslanders Who Fought in the Great War 1914–1918* (Brisbane: Besley & Pike, 1919), p. 195.

Wilson at Government House in 1933.² They also attended the 1937 garden party and the 1939 garden party hosted by Lieutenant-Governor Sir James Blair and Lady Blair.

Lloyd and Dorothy travelled to England, returning on the RMS *Stratheden*, which left London in August 1949 and arrived in Sydney in September 1949.

Lloyd died in October 1960 and was cremated at the Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens, Holland Park. Dorothy died in 1973.

They had three sons, Wilfred (1918–90), Frederick Jnr, and Graham (–1978).

Wilfred attended Ipswich Grammar School and was awarded a scholarship from the school to study medicine at the University of Queensland. He served as a Flight Lieutenant, RAAF Medical Services 1942–46 for three years, undertaking research on flying personnel.

Graham married Elva Laurens in 1946 at St Paul's Presbyterian Church, St Paul's Terrace, Brisbane. He served in World War II as a navy dentist.

Wilfred Price Simmonds

Wilfred was born on 1 March 1896 in Toowong. He attended Toowong and Taringa State Schools and Brisbane Grammar School. He was a proficient swimmer. At the Brisbane Grammar annual swimming sports day in 1912, he took out first place in the School Championship. He matriculated in Science in 1915.

Prior to enlisting Lloyd had five years' compulsory service, possibly while attending university.

He attended the Toowong Methodist Young Men's Bible Class in 1914.

Wilfred enlisted in the Army Medical Corps on 4 January 1916 while a nineteen-year-old student (studying Medicine at the University of Queensland), but was transferred to the



Toowong Methodist Young Men's Bible Class
Wilfred is second from the right in the back row
(Mr AJ Richards was the teacher)

² *The Brisbane Courier*,
Friday 4 August 1933, p. 18.

25th Battalion. His mother Mrs Louisa Emily Simmonds of High Street, Toowong was nominated as his next-of-kin. He was a member of the City Tabernacle when he enlisted. He sailed on the *Clan MacGillvray* in September 1916.

The 25th Battalion was raised at Enoggera in Queensland in March 1915 as part of the 7th Brigade. Although predominantly composed of men recruited in Queensland, the battalion also included a small contingent of men from Darwin. The battalion left Australia in early July, trained in Egypt during August, and by early September was manning trenches at Gallipoli. The battalion left the peninsular on 18 December 1915.

After further training in Egypt, the 25th Battalion proceeded to France, landing in March 1916. It was the first AIF Battalion to arrive there. It took part in most of the major battles: the Somme 1916, Pozières, Bapaume 1917, Bullecourt, Ypres 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Broodseinde, Poelcappelle, Passchendaele, Hamel, Amiens, Albert 1918, Mont St Quentin, the Hindenburg Line, Beaurevoir.

In March 1916 Wilfred was promoted to Corporal 'for voyage only', and to Sergeant in May 1917.

He had 17 days bayonet training before arriving in France 23 July 1917. He qualified as an instructor in physical training and bayonet fighting, and was attached to the seventh Training Battalion, Rolleston Camp. After participating in the engagements of 20th and 21st September, 1917, among the "Pill Boxes," and coming through scatheless, Wilfred was killed in action, near Zonnebeke Church, Passchendaele, Belgium, in the early morning of 4 October 1917, aged 21, during the Third Battle of Ypres (Broodseinde), and



WP Simmonds



Battle of Broodseinde Ridge (AWM)

buried at Tyne Cot British Cemetery, Passchendaele, 5¼ miles E.N.E. of Ypres.³



WP Simmond's grave stone
in the Tyne Cot Cemetery,
Belgium

his life in the cause of the world's freedom.

SIMMONDS. In affectionate remembrance of Harold's chum, Cpl. W.P. Simmonds, killed in action, in France, 4th October 1917. Died as he lived – a hero and a gentleman. Inserted by all at 'Mafeking'.⁵

SIMMONDS. In fond memory of our dear friend, Cpl. W.P. Simmonds ("Shinty"), who made the great sacrifice at Zonnebeke, October 4th, 1917. A noble life, nobly given, for a noble cause. Inserted by all at 'Mafeking'.

SIMMONDS – In loving remembrance of Corporal Wilfred Price Simmonds, 25th Battalion, A.I.F., killed in action at Passchendaele, 4th October, 1917.

The Australian Forces lost 6,432 men on this day, including 251 from the Twenty-fifth Battalion of the 7th Infantry Brigade (12 officers and 239 other ranks). The battle has been described, however, as: 'the most complete success so far won by the British Army in France' and 'the greatest victory since the Marne'.⁴

Wilfred's gravestone includes the epitaph which was chosen by his parents:

'One of the best of sons
Our Father's gift has gone before.'

Several memorial notices were published on behalf of his comrades:

SIMMONDS. In loving memory of our son and brother, Corporal Wilfred Price Simmonds, 25th Battalion, A.I.F., who at Passchendaele, on October 4, 1917, gave

³ Owen Wildman, *Queenslanders Who Fought in the Great War 1914–1918* (Brisbane: Besley & Pike, 1919), p. 195.

⁴ CEW Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918*, Vol. IV 'The Australian Imperial Force in France' (Sydney: Angus and Robertson Ltd, 1937), Chapter XX.

⁵ *The Brisbane Courier*, Friday 4 October 1918, p. 6.

He died as few men get a chance to die
Fighting to save a world's morality.
He died the noblest death a man may die,
Fighting for God, and Right, and Liberty,
And such a death is immortality.⁶

In his Will, written after he enlisted, he bequeathed the whole of his estate to his mother, Louisa Emily Simmonds, and made her the Executrix of his estate.

An interesting ceremony took place in the City Tabernacle, Brisbane, after the morning service on Sunday, 9th instant [9 March 1919], when the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Simmonds [born 29 November 1918] was publicly dedicated by his parents, the pastor, Rev. W.G. Pope, conducting the service. The name given to the child, Wilfred John, was in memory of an uncle who was killed last year [1917, the year before the birth of the child], whilst nobly doing his duty as a member of the Army Medical Corps in France. Amongst those present at the service was the great-grandmother, Mrs. Septimus Price, widow of one who had served the church for many years as its secretary in the old Wharf Street days. Thus there were four generations represented, and the thoughts of the older members were stirred by many recollections.⁷

⁶ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 4 October 1919, p. 4.

⁷ *The Australian Baptist*, 18 March 1919, p. 10.

Smith, Ernest Robertson MM

Ernest was born in Queensland on 22 May 1893, the son of W Ritchie Smith (1866–1933) and Martha Prideaux of Princess Street, Taringa. His father migrated from Aberdeen, Scotland in 1884 and became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1891. His parents were married in 1892 by Rev W Whale at the City Tabernacle. His mother became a member in 1893 following their marriage. His parents died in 1933 and 1955 respectively. He had a younger brother, Kenneth (1895–1988) and a younger sister Marguerita (1899–1985). Neither Kenneth nor Marguerita came into membership.

WR Smith was a Deacon of the City Tabernacle from 1898 to 1933. He was also a Delegate at the Annual Assembly for the City Tabernacle in 1922 and a life member of the church. The baptistery in the church was dedicated to the Glory of God in memory of his 46 years of service to the church and the denomination.

Ernest became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1909–10 following his baptism. He was Secretary of the Christian Endeavour Society in 1910–11 and of the Young Men's Bible Study. In 1914–15 he was a member of the choir.

YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

The meetings of the Young Men's Bible Class have been held during the past twelve months under the leadership of Mr. L.C. Morris. The attendance has not been very encouraging, but the few members we have, have attended regularly, and profited much from the instructive and helpful talks of our leader.

Due to the unsatisfactory attendance and the removal of our leader to a more distant suburb, it was decided that the Class be discontinued.

The members highly appreciate the interest which Mr. Morris has always taken in them and at their last meeting took the opportunity of expressing their love and esteem in the form of an illuminated address.
E. R. SMITH, Secretary ¹



Ernest Smith

¹ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Year Book 1913–1914*, p. 20.

Ernest enlisted in the 13th Field Artillery Brigade on 30 August 1915, giving his occupation as a book seller and nominating his mother as his next-of-kin. This was later changed to his father in accord with army protocol.

In August 1916 he was promoted to acting corporal, but reverted to private when he transferred to the 5th Field Ambulance later that year. He arrived at the Front at Etaples, France in September 1916. He was awarded the Military Medal on 20 November 1917 'for bravery in the field'. A letter to his parents from Major J McLean, Officer in charge of Base Records, reads:

On the night of 13–14/8/1917, East of Ypres, when he accompanied the portion of his Battery that was advancing to a forward position, the party came under very hostile shelling and several casualties occurred. Private Smith in a most fearless manner moved about among the vehicles, horses and men, looking for the wounded, and rendered first aid whenever it was necessary. He has at all times been quick to respond to calls to assist wounded men and to perform whatever aid he could to them.

He acted in a very brave manner and set an excellent example. His courage and devotion to duty are worthy of special recognition.²

Later in 1917 he reverted to Gunner with the 51st Battalion.

Ernest was killed in action on 22 August 1918 in France and was buried about 500 metres west of Cerisy-Gailly, a village 10 km south-west of Albert.

The AIF under General Haig were fighting in the vicinity of Tailles Wood. This was just two weeks after the capture of Amiens on 8 August, which has been described as the turning point of the war.

In 1919 Ernest's father wrote under company letterhead to Major J McLean, the Officer in Charge, Base Records:



It is with a proud sense of appreciation, that my wife joins me in expressing our grateful thanks to the Honourable the Minister of Defence for his personal sympathy expressed to us through you in your letter dated 28th May in the loss of our dear boy, Gunner E.R. Smith.

² National Archives of Australia: B2455, Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office.

We have also to acknowledge the safe arrival of the Military Medal awarded to Ernest for Bravery in the field. We are very grateful indeed for your kindness in giving us detailed particulars of the circumstances under which this medal was won.

We are not ashamed to confess that the loss of our dear lad has caused us overwhelming grief. We are in the distinguished company of a great army of sorrowers proud beyond compare that we were called upon to make this sacrifice for our King and Country. In laying down his life for others our son did exactly what we knew he would do if opportunity came to him.

We were planning for his homecoming and as successor to me in my business, his future was bright but we cherish the comfort that today he lives and has been counted worthy for higher service for the King of Kings.

Thanking you for your great courtesy and consideration at this time.³

From 1919 until 1926, regular donations were made annually to a 'missionary in memoriam fund' at the City Tabernacle.

His parents were sent his war medals (the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal), the King's memorial scroll and plaque, and his Military Medal. They declined the offer of a public presentation of his Military Medal, stating in a letter to Major J McLean that 'we shrink from any publicity in connection with the presentation of this medal'.⁴

Ernest was also included on the Taringa Roll of Honour Board.

Unveiled by Mr. Macartney, M.L.A.

The Taringa School of Arts was crowded last night, on the occasion, of the unveiling of a roll of honour board, which had generously been presented by Mr. G.H. Grimes. The function was presided over by Mr. J.R. Loney (chairman of the School of Arts) and the unveiling ceremony was undertaken by Mr. E.H. Macartney, M.L.A. ...

That gathering was for the purpose of doing honour to members of the School of Arts who had donned khaki in order to participate in the great Empire struggle. The School of Arts was represented at the front by some 40 members or sons of members. (Applause.) ...

They had assembled, continued Mr. Macartney, to do honour to the young men of Taringa who had volunteered without waiting for conscription ...

I think, observed Mr. Macartney, having unveiled the board, "that you will all admit that it is a fine board, and the School of Arts have every reason to be grateful to Mr. Grimes. Apart from being a handsome ornament, the board

³ National Archives of Australia: B2455, Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office.

⁴ National Archives of Australia: B2455, Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office.

will be a standing memorial to the men whose names are inscribed upon it.” (Applause.)

The board, which is made of silky oak, contains the following names: ... E.R. Smith ...

Cr. A.J. Lamont (chairman of the shire council), in proposing, a vote of thanks to Mr. Grimes, for the board, suggested, amid laughter, the introduction of honour boards for men who did not go to the front ...

Mr. Grimes acknowledged the vote of thanks, and the proceedings concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.⁵

Ernest is also listed on the Taringa Union Baptist Church honour board.

The fifth volunteer to fall, of those whose names are on the Taringa Union Baptist honour board, is Private E.R. Smith, M.M., who made the supreme sacrifice on active service on August 22 last. The deceased soldier, who at the time of his enlistment, was the energetic secretary of the Church Tennis Club, was an ex-scholar of the Sunday School, the members of which, together with several friends, assembled in the church on Sunday afternoon last at a memorial service. Rev. T. McColl gave an appropriate address, in which he lauded the Christian character and courage of the late young soldier. The speaker, in his address quoted, *inter alia*, excerpts from letters from Private Smith to his parents, which testified that abroad, as at home, his thoughts were fixed on God. Mr. McColl emphasised the fact that the deceased had won the Military Medal.⁶

In September 1918 the secretary of the City Tabernacle, John Keith, wrote to Mr and Mrs Smith.

The announcement of the death of your dear son Ernest on the battlefield came as a great shock to us all and on behalf of the Church I tender you our sincere sympathy in the great and sore bereavement. We pray that our God will grant unto you his consolation (the only effective) in this your hour of deep distress and that the association now created by Ernest's entry into the joy of His Saviour and Redeemer may give you both some comfort and the peace of mind which has been absent for some time. Mr Pope referred briefly to the event at this morning's service and next Sunday will refer to it again. The loss of these dear boys who have grown up amongst us is a great tragedy and what our dear Lord wishes to teach us by it is beyond me. Ernest was one of those to whom we were looking in the near future to take our place in the carrying on of the work at The City Tabernacle but "He that doeth all things well" has shown us that it is not to be, so we must all gird up our loins,

⁵ *The Telegraph*, Friday 2 June 1916, p. 8.

⁶ *The Daily Standard*, Tuesday 1 October 1918, p. 4.

put on our armour and stand boldly in the front line of the fierce battle against the sin which is so evident in our midst. I can just now fancy you opening the picture gallery of the mind and looking at his history from the cradle recalling many of the aspirations you had for him, the most of which I feel sure you have with great pleasure seen fulfilled in his active association with every thing that tended to the Glory of our Heavenly Father and the benefit of those by whom he was surrounded.

We mourn with you and will continue to remember you at the Throne of Grace until the soreness of the wound has been at least partially worn away.

With kind regards to you both and your two dear children, in which Mrs Keith joins.⁷

⁷ City Tabernacle Archives.

Smith, William Neville

William was born on 20 December 1892 in Long Eaton, Derbyshire, England, the son of Thomas (1854–1933) and Rebecca (1856–1930) Smith. His siblings were Alfred (1887–1942), Polly/Pollie Bingham (1889–1990), Charlotte (1895–) and Percy (1897–). He was educated at the Long Eaton National School from 1895 until 1898. In early 1911 he was living with his parents and siblings Alfred, Polly and Percy in Long Eaton, working as a decorator.

He migrated to Australia when he was 19 years old, arriving on the *Themistocles* in 1911. He lived at 163 Wharf Street, North Brisbane in 1914, and 55 Wharf Street, North Brisbane in 1915–17. His brother Alfred also migrated and was living at ‘Murthy’, James Street, New Farm. It is not known if William and Alfred migrated together. Alfred moved to Sydney where he married. Their brother Percy enlisted in the Grenadier Guards and later transferred to become a machine gunner. He survived the war.

William’s occupation on his enlistment records was stated as being a contractor, although electoral records and Australian War Memorial records indicate that his occupation was house decorator.

William became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1914–15 on transfer from his previous church in England. He laboured for the Lord in various ministry positions in the church and his departure for the war impacted on a number of departments. He was Secretary of the Sunday School, and Superintendent for both the Christian Endeavour Society and the Sunday School. He was one of five Choir members who enlisted for active service in the AIF.

The *Year Book 1914–1915* states that ‘Under the able leadership of Mr. W.N. Smith, this [Young People’s Christian Endeavour] Society has proved a decided success. The attendance has been good, and the meetings helpful’. Mr ER Smith was the secretary of the Society.

The *Queensland Figaro* in May 1915 contained a notice announcing the engagement of Miss Nellie Miller and WN Smith of ‘Eskbank’, Wharf Street, Brisbane. Nellie was the youngest daughter of Charles and Margherita Miller. They were not married by the time of his enlistment four months later. At that time his next-of-kin was recorded as his mother, Mrs MR Smith, ‘Raneleigh’, Recreation Street, Long Eaton End (Street), Nottingham, England, even though his father was still living. Prior to enlisting, he wrote a Will in which he devised and bequeathed all his real estate to Miss Nellie Miller of ‘Brockton’, Shore Street, Cleveland.

William enlisted on 18 September 1915, aged 22, and stated his address as ‘Brockton’, Cleveland, Queensland, the address of his fiancée Nellie.

He served in the 9th Battalion and embarked from Brisbane on board the *Commonwealth* to Alexandria then on the *Arcadian* in July 1916, disembarking in England. He subsequently served at Etaples and Havre

Initially on 20 September 1917 at the age of 25 years, William was reported missing in action, then later the same day he was reported as killed in action in Polygon Wood, Belgium. He died on the same day and in the same battle as George Bremner. The location of his grave is unknown. He is however memorialised at the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres, Belgium. The precise cause of death is not stated in his military record.



William Smith

The Battle of Menin Road offensive started on 20 September, 1917 after a pause for fine weather. The Menin road was the main West-East route. To gain control of the road it was necessary to capture the ridges, one of which was Veldhoek Ridge, the other being Anzac ridge or Spur Zonnebeke where there was a dominating blockhouse overlooking the Menin road. It was the first battle designed to push the Germans off the Passchendaele – Messines Ridge and was to be spearheaded by 1 Anzac Corps. ...



Menin Gate at exit of Ypres (AWM)

At 5.40am on 20 September, 1917, after 5 days of bombardment, 11 divisions of the 2nd and 5th BEF (British Expeditionary Force) armies struck the Germans on a 13 kilometre front. The Australian 1st and 2nd Divisions, along with a Scottish Division, were the centre of the assault along Westhoek Ridge facing Glencorse Wood, with a combined front of 1,800 metres. It was the first occasion in the war in which two Australian Divisions attacked side by side. The Australians overcame enemy infantry opposition and advanced steadily for almost one kilometre to the first objective known as the "Red

Line". It ran along a sunken road, the north edge of Glencorse Wood to Honnebeck swamp and bogs in the None Borsden Copse. ...

By noon, the Australians had taken all the objectives and were at the western end of Polygon Wood.

Losses: 1st Division = 2,754

2nd Division = 2,259¹

On the first anniversary of William's death, *The Brisbane Courier* carried the following notices from Nellie and her family:

SMITH – A tribute of love to the memory of William Neville Smith, 9th Battalion, killed in action at Polygon Wood, September 20th, 1917.

Buried in a nameless grave,

Laid aside with other brave,

His life for King and Right he gave,

"Thy will be done"

Inserted by his loving friend, N. Miller, Cleveland"

SMITH – A sad but loving tribute to the memory of William Neville Smith, 9th Battalion, killed in action at Polygon Wood, September 20th, 1917.

Only beautiful memories of our dear friend.

Mrs Miller and family, "Brockton", Cleveland.²

Nellie remained single, living with her parents until at least 1925. She travelled to England in 1925, returning in 1927.

¹ <http://www.anzacsinfrance.com/1917/>, accessed 20 October 2018.

² *The Brisbane Courier*, 20 September 1918 p. 6.

Street, Joseph Dandy; Cochrane, Roderick Thomas; grandsons of Abraham Street

Abraham Street and Margaret Kinross married in Perth, Scotland in 1853. They migrated to Sydney in 1857 on the *Parsee* with their two eldest children, Lucy (1853–1905) and William Alexander (1855–1923). They were living in William Street, Brisbane in 1874 when Abraham was employed as a dyer and scourer, and in Margaret Street in 1885 when Abraham was employed as a feather dyer and cleaner. They had moved to North Quay by 1895.

They had seven more children after arriving in Brisbane, Abraham Jnr (1858–1923), Marion Cochrane (1859–1924), Margaret Budd (1862–1925), Joseph (1864–66), Mary Drake (1867–1924), Richard (1870–1926), and Agnes (1873–73).

Abraham Street Snr was a deacon of the Wharf Street Baptist Church in 1885. Abraham Jnr was also a member of Wharf Street in 1885. Mr and Mrs Abraham Street Snr and their daughter Mary were members of the City Tabernacle in 1897. Margaret remained in membership until she moved to Cleveland in 1918–19.

Lucy Street married Alexander Douglas in 1884 in Queensland and died in 1905. She was a member of the City Tabernacle when she married.

William Alexander Street married Elizabeth Adams in 1888. They were both members of the City Tabernacle, living in Browne Street. William died in 1923.

Mary Street married Hon James G Drake, MLA and later MLC in Queensland and Federal Queensland Senator in the first Australian Parliament in 1901, and Minister for Defence in 1903. Although James was a member of the Church of England, they were married in the home of Mary's parents in 1897 by Rev W Whale, minister of the City Tabernacle. Mary Drake continued as a member of the City Tabernacle for a short time after her marriage, living in Gregory Terrace.

By 1903 Abraham Snr and Margaret Street were living at 'Kinross', Redland Bay Road, Cleveland. Abraham died in 1907 and was buried in Cleveland Cemetery.



William Alexander Street, his wife Elizabeth and their children Abraham and Lucy

After his death, Margaret moved back to 83 Gregory Terrace, with her daughter Marion Cochrane. (This home was owned by Hon JG Drake.¹) Margaret died in 1919.

Joseph Dandy Street

Joseph was born 8 October 1883 in Queensland, the son of Abraham Jnr and Sarah Street. His parents were married in 1881 at Leichhardt Street, by Rev James Voller, a retired Baptist minister who was in membership of the City Tabernacle. Abraham Jnr was a fruit grower. Sarah was the daughter of Mr Joseph Dandy of Toowoomba and the late Susanna Dandy. In 1903 Abraham Jnr and Sarah were living with his parents, Abraham Snr and Margaret, at 'Kinross', Redland Bay Road, Cleveland. They stayed there until Joseph enlisted. He was employed as a farmer.

Joseph enlisted as a trooper in the 5th Light Horse regiment on 11 December 1914. He nominated his father of Kinross Street, Cleveland as his next-of-kin. He gave his religion as Church of England.

Joseph embarked from Brisbane aboard the *Itria* in February 1915.

He was wounded on 23 August 1915, and then suffered a gunshot wound to the scalp on 15 September 1915, but was wounded only slightly, before recovering on Lemnos Island and re-joining his unit.

Joseph Street was killed in action on 5 November 1915 on the Gallipoli Peninsula, and buried at Shell Green, Gallipoli Peninsula by Father Mullins. He was buried in the same grave as Corporal T Saunders and Lance-Corporal W O'Neill.

In a letter dated 13 December 1919, his father wrote to the military authorities:

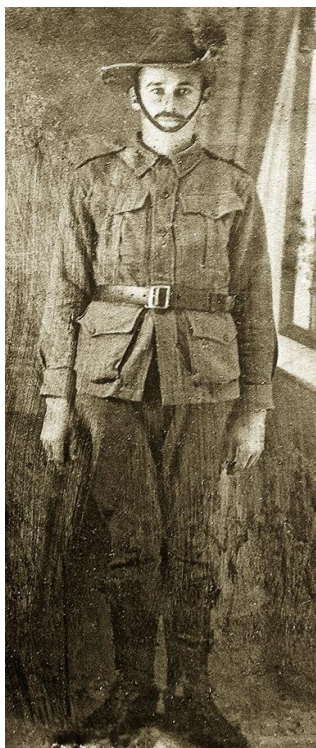
Mrs Street joins me in heartfelt thanks for your kind thought and consideration in conveying to us that the grave of our dear and loyal son has been located in Shell Green Cemetery No 1, about 1150 yards south of Anzac Cove. We look forward with pleasure to the receiving of the promised photograph of our son's last resting place.²



Joseph Street

¹ Personal Communication, Margaret Clarke.

² National Archives of Australia: B2455, Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office.



Joseph Street



Informal portrait of four tent mates from the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment. From left to right: Troopers Gordon Rose; Joseph Dandy Street; Ernest William Weeks; and Bernard William Noah, Egypt 1915. (AWM)

Joseph's personal effects consisted of a Testament and note book, which were forwarded to his father as well as the medals awarded to him, the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

He had three siblings, Margaret (1881–1964), Abraham (1885–1972) and Dorothy Hucker (1901–87).

His mother was granted a pension of £52 pa and his sister Dorothy, £13 pa.

Joseph's mother, Sarah, died in 1944, and his father, Abraham Jnr, died in 1923.

Roderick Thomas Cochrane

Roderick was born in Queensland on 28 May 1895, the son of William G Cochrane and Marion Street. His siblings were Elizabeth (1884–84), George (1886–1946), Eric (1889–1922) and Madge (1892–1942). Some documents give his name as Roderick Thomas Cochrane and others have Thomas Roderick Cochrane. His father, Mr WG Cochrane, was a member of the City Tabernacle from April 1892 until his death in 1921. His mother died in 1924. She had joined

the church in 1892 and remained a member until at least 1920. His sister Madge Cochrane became a member in 1911–12, however it would appear that no other siblings, including Roderick, became members of the church.

Roderick joined the AIF on 8 January 1916, aged 20 years 8 months. He had previously been rejected for enlistment due to an unspecified strain. He was a mechanical engineer from Teneriffe. At enlistment he gave his religion as Baptist, and he had a scar on his forehead.

Roderick joined the 9th Brigade Ammunition as a Lead Driver and proceeded to France via England on the *Princess Clementine*, departing from Sydney in May 1916. He was wounded and gassed at Ypres in July 1917, and again wounded severely at Caestre in July 1918. He returned to Australia in July 1919. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Roderick Cochrane married Mary Fainges in January 1920. Mary had arrived in Queensland in 1911 as a 15-year-old with her parents, James and Alexandrina Fainges on the *Torilla*. Prior to their marriage, Mary was working as a dressmaker and living with her parents at 'Hazeldean', Anthony Street, Ascot. Later in 1920 Roderick had the second highest score in the engine drivers' examination in Brisbane.

From 1925 until 1943 Roderick and Mary were living in Real Street, Annerley. He was employed as an engine driver. They had two daughters, Mary (also known as Ina) and Alma. In 1932 Ina and Alma were attending the Fairfield Baptist Sunday School and competed in the Lower Intermediate and Junior divisions of the annual Sunday School examination, and Ina was attending Junction Park State School. In 1940 Alma submitted a drawing to *The Sunday Mail* which was "worthy of mention".

The last known reference to Roderick Cochrane in Australia is a brief mention of Roderick, Mary and their daughters going to Cairns for a month's holiday in July–August 1946.³

In March 1948 Roderick left Australia on the SS *Parrakoola* and arrived in San Francisco, California. In August 1956 he sailed to Liverpool, England aboard the SS *Empress of France*. Roderick is thought to have died in Liverpool South, England in 1957.

From 1958 until at least 1968, Mary lived at 56 Real Street Annerley with her daughters, Ina and Alma who worked in a toy factory. They lived in a large 'Old Queenslander' house with a beautiful garden. Mary Cochrane died in 1970.

³ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 13 July 1946, p. 5.

Tannock, Alexander Frederick

Alexander was born on 8 May 1899, the son of Thomas and Christina Tannock who were married in Queensland in 1897. His father was the secretary of the Rockhampton Baptist Church. His uncle Frederick Tannock was a church member in 1896, and his wife Lucy was the church organist in 1912. Alexander's father Thomas passed away in 1905.

Alexander's siblings were Gertrude Salmon (1898–1985) and Douglas (1901–59) whose marriage to Edna Jessup in 1932 at Petrie Terrace Baptist Church was conducted by Rev PJ Evans.

In 1913 Alexander, while attending the Nundah Baptist Sunday School, won seventh prize in the Lower Intermediate division of the annual Sunday School examination. His mother Christina was living at Eton Street, Nundah from 1911 until 1917 and working as a tailoress. She became a member of the City Tabernacle in 1918–19 when living in Roma Street. She died in 1947.

Alexander enlisted in the 9th Battalion, on 9 July 1918. The reason for his late enlistment is unknown. He had become eligible on his 18th birthday in 1917. (The minimum age had been 19 until June 1915, and he may have been unaware of the change.) He may have felt a duty of care to his widowed mother.

Alexander nominated his mother as next-of-kin. He gave his religion as Presbyterian.

He embarked for France in July 1918 on the *Baraka*, arriving on Australia Day, 26 January 1919, after the war had ended. He returned in August 1919 on the *Aygyllshire*.



He was not entitled to a Victory Medal because he did not serve on the strength of a unit in a theatre of war at or before midnight on 11 November 1918. The only war medal for which he qualified as a member of the Australian Imperial Force

was the British War Medal.¹ Whilst on leave in the United Kingdom, he spent time with relatives in Scotland.

He was promoted to clerk fifth class in the Commonwealth Public Service (Department of Treasury, Taxation Branch) in Brisbane in March 1919.²

ACCOUNTANCY

LATEST RESULTS JUST ANNOUNCED.

FEDERAL INSTITUTE NOVEMBER 1922,

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATION

ALL THE FIRST PLACE HONORS IN QUEENSLAND. WON BY
HEMINGWAY & ROBERTSON STUDENTS

1st Place complete Examination: Mr A.F. Tannock. Brisbane.

1st Place Bookkeeping: Mr. D.O. McLeod, Rockhampton; Mr. A.F. Tannock. Brisbane; tied.³

He married Elleanor (Ellie) Shaw (1897–1960) in December 1925 in the Albert Street Methodist Church. She was born in Queensland, the daughter of Thomas and Helen Shaw. They did not have any children.

Their residences and Alexander's occupations included Cumes Street, Paddington, clerk (1921); 'Bungalow', Victoria Street, Kelvin Grove (1925); 'Hayle's Flats', Cleveland Street, Townsville, accountant (1928); Brown Street, Belgian Gardens (1932–43); 260/258/256A Agnes Street, Fitzroy, company manager, then branch manager (1949–68); 175 Quay Street, Rockhampton (1972–77); and 19 Ward Street, Sandgate North (1980).

Alexander enlisted in the Citizen Military Forces in World War II. He was Chairman of the Management Committee of the Rockhampton branch of the Australian Red Cross in 1952.

In January 1961 he travelled from Rockhampton to Brisbane to walk his niece Lynette Tannock down the aisle of the City Tabernacle for her wedding.

Farm Jobs for Boys

Many farmers have applied to the Methodist section of the rural training scheme for youths or lads for farm work, but the committee is unable to obtain enough boys for the jobs offering. The retiring secretary (the Rev. C. Whitehead) reported to the last meeting that so far 74 lads had gone out from Brisbane and 27 from Townsville, making a total of 101 lads placed in farm work in the year ...

¹ Correspondence from T Robinson, officer in charge, Base Records, 3 April 1935.

² *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, Thursday 4 January 1923, Issue No. 1, p. 10.

³ *The Townsville Daily Bulletin*, Thursday 15 February 1923, p. 2.

Since the meeting he has reported from Townsville that Mr. A.F. Tannock, secretary of the Northern district committee, had found in the North the same difficulty of obtaining enough boys for the farmer applicants. Similar difficulties were experienced in Central Queensland ...

Parents or lads in the Brisbane and southern areas desiring information on the scheme should communicate with the Rev. R.P. Watkinson, at the Methodist Parsonage, Clifton Terrace, Red Hill, and in North Queensland with Mr. A.F. Tannock, City Buildings, Flinders Street, Townsville.⁴

Alexander died in 1980.



Alexander Tannock, right front
(date unknown)

⁴ *The Courier-Mail*, Saturday 5 May 1934, p. 5.

Watts, Leslie Alfred

Leslie was born on 18 November 1897 in London, England, the son of Alfred (1865–1933) and Jessie (1870–1934) Watts. His siblings were Doris Bakke (1896–1984) and Douglas (1899–1953). Leslie attended Waller Road School, London in 1904. In 1911, the family was living at 19 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent. Alfred was employed as a dining room proprietor, and Leslie was still at school.

The family migrated to Brisbane, arriving in 1912 aboard the *Paparoa*. Alfred and Jessie were living at Appel Street, Chelmer in 1917.

Prior to enlisting Leslie had served for four years in the senior cadets, and one year in the Citizen Forces, 9th Infantry. He enlisted 3 October 1917 in the 41st Battalion, 9th Reinforcement. His occupation was stated as warehouseman.

He was described as 174cm tall, weighing 54kg, and with a 79cm chest. He had a fair complexion, blue eyes and auburn hair. He gave his religion as Baptist. Leslie was a teacher in the primary department of the City Tabernacle Sunday School in 1915–16 and became a member in 1916–17. In February 1918, the Sunday School ‘held a social evening to enable friends to farewell our brother teacher, Mr. L.A. Watts, who has gone to take his place in the great fight for freedom. We trust and pray that he may be spared to us, and that he will soon be able to take up his work amongst us again’.¹

Leslie embarked on the *Ormonde* from Sydney in March 1918. He served in France for just over a month before returning to Sydney (invalided out, due to the effects of a gas attack) aboard the *Shropshire* in April 1919. While on active service, he suffered from influenza. This may have compromised his lungs and made him more susceptible to the effects of gas.

On his return, he lived briefly in Appel Street, Chelmer with his parents while working as a salesman.

His brother Douglas married Beatrice Skinner (1902–91) in 1934. They were married in the City Tabernacle by Rev Ralph Sayce.

WEDDINGS.

Mariette Inlet with Lace

Watts – Skinner.

On October 27, the Rev. R. Sayce officiated at the marriage of Mr. D.J. Watts (younger son of the late Mr. and Mrs. A.E. Watts, Ballandean) and

¹ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Year Book 1917–1918*, p. 13.

Miss Beatrice C. Skinner (eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T.A. Skinner, Alderley) in the City Tabernacle.

The bride, who was given away by her father, wore white marietta with lace inlets ... Miss Vera Skinner (sister of bride was bridesmaid) ... Mr. L. Watts (brother of bridegroom) was best man.

A reception was held at a city cafe, where Mrs. Skinner received the guests. On leaving by car for the honeymoon, which will be spent touring the Northern Rivers ... They will make their future home at Ballandean.²

Leslie moved to 'Addiscombe', Glen Aplin, via Stanthorpe (1919–63), and worked as an orchardist. His parents and brother, who lived about nine kilometres away at Applevale, were also orchardists.

Leslie was an accomplished vocalist (baritone). He sang at the Orpheus Club costume concert (1926), weddings (1928), and the Stanthorpe Eisteddfod (1936 and 1937)

His father also contributed to local musical evenings.

His marriage to Margaret Larard in November 1947 at St Augustine's Church of England, Hamilton, was officiated by Canon Birch. Margaret was born in 1905, the daughter of Arthur and Molly Larard. Margaret was living in Stanthorpe in 1943.

AFTERNOON frocks in the new length will be worn by Margaret Larard and her two bridesmaids at her marriage to Leslie A. Watts (Addiscombe, Stanthorpe) in St. Augustine's Church. Hamilton, at 3 p.m. next Saturday. The bride's frock will be cream, with a gold stripe, ...

The bride, who came from Yorkshire (England) 10 years ago, has been the Red Cross librarian at headquarters and Greenslopes Hospital. She will be married from Mr. and Mrs. P.J. Symes' home at Ascot, and the wedding reception will be held there.⁴



Miss Margaret Larard³

They did not have any children.

² *The Daily Standard*, Tuesday 30 October 1934, p. 10.

³ *The Telegraph*, Saturday 1 November 1947, p. 4.

⁴ *The Sunday Mail*, Sunday 2 November 1947, p. 7.

In 1948 Leslie and Margaret were foundation members of the Stanthorpe Repertory Society.

Stanthorpe Repertory

STANTHORPE: A packed house greeted the initial production of the Repertory Society, the play, Priestley's "Laburnum Grove" and its presentation had all the attributes of near professionalism ...

The long experience of Zoe Passmore enabled her to extract every particle of humour from the part of Lucy Baxley, and her scenes with, Bernard Baxley played with extraordinary skill by Leslie Watts had the house in fits of laughter ...

Never doubting the honesty of her husband, Margaret Watts gave a sincere portrayal of Dorothy Radfern ...

The audience will long remember with pleasure the initial performance of the Stanthorpe Repertory Society and await with pleasurable anticipation the next performance which we understand is already being discussed.⁵

That next performance was probably

"George and Margaret"

STANTHORPE:

The remarkable success that has attended the efforts of the Stanthorpe Repertory Society since its formation about 12 months ago was further emphasised when under the direction of Leslie Watts, the English comedy "George and Margaret" by Gerald Savory was played to a large and appreciative audience ...

Leslie Watts, who produced the show, and took the part of the absent-minded husband, Garth Bander, gave his usual good display, tempered a good deal by the added responsibility of production, which possibly was the reason for his rather "subdued" performance ...

Margaret Watts, as Gladys the maid who eventually marries Claude was faithfully portrayed and one left the show slightly disappointed that more had not been seen of this delightful character ...

It is hoped that the work of the Stanthorpe Repertory Society will be long continued and the present high standard will be indefinitely sustained.⁶

Their involvement in the repertory society continued until at least 1954.

Leslie and Margaret both died in Queensland in 1968 and 1980 respectively.

⁵ *Warwick Daily News*, Tuesday 22 February 1949, p. 5.

⁶ *Warwick Daily News*, Tuesday 13 December 1949, p. 2.

Grimes, Alister Bailey, cousin of the grandchildren of Rev BG Wilson

Alister was the eldest child of the prominent Baptist, William D Grimes, born on 16 December 1890. His mother Marie Cribb and William (WD) were married in 1890 by Rev J Walker, minister of the Brisbane Street Congregational Church in Ipswich. Alister had three younger siblings, Marjorie (1895–1956), Benjamin (1901–87) and Kathleen Robertson (1904–86). Three of Alister's cousins enlisted in the AIF. Their stories are told in Part 2.

The Grimes family from Warwickshire in England arrived in Brisbane on the immigrant ship *Chasely* in 1849. Alister's grandfather William Grimes, his second wife, and his seven children, including WD Grimes, all travelled on the *Chasely*. WD Grimes's mother had died in 1846. William married Elizabeth Aucott in 1848. She was only eight years older than her oldest step-child. William and Elizabeth were two of the 13 founding members of the Wharf Street Baptist Church in 1855, which became the City Tabernacle in 1890.

WD Grimes worked as an assistant in the drapery section of Richardson's store until it became Grimes and Petty and moved to Queen Street. In 1878 two of WD Grimes's brothers, George and Samuel, bought nine acres of land at Yeronga which were transferred to William in 1885. Here they built 'Kadumba' which was designed by prominent architect Richard Gailey. Gailey was in membership of the Wharf Street Baptist Church in 1885 and was the architect of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church building. WD Grimes died in 1937.

Shortly before his death WD Grimes was a recipient of the Order of the Knights of St John.



Marjorie, Alister, Benjamin and
Kathleen Grimes
(John Oxley Library)

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

Many Citizens Honoured ...

On the lawn at Government House yesterday morning His Excellency the Governor (Sir Leslie Wilson) decorated several Queensland citizens with the insignia of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, of which his Majesty is Sovereign Master. By command of the King ...

The list of recipients was as follows: –

Knight of the Order: William Douglas Grimes, Tarragindi Road, Brisbane, chaplain. Mr. Grimes is a past president of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade.¹

Alister's father, William (WD), served on the Baptist Union of Queensland twice as president, as secretary for 18 years, and for 27 years was secretary of the Theological College, as well as president of the Annerley Progress Association.

Alister was born at the family property 'Tarragindi' in Cracknell Road, South Brisbane. The property appeared in official Baptist documents over many years. The property is named after 'Tarra Gindi', a South Sea Island labourer from the Loyalty Islands who lived with the Foote family, who were related to the Grimes

family through the marriage of Ada Grimes and Ambrose Foote. The suburb is now known as Tarragindi. Ada was Alister's great-aunt.



1908, Uncle Ben and Essie Wilson, and (back-row L–R) Gilmore, Harry and Alister in Canada.

Alister attended Brisbane Grammar School from 1906 to 1908. In June 1908, between leaving school and commencing his university studies, Alister went on an overseas voyage for almost four months, sailing from Brisbane to Canada, northern USA, England and return across the Atlantic to Quebec, by train across Canada to Vancouver, and back to Australia across the Pacific, all of which he recorded in a diary. He went with his cousins Harry and Gilmore Wilson and their parents, Uncle Ben and Aunt Essie Wilson who was his mother's sister. (Photo provided by Dr Brian Wilson.)

¹ *The Courier-Mail*, Friday 14 May 1937, p. 22.

On his return, he was an apprentice for about two years at the Ipswich Railway Workshop. Believing that there was no future in that, he returned to school to gain his matriculation.

In 1913 Alister was among a small cohort of founding students of King's College, then located at Kangaroo Point. The University of Queensland was located across the Brisbane River at Gardens Point. He won College Blues in rugby, shooting and rowing.



The First Students (1913) of King's College with
AB Grimes far right back row
The Story of King's College²

Alister enlisted in the AIF on 21 September 1915. He was studying

engineering, aged 24 years at the time. He was somewhat short, 160cm on enlistment. He would have been too short to enlist before June 1915 when the minimum height was reduced from 168cm to 157cm. His initial appointment was to the 7th Field Ambulance, but he was transferred to the 1st Division Supply Column (Motor Transport Company) as a driver, attached to the 1st Field Ambulance in May 1916.

In 1915 the Annerley Progress Association arranged a public send-off to Alister and others who had enlisted from the district. It was held in the Junction Hall, Annerley.

Alister's grandson Ken is recorded as saying 'However, the Grimes family were staunch Baptists, and opposed killing of any kind. Some of his friends and relatives were in Ambulance



Alister Grimes

² *The story of King's College, within the University of Queensland: commemorating the first fifty years 1913 to 1963.* Brisbane. [University of Queensland Press] 1963, p. 5.

Corps ... so when he enlisted it was in the Ambulance as a non-combatant.’³

He arrived in France on 30 March 1916 after further training in Egypt. He ... served the remainder of the war in Flanders and the Somme. He was part of the major Somme offensive from July until October 1916 when over a million soldiers were either killed or wounded on both sides. During this period, his cousin and close friend, HG Wilson, was wounded by shrapnel. My father [Alister] and several of his friends took him to a field hospital.⁴



AB Grimes in front of his ambulance – Insets of ‘Reg’ and AB Grimes.
‘Reg’ is thought to be Alister’s nickname for his cousin Lindsay Wilson.

In 1917 Alister was found guilty of ‘leaving his ambulance unattended’ at Wimereux and was punished with forfeiture of 24 hours’ pay. He was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Throughout his time in transit to the Front and in Egypt, Flanders and the Somme, Alister communicated regularly by way of postcards and lengthy letters to his father, brother and sisters. He also maintained a daily diary of movements, the weather and activities. These have been preserved by his family and transcribed. They describe in detail his adventures and contribution to the war effort.⁵

³ Grimes, Ken G, *Alister Bailey Grimes at War: Diary and Letters – 1915–1919* (self-published, 2010), p. 5.

⁴ Photo, *ibid*, p 45.

⁵ *ibid*.

After returning from the war, travelling on the *Balmoral Castle*, Alister chose not to continue with his engineering studies. In a letter to his younger brother Ginger (Ben) written from the Somme in 1917, regarding Ben's unsuccessful attempt to pass the junior scholarship examination, and the need to sit it again the following year, he wrote, 'I wish you the best of luck with your work this year and may success crown your efforts. How I wish I had your chances. I am very much afraid that this war has cruelled all my chances of becoming a successful engineer, all I can do is perhaps become a good draftsman.'⁶ Ben served in the RAAF in World War II.

Alister's property, 'Currunovan' at Proston, is a well-known beef cattle enterprise, fortified by the dedication of his family. The property was purchased in November 1919, only five months after he was officially discharged in June. By 1925 Alister owned it outright (debt free).

In July 1926 Alister Grimes married Mary Gwenda Roberts, the daughter of George and Ada Roberts, who was usually referred to as Gwenda. Mr Roberts was the editor and proprietor of the *Maryborough Chronicle*. They were married by Rev WH Waters from St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, in 'Karenza', the home of Gwenda's parents in Maryborough. Alister and Gwenda had six children, Gerald, known as Gerry (1927–2015), Robert, James (Jim), Richard, Ken (–2016), and Ada Grimes (1932–2013).

Alister's son Gerry and his wife Margery continued to operate 'Currunovan' for 61 years until Gerry's death at the age of 87 in 2015. Margery remains a prominent member of the local community. *The South Burnett Times* remarked in an article dated 19 December 2014 that 'The Grimes family has been synonymous with cattle rearing for a period in the vicinity of 100 years'. Alister's grandson Richard continues to manage the property.

In a speech delivered during the King's College annual Anzac Day Service in 2012, Alister's son Jim recounted:

My father could not return to his studies and never finished his engineering course.

I cannot even imagine the horrible events my father saw, how he did his job, how he dealt with the things he experienced or the memories. He told me once about the wounded men crying out in agony as he drove his ambulance along the rough roads to the field hospital. He did not speak of the things he saw or experienced in his letters – they are filled with humour, with his life away from the battlefield, good times with his friends and relatives and his concern for his family at home. I am sure he did not wish to burden anyone

⁶ Grimes, Ken G, *Alister Bailey Grimes at War: Diary and Letters – 1915–1919* (self-published, 2010), p 66.

with the awful things he was a part of, even though he was trying to save the lives of others. The closest he came to describing anything bad was in a letter to his sister, Judy on 8th August, 1916, during the Battle of the Somme. He wrote:—

‘You cannot imagine what a bombardment is, unless you have witnessed one. I do not know how to explain it, all I can say is that it is a continuous roar of thunder, you cannot distinguish the sound of one gun from another, the explosions overlap one another so closely and the noise of the shells going through the air is like trains rushing through a railway cutting. A bombardment lasts from 8 to 12 hours in most cases.’

I remember his reaction to hearing that the Second World War had started. I was only 4 or 5 at the time, but it was a very vivid memory. He threw his hands up and said something like, ‘It’s happening again’. He then went and laid down for the rest of the day ...

His wartime experiences affected his faith in God. After he returned home, he had little to do with any church for the rest of his life. He could not understand how nations who said they followed Christian teachings and believed in the same God, could kill each other in the way that he witnessed.⁷

This drift may have begun, however, quite early in the war as he wrote to his father on 8 April 1916 saying, ‘Met Shirty [his cousin Len H Foote] the other night. He is billeted about two miles from us so we shall see quite a lot of him. I expect to meet him at the Y.M.C.A. service tonight, the first service I have attended for about five weeks. I think I’m going to the dogs, what do you say’.⁸

Alister died in November 1964 at age 73 and, only two months later, his wife Gwenda died aged 62. His contribution to the South Burnett region has been recognised by the naming of a timber bridge in his honour, the ‘AB Grimes Bridge’ located in Manar Road, Boondooma, shortly before his death. His daughter-in-law Margery now lives in Manar Road.

As an Old Boy of Brisbane Grammar School, his details are recorded in Grammar’s Golden Book which is held in its War Memorial Library.

His name is recorded among 30 named individuals on the King’s College World War I Roll of Honour at the University of Queensland, St Lucia campus. Alister’s name is also recorded on the Roll of Honour at the Mowbray Park Memorial, Brisbane’s first World War I memorial, unveiled on 11 August 1917.

⁷ <https://webbeta.archive.org/web/20130410105109/http://www.kings.uq.edu.au/kings>.

⁸ Grimes, Ken G, *Alister Bailey Grimes at War: Diary and Letters – 1915–1919* (self-published, 2010), p. 37.

Part 2 — by Hope Colegrove

Introduction and acknowledgements

The Grandchildren of Rev BG Wilson and the two additional nurses on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour

My original brief for Part 2 was to record the life stories of the servicewomen on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour. As there were a number of servicewomen who were granddaughters of Rev BG Wilson, this was expanded to include all the grandchildren, male and female, of Rev BG Wilson who served, together with stories of their parents, plus the life stories of the remaining two servicewomen on the Roll of Honour. It is at this point that I would like to acknowledge those who have assisted me in writing this part of the book.

My sincere thanks go to Miss Elizabeth Anne Abell, OBE, former Nursing Superintendent, Royal Brisbane Hospital (1975–1981) and first Director of Nursing, Queensland (1981–86). She is the source of a wealth of knowledge and of a number of photographs of BG Wilson's family. Without her input, there would have been no war diary information from Madeline Wilson; no conclusion that one of BG Wilson's grandchildren had been left off the Roll of Honour; and no realisation that Elsie Patterson was another grandchild of BG Wilson, a vital piece of information as there were no Army records for Elsie. I count it a privilege to uncover the depth of historical knowledge she possesses in relation to her side of the Wilson family tree.

My thanks also go to Dr Brian Wilson, ophthalmologist, for his information regarding living members of the Wilson clan, which included Elizabeth Anne Abell; for the knowledge of genealogy that he shared, as well as stories and old photographs of his side of the family; and for his witty sense of humour which has always been characteristic of this long-time friend.

Both of the above are great-grandchildren of Rev BG Wilson, aged in their nineties at the time of writing. I am also most grateful to the numerous descendants of those named on the Roll of Honour who have provided photographs and information about their relatives. I give you my heartfelt thanks.

A number of books have been written about Rev BG Wilson, none more in depth than Rev Stan W Nickerson's 115-page research paper entitled *Rev B.G. Wilson: Queensland Baptist Founding Father* published in 1998 by the Baptist Historical Society of Queensland. I am much indebted to Stan for his 'labour of interest'. I have borrowed from his research into Rev BG Wilson and his children in many instances in the following chapters.

Rev Dr Nickerson also revealed that another grandson who lived in Sydney was killed in World War I. I found it necessary to research this grandson, Eric Russell Sinclair, who was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in the field, and was decorated by King George V at Buckingham Palace. Yet another grandson who served at home came to light, a brother of Elsie Patterson, who lived at Mt Morgan. Originally, it was felt that, as they are not included on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour, reporting on these was beyond the scope of this book. However, it was decided to include them as their stories needed to be told, and where better than in a book such as this one?

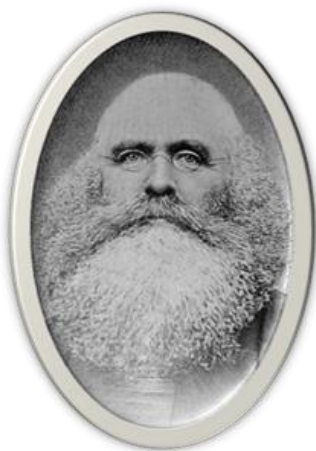
This has been a rather interesting labour. It has been a crash course on researching, and a pleasure to make the acquaintance of numbers of people along the way. I look forward to meeting many of them for the first time at the launch of this book.

Hope Colegrove

Introduction to Rev BG Wilson and his family

A brief history follows of the life of Rev BG Wilson, based on Rev Dr Stan Nickerson's research, as mentioned above.

Rev Benjamin Gilmore Wilson was born to an Irish Quaker father and a Primitive Methodist mother in 1823. He spent his youth in Ireland before moving to England, c1842, where he became an evangelist in the city of Bradford. He became convinced of his need of believer's baptism after hearing a sermon on this topic, and then became pastor of Barnsley Baptist Church. To fit himself for missionary service abroad, he not only studied theology but also homoeopathic medicine. His appointment to the newly constructed Wharf Street Baptist Church in Brisbane was made through the Baptist Missionary Society in England.



Rev BG Wilson

Arriving in Brisbane in 1858 with his wife, Mary Jane (née Matchett), and two young children, William Albert and Mary Ann Elizabeth, he immediately commenced his ministry; it was the year before Queensland was declared a

separate colony from New South Wales. He soon acquired a reputation of being a zealous minister of the Gospel. He was a towering figure in the early years of Queensland's growth and became a leading person in Brisbane society, contributing significantly to its development. He had a zest for church planting and became the leading church planter of the 19th century. He regularly visited the fledgling settlements springing up all through the state, often using his medical skills in his pastoral care of families. He worked tirelessly for the formation of the Queensland Baptist Association which occurred in 1877 before his death the following year after 19 years of service. He was not quite 55 years of age, and left a widow and five children ranging from nine to 22 years of age.

BG and Mary Jane Wilson profoundly influenced their children by raising them in a close, stable, loving environment where evangelical mores were strictly



The family of Rev BG Wilson

L-R Gentlemen: William Albert, Benjamin Gilmore, Alfred Abraham
L-R Ladies: Mary Ann Elizabeth (later Mrs Andrew Patterson), Louisa Maria
(later Mrs Roderick Macdonald), Mary Jane (Mrs BG Wilson), and Margaret
Jane (later Mrs Russell Sinclair)

observed. Some inherited his great sense of humour. He was loud, demonstrative, fun-loving and dominating, while she was a quiet model of decorum. He gave all his children the best education possible. Many of his descendants inherited his medical passion: about 30 became doctors according to Kathleen Smith who researched this family, not to mention all those who became nurses. It is difficult to evaluate adequately the impact that BG Wilson and his descendants had on Queensland's growth and society, but by any measure it has been a worthy one.

It may be observed that many are named 'Gilmore' Wilson. This was Rev BG Wilson's mother's maiden name and used with pride to distinguish his children and many of their descendants as being of the family of Rev BG Wilson.

A significant contribution to the allies' World War I effort from BG Wilson's grandchildren is recorded in the following chapters. These grandchildren are the sons and daughters of four of his children, Benjamin Gilmore, William Albert, Mary Ann Elizabeth, and Margaret Jane. A brief history of these four parents and their spouses follows to set the context of their children's upbringing, those children who subsequently volunteered to serve their God, King and Country.

Benjamin Gilmore Wilson and Esther Wilson (née Cribb)

Rev BG and Mary Wilson named their third son, born in Brisbane in December 1861, Benjamin Gilmore Wilson. When Ben was 16 years old, he went to work for Cribb and Foote, the leading departmental store in Ipswich. In 1887, together with a partner, he launched Wilson and Southerden's Ironmongery Store at 152 Queen Street, Brisbane. The following year at 26 years of age, he married Esther (Essie) Cribb, daughter of his former employer, thereby marrying into a well-to-do Ipswich Congregational family. As a wedding present they were given a fine house, 'The Wilderness' set on 27ha on Cracknell Road, South Brisbane. They had six children, four sons and two daughters, who grew up there, close to Essie's sister, Marie Cribb, who married William Grimes. These sisters commenced Sunday school classes in their homes from whence was born the Congregational Church in Cracknell Road, Annerley.

Ben was baptised in 1881 and became a member of the Wharf Street Baptist Church, subsequently a founding member of the Sandgate Baptist Church in 1887, and finally a prominent member of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, where for 21 years he was a Deacon (1901–21) and for six of those years he was Treasurer (1901–06). He also sang in the choir. He was made a Life Deacon in 1921, the year he retired to 'Bremer View', the 600ha farm outside Rosewood west of Ipswich, which he had bought for his son, Harry, before World War I. He died in December 1944, a few days short of his 82nd birthday. His wife survived him by nearly three years. The life stories of three of their sons who served in World War I, Lindsay, Harry and Kenneth, are recorded in the following pages.

William Albert Wilson and Annie Wilson (previously Clapperton, née Kendall)

William Albert, known as WA by his family and friends, was almost three years old when he arrived in Brisbane from England with his parents, Rev BG and Mary Jane Wilson, and his baby sister, Mary Ann Elizabeth, in 1858. After completing his schooling in 1869 as a foundation student of Brisbane Grammar School, he joined the Union Bank but soon left and joined a surveying team. While surveying in the Burnett district, he met and married Mrs Annie Clapperton (née Kendall) aged 22, a widow and a pastoralist, who was left to manage her deceased husband's stations. She had a two-year-old son named Tom. For about 24 years WA and Annie managed and lived on 'Tarong' station, one of the inherited cattle properties near Nanango. While living there, WA and Annie reared Tom plus four boys and five girls, though most, if not all, were born in the family home at Sandgate which Rev BG Wilson had built. This was where Annie received her mother-in-law's loving care during childbirth.

Life was not easy for this family because WA had become an alcoholic. He was also a concern to his family in Brisbane who urged him to mend his ways. He feared he had shut himself off from salvation, but he was assured that Christ would forgive him. Finally, his brother Ben made him realise how his family was suffering from his addiction. Ben made him swear on the Bible that he would not drink alcohol again and, true to his word, he kept that pledge – the sinner was changed into a saint by the grace of God.



'Wilston' built c1870 by
Rev BG Wilson, cnr First
Avenue and Flinders Parade,

After leaving the Burnett region and Tom who now owned 'Tarong', WA, Annie and a number of the children finally settled at Sandgate in the home WA had built on land next to the ancestral home. WA regularly attended services at the City Tabernacle where he and members of his family had their membership.

The following family photo was taken before their son Billy's death in 1912.¹ WA was sick at the time but survived Annie by 16 years, dying at the age of 88. The life stories of four members of this family are recorded in the following chapters, namely David, Madeline, Marjorie and Evelyn.

¹ Billy died in 1912 in the surf at Southport attempting to rescue a swimmer who got into difficulty. After this, the Surf Life Saving Club's reel was introduced and was made standard equipment. A marble plaque in his honour was erected in the City Tabernacle.



Mary Ann Elizabeth Patterson (née Wilson) and Andrew Patterson

Mary Ann Elizabeth was born in Bradford, England, the eldest daughter of Rev BG and Mary Jane Wilson. She was a 12 month old baby when her parents arrived in Brisbane in 1858. Her family's name for her was 'Sissy'. She had a warm relationship with her father, dutifully sewing his sermons, 'stacks and stacks of them', into little booklets. She met her future husband, Andrew Patterson, when he joined the Wharf Street Baptist Church in early 1876. He was a bank clerk with the Union Bank of Australia. They married when she was 21 years of age at Sandgate Baptist Church. Andrew's banking career spanned half a century during which he managed branches in Sydney, Rockhampton and, the pinnacle of his career, the Brisbane branch of the Union Bank. Andrew retired in October 1915 but retained important positions including Chairman of the Repatriation Board and Chairman of Directors of the Union Trustee Company of Australia. His sudden death in 1926 was widely reported in newspapers throughout Queensland, Sydney and Melbourne. Mary Ann Elizabeth passed away in 1938 aged 81 years. They had three sons, Hamilton, a prominent banker; Mervyn, a prominent doctor and Ipswich Government Medical Officer; Benjamin, a Mining Engineer at Mount Morgan; and a daughter, Elsie, a pioneering masseuse, all of whom were born in Queensland. Elsie and Benjamin served in World War I and their life stories are recorded in the following pages.

This family had a most illustrious relative. Dr Mervyn Patterson married Lucy Fisher, whose father, Albert Bertram Fisher had died in Ceylon leaving her in the care of his brother, John (Baron Fisher), who was brought out of retirement in his 74th year and made First Sea Lord of the Admiralty in 1914 after WWI broke out, a war he had accurately predicted. He designed the first all-big-gun battleship, the HMS *Dreadnought*, and took for his motto on his coat of arms 'Fear God and dread nought'. He was the most feared man in Germany. He resigned seven months later in frustration over Churchill's Gallipoli campaign. 'Uncle John' had sent Lucy to live in Queensland. Of her union with Mervyn Patterson in 1910, a grandson named David Cohen was born who was ordained a minister in the Anglican Church. There were many doctors among Rev BG Wilson's descendants, but ministers are rare. Rev David Cohen was invited to open the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the City Tabernacle in 2005.

Margaret Jane Sinclair (née Wilson) and Russell Sinclair

Margaret (Maggie) Jane, second youngest of Rev BG Wilson's children, married Russell Sinclair in 1896 at the City Tabernacle, Rev William Whale officiating. She was 30, and he a 34-year-old engineer and son of a Scottish Presbyterian minister. After emigrating to Sydney from Scotland in 1888, Russell co-founded an engineering firm, Wildridge & Sinclair, at Kirribilli. He was attracted to Maggie at their first meeting at a garden party. They became entrenched in the

Presbyterian Church, and through his prosperous business enjoyed a very comfortable life. They had six children, one of whom was killed in World War I not long before the end of the war. The family spent a year in London during the war and on the way home to Australia visited relatives in Canada. Maggie was a strict mother but very devoted to her children, engendering a tightly-knit, loyal spirit among family members.² A short biography of the son who was killed in World War I, Eric Russell Sinclair, has been included in this book because he is a grandson of Rev BG Wilson, even though he is not on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

The City Tabernacle World War I Roll of Honour lists a total of seven grandchildren who enlisted during 1914–18 and had some affiliation or membership with this church. There should have been another recorded, making a total of eight, but she was missed – a wrong that needs to be righted. Two more grandchildren who served in World War I but who were not on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour have also been included. This brings the total to ten grandchildren. These are the names of those grandchildren reported on in this second part, plus the additional two nurses not descended from Rev BG Wilson:

Grandchildren of Rev BG Wilson recorded on the Roll of Honour

FD (David) Gilmore WILSON
 H (Harry) Gilmore WILSON (Killed)
 KJ (Kenneth) Gilmore WILSON
 L (Lindsay) Gilmore WILSON
 MJ (Marjorie) Gilmore WILSON
 Elsie PATTERSON
 Madeline A WILSON

Grandchildren of Rev BG Wilson not recorded on the Roll of Honour

Evelyn Annie WILSON (the ‘missed’ one)
 Benjamin Gilmore PATTERSON
 Eric Russell SINCLAIR

The two servicewomen not descended from Rev BG Wilson

L (Lillian) Beatrice DENNIS
 Alice ENGLAND

² Stan W Nickerson, *Rev BG Wilson: Queensland Baptist Founding Father* (Brisbane: Baptist Historical Society of Queensland, 1998), pp. 88-89.

Wilson, Lindsay Gilmore

A grandson of Rev BG Wilson



Lindsay Gilmore Wilson¹ was born in South Brisbane on 14 June 1894, the third of six children, of the union of Benjamin Gilmore Wilson and Esther Wilson (née Cribb). He had a fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair and was 178cm tall. At Brisbane Grammar School, Lindsay played football (1st XV in 1912), was a member of the shooting team and a Lieutenant of Cadets. He was also an exceptional sprinter holding the school record for many years. After matriculating in 1912, he enrolled at the University of Queensland to study science. While still a student there, having turned 21 years of age, he and his brother, Harry, enlisted on 20 September 1915 with the AIF for overseas service in the 7th Field Ambulance Corps as non-combatants as their family held staunch Christian views on not taking the life of another human

being and loving one's enemies. The next day their cousin, Alister Grimes, enlisted in the same ambulance corps for the same reason (see Part I). He lived nearby on Cracknell Road, Annerley. They were a tight-knit trio who did many things together as can be seen in the photo below taken outside Lindsay's home.



The three men after enlistment in 1915. L-R: Harry Wilson, Alister Grimes & Lin Wilson. Outside *The Wilderness*, the Wilson's house near Tarragindi.

From the AB Grimes Collection

¹ Lindsay's photograph in *The Queenslander Pictorial*, supplement to *The Queenslander*, 25 March 1916, p. 6, provided by John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

It is interesting to note that Lindsay said his denomination was Congregational on his enlistment form. In fact all three brothers gave their denomination as Congregational. Their mother was a Congregationalist. All three brothers would have attended both the City Tabernacle Baptist Church at some time before the war as well as the Congregational church which their mother and their aunt, Alister's mother, had commenced through the Sunday Schools held in their homes. To him, it didn't matter what your denomination was. His daughter Jane revealed that he had felt the Baptist church was too strict in that they didn't believe in dancing and singing and he wanted to do both of these, especially singing. (To quote Lindsay's grandfather when asked by the Governor of Queensland, 'Do Baptists not like dancing?' Rev BG Wilson replied, 'Well, no, your Excellency. You see, the first Baptist lost his head through dancing, and we Baptists have disliked it ever since.'²) Whilst Baptists may not have approved of dancing, they did believe in singing, as has already been noted that Lindsay's father was a choir member in the City Tabernacle. However, it could be that the father did not approve of the popular singing of the day and wanted Lindsay to use his voice for the glory of God alone. Lindsay, together with his brothers, felt that their father's beliefs were too strict, so adopted their mother's faith.

The trio embarked from Brisbane on the *Kyarra* on 3 January 1916 and arrived in Alexandria, Egypt over a month later on 9 February. For the next six weeks they were attached to hospitals at Zeitoun and later Serapeum but found time to see the sights of Egypt. They subsequently embarked for France, arriving in Marseilles on 30 March 1916 and travelled by train to Flanders. For the rest of the war, their unit was engaged in all actions from the major Somme offensive to the Armistice and they alternated between 1st and 8th Field Ambulance and 1st Division Motor Transport Company as stretcher bearers and drivers, with Harry, Lindsay and Alister often being each other's co-drivers. Lindsay was working nearby at the time of Harry's being wounded by an exploding shell on the evening of 22 July 1916, the night before the commencement of the Somme offensive. Harry was taken by Alister to the dressing station where Lindsay was working, and then on to the Casualty Clearing Hospital at Puchevillers. Alister and Lindsay were told to come back in two weeks' time, but Harry died unexpectedly the next day, 23 July 1916.

One cannot imagine what horrors Lindsay witnessed being an ambulance driver in the worst battles in France and Belgium, watching soldiers struggling in water-engulfed trenches, and the heartache he felt over the loss of his brother. After the war, he returned to Australia on the *Anchises*, arriving 13 April 1919. Returning

² BG Patterson, *A Zealous Minister of the Gospel, Being a Memoir of the Reverend Benjamin Gilmore Wilson, Minister of the Wharf Street Baptist Church, Brisbane, from 1858 to 1878*, (Brisbane: WR Smith and Paterson Pty Ltd, 1940), p. 20.

on the same ship was Arthur Mursell, nephew of Rev James Mursell, who was a past minister of the City Tabernacle. Lindsay was discharged from the army on 4 June 1919. For his services, he was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Lindsay then studied dentistry at Sydney University because Brisbane didn't have a dentistry school. He practised as a dentist in Cowra (1927) and then Killara (1929) where he met his wife. He married Kathleen Bryant in the Congregational Church, Killara on 13 September 1932 when he was 38 years of age. She was 16 years younger than him. He met Kath after seeing her act in an amateur theatre production in a local church hall. His friend had told him, 'Wait 'til you see Kate Bryant on stage. You will want to meet her!' and he was right. One thing they had in common was that they both sang beautifully, something all four of his children were to inherit.

It is interesting to note that Lindsay went to Philadelphia USA for post-doctoral studies in 1932–33. The university year in USA commences in September, and he was married in September 1932, but did not take his bride with him. He did however promise her an around-the-world honeymoon trip once he finished his studies and, true to his word, they sailed to Europe, England, Canada, and spent 60 days pleasure tripping around USA before returning to Australia in 1934.³

He then set up his specialist dental surgery practice in Macquarie Street, Sydney where he continued for the rest of his working life. He was called Dr Wilson as he had combined his dental degree with a surgical degree. He was known to treat sailors from visiting ships and others in poor circumstances receiving little or no payment from them as he saw fit. In his earlier years He also lectured to the students at the University of Sydney.

From Killara, Lindsay and Kathleen moved to Turramurra where they built their family home in 1936, and where Lindsay had an involvement in St James Anglican Church.

Lindsay and Kathleen had four children, a son Benjamin (1936) and three daughters, Joanna (1935), Penelope (1944) and Katharine Jane (1946), all of whom were given the name Gilmore Wilson.

In 1938 Lindsay and Kath visited the farm at Rosewood, Queensland for a family reunion to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Lindsay's parents, Ben and Essie Wilson. A happy time was had by all.

³ *Ellis Island and Other New York Passenger List*, 3 January 1933 from Southampton [date on form typed incorrectly. Should have been 3 January 1934 bearing in mind the arrival date in New York of 9 January 1934], accessed from myheritage.com website.



L-R: Kath, Lindsay and Viva
(Ken's wife) at Rosewood, Qld in
1938

During the Second World War, Lindsay was a warden at Turrumurra. His job entailed having to go out at night to check on people leaving lights on, which included the time when the city was under attack from the submarines in Sydney harbour.

Lindsay and Kath bought land at Wamberal and built a beach house which was designed by Kath. Many happy family holidays followed with the children and often their friends.

Some years before Lindsay retired from dentistry, he and Kath bought land at Dural, NSW, built a new home thereon, went to night school to study poultry farming, and had a big shed built for laying hens, all in preparation for after Lindsay finished full-time work. A normal day at Dural would entail Lindsay driving Jane to her school at Wahroonga. He would then catch the train to Wynyard Station and enjoy his walk to work in the city. At this time Lindsay expanded on his previous interest in

orchids, which he loved and found very relaxing, while Kath, who was very creative, expanded on her artistic endeavours. They both enjoyed gardening together.

Lindsay's family described him as a very gentle and sensitive soul. He was full of fun, but more so before going to war, with a charming personality which he used to good effect. He was a very different man after he returned from the war, of which he did not talk much, nor did he get involved in marches or reunions. He told his children that a lot of bad things happened in the war and people did terrible things to others that they would not normally do to anyone. He had a fine baritone voice and was constantly singing. He lived a good Christian life and attended church regularly. His future daughter-in-law, Naomi, described him as 'one of the most wonderful gentlemen she had ever met, for whom life, perfection, and others were his central focus together with, of course, his religion'. He kept an Anglican prayer book and a book of psalms on his bedside table to the day he died.



1967, Lindsay at Dural taken by daughter Jane early in the year of his death

Lindsay died on 25 November 1967 following heart surgery at the age of 73, while they still lived in Dural NSW. Strangely after his death, the family found his army gear neatly folded, and his badges, in the back of his cupboard. He never mentioned these to the family. After his death, when the family and friends met on weekends, they would gather together and have a sing-along, and no doubt remember the man they loved so much.

Following Lindsay's death, the farm was sold. Kath now had more time to devote to her creative skills. She designed and made a tapestry prayer-chair cover for a friend, and gained entry to London University to do an art course for a year on the strength of this design. On her return to Sydney she joined a painting group and was soon heavily involved with

crafts such as dyeing wool, spinning and weaving, and batik work. With all her children in Queensland, she moved to Brisbane c1979. She survived Lindsay by 30 years but developed Parkinson's disease like her mother and sister and died in Brisbane in 1997, aged 87.

Lindsay and Kath's legacy lives on in their children, their 13 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren at the time of writing. There is evidence of a strong theme of medical practice in Lindsay's descendants with a number of doctors and para-medical careers amongst his children and grandchildren.

The following is a brief overview of the lives of Lindsay and Kathleen's children:

Both Joanna and Penny became occupational therapists, and Jane trained as a nurse, and then as a commercial pilot, which led to her becoming an air traffic controller.

Joanna (Jo) married Donald James Nicklin in 1958. He became a lecturer in chemical engineering and subsequently Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland. He died in October 2007; Benjamin Gilmore Wilson (Ben) married Tanzanian born Naomi Wynn Jones in 1968. Her parents were missionaries, her

father being Bishop of Central Tanganyika (now Tanzania); Penelope (Penny) married John Richard Barram in 1975. He worked in managerial roles for the Commonwealth Rehabilitation and Disability Services; and Jane married Geoffrey Goodall in 1980. He was an Air Traffic Controller who was involved in setting up the new Radar Controlled Air Traffic System in Australia in 1990 which became the model around most of the world.

Ben started out as a Jackaroo, then a Station Manager, having gone to Agricultural College. He was multi-talented with engineering skills, and left the land soon after his second child was born to develop his own business known as Ben Wilson's Mining Industrial and Marine Supplies in Cairns. He had many satisfied customers including farmers, miners and the Australian Navy with whom he had a contract. It bothered Naomi that Cairns had no Anglican School so she and Ben gathered together a group of people, bought the land, and set up Trinity Anglican School which opened in Cairns in 1983⁴ and is now the top private school in Far North Queensland.



Kathleen and Lindsay watching Ben's cricket game, Dural, 1962



Ben Wilson, 1968

Ben was also interested in politics but failed in his bid for election, whereupon Naomi entered politics. She was successful at both local and state levels, including as a minister, and continues in this community arena to the date of writing. Sadly Ben lost his battle with cancer in 2008. He was dearly loved and highly regarded by the Cairns community who responded by giving him a large farewell service with people packed into and outside of the church. Ben had a very healthy regard for God and he and Naomi attended church regularly. Naomi observed that Lindsay's influence on Ben certainly stood out as he practised the true meaning of life – honesty, integrity and the welfare of others.

⁴ <http://tas.qld.edu.au/about-tas/tas-history>, accessed 23 August 2018.

Wilson, Harry Gilmore

A grandson of Rev BG Wilson

‘What a lovely boy Harry is’ was a comment often expressed by friends of the family visiting his home. Harry was the second son of Benjamin Gilmore Wilson and Esther Wilson (née Cribb). Their first son, Benjamin Gilmore Wilson III, was born on 20 October 1889 and was known as ‘Gilmore’ to avoid confusion.

Harry was born on 13 January 1892 in the family home ‘The Wilderness’ along Cracknell Road, South Brisbane.¹ His best friend was his cousin Alister Grimes, a year older, who lived nearby, and they did almost everything together, including studying at Brisbane Grammar School (1906–08), and going on a four-month voyage around the world from June to October 1908 with Harry’s elder brother, Gilmore, and their parents, Ben and Essie Wilson, who were Alister’s uncle and aunt. The purpose of this voyage was to buy stock for Ben Wilson’s Ironmongery Store in Queen Street, Brisbane where he sold a wide variety of imported kitchenware, as well as to visit relatives in Canada and England.

Harry was 16, Alister 17, and Gilmore 18 when they set sail from Brisbane to go to Canada, northern USA, England and return across the Atlantic to Quebec, by train across Canada to Vancouver, and back to Australia across the Pacific, all of which Alister recorded in a diary, which was later transcribed.² This was an eye-



Harry Gilmore Wilson

¹ The suburb where the home in Cracknell Road was located underwent name changes. It was in the Parish of Yeerongpilly, originally known as South Brisbane, which subsequently underwent subdivision with the result that half of Cracknell Road was situated in Annerley and the other half in Tarragindi.

² Alister B Grimes, *Diary of a Voyage – 1908: From Brisbane to England via North America* (Hamilton, Victoria: Transcribed, edited and published by Ken Grimes, 2001).

opening experience for three impressionable young men who saw high rise buildings for the first time, and many amazing sites such as the Niagara Falls.

Upon returning, Gilmore went to Sydney to study medicine and became a doctor. He didn't enlist in the war. He was needed at home to superintend mental institutions from a relatively young age. Alister Grime's life story can be read in Part 1 of this book.

Ben didn't feel that Harry was suited to working in his ironmongery store because of some foot trouble, so Harry did a course at Hawkesbury Agricultural College (1911–13), and his father purchased a farm at Rosewood for him. That is why he gave his occupation as 'farmer' when he and his brother, Lindsay, enlisted in the AIF for service as ambulance drivers in the Australian Medical Corps on 20 September 1915. His family was much against taking the life of another human being but believed in assisting the war effort in non-combatant fields of service. Alister Grimes volunteered the next day. Harry was 23 years old, 5'6½" tall, and he gave his religious denomination as Congregational. His physical development was listed as 'good' on his Medical with no defects sufficient to cause rejection.

Harry, Lindsay and Alister left Australia on the *Kyarra* on 3 January 1916. After arriving in Alexandria, Egypt, on 9 February 1916, they were assigned to 1st Field Ambulance Division at Zeitoun and later Serapeum. An Australian War Memorial photo of a 1916 ambulance at Zeitoun such as they would have used can be seen below.



They sailed for Marseilles and on 30 March 1916 arrived in France where Harry was to meet his tragic death four months later. A copy of the letter that Alister Grimes wrote to his father dated 14 August 1916 gives an accurate account of this tragic event from an eye witness.

Letter No. 14 – France, 14.8.16

Dear Father,

I am very sorry to say that I have missed the last two or three mails. It seems about ten years, by the number of things that have happened since I wrote to you last.

Poor Harry was hit the first night that the Australians went into action down here [the attack on Pozières, as part of the Somme offensive of July 1916] and died the next day. I shall try and explain how he was wounded by starting from when I left Albert for the Advanced Dressing Station. Harry went out on his car about a quarter of an hour before I was sent out. Lindsay was about nine miles behind the A.D.S at a hospital or dressing station where we take the wounded to from the A.D.S. Each driver does twenty four hours off duty and twenty four on, there being two drivers on each car. Hence Lindsay was not on the car at the time. Well it was about 9.30 pm when I set out with an orderly on the car who was to show me the way. He directed me along the wrong road hence we had to come back and try again. We got to the correct road at last, but as we neared the wood where the A.D.S. is situated in a half-destroyed chateau [Bécourt Château] we noticed a number of fresh shell holes, could smell the powder and saw sods and branches of trees scattered all over the road in places. Just as I was about to pull up at the chateau, one shell (high explosive) burst practically in the middle of the cars (about ten in all). It gave me a fright but pulled up as calmly as possible and grabbed my steel helmet. I no sooner got this on than another burst on the road around the corner, killing a few horses. It was the second last shell that got Harry. It killed two men on the spot and wounded about a dozen (I am not quite certain about these figures but it was a large number). They were standing in groups talking at the time. As soon as I had collected my wits, I rushed around to see what damage had been done and heard someone say that one of the 1st Field Amb Drivers and an orderly were hit so went in to the dressing station to see them. Saw Harry on a stretcher with a doctor starting to attend to him. Harry was quite conscious and was telling the doctor where he was hit. When I spoke to him he said "Hello, the jolly thing knocked me out" (or words to that effect). He did not like the idea of anything knocking him out. I looked at his wounds as the doctor dressed them, they did not appear to be very bad. He had about a dozen wounds all told. One on the left temple, three on the back of the neck, two around his left hip, a few in the left leg and both arms were cut about by the gravel that flew up. He was also badly shell shocked. While the doctor finished dressing his wounds I got him some hot beef tea. He said he felt much better when he was dressed. I got Harry on my car along with three other stretcher cases and took him to the dressing station where Lindsay was [Vadencourt 12km W of Albert]. Then saw the W.O. and got another man to take his place instead of Lindsay, thus leaving Lin [Lindsay] with him, said good bye to Harry & went out for more cases. Harry was well looked after, he was lucky to be so near the dressing station when he got it. Early next morning he was sent on to the Casualty Clearing Hospital at Puchevillers about twelve miles further on, where he died on the next day. We did not get news of his death until

10.8.16. He died on the 23.7.16. On making enquiries we were told that gas gangrene³ had set in and he either died under or after an operation on his leg. I started this letter on the 14th and am finishing it off now the 31st. Hence you can see that we have been very busy ... Please convey my sympathy to Auntie Essie, Uncle Ben and family. I shall try and write her a letter but I am not much of a hand at that sort of writing.
Your loving son, Alister.⁴

Alister's entry in his diary on 10 August 1916 states that Lindsay found out from the hospital that Harry had died. They both went to Puchevillers and saw his grave.⁵ Alister did his best to cheer Lindsay up but felt very downhearted.

Harry's father received a cable from his brother-in-law in London dated 5 August 1916, 13 days after Harry had died, informing him of his son's death. It came as a complete shock to the father as he had not heard anything officially from the army. There was a flurry of telegrams between the Army and the Red Cross, both most agitated as to how Mr Wilson knew of his son's death. Once confirmation was received, the army sent a chaplain to visit him on the afternoon of 8 August. It could not have been Lindsay who organised the original cable because he apparently didn't know himself until 10 August. There was only one brother-in-law of Ben Wilson involved in the war and he was Lt Colonel Dr Roderick Macdonald who had married Ben's sister Louisa Maria. At that time, Roderick was in command of the 2nd Australian Stationary Hospital in Tel-el-Kebir, Egypt and his service record did not show he visited London. It was a mystery as to how and who had been the informant, a mystery that would be unexpectedly solved, and is recorded in a subsequent chapter following research into the life of Harry's cousin, Dave Wilson.

Many people mourned Harry Wilson's death as a terrible tragedy, but there is another, more reassuring way of viewing it. He was taken from this world on the eve of one of the bloodiest battles in history, the major Somme offensive, when over one million soldiers were killed or wounded on both sides. He was spared

³ Gas gangrene is caused by anaerobic bacteria, Clostridia. When fields previously cultivated with manure lay uncultivated for centuries, Clostridia was buried deep underground and continued to grow and thrive. Trench warfare, spreading over large areas of both France and Belgium, was all that was needed to bring Clostridia to the surface by disrupting and churning up the soil. When a soldier was injured, his wounds could easily come into contact with bacteria from long-buried manure. The bacteria worked quickly causing severe pain, gaseous swelling, and rapid breakdown of muscles so that urgent and radical surgery was required to save limbs and lives. [<http://www.kumc.edu/wwi/index-of-essays/gas-gangrene.html>], accessed 22 October 2018.

⁴ Grimes, Ken G, *Alister Bailey Grimes at War: Diary and Letters – 1915–1919* (self-published, 2010), p. 50.

⁵ Harry Wilson is buried in Puchevillers Military Cemetery.

seeing great suffering, and was taken by his Heavenly Father to his heavenly home where there is no more death or mourning, crying or pain.

Harry's personal effects were returned to his father and included a pipe, spectacles in case (damaged), and a testament. At a later date his medals were sent to his father. They were the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Yeronga Memorial Park

Between 1917 and 1921, two memorials were constructed in Yeronga Park, Brisbane in honour of local soldiers who gave their lives during the Great War. They were funded by public subscription. One is 'Honour Avenue', a memorial to the soldiers from the Stephens Shire. This began as a row of 96 alternating weeping fig and flame trees that lined the newly-created avenue through the park. The second memorial is a concrete cenotaph with the names of the 97 fallen inscribed on marble tablets, Harry's name being one of them. In 2012, after vandalism and decay, the Brisbane City Council installed new plaques. Below left is a photo of the Cenotaph, and below right, the more recently installed plaque in honour of Harry Wilson.⁶



⁶ Extracted from an exhaustive history of the *Yeronga Memorial Park – Honour Avenue & The Cenotaph* by Dr Richard Walding, Research Fellow, Griffith University, Brisbane. This work also includes a detailed account of the life of Harry Gilmore Wilson, and can be found on the internet at <http://indicatorloops.com/yeronga>, accessed 16 August 2018.

Wilson, Kenneth Joseph Gilmore

A grandson of Rev BG Wilson

Kenneth Joseph Gilmore Wilson was born on 1 March 1897 in South Brisbane, the youngest son of Ben and Esther Wilson (née Cribb). As he was growing up, Ken enjoyed the outdoor life, playing cricket and tennis. He excelled in both of these at Brisbane Grammar School where he was also a 2nd Lieutenant in Cadets. Another sport he indulged in extensively was harpooning stingrays in Nerang Creek.

After completing his senior year in 1915, Ken went straight from enjoying life at school and living at home to residing at St Andrew's Hall and studying for his medical degree at the University of Sydney. He was 17 when World War I broke out.

Patriotism demanded that he enlist to fight for his country but the necessary parental consent was not forthcoming. Having turned 21 by 19 August 1918, he relinquished the medical course he had begun and joined the AIF. He was assigned to the 1st Auxiliary Motor Transport Section. However, the conflict ended not long after, so he returned to the University of Sydney to complete his medical degree, graduating in 1922. Here he met his future wife, Viva Gellatly, who was studying for a science degree. He and Viva enjoyed driving around in a motorbike and side car, just as his brothers had done before him.

After serving as a resident medical officer at Ipswich Hospital, Dr Ken Wilson began general practice in Brisbane, and subsequently was appointed an honorary physician to the Lady Bowen Hospital in 1925. Three years later he joined the Brisbane Hospital staff as a gynaecologist. In December 1928, Dr Wilson was granted 15 months' leave to go overseas for postgraduate training, part of which was spent with the Wertheim School in Vienna. By now Ken and Viva had two little boys who they left in the care of the children's grandparents, Ben and Essie Wilson. The boys spent a lot of time at the farm in Rosewood while their mother spent a very enjoyable period of her married life overseas with Ken. On returning



Kenneth Joseph Gilmore Wilson

to Brisbane Ken set up a specialist practice on Wickham Terrace in Ballow Chambers.

In 1938 Ken and Viva joined the extended family in Rosewood for the celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ben and Essie Wilson, Ken's parents. Nine descendants in the photo below are either doctors or would become doctors, with even more doctors to be born into this family in the years to come.¹



Ben and Essie Wilson's Family

L-R Back row: Brian (future doctor), Dorothy (Mother of Brian), Dr Lindsay, Dr Gilmore, Essie (Granny), Dr Ken, Ben (Grandpa), Teddy Edwards (husband of Esther), Esther (Dr Ken's sister), Kath (wife of Lindsay)

L-R 2nd row: Dr Harry (Brian's brother), Esther (Brian's sister, who became Dr Esther Roe), Clarissa (Dr Ken's sister), Dr Chester (Brian's brother), Viva (wife of Kenneth)

L-R Front row children: Russell (son of Dr Ken, future doctor) and Ken (son of Dr Ken, future doctor)

¹ This photograph of an extraordinary family was supplied by Judy Wilson, daughter-in-law of Dr Brian Wilson, son of Dr Benjamin Gilmore Wilson, the brother of Dr Ken Wilson.

Dr Ken Wilson was appointed to the Medical Board in Brisbane in 1937 at the age of 39 years. After the Brisbane Women's Hospital² was completed and opened in 1938, he became a senior visiting obstetrician. He was also appointed as a clinical lecturer in operative obstetrics, a part-time University position.

During World War II a shortage of medical staff placed a heavy load on the remaining staff at the hospital. In 1942, the Medical Board published a list of registered obstetrician specialists. Of the 10 specialists recognised, four, including Dr Ken Wilson, were noted as being on active service. With the advent of World War



Dr Kenneth Joseph Gilmore Wilson

II, Dr Ken Wilson had enlisted once again but was injured and invalided home. He took up his specialist appointments again, but soon returned to the Army. He died on 8 October 1944 of malignant high blood pressure caused by his war injuries.³ Besides being respected for his professional ability, he was held in high esteem as 'one of nature's gentlemen'. His untimely death was deeply felt in Brisbane obstetric circles,⁴ and amongst the nursing sisters who held him in high regard.⁵

An article written in the *Courier-Mail* the day after his death reveals some pertinent details of his life, part of which is quoted as follows:

Dr. K. Wilson Dead; Served At Tobruk

Dr. Kenneth Joseph Gilmore Wilson, noted Brisbane specialist in midwifery and gynaecology and well-known member of the Army Medical Corps, died at St. Martin's Hospital yesterday. The late Dr. Wilson was in his 48th year. He had a notable career.

In camp at the end of the last war, he was prevented from seeing service by the cessation of hostilities. He became a member of the A.A.M.C.

² In 1967, Queen Elizabeth II approved the use of the 'Royal' prefix for the Brisbane Women's Hospital.

³ Cause of death was provided by Ken Wilson's nephew, Dr Brian Wilson.

⁴ Patrick Ross, *The Royal Women's Hospital, Brisbane: the first fifty years* (Brisbane: Boolarong Publications, 1988), pp. 31, 82, 85 and 97.

⁵ Advised by Elizabeth Anne Abell.

(Australian Army Medical Corps) in 1923, and prior to the present war had command of the Seventh Field Ambulance. In 1940 he had command of the 2/2 C.C.S. (Casualty Clearing Station), a Queensland unit which subsequently saw extensive service in the Middle East, including the siege of Tobruk. His escape from Benghazi in the nick of time was one of the notable episodes of his army career.

Dr. Wilson was invalided out of Tobruk before the end of the siege and returned to Australia. Unfit for further service, he again offered his services at home and was given command of the 116th Australian General Hospital from which he was again invalided home as medically unfit.

The late Dr. Wilson is survived by his wife and two sons. One son, Kenneth, is at present in Canada with the R.A.A.F., training as a navigator. The younger son, Russell, is in Brisbane. Up to the time of his death, Dr. Wilson practised at Wickham Terrace (Brisbane).⁶

During his life, Dr Ken Wilson took a keen interest in the affairs of the Queensland branch of the British Medical Association, being at one time a member of the council. A memorial fund had already been set up by this Association to provide prizes in memory of distinguished members for the benefit of meritorious students in the University of Queensland, Faculty of Medicine. Kenneth Joseph Gilmore Wilson's name was added to the distinguished members list on Australia Day, 26 January 1946.⁷

⁶ *Courier-Mail*, 9 October 1944, p. 3.

⁷ *Medical Journal of Australia*, vol. 1, 1946, pp. 125–6

Wilson, Frederick David Gilmore

A grandson of Rev BG Wilson

Although he was born in the family home at Sandgate on 7 October 1893, Dave Wilson, fourth son of WA and Annie Wilson, spent his early years at the family property 'Tarong' in the South Burnett Region. By 1905 the family had moved to Brisbane. He attended Junction Park State School, followed by Brisbane Grammar School from 1909 to 1911. The City Tabernacle Year Book for 1910–11 states that he was baptised and became a member of the church.

After leaving school, he served as a jackeroo on Saltern Creek Station near Barcaldine, and then joined John Bridge and Co, the stock and station agency firm, where he was employed as a commercial traveller. He left here when World War I started, and enlisted in Brisbane on 3 July 1915. He was 21 years old. At this



Frederick David Gilmore Wilson (1916)

stage, his sister Madeline had already enlisted and was serving in the hospital at Alexandria. She was just about to volunteer for service off the coast of Gallipoli.

Dave and the Queensland contingent of the 15th Battalion, 8th Reinforcement embarked from Brisbane on board the *Kyarra* on 16 August 1915 and proceeded to Egypt and then on to Gallipoli with the Anzacs. Following the evacuation from Gallipoli in December 1915, the AIF was re-organised in Egypt. He had time to catch up on correspondence and wrote to his brother Graham in Kingaroy on 20 April 1916: 'I've never felt too good since first hearing about Harold [his brother] trying to enlist. For goodness sake put it out of his head. He's too deaf for this game and would always be getting roared at by some upstart of an officer or N.C.O. ... Madeline left here a week or more ago for Australia'.

After a further period of training, in June 1916 they sailed from Egypt for France and the Western Front. Dave was a Lewis Machine Gunner and received a promotion to Lance Corporal on 3 July 1916. Amidst the carnage of the Battle of the Somme, which was launched that month, Dave Wilson was seriously wounded on 28 July 1916. Casualties during the Battalion's first battle on the Western Front were high: 90 killed and 370 wounded.

Back home in Sandgate, Dave's father received a cable from London to say his son had been seriously wounded. He had not heard anything officially, so he wrote to Base Records, Melbourne on 22 August 1916 saying that his son had been wounded in the chest by a bullet on 28 July, and would be thankful if they could give him some information. On 29 August they replied that 'no report whatever had been received in respect of his son, Private [sic] FDG Wilson, but if he would forward the cable that he had received in which it was stated the soldier was wounded, upon receipt of same, and if such action was warranted, enquiries would be instituted and the result duly communicated to him.'¹

WA Wilson replied on 4 September 1916, enclosing the cable that they had requested. He went on to say: 'It was sent by my brother-in-law, Russell Sinclair, who is now in London, to my brother, about his boys, one of whom died of wounds, and asking him to inform us about our son David (No. 2698, FDG Wilson, Lewis Machine Gun Section, 15 Battalion, 4th Brigade) being wounded.' The army confirmed on 9 September that they had received advice that his son, Lance Corporal FDG Wilson, was wounded and that no other particulars were provided. On 21 September they advised that he had been admitted to Wharncliffe War Hospital, London, on 24 August with a gunshot wound to the chest, haemothorax severe. The father was continually updated on his son's progress month by month and that he was progressing favourably. Then he received news that his son was returning to Australia and was due in Brisbane about the middle of May 1917. Following this happy news, WA sent a letter to Base Records, Melbourne, enclosing a note to his son telling him that his sister, Marjorie, was leaving Brisbane by Sydney mail train on 6 May and going away as a nurse somewhere, so that if possible he may see her before she leaves Australia. He requested that his son be given the letter upon arrival in Melbourne, and to let him know if he could see his sister who was the second daughter to go away nursing, the first, Madeline, now being in Egypt.

Both WA and his brother, Ben, had heard from their brother-in-law in London news of which the army had no knowledge, but this time the brother-in-law was named – Russell Sinclair. Russell had married their sister, Maggie (Margaret Jane) in 1882. Rev Stan Nickerson in his treatise on BG Wilson mentions that Russell Sinclair was in London with his family for a year during the war, and that

¹ National Archives of Australia: B2455, Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office.

he had suffered the loss of one of his sons who was killed not long before the end of World War I.² Could it have been that son who reported it to his father in London? A search uncovered an account of the life and death of Lieutenant Eric Russell Sinclair and is recorded in a later chapter. However, Eric Sinclair could not have been the informant as he was not in France until the following year.

Whilst Eric Sinclair's army records were non-existent in Australia, another Sinclair by the name of Allen Russell Callander Sinclair, a marine engineer, was recorded as enlisting in Sydney on 1 September 1915; moreover, he was in France at the same time as Harry and Dave Wilson met their death or wounding. Harry and Russell (as Allen was known) were both initially in the 7th Field Ambulance, so they would have known each other even if they hadn't already met as relatives. At the time of Harry's death, Russell was a sapper in the 2nd Pioneer Battalion,³ which consisted of light military combat engineers whose job was to construct defensive positions, command posts, dugouts and barbed wire defences in preparation for battle. Harry's death was on the eve of the attack on Pozières, and his death must have affected Russell so much that Russell disobeyed an order the following day, 24 July 1916, an offence for which he was awarded seven days' forfeiture of pay.⁴ Russell would have felt constrained to send news to his uncle in London, who was also Harry and Dave's uncle, of what had happened to both of them. It is a commonly held belief that Harry died in his brother, Lindsay's arms; however, it was Russell who was there with him at the end of his life.

Dave returned to Australia on the *Beltana*, arriving in Brisbane on 12 May 1917 and was discharged on 28 June 1917. He was awarded three medals: the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. His name was added to two Rolls of Honour, one in Kingaroy and the other at the City Tabernacle. He married Marjorie Ethel Beeston in 1921 and they made their home in Dalby.

An article in the *Dalby Herald* of 26 August 1976 explains what happened after the war:

Dave Wilson joined the commission agency firm Isles Love and, in 1924, established his own stock and station agency business at Dalby. By the mid-1930s, the emphasis of this business had switched from stock to the purchase and sale of seed. In the late 1930s, Dave saw the potential for a new summer grain crop on the Downs and introduced grain sorghum. In the late 1940s, he saw sorghum alnum growing on the Uebergang family property at Crooble, NSW, and bought seed for sale in his district.

² Stan W Nickerson, *Rev BG Wilson: Queensland Baptist Founding Father* (Brisbane: Baptist Historical Society of Queensland, 1998), p. 88.

³ <https://rslvirtualwarmemorial.org.au/explore/units/62>, accessed 28 August 2018.

⁴ National Archives of Australia: B2455, Australian Imperial Force, Base Records Office.

The company became a family partnership in 1946 when his son, Mr David Wilson Jnr, became active on the management side, assuming management in 1960. The firm built up a clientele across a big area of the Downs and adjacent regions and also offered customers large storage facilities, modern seed cleaning equipment and top rate market intelligence on grain and seed crops. He built up an unshakeable reputation for business integrity and wise counsel.⁵

Dave's grandson, David Wilson, recalls: 'My first memories of old Dave were from the early 1950s. Dad went to church on Sunday mornings. Grandfather Dave didn't but would come to our house to mow the lawn. If it was hot he would take off his shirt. Forty years on, the scars from the bullet wound he received in an attack on German lines at Pozières in France in August 1916 were still vivid, front and back. Otherwise he was always smartly dressed with a bow tie and usually wore a homburg when outdoors.'

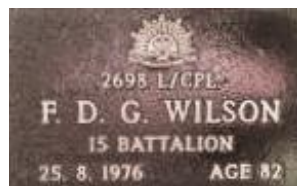
'Wils, as we called Grandmother, died in 1959 and Dave remarried about five years later. It didn't work out. Following the divorce it became apparent Dave was lonely in Patrick Street so Dad had Dave's house moved to the back garden of our house in Myall Street, Dalby. This worked out well and in the late 60s the

day would start in Myall Street with Dave joining us for breakfast. He was still putting in a full day's work at Wilson and Wilson, Grain and Seed Merchants, well into his 80th year. His consideration for others came through to the end.'



Dave Wilson, 1975

Dave Wilson died on 25 August 1976, aged 82, at Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital. He left a son, David Wilson, and two daughters, Mrs OJ North (Mary) and Mrs Marjorie Butler, both of Indooroopilly. He also had nine grandchildren, and one great grandson named Benjamin Fitzroy Gilmore Wilson. His eulogy in the *Dalby Herald* on 26 August 1976 recognised his contribution as a remarkable pioneer grain seed authority to whom the Darling Downs grain growing industry owed much of its present strength. His memory would be cherished by all who worked with him and by the many he helped during his work with the grain industry.



⁵ *Dalby Herald*, 26 August 1976, page unknown.

Wilson, Madeline Alice Kendall

A granddaughter of Rev BG Wilson

Sister Madeline Wilson wrote a diary of her World War I experiences. She also went under the name Sister Kendall, to distinguish her from any other Sister Wilsons of whom there were a few. The writing of diaries was discouraged by those in command lest confidential war information be divulged in the event of enemy capture, but Madeline was not one to obey orders if she did not like them, according to her niece, Elizabeth Anne Abell.

Madeline was the second daughter born to WA and Annie Wilson in her Sandgate ancestral home on 19 October 1888. After her birth she was brought home to 'Tarong', the family's cattle station near Nanango, where she had a part-Aboriginal nurse whom the children called Dordie. They all adored her. Sadly Dordie died later in childbirth. Madeline's father had



Sister Madeline Alice Kendall WILSON

developed a great sympathy for the Indigenous people, and was a good friend of Nanango, the leader of the Aborigines in that area. In her diary, Madeline would later record that her brother, Dave, fought in the ranks with a boy named, Goodfellow, who was a descendant of an old Aboriginal king, Nanango. Madeline was delighted to think that they were fighting side by side as her father and Nanango were lifelong friends.

After leaving 'Tarong' and coming to Brisbane, Madeline trained as a nurse at the Brisbane Hospital¹ for three years, graduating in 1911, aged 23. She continued nurse training for a further eight months in General Medical and Surgical to

¹ Now known as the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

qualify as a Staff Nurse, little realising that in a couple of years' time, she would make good use of her occupation to enlist for war service.

In her diary, Madeline says that she and a friend went to Victoria Barracks in Brisbane to enlist the day that war was declared. (Britain entered the war on 4 August 1914.) They were both accepted for overseas service. According to official army documents, she was assigned to the AANS 1st Australian General Hospital Unit in November 1914, when she sailed for Egypt in the *Kyarra* with nurses and doctors from Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia, among whom were her uncle, Major (Dr) Roderick Macdonald, and Sister Alice Ross-King.² Madeline was 26 years old with blue eyes and dark brown hair, tall and slim, her religion Baptist, and she was headstrong, outspoken, impulsive, immensely popular, and full of life. She was always at the head of the list kept by the City Tabernacle of those who enlisted until the Roll of Honour was put into pseudo-alphabetical order.

Here follows some information extracted from her diary:

After passing Mt Sinai on 11 January 1915, and going up the Suez Canal, with simply glorious scenery, nearing Port Said the next day, a tall, good looking, middle-aged doctor spoke saying, 'We have mutual friends in Miss Taylor and Mrs Aeneas Gunn who wrote *We of the Never Never*. They have asked me to look after you'. He was Colonel Maudsley³ of Melbourne. Madeline laughed and said, 'I don't think I need any looking after at all'. (He did look after her, however, and very well, especially when she had sunstroke later on.)

After days of sightseeing the pyramids and other attractions, on 24 January 1915 they left Alexandria for Heliopolis where the 1st Australian Hospital was situated in the Heliopolis Palace, a huge casino with a tremendous rotunda. Two days later, after the Commanding Officer, Colonel Giblin, asked for volunteer sisters, she was one of 15 who volunteered to go with the Clearing Hospital, as 20,000 Turks under German officers were reported to be preparing to attack the Suez Canal.

In a letter to her mother, Madeline mentions how excited they all were at the thought of working in a hospital of tents as close as possible to the wounded, and then says: 'But we only landed in Port Said where we managed to find a very old and dirty deserted convent which, after much scrubbing and cleaning and washing

² Sister Ross-King was made famous by the TV mini-series 'Anzac Nurses' produced in 2014.

³ Later Colonel Sir Henry Carr Maudsley, KCMG, CBE, *London Gazette*, 9 June 1919, page unknown.

and boiling of sheets etc, we did at last manage to have everything as clean as possible to take in wounded and sick patients.’ The nurses all slept side by side in a long tent beside their new hospital. Substantial Ottoman forces did cross the Sinai Peninsula between 26 January and 4 February 1915, but their attack failed mainly because of strongly held defences and alert defenders.⁴

Having returned to Heliopolis, Madeline mentions in her diary dated April 1915, getting up at 3.00 pm (she had been working night shifts) to go for a ride with Sister Ross-King. She writes again of her on 8 June 1915 after the fighting had begun at Gallipoli: ‘Have been very busy working with Sister Ross-King, one of our very senior sisters in a huge ward called the Rotunda. The work is very heavy, but it has been a great pleasure for me to work under such a capable nurse as Sister Ross-King. Not only is her nursing outstanding, but also her management of the ward. Never is anyone ever neglected at all. I could never forget it.’

In the same month, June 1915, she had an attack of sunstroke which had been caused, according to Colonel Maudsley with whom she was boarding while being nursed for a week, by gallivanting far too much in the sun with the soldiers. In her defence, the Sister who was nursing her replied: ‘I don’t agree with you at all, Colonel Maudsley. I think it is simply splendid the way our sisters go about with our often very lonely soldiers the way they do and cheer them up. Our poor boys badly need such companionship.’

On 11 July 1915 Madeline left hurriedly for the Dardanelles. She was very pleased to be sent there to care for the soldiers who were having the most frightful and cruel time imaginable. She had about 12 people helping her pack at short notice and had no time to say fond farewells to anyone. Finding her boat had left that morning, she was given orders to catch the hospital ship *Neuralia*.

During July, August and September 1915 they worked off Anzac Beach and in Lemnos and Imbros, and from Mudros Bay they sailed for Malta on 22 July with approximately 700 patients. They constantly plied between the Dardanelles, Mudros, Imbros, Suvla Bay, Alexandria and Malta, giving first aid and transporting wounded soldiers to hospitals.

On 11 August 1915, after arriving at the Anzac camp and taking on board the wounded who filled the boat before midnight, she records in her diary: ‘Went to bed about 3.00 am and up again at 6.00 am, on duty all day till about 1.00 am next day. British gunboats firing on shore all day and at night.’ The following day, the Turks fired on trawlers of wounded being brought out to their boat and killed many of the soldiers. They also turned their machine guns on the *Neuralia* while the nurses were getting the wounded ready to be carried down from the decks.

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raid_on_the_Suez_Canal, accessed 6 October 2018.

‘Bullets were flying everywhere and whizzing into the side of the operating theatre alongside of which we were working as quickly as we could to get all patients down below.’ She witnessed the two Padres working hard, cutting off dirty, bloodstained clothing, washing down patients and preparing some for operations as soon as possible. She was so grateful for their service. A few days later, she started feeling ill and came down with dysentery, but everyone was so good to her including the Padre who ministered in practical ways, until she was back working with the wounded in desperate, short-staffed conditions made terribly awkward by having to work in darkness with lights completely covered.

On 2 September 1915, after delivering patients to Malta, they got word that a troop ship had been torpedoed about 20 miles off, so the *Neuralia* was turned straight back, full speed, and was the first to get to the wrecked ship, the *Southland*, which hadn’t sunk yet, and got 437 on board, all safe and sound. This was the first Australian troopship to be torpedoed in the war. The story of what happened that day is recorded in the National Archives, the most relevant part being:

Ships to the rescue: The hospital ship *Neuralia* was first to the rescue, and on board was Captain Frank Apperly, an Australian doctor in the RAMC who was able to take several photos. “... we found the ship in a sinking condition, and all the sea strewn with boats and rafts, crammed with soldiers, who cheered and sang songs as we drew near ... The more and more one sees of the Australian troops the more and more one feels proud of them.” Daisy Richmond, an AANS nurse on the *Neuralia*, had been preparing the wards ready for the injured, but as the survivors clambered aboard, she went down to greet them, and shook hands with each and every one.⁵



Survivors of the *Southland*
photographed from the *Neuralia*

Back in Cairo, on 27 September 1915, Madeline received a wire from her brother, Dave, saying he was in Suez. She was very much undecided what to do as he might have left before she got to Suez. She went unescorted, of great concern to the English general travelling in her train carriage. After three days of searching, she caught up at Zeitoun with Dave who was given the day off. They lunched

⁵ <https://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au/browse/groupstories/2634>

‘Men of the *Southland* – the first Australian Troopship to be torpedoed’, accessed 21 August 2018.

together and had a long chat. She reported that it was wonderful to see him looking so well as they drove around sight-seeing. She had taken three days off instead of two, which meant she was absent without leave for one day, much to the annoyance of her Commanding Officer, Major Dickie. She had broken a very serious army rule that day. She explained to him that she badly wanted to meet her young brother who was a gunner and so would probably be killed at any moment when he arrived at Anzac Cove. She was given another day off, as was Dave, and they went to see the Pyramids together. She felt eternally grateful to Major Dickie for what he did that day.

The work in the following months on board the *Neuralia* was constant. They were shelled again off the coast of Anzac Cove on 10 November, but on 20 November, she writes of having an infected thumb which led to her arm being infected and opened up by Major Dickie. A sling was applied and she managed as well as possible.

Four days later, she reported that the doctors were so busy and quite unable to cope with the numbers, that they asked her to give anaesthetics, which under normal circumstances, she would have refused to do, but in agreeing to do it, all her nervousness and apprehension left her, and the doctors were pleased that all went well and she was pleased to be able to lessen some suffering.

In December 1915 she was given such large wards to manage that she confessed that, without the aid of Padre Dobson, she would simply not have been able to manage. They were now on their way to England with soldiers from non-Australian hospitals in Alexandria who were supposed to be convalescing, but she could truthfully say she had never nursed victims of such neglect. Most of the nursing had apparently been left to orderlies.

She had a marvellous time in England meeting old war friends, partying, sight-seeing and going to the theatres. Madeline loved a good time. She was very popular.

During this time of leave, she went to Scotland with nursing friends and the Padre. Upon discovering that Madeline had not been christened, the Padre exclaimed, 'Goodness gracious this is awful. You are not eligible to



Madeline with a wounded soldier

be buried in consecrated grounds.’ He offered to christen her at once into the Church of England, even though he knew both her parents were Baptists. The poor kind-hearted Padre feared she would end up in some very hot place after death, so she thanked him for his concern but didn’t accept his offer.

While in Scotland, the Padre took them to a church service in Edinburgh Cathedral. She argued all the way home with Padre over the sermon preached by the parson who said that women of today should have far more children to take the place of those lost during the war. Padre thought it was a splendid sermon but Madeline said to him, ‘Show me anywhere in the Bible where it says that! We go to Church to hear what the Bible tells us, not to hear the personal views of any clergyman.’

They returned to Alexandria early January 1916 on board the *Neuralia* which had been fitted out as a proper hospital ship. On 20 January Madeline found herself in hospital in Alexandria with the mumps, and contagious. There would be no return to Gallipoli because of the evacuation. She had recovered from the mumps by February, but as many of her good nursing friends had returned to Australia intending to come back to nurse in France, she thought it a good idea to do likewise.

On 11 April 1916 she returned to Australia on another hospital ship, the *Runic*, on which she was nurse in charge of all the sick and wounded. She made up her mind to nurse her wounded Anzacs constantly, speaking to no-one except her very bad cot cases, otherwise there might be a bad report sent to HQ against her, as had happened to other nurses, preventing them from returning overseas.

Madeline enlisted for a second term of service to the Middle East, embarking on 19 August 1916 from Melbourne per the *Karoola*, on nursing duties with 14th Australian General Hospital unit, arriving in Suez on 20 September 1916.



Madeline with her sick and wounded soldiers

The transcription of Madeline’s diary is incomplete especially about her second term of service, but some memoirs and letters have been transcribed, such as those that follow. Madeline counted herself absolutely lucky to have the

opportunity of meeting our great Australian poet, Major AB (Banjo) Patterson, who would come into her ward to see some of his men. She wrote that she would always give him a cup of tea. She so much enjoyed talking to our famous bush poet, so typical of an Australian bush gentleman. The quiet way he talked was so natural and unassuming. She had adored his poetry since her early childhood.

In an undated letter to her parents, probably around October 1917, she mentioned for the first time John Pyne, the man she would one day marry. Madeline describes finishing off her leave in Cairo, meeting Corporal John Pyne who was also there on leave, and going for a sail in a small boat on the Nile with him. There being a very strong current, the boat capsized and they hung onto the boat calling for help. Many Arab boats noticed their plight and heard their plea for help and passed by, offering no assistance. At last one boat came to their rescue and landed them back at a favourite haunt, a restaurant on the Nile, where they were looked after well. Back in Cairo, this episode caused great amusement. She was quizzed by Colonel Fulton: 'Did Corporal Pyne keep his pipe in his mouth while you were hanging onto the side of the boat like he did when he swam the Georgina River in flood?' Later that day, when John Pyne was about to depart as the group was off to dinner, Colonel Fulton had different ideas. He took a tunic from his cabin, removed all signs of an Anzac Commander except one star on the shoulder, making Corporal Pyne a lieutenant, who held his own with no suspicion at all that his rank was not that of a lieutenant.

In another report, Madeline writes: 'Our Australian polo players over here must be something special. A crowd of them took a party of us nurses to a match against the English and beat them easily, the latter on their swanky ponies with grooms to look after them and every convenience possible from the Gezira Sporting Club. Our men, of course, looked after their own horses which they mainly rode in battle. They took us all to the Shepherd's Hotel (in Cairo) after the match for dinner, all so exciting having beaten the English'.

Madeline writes: 'John Pyne was considered a splendid judge of a horse although he did not play polo. He really knew horses. He captured a small horse from a Turkish officer at El arba, but unfortunately it was recaptured a few nights later. It was a lovely little horse which Lt Bobby Graham could race well. A few days later at sundown, Pyne told Lt Graham that he could see the horse in the distance ridden by the Turkish officer. Graham thought he must be mistaken, but Colonel Cameron said: 'If Pyne said he saw that horse, he saw it. He would never make a mistake over any horse at any distance.' Colonel Cameron gave Pyne leave to go and retake the horse, which he did.

Towards the end of the Palestinian campaign, the enterprising John Pyne and Lt Bobby Graham initiated the horse racing that occurred at the Sea of Galilee. They managed to have a racetrack made with the aid of Turkish prisoners. It all caused

the greatest fun and was so enjoyable to all present. In her diary Madeline started calling John Pyne 'Regimental Sergeant Major'. This extraordinary rise through promotions from Trooper at enlistment in September 1915, to Lance Corporal, then Corporal, then Sergeant, then Staff Sergeant Major and finally Temporary Regimental Sergeant Major is all documented in his Army records.⁶

Madeline had a fascinating tour of Jerusalem before returning to Australia per *Port Darwin* leaving Suez on 12 July 1918 and arriving in Australia on 17 August 1918. She continued her nursing duties, but was declared medically unfit on 27 February 1919 and discharged from service on 2 July 1919. She was awarded two Stars according to the *City Tabernacle Year Book 1918–1919*. Her Army record states she received the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal. Her overseas service was for a period of four years.

John Pyne was discharged from the Army on 4 October 1919. Four days later, on 8 October 1919, Madeline Alice Kendall Wilson (aged 30) married John Lindsay Lawless-Pyne (aged 29), a grazier, at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Philip Street, Sydney.

'John Lawless-Pyne's early upbringing was on his pioneering pastoralist father's 'Cloyne' station at Goomeri in the South Burnett. He attended Maryborough Grammar School and subsequently was in training to take over the management of his father's pastoral interest when war intervened. He enlisted in September 1915 and was attached to the 5th Light Horse. During service abroad, he took part in the Battles of Romani and El Arish and in all the important engagements that took place throughout the Egyptian campaign. He secured a stripe for capturing a Turkish officer and his orderly under circumstances very perilous to his personal safety.'⁷



John Lindsay Lawless-Pyne,
c1917, 5th Light Horse

After their marriage, John resumed his grazing occupation with Madeline on 'Boonimba' station at Goomeri from 1922 to 1958 according to the electoral rolls. His services as a horse judge were greatly sought after and appreciated both in Queensland and NSW, but due to his last war wound, which became much worse

⁶<https://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRRetrieve/Interface/ViewImage.aspx?B=7377640>, accessed 16 August 2018.

⁷Matt J Fox, *The history of Queensland, its people and industries, 1919–1923* (Brisbane: States Publishing Co, c2006), pp. 300–301.

as time went on, he had to give it all away. It is highly likely that Madeline and John knew each other before the war as both grew up in the South Burnett region of Queensland.

They had something else in common – their grandfathers were ministers of religion, both distinguished, and both of Irish extraction. Before John's death, he and Madeline moved to 'Blue Lakes', Cunnamulla, where he died in 1972, aged 82, and was buried in Charleville Cemetery. In 1980 Madeline was still living at 'Blue Lakes', the property owned by their son, John.

Madeline loved talking about her experiences as an Anzac Nursing Sister and all the wonderful people she met during the war. She was a popular speaker at RSL services and functions.



Madeline Lawless-Pyne (née Wilson) greeting HRH Katharine, Duchess of Kent, in 1985.

The aging Madeline at 96 was honoured to meet HRH Katharine, Duchess of Kent, during her royal visit to Queensland. The Duchess is on record as being in Toowoomba on 24 April 1985, the eve of Anzac Day. This delightful photo was taken by an unknown photographer who will be acknowledged in the next reprint of this book, if known.

Jack Arden, a near neighbour and president of the RSL at Augathella, was the man who inspired Madeline to write her memoirs and have her diary transcribed. Madeline enlisted the help of her daughter to do the typing, but it proved time consuming as her writing was so difficult to read. It was only partially completed when the computer master was lost and only photocopied pages of unedited work remained. These photocopied pages were subsequently added to with a cover page naming it 'WWI War History of an Anzac Nurse by Sister Madeline Alice Kendall Wilson 1888–1988', a Foreword detailing its history, and relevant photographs added in an addendum. Copies of this unpublished work are held by Baptist Heritage Queensland and the City Tabernacle Baptist Church.

Madeline's diary was addressed to Jack Arden in its opening paragraph. Just before Madeline's 99th birthday, he gave her a recently-published book, *The Lighthorsemen* by Elyne Mitchell. His inscription dated 4 October 1987 reads, 'To Madeline, The bravest Lady I have ever met, I am indeed honoured to have you as a very good friend'.

The following year, 1988, Madeline died just short of her anticipated 100 years. She was survived by two sons, John and Brian, and one daughter, Margery, a nurse, who married Flight Lieutenant David Giblin Mackenzie, an instructor in the Air Force during WWII. A son of this union became the custodian of his grandmother's diary.

Wilson, Evelyn Annie

A granddaughter of Rev BG Wilson

The ‘missed’ but not forgotten one

Elizabeth Anne Abell spoke so highly of her Aunt Evelyn and all she had done during the war that it seemed there had been an injustice done in leaving her off the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour. If her cousin Ken Wilson was listed on the Roll of Honour, even though he had only enlisted and not seen service before the war ended, then Evelyn, who had done so much for the war effort in Brisbane while in the Army, had every right to be included.

Evelyn Annie Wilson was born on 3 October 1884, the second daughter of WA and Annie Wilson. She was born in the Sandgate ancestral home where Annie came for her mother-in-law’s help during her birth, before returning home to ‘Tarong’ cattle station near Nanango where Evelyn grew up.

When the family relocated to Brisbane, Evelyn attended the Brisbane High School for Girls, which was established by Miss Eliza Fewings in 1899, using the City Tabernacle premises for their classrooms. In 1912 the school moved to the South Brisbane home of TB Stephens, now known as Somerville House. Evelyn was issued with a signed statement dated

2 September 1912 saying she had attained the Sydney Junior standard in Arithmetic, English, French and Botany, but the date of attaining these results was not mentioned.

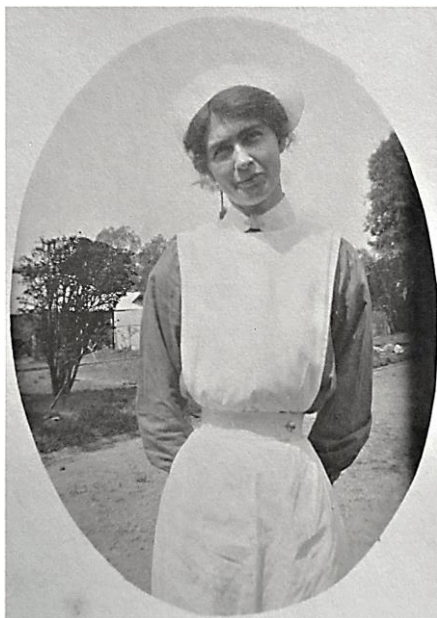
Evelyn, aged 18, became a member of the City Tabernacle after her baptism by Rev William Whale in 1903 together with her sister Mary and cousin Elsie Patterson.

Evelyn and Elsie were both interested in the latest paramedical course being conducted by a German doctor in Sydney. Between 1911 and 1912, they both



Evelyn Annie Wilson

went to Sydney, where this new, ground-breaking course teaching massage (now known as physiotherapy) had recently commenced at the University of Sydney. Evelyn completed the course on 12 December 1912 and it is likely that she gained further experience at Royal North Shore Hospital in Sydney along with Elsie Patterson before returning to Brisbane. Evelyn offered to practise as an honorary masseuse at the Hospital for Sick Children (subsequently renamed the Royal Children's Hospital) in Brisbane for a year. Her appointment commenced on 12 November 1914. She became their first honorary physiotherapist.



Evelyn Annie Wilson, Rosemount
Hospital

Evelyn joined the Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) on 11 January 1916, volunteering in Brisbane as a masseuse and was given the rank of Lieutenant. As the AIF did not allow masseuses (physiotherapists) to be sent overseas during World War I, though some worked on hospital ships, her enlistment therefore did not follow the normal process. She served in the Australian Army Massage Service within the AAMC and was given a handwritten Certificate of Appointment as proof. She also received a Certificate of Registration with the Australian Massage Association dated 1 September 1917.

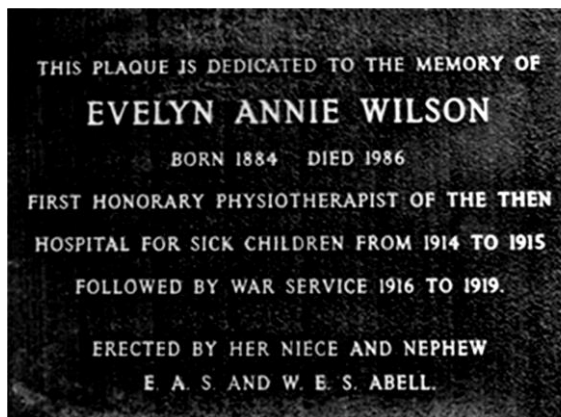
Evelyn served at Kangaroo Point and Rosemount Military Hospitals using her skills as a masseuse on returned and injured servicemen. According to Army

records, she herself needed medical attention and was admitted to Rosemount Orthopaedic Hospital in June 1918 with neurasthenia, a nervous breakdown precipitated by the dreadful stress of war. Today, it is known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Evelyn was discharged from the Army in Brisbane on 27 January 1919. By September 1920, having recovered from neurasthenia, she was able to resume work. When the newly constructed building known as Ballow Chambers, near the City Tabernacle in Wickham Terrace, was completed in 1924, Evelyn Wilson, masseuse, was among the first specialist medical tenants followed later by her cousin, Dr Ken Wilson, gynaecologist and obstetrician. She had some very satisfied clients who wrote to express their thanks, amongst whom were the

Sisters of the Sacred Advent, St Margaret's, Albion, and the Archbishop of Brisbane in 1927. He wrote saying that, from the time she had discharged him as cured, his knees had remained absolutely well. In fact he felt as though nothing had ever been the matter with either of them. He could now run upstairs three steps at a time with the utmost ease, and downstairs with the utmost rapidity, if he wanted.

Evelyn Wilson has been recognised as one of the pioneers of physiotherapy in Queensland and was a life member of the Queensland Branch of the Australian Physiotherapy Association. At 92 years of age, she was a guest at the official opening of the new State Special School at the Royal Children's Hospital on 4 August 1977. She was a pioneer advocate for educating children patients when she was the hospital's first honorary physiotherapist in 1914. At the time there were many cases of polio, and she thought it was a pity they couldn't have some kind of schooling instead of lying there with nothing to do. Her idea was taken up after the war when the official Hospital School was formally established in 1919, the first in Australia.¹ A plaque to commemorate her service was presented to the Royal Children's Hospital by her niece and nephew.²



Sadly, Evelyn went blind when she was 72 and was cared for by her sister, Ruth Abell, in Ruth's home at Aspley, Brisbane. It was here on 3 October 1984 that Evelyn celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends and received a congratulatory telegram from the Queen. Members of the Queensland executive of the Physiotherapy Association of Australia presented her with a bouquet of flowers. This event was recorded in *The Telegraph*³ with a photo of Evelyn making bandages for lepers throughout the world, plus the story of her life. She was described as a spritely woman who took a keen interest in current affairs.

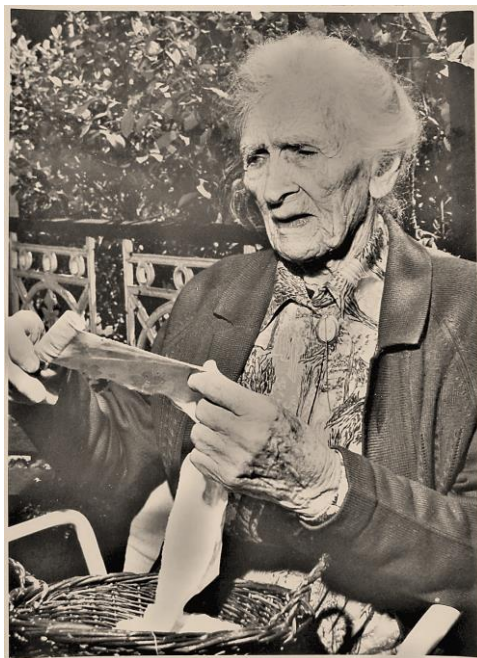
¹ J Pearn, K Kamusinski & S Kernaghan, 'The Royal Children's Hospital Brisbane: a photoarchive of its last week, November 2014', *Queensland History Journal, The Royal Historical Society of Queensland*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2016, pp. 103 and 107.

² The Royal Children's Hospital building in Brisbane was demolished in 2018. The plaque has been placed in storage until the completion of a new hospital building on the same site, at which time it will be displayed along with other plaques and memorabilia.

³ *The Telegraph*, 3 October 1984, p. 5.

Every Sunday she listened to the political broadcasts and also the religious services. She never married and was partially deaf as well as blind. Her sister Ruth was 87 when Evelyn turned 100 and was still caring for her.

As they both aged, Ruth's daughter, Elizabeth Anne Abell, assisted in caring for them until she was persuaded to put them into the newly constructed Keperra Hospital (no longer in existence), where they both happily spent their last days in pleasant surroundings. Evelyn Wilson died on 1 February 1986 aged 101, and was cremated. Her ashes were scattered on the Wilson family plot in the Bald Hills Cemetery, Brisbane.



Evelyn Annie Wilson aged 100 years

With a dedication to preserving her family history, Elizabeth Anne retained in her private collection all her Aunt Evelyn's important documents, correspondence, letters and memorabilia, which have all formed the basis for this account of Evelyn Wilson's life story.

It is a mystery how Evelyn's name could have been missed from the present City Tabernacle Roll of Honour after such service during World War I.

On the final Roll of Honour list recorded in the *City Tabernacle Year Book 1918–1919*, there appears for the first time the name of 'Sister A. Wilson – Home service, four years, Kangaroo Point and Rosemount'. If the first Honour Board had these details inscribed thereon, Evelyn would have pointed out the mistake made as she regularly attended the City Tabernacle, driving members of her family from Sandgate to church Sunday by Sunday. Although she was known as Sister Wilson, her name was not 'A' for Annie (her mother's name), but 'E' for Evelyn. Somehow, when making the present Roll of Honour, her name was left off, but now, with this book, she has been included to give the honour due her. She has not been forgotten.

Wilson, Marjorie Jane Gilmore

A granddaughter of Rev BG Wilson

When World War I broke out, Marjorie Wilson was training as a nurse at what is now the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. She completed her training in 1915. Having been baptised by Rev James Mursell, she was added to the Members' Roll of the City Tabernacle in 1910–11 according to the Church's *Year Book*,¹ along with her parents, William Albert (WA) and Annie Wilson, and some of her siblings. There were various addresses for the family during this period. By 1914–15 they had settled into 'The Cottage' in Flinders Parade, Sandgate, a large home that WA had built on land next to the ancestral home where Marjorie was born on 30 June 1890.



Nurse Marjorie Jane Gilmore Wilson,
1915

Marjorie served in the Australian Army Nursing Service, 1st Medical Division as an army nurse from 15 November 1916 before enlisting for overseas service on 1 May 1917 in Brisbane as a staff nurse with the AIF Reinforcements, AANS, aged 26. Her sister, Madeline, had come home for several months from nursing the Anzacs, re-enlisted and returned to Egypt; her sister, Evelyn, was serving the forces in Brisbane as a masseuse; and her brother, Dave, was on his way home after being wounded. She had hoped to meet up with him before leaving Australia; however, she embarked from Sydney on the *Ulysses* on 9 May 1917 for England, and Dave arrived home three days later on the *Beltana*.

¹ City Tabernacle Baptist Church *Year Books 1910–1919* call her 'Margaret' Jane G Wilson. This mistake was consistently repeated and reveals confusion with Marjorie's Aunt Margaret Jane Wilson who had long since married Russell Sinclair and moved to Sydney.

After disembarking in Plymouth on 29 July 1917 and arriving in London the following day, imagine her surprise at meeting her cousins' cousin and fellow City Tabernacle member, Alister Grimes² who was on leave in London from war-torn France. They had a nice chat which Alister recorded in his diary, making the observation that 'the world is not as large as one thinks'.³

Marjorie commenced duty at Croydon War Hospital on 18 August 1917 before being posted to Rouen, France with No. 1 Australian General Hospital⁴ on 29 January 1918. Four months later, she was sick with tonsillitis and was admitted to hospital requiring a month's sick leave to recover. On 25 May 1918 Marjorie returned to her unit in Rouen where Sister Alice Ross-King was sister-in-charge.⁵ Marjorie continued nursing there until 23 November 1918. By then the war was over, and she was granted leave to visit Nice. After returning to her unit on 14 December 1918, she returned to England in time for Christmas. She was promoted to Sister on 9 June 1919 and granted four months' leave three days later to undertake a midwifery course at Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, Ireland. Marjorie returned to Australia on 12 February 1920 per the *Friedrichsruhe* and was discharged on 27 April 1920.

Wedding bells were to ring the next year. Marjorie Jane Gilmore Wilson married John Lacy Mactaggart in the Sandgate Baptist Church in Flinders Parade in 1921. He was born in Maryborough, Queensland and was the same age as Marjorie. He was a clerk by trade. He was 183cm tall with blue eyes, fresh complexion, auburn hair, and a Presbyterian.

John was aged 25 when he enlisted as a private with the AIF on 23 December 1916 in Brisbane. He sailed from Sydney aboard the *Miltiades* on 2 August 1917, and disembarked in Glasgow on 2 October 1917. He became a gunner and was posted to Rouelles, France on 13 January 1918 and then to Belgium with 4th Field Artillery Brigade. He was wounded in action by a gas shell attack on 2 April 1918 in the field and sent to hospital in Boulogne to recover.

Mustard gas harmed and killed soldiers by the thousands. Because of its versatility, mustard gas served as the most desirable chemical agent during World War I for both sides. It was effective as a psychological weapon too, as the soldiers greatly feared it. The Germans started gas warfare in World

² For the life story of Alister Grimes, see Part 1 of this book.

³ Grimes, Ken G, *Alister Bailey Grimes at War: Diary and Letters – 1915–1919* (self-published, 2010), p. 68.

⁴ The 1st Australian General Hospital was based at the racecourse in Rouen. Though somewhat cramped for space, 90,000 casualties passed through its wards in three strenuous years. See <http://www.throughtheselines.com.au/research/rouen>, Accessed 1 August 2018.

⁵ <http://throughtheselines.com.au/research/alice-ross-king>, accessed 7 August 2018.

War I to undermine morale, but the British retaliated with the same. Mustard gas could kill by blistering the lungs and throat if inhaled in large quantities. If the soldier had a mask on, its effect was to produce terrible blisters all over the body as it soaked into their woollen uniforms. Contaminated uniforms had to be stripped off as fast as possible and washed, not exactly easy for men under attack on the front line.⁶

John returned to his unit and subsequently to Australia per the *Berrima* arriving on 2 January 1919, and was discharged from the AIF on 19 March 1919. He and Marjorie each received the 1914–15 Star, the British War Medal, and the Victory Medal.

The question arises: Did Marjorie know John before the war? John's family owned a company that manufactured hide and leather goods called Mactaggart Primary Producers. He had cousins, Mactaggart brothers, Walter and Dan, who also fought in World War I and are listed on the St Andrew's Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church, Creek Street, Brisbane Honour Board.⁷ Their fathers were pioneers in the beef fattening industry and founded Mactaggart Brothers Limited in the South Burnett Region of Queensland before establishing in Brisbane where the firm prospered. Marjorie Wilson grew up in the South Burnett, her father being a grazier. It is highly likely that Marjorie knew John before the war as their families probably had business dealings in bygone days. John was also great mates with Marjorie's sister Madeline's husband, John Lawless-Pyne, also a grazier from the South Burnett, and probably their relationship included the business side as well.

John and Marjorie Mactaggart established their home at 'Whydale', 16 Charlton Street, Ascot, Brisbane where they brought up their three sons, John, Peter and Dugald. Marjorie talked very little about her experiences during the war, except to say that the British soldiers were the bravest she ever nursed as they never complained. One of Marjorie's hobbies was writing so she joined the 'Scribblers' Club'. Her husband became a Director of Mactaggart Primary Producers, and also a Director of Kingston Gold Mines Limited as recorded in their prospectus of October 1932.⁸ The mine closed permanently in 1954 due to uneconomic grades of ore.⁹

⁶ <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-31042472>, accessed 6 August 2018.

⁷ <http://heritage.saintandrews.org.au/walter-scipio-mactaggart>, accessed 6 August 2018.

⁸ *The Brisbane Courier*, 19 October 1932, p. 11.

⁹ <https://ivoradventures.wordpress.com/2012/03/20/kingston-gold-mine-mount-taylor>, accessed 7 August 2018.



Flying Officer John Mactaggart
(1921–42)

With the outbreak of World War II, their eldest son, John Mactaggart, enlisted and became a Flying Officer in No. 3 Squadron RAAF. Sadly he was killed on 18 August 1942, aged 20, in a dive bombing training exercise during the battle of El Alamein in the Middle East. He lost control while pulling up from his bomb-dive and his Curtiss Kittyhawk went into a spin at low altitude, crashing into the ground. He is buried at Alexandria (Chatby) Military and War Memorial Cemetery, Egypt.¹⁰

Even though his death does not follow the strict interpretation of 'Killed in Action', his name (and 1939–45) was attached to the City Tabernacle's 'Killed in Action during the great war 1914–18' marble Memorial Tablet¹¹ situated at the back of the sanctuary.

A memorial service was held in his old school, Church of England

Grammar School (Churchie). John had attended there from 1931 to 1939, leaving at senior level before entering the University of Queensland School of Medicine, Herston, Brisbane. He was in his second year at Medical School when he enlisted. His name is listed on the University of Queensland Medical School Honour Roll.

The Headmaster at Churchie, Canon Morris, in a tribute to John, described him as an ideal schoolboy. He was a champion 400 metre swimmer and helped make Churchie shine in swimming. He was stroke of the Churchie rowing eight at the Head of the River and received the trophy on behalf of his crew.

Marjorie Mactaggart was never the same after the loss of her son, John. She died on 9 October 1963 aged 73, followed seven months later by her husband, John, at almost 74 years of age.

¹⁰ <http://www.3squadron.org.au/indexpages/kia.htm>, accessed 6 August 2018.

¹¹ See p 17 for photo of Memorial Tablet.

Patterson, Elsie

A Granddaughter of Rev BG Wilson

Elsie Patterson was born in Queensland on 7 July 1883 of the union between Rev BG Wilson's eldest daughter, Mary Ann Elizabeth (Sissy) and fellow Wharf Street Baptist Church member, Andrew Patterson, a bank clerk. Elsie was the only daughter in the family and grew up with three brothers, which doubtless was good preparation for her future years of ministering to wounded World War I Australian soldiers. Her early years were spent in Sydney where her father was bank manager of two branches in George Street (1888–94), followed by Rockhampton where her father was manager of the Union Bank (1894–1900).

From time to time, snippets about her appeared in various newspapers, whose news of the day in that era consisted of tidbits about everybody and everything local. There were many of these for Elsie and her family as they were high-profile and newsworthy people, especially as her father had been promoted to manager of the Union Bank of Australia, Brisbane Branch (1900–15). Her three brothers became prominent in their occupations of banking, mining and medicine; and her mother was on the committee of the Brisbane General Hospital, now known as the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital.

When her father brought the family back to Brisbane to live at Riverview Terrace, Hamilton, Elsie and her mother became members of the City Tabernacle, where she was baptised in 1903 at 19 years of age. Two years later, having obtained her Australian Trained Nurses Association Certificate at the Brisbane Hospital for Sick Children¹, she was known as Nurse Elsie Patterson. *The Telegraph*, 4 November 1905, informed its readers that Nurse Elsie Patterson gave a 9/- donation to the



Nurse Elsie Patterson c1905

¹ Subsequently known as the Brisbane Children's Hospital, and then the Royal Children's Hospital.

Hospital for Sick Children.² In 1908 she added to her capabilities by completing a course in Invalid Cookery.³

On 29 June 1910, *The Telegraph* announced that 'Miss Elsie Patterson left last week for Aramac where she will stay with her brother, Dr Mervyn Patterson'.⁴ Mervyn was the medical superintendent of the Aramac Hospital. On 7 December 1910, at St Peter's Church, Barcaldine, Elsie was the bridesmaid at Mervyn's wedding to Lucy Katharine Fisher, a nurse born in Ceylon. As this was a visit of six months, it is extremely likely that during this period Mervyn put Elsie's nursing training to good use at his hospital.

By August 1911 Elsie was living at Sandgate with her parents in the family home on the beachfront at Flinders Parade which her grandfather, Rev BG Wilson had built to escape from the heat and mosquitoes during Brisbane's humid summers. Elsie's parents had bought the family home from Elsie's grandmother, Mary Jane Wilson, who had died in 1907 aged 75.

Between 1911 and 1913 Elsie went to Sydney where a new, ground-breaking course teaching massage had recently commenced at the University of Sydney. Today it would be called physiotherapy. The Australian Physiotherapy Association that commenced in 1906 under the name Australian Massage Association, states on its website: 'In the early days, members were trained rather than educated, and they practised with little independence and a low public profile. Initially, massage therapists worked under the direction of doctors in public hospitals. A brave few went into private practice, but life for these pioneers was tough. During World War I, physiotherapy began to receive public recognition as a valuable treatment through the rehabilitation of injured soldiers'.⁵

Elsie became the first Queenslander to qualify and was appointed the first masseuse at the Brisbane General Hospital on 1 October 1913 as recorded in the 65th Annual Report of the Committee of the Brisbane Hospital and announced in the newspapers.⁶

With the outbreak of World War I on 4 August 1914, there was no prospect of Elsie's being allowed to enlist as a masseuse with the AIF, and she desperately wanted to use her massage skills to assist in the war effort. The Australian Massage Association, with its Queensland Women's War Massage Association auxiliary, stepped in and decided to raise money to equip and send Elsie to

² *The Telegraph*, 4 November 1905, p. 14

³ *The Telegraph*, 6 February 1908, p. 3.

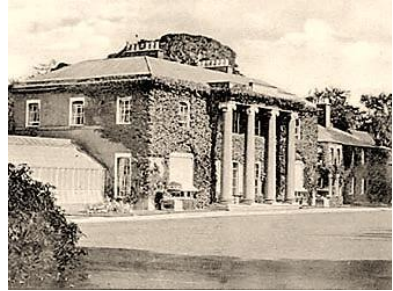
⁴ *The Telegraph*, 29 June 1910, p. 8.

⁵ https://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/APAWCM/The_APA/About_the_APA/History.aspx

⁶ *The Telegraph*, 26 March 1914, p. 5.

England to work in this new field amongst the wounded soldiers. The fund was called ‘The Massage Scheme’ and it met with a good response.⁷

In fact two masseuses, Elsie Patterson and K. Mackel, left for service in England in 1915. Both had trained at Sydney’s North Shore Hospital.⁸ Upon arriving in Plymouth on 2 October 1915, Elsie was appointed the sole masseuse to a hospital for wounded Australian officers – No. 5 Australian Auxiliary Hospital, Digswell House, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.



Digswell House, Welwyn,
Hertfordshire

In December 1915 Elsie’s cousin, Sister Madeline Wilson, paid an unexpected, brief visit whilst on leave in England from nursing duties on board the *Neuralia*. Madeline noted in her diary that ‘Elsie had been doing a good deal of war work in England and seemed so happy’. Madeline had always been very fond of her and ‘it was good to see her again’.

A London weekly, the *British Australasian*, reported on 31 August 1916 that Miss Elsie Patterson of Brisbane, having completed her work among wounded soldiers in England, on behalf of the Queensland Women’s War Massage Association, has taken up similar work with Almeric Paget Nursing Association⁹ in the First Birmingham War Hospital.¹⁰

At war’s end in 1918, Elsie returned to Australia. Back home in Brisbane, Elsie decided to branch out on her own with her own masseuse practice in Sydney. Before leaving Brisbane, Elsie sent her piano to Rockhampton to her brother, Hamilton, the Union Bank manager there. This became an important item in Hamilton’s household in the 1920s and 1930s, especially for one of his daughters, Margaret, who became a music teacher. In due course, Margaret’s two daughters studied at Juilliard Academy in New York and became very good pianists. The fact that Elsie owned a piano would suggest that she also was a pianist.

⁷ *The Brisbane Courier*, 21 July 1915, p. 7: ‘... a sum of £28 is still required to complete the equipment of Miss Patterson. Donations have come in well so far ...’

⁸ Vanderfield, Roger, *Royal North Shore Hospital: Service in War and Peace*, University of Sydney, Sydney, 2001.

⁹ In 1915 the British War Office officially recognised the Almeric Paget Massage Corps by making it the official body to which all masseuses and masseurs engaged for service in military hospitals should belong. It wasn’t until January 1917 that military masseuses were asked to serve overseas. There were over 2,000 actually at work on the day that the Armistice was signed (11 November 1918).

¹⁰ *The Telegraph*, 17 October 1916, p. 9.

The year 1925 was an eventful one for Elsie Patterson. She had her own masseuse practice in Marrickville, Sydney; her name was entered in the Medical Register of NSW; and she was a guest at the pre-wedding party of her cousin, Esther Wilson at the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney, a special occasion that enabled Elsie to reunite with relatives and friends.

In 1926 Elsie's father, Andrew Patterson, aged 76, passed away unexpectedly in his Sandgate home after an attack of dengue fever. Neither Elsie nor her mother was able to attend his very large funeral as both were in the South. Elsie continued working in Sydney as a masseuse, regularly changing addresses, typical of someone who lives in rented dwellings.

From time to time, Elsie made the occasional brief visit to Brisbane to catch up with relatives. Her second cousins, Elizabeth Anne Abell and Dr Brian Wilson, both recall seeing Elsie during their childhood or early youth when she visited. They described her as 'an imposing, substantial, biggish woman'. No longer the slim image seen in her photo, her age and the years of very physical massage work had wrought changes to her body.

Elsie's mother needed care in her later years as she was suffering from dementia. Her son, Dr Mervyn Patterson, and his wife, Lucy, took her to live with them in Ipswich. Elsie came back from Sydney to live in Ipswich and help care for her mother who passed away on 2 December 1938, aged 81.¹¹ Mary Ann Elizabeth (Sissy) Patterson was interred in the Sandgate (Bald Hills) Cemetery next to her husband.

Elsie resumed her life in Sydney; she never married, and having no children, plus the many years spent away from her Queensland relatives, caused her to be largely forgotten among the generations that followed. She later returned to Flinders Parade, Sandgate long enough to have her name on the Queensland Electoral Roll in 1943. She was then 60 years old and presumably retired. However, she went back to Sydney where she passed away at the age of 63 in 1947. Elsie Patterson's name continued to be recorded in the City Tabernacle Members' Roll throughout her life with her Call Home (death) noted. The following year, a legacy of £83.12.09 was recorded¹² as given by the late Elsie Patterson to the City Tabernacle. The life of one of Australia's pioneers in physiotherapy had come to an end.

¹¹ City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Year Book 1937–1938*, p. 27 records that both Elsie and her mother were living at Ipswich; the *Year Book 1938–1939*, p. 11 records the death on 2 December 1938 of her mother, Mrs AJ Patterson, who had been a member since 1 February 1903; and *The Evening News (Rockhampton, Qld)*, 5 December 1938, p. 9 also confirmed that Mrs Patterson was cared for by her daughter, Elsie, at Ipswich.

¹² City Tabernacle Baptist Church, *Year Book 1948–1949*, p. 20.

Patterson, Benjamin Gilmore

Another grandson of Rev BG Wilson

Benjamin Patterson (1881–1955) was the brother of Elsie Patterson, whose name is on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour, but his is not, as he was a resident of Mt Morgan. However, as another grandson of Rev BG Wilson, his story is recorded in this book. The following has been based on his eulogy published in *The Central Queensland Herald* on 10 November 1955.

Benjamin Gilmore Patterson died suddenly at Mt Morgan on 29 October 1955, within a few weeks [two months short] of his 74th birthday. He retained to the last his vigour of mind and his lifelong active participation in wide interests.

His maternal grandfather, Rev Benjamin Gilmore Wilson, came from Ireland as the first Baptist minister in Queensland and was for 20 years, Pastor of the Baptist Church at Wharf Street, Brisbane. Ben was born in New South Wales [sic Brisbane on 26 December 1881¹], the second eldest son of Mr Andrew James Patterson, another North of Ireland man, and was brought to Rockhampton as a boy where his father was manager of the Union Bank.

He received his early education at the Rockhampton Grammar School, and graduated from the University of Sydney in 1904 with a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in mining and metallurgy.

From 1901 to 1904 Ben served in the ranks of the Sydney



Lt Benjamin Gilmore Patterson
15th Light Horse Regiment, c1904

¹ www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au

University Corps as a volunteer. In 1904 he became a second lieutenant in the 15th Australian Light Horse (militia). For a time he served on the militia staff of Colonel J.F. Flewell-Smith commanding the Queensland Infantry Brigade. Transferred back to the Light Horse, he became a squadron leader, with the rank of captain. Finally he was second in command of this regiment – the 5th Light Horse.

Having been rejected for overseas service in the First World War, Ben served in Queensland base camps in various capacities – commanding officer Base Light Horse, Adjutant 3rd and 5th Depot Battalions of Infantry, C.O. Tunnellers' Depot in Queensland, and Chief Instructor of the Queensland Bombing School. After the war he was transferred to the reserve of officers, with the rank of major, and later went on to the retired list. In World War II he was engaged in air raid precautions work in various capacities.

Ben Patterson joined the staff of Mt Morgan Gold Mining Co Ltd after graduating from the University of Sydney in 1904. Early in his career, he was appointed leader of the Mine Ambulance Brigade and took a prominent part in the movement which, in 1912, resulted in the formation of the Mt Morgan Centre of the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade of which he was made a life member in 1913.

Ben commenced an association with Mt Morgan which was never broken. Although he left to become a resident master at Ipswich Grammar School when the old company went into voluntary liquidation in 1927, he gave much of his spare time to assist in calculating the tonnages of ore still left in the old mine and on which its revival was based. Results in the passing years have confirmed the accuracy of his work. He returned in 1934 as chief surveyor and geologist with Mt Morgan Ltd and his wealth of knowledge of the ore body was of immense value.

Through the years he was faithful and active in St Enoch's Presbyterian Church, Mt Morgan, being for over 40 years a member of the kirk session. His appearances as a scholarly lay-preacher were always welcome, and he was a most generous but unobtrusive contributor to the work of his Church. He never married and it is understood he bequeathed his estate to St Enoch's.

Perhaps Ben's chief interest and his best work were with boys and young men. He was one of the early members of the Boy Scout Movement, being a Scoutmaster both at Mt Morgan and Ipswich, and Commissioner for the Central Queensland District. He was a recipient of the coveted and rare award of the Silver Wolf/Latterly. He organised an independent group of "Blue Scouts", intimately connected with St Enoch's Church and led a meeting of that group the night before his death.

A soundly trained man himself, Ben was always anxious that others should have similar opportunities and helped to found the Mt Morgan Technical College, being president of the College Board when the old company closed down. Although this board passed out of existence, successive principals of the school welcomed his advice on technical education.

Ben Patterson was extremely well read, and had a special interest in history (particularly church history, and the history of Mt Morgan). He contributed several papers to both the Historical Society of Queensland and the Rockhampton Historical Society to which he belonged. He left an unfinished paper dealing with the original survey of Gordon's selection (which became the freehold of the Mt Morgan Gold Mining Co Ltd) and its effect on the fortunes of the mine. He had almost finished a detailed history of the mine, which it was hoped to publish in 1957, the 75th anniversary of mining at Mt Morgan. [He also wrote a 34-page biographical booklet on his grandfather, Rev BG Wilson, for the generations coming after him.²] He was always a keen controversialist and applied to his historical studies the same standards of accuracy that characterised his professional work.

Ben had a somewhat reserved manner, great thoughtfulness for others, and an unstinted generosity, the extent of which can only be guessed. It hid his humour, which illuminated his casual conversation, his lectures, and his sermons.

Continued contact with young people made it possible for him to keep a fresh outlook on affairs. For example, while at Ipswich Grammar School he introduced new methods of teaching geography which attracted the attention of visiting educationalists. [He developed a geography museum collection of relevant artefacts with his students.³] While there, he took the opportunity to take classical subjects at the University of Queensland, a step which few technical graduates could undertake.

His funeral was one of the largest ever seen at Mt Morgan. Many from Rockhampton also attended. Ben Patterson was survived by two brothers, Mr Hamilton Patterson of Auchenflower, and Dr Mervyn Patterson of Ipswich. His only sister, Elsie Patterson, predeceased him.⁴

² PATTERSON, BG, *A Zealous Minister of the Gospel: Being a Memoir of the Reverend Benjamin Gilmore Wilson Minister of the Wharf Street Baptist Church, Brisbane, from 1858 to 1878*, privately printed, 1940.

³ Advised by family members.

⁴ *The Central Queensland Herald* (Rockhampton, Qld: 1930–1956), 10 November 1955, p. 21. The unedited and unabridged newspaper article may be found at <https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/79256474>, accessed 31 July 2018.

Sinclair, Eric Russell

Another grandson of Rev BG Wilson

Although not on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour, as a grandson of Rev BG Wilson, a short biography of the 'son who was killed in World War I', Eric Russell Sinclair, the eldest son of Russell and Margaret Jane Sinclair (née Wilson), is recorded. This information has been extracted from De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour 1914–1924, Volume 5, p. 152, as follows:

Eric Russell SINCLAIR, Military Cross, Lieutenant, 1/7th (Territorial) Battalion Princess Louise's (Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders), eldest son of Russell Sinclair, of Stroma, Elamang Avenue, Kirrville [sic], Sydney, New South Wales, Engineer; born Ipswich, Queensland, 10 April, 1897; educated Sydney Church of England Grammar School (where he was prefect and captain of Boats and Lieutenant in Cadet Company); came to England in March 1916, and joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 6 May following; received a commission, and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant 7th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in November of the same year; promoted Lieutenant January 1918; served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from January 1917; was severely wounded at Passchendaele 20 September following, and invalided home; during convalescence was appointed to command Labour Corps detachment at Bracebridge, near Lincoln; rejoined his battalion in France in August 1918, and was killed in action near Lieu St. Amand, north of Cambrai, 13 October following. Buried at Lieu St. Amand. His Officer Commanding wrote: "He always seemed to me the ideal platoon commander. His men admired him



Eric Russell SINCLAIR, c1916

immensely for his fine physique, for his cheerful nature and for his ability. We cannot replace a man of his kind easily. We all mourn him as a fine soldier and as a friend, for certainly no man was more liked than he by officers and men as well,” and the Chaplain: “Your son was greatly admired by all of us. He was one of the most popular officers in the battalion, and was esteemed not only for his military abilities, but for his sterling character. I have known him for a long time, having been with the battalion when he was wounded in September 1917 ... I feel that I have been honoured in having your son’s friendship.” A brother officer also wrote: “I cannot tell you how we all miss him, as he was just beloved by officers, N.C.O.s and men, and I think he was the finest officer the battalion had. We were always the best of friends ... and I did admire him for his straightness and sincerity.” And another: “His men ask me to say that he was the best officer they ever had. They would follow him anywhere ... I should like you to know that he died leading his men, and he laid down his life instantaneously and without pain.” He was awarded the Military Cross [*London Gazette*, December 1917], for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty; *unmarried*.¹

The following news item appeared in *The Week* on 25 October 1918:

Mr BG Wilson, of Queen Street, on Monday received the sad news that his nephew, Lieutenant Eric Sinclair, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Russell Sinclair (J. Wildridge and Sinclair, of Brisbane and Sydney), was killed in action on Sunday, 13 October, on the western front. The deceased officer was taken by his parents to England early in 1916 when he joined the Argyle Sutherland Highlanders, and was wounded in the lungs soon after reaching the firing line. He was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous bravery in the field, and was decorated by the King at Buckingham Palace. He rejoined his unit this year, and has been in the firing line till the fatal occurrence. The deceased officer was only 21 years of age, and was a grandson of the late Rev BG Wilson, so well known as the first minister of the old Baptist Church.²

¹ *De Ruvigny's Roll of Honour, 1914–24* (UK: Navy & Military Press Ltd, n.d.), Vol. 5, p. 152.

² *The Week*, 25 October 1918, p. 18.

England, Fanny Alice

Born on 15 April 1877 in England, Fanny Alice (known as Alice) England was only five years old when she set sail from Plymouth with her family bound for Cooktown, Queensland. They arrived on 25 August 1882. Gold had been discovered in the Palmer River in 1872 and a Gold Rush ensued bringing prospectors from all over the world. The recorded output of gold from 1873 to 1890 was over half a million ounces (more than 15,500 kg). Cooktown became the port through which it was exported, and the city grew to a large, thriving community of people from all walks of life.¹ Alice's father was a draper in England where the family had a servant. Alice had two elder sisters, Charlotte and Hannah, and a baby sister Mary² who died at sea on the way to Australia. Alice's family subsequently left Cooktown and came to Brisbane where her brother Ted was born in 1886, and where her father established his drapery business in Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace, the main shopping street in Paddington and Petrie Terrace.

The names of Alice's parents, Elizabeth and Francis England, first appear on the City Tabernacle membership roll in 1891, followed by her sisters, Hannah and Charlotte, and then Alice in 1894 at the age of 17. The sisters studied for Sunday School exams while their father was Secretary of the City Tabernacle Auxiliary of the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society. Between 1896 and 1898, the sisters were involved in regularly writing to their missionary, Miss Martha Plested, in India. Sadly their father, a man of sterling piety, died in 1902. Alice was 25 at the time.

Alice did her nursing training at the General Hospital, Brisbane (now Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital) and received her nurse's certificate in 1900. She worked extensively as a nurse at various places: in Brisbane while living with her family at 486 Leichhardt Street, Fortitude Valley; 1908–09 at Stanthorpe Hospital; 1913 at the Isolation Hospital in Mackay; and back to Brisbane the same year, subsequently living with her family at 'Wensley', Rathdonnel Street, Auchenflower by 1916.

At 40 years of age, Fanny Alice England enlisted in the AANS as a Staff Nurse on 13 September 1917, and is described as being 5'6½" (169cm) tall, 140 lbs (63.5kg) in weight, with fair complexion, blue eyes, light brown hair, a scar where there had been a previous appendix operation, and she was a Baptist. Alice spent some time nursing in the military hospital at Randwick, NSW.³

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cooktown,_Queensland#Gold_Rush, accessed 13 September 2018.

² England and Wales Census of 1881, accessed through myheritage.com 1 October 2018.

³ Photos in State Library of Queensland show panoramas of nurses who served at Randwick Military Hospital, NSW, which include Alice England.

Having enlisted in the AIF for service abroad with the AMC No. 7 Section Sea Transport Staff, Alice England sailed from Sydney on 2 March 1918 per the *Ormonde* to Suez, arriving a month later. She was unabsorbed by the unit in Egypt so she sailed to France per the *Indarra* on 24 May 1918. She served in Marseilles and on the troopships *Matatua*, *Ormonde* and *Medic* in Australia, England and Suez. She returned to Australia in November 1918 and her appointment was terminated on 14 January 1919. She was awarded the 1914–15 Star, the Victory Medal and the British War Medal.

The electoral roll records her back in Brisbane in 1921 nursing at the Mount Hospital which was at 40 Kennigo Street, Fortitude Valley (no longer in existence). While Alice continued nursing in Brisbane, her mother Elizabeth England died on 12 March 1923. That year, the City Tabernacle recorded the ‘Home-going’ of Mrs England, a foundation member of the church, along with their beloved missionary, Miss Martha Plested.⁴ The family (with the exception of Hannah) had been living in Gregory Terrace at that time, and Charlotte had taken on the duties of Secretary of the City Tabernacle Mission Board, a position she filled for many years. Twenty years earlier, her father had served in a similar position before his death.

Following the mother’s death, a probate notice appeared in *The Daily Standard* on 27 August 1923, naming the sisters as claimants, Charlotte Isabel England, Fanny Alice England of Brisbane and Hannah England of Wahroonga, near Sydney, spinsters. Hannah came back from Sydney and all three sisters lived together at Moreton Terrace, New Farm for a couple of years before Hannah returned to Sydney followed by Alice. On 6 September 1928, Alice registered with the New South Wales Register of General Nurses and continued renewing annually until December 1933.

According to electoral rolls, she was living in Nimmitabel and working as a nurse in 1930, most likely at the Nimmitabel Bush Nursing Centre. The following year, she is recorded as a ‘bush nurse’ rather than simply ‘nurse’ with the address of Greenethorpe where she was still living in 1932. While here, she was required to give evidence as a witness in a coronial inquest into the death of a man through strychnine poisoning who came to her, the Greenethorpe Bush Nursing Sister, for attention. She had no medicine to give him and accompanied him in the police car to the nearest hospital.⁵

From 1934 to at least 1949, Alice lived with her sister, Hannah, a school teacher, at 124 Ocean Street, Darlinghurst (Woollahra), very close to the Sydney CBD. Theirs was a beautiful home. When this house was sold in 2011 for \$2.2 million,

⁴ City Tabernacle *Year Book 1922–23*, p 18.

⁵ *The Grenfell Record and Lachlan District Advertiser*, 19 March 1931, pp. 3–4.

it was described as a landmark, a magnificent Victorian period home, blessed with grand proportions and fabulous entertaining spaces, and an elegant piece of Woollahra history.⁶ Alice left her home and her sisters and returned to Brisbane.

Alice had a good reason for returning to Brisbane. She had been diagnosed with tuberculosis⁷, probably acquired while bush nursing, though not from the man with strychnine poisoning who had clear lungs. The warmer climate of Queensland was thought to be beneficial for TB patients; hence, many sanatoriums sprang up all over the state. Alice also suffered from a rheumatic heart condition,⁸ most likely from having rheumatic fever as a child, which would have become progressively worse as she aged. She was well aware that Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital had a very good name for the care of returned servicemen and women, so this is the hospital in which she chose to spend her last days, and where she died on 11 September 1953, aged 76. Rev FT Smith, Minister of the City Tabernacle, conducted her funeral at Mt Thompson Crematorium.

Alice England had a long career as a nurse in various locations before and after the war. It is interesting to see what an independent woman she was and that she even embarked on working as a bush nurse. Perhaps being raised by a father who displayed an interest in the Baptist Foreign Missionary Society influenced her desire to work in a mission field in her own back yard. She appears to have moved around many times and could be described as somewhat adventurous, but above all, her nature was to serve others.



Alice's brother Ted (John Edwin England⁹) was highly respected and well-known throughout Australia. His name follows hers on the City Tabernacle World War I Roll of Honour. His story can be found in the first part of this book. It was he who was there for her in the end and who looked after her affairs when she passed away.

⁶ <https://www.realestate.com.au/sold/property-house-nsw-woollahra-108580156>, accessed 20 August 2018.

⁷ Death Certificate

⁸ *ibid*

⁹ Photo of John Edwin (Ted) England provided by Brisbane Grammar School.

Dennis, Lillian Beatrice

Lillian Beatrice Dennis was born on 25 September 1885 at Lower Clifton Terrace, Red Hill, Brisbane, to Alfred and Elizabeth Dennis (née Humphreys). Both her parents came from England and married in Brisbane in 1882. Lily had four sisters, Gertrude born 1882 (nine months after Alfred and Elizabeth's marriage), Ada 1884, Elsie 1889 and Ivy 1891; and one brother who survived childhood, William Alfred 1887. Lily's father was a bank clerk who progressed to the highly respected position of Bank Manager and Inspector for Queensland National Bank which was formed in 1879 and was the official bank of the Queensland Government until 1948 when the National Bank took it over.



Matron Lillian Beatrice
Dennis

The family is first recorded in the 1901 City Tabernacle *Year Book* with Alfred Dennis being the Assistant Secretary of the Sunday School and the Librarian for the choir. The whole Dennis family was very well represented in the choir over many years and

included Lily and Ivy who were altos. Lily passed her Intermediate Sunday School exam in 1901 at the age of 16.

The electoral roll of 1908 records Lily, aged 23, as a dressmaker like her mother, living at Red Hill, but she had other ideas about what occupation she wanted to follow. By 1913 she had become a pupil nurse at the Children's Hospital in Brisbane and moved to the Mackay Isolation Hospital later that year after graduating.

After serving in the Australian Army Nursing Service in Brisbane from 16 October 1915, Lily Dennis enlisted in the AIF on 14 September 1916. She was assigned to the Australian Medical Corps – Indian Service as a Staff Nurse at 31 years of age, and named her father, Alfred Dennis,



Brisbane Historic Home – 'Greylands',
Indooroopilly, c.1932

residing at 'Greylands', Indooroopilly, Qld as her next of kin. ('Greylands' has since been heritage listed. It is one of Brisbane's earliest grand villas, dating back to 1876.) Her Uncle Charles Albert Dennis, brother of her father, was also serving overseas. His story can be found in the first part of this book. Her name follows his on the City Tabernacle Roll of Honour.

At what stage Lily decided to call herself Beatrice is not known, but it can't have been for long because she signed Lillian B Dennis in later years. She is listed on the Roll of Honour as 'L. Beatrice Dennis', but her family called her Lily or Lil. It could be that she was tired of the puns on her name. 'Lil' sounded like 'little' and she was 'little', only 154cm tall and 44½kg in weight. According to Army records, she had a dark complexion, grey eyes and black hair. Her religious denomination was Baptist. However, there could be another reason she called herself Beatrice – to stop being confused with another sister, Laura Dennis, whose Army records have some of Lillian's details recorded therein by mistake, and vice versa.

Before she left for overseas, there was a party at 'Greylands' where 'a large number of relatives and friends were present ... to bid good-bye and godspeed to Miss Lilian [sic] Beatrice Dennis who for some time past has been a sister in the Military Hospital, Kangaroo Point, and is leaving for India on active service. Musical items were rendered and dancing and games were enjoyed.'¹



The photo above shows present day 'Yungaba' which was constructed in 1887 to temporarily house immigrants to Queensland. During World War I, it was known as the Military Hospital, Kangaroo Point. After other uses, it returned to its original purpose in 1948 of housing immigrants and was renamed 'Yungaba'. After more changes in ownership and use, it has now been subdivided into exclusive residential apartments.

¹ *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 16 September 1916, p. 15.

Lily embarked for India on the *Karmala* from Sydney on 16 September 1916 and served in Cumballa War Hospital in Bombay and Deccan War Hospital in Poona, nursing wounded and sick soldiers from Mesopotamia. It was reported that it was awful in India. English nurses could not stand the heat and cholera, and that is why they sent Australians.²

Between 1916 and 1919 more than 500 AANS nurses served in British hospitals in India, where their patients included hundreds of Turkish prisoners of war and wounded British troops. The nurses found the tropical monsoonal climate debilitating. These were challenging locations for the women. With little preparation, they were expected to manage large hospitals, overseeing non-English speaking staff who had very different customs. Many of the nurses felt sidelined from the real action of caring for "our boys" on the Western Front.³

Lily was promoted to Temporary Sister on 16 September 1918 while in 'India, Mesopotamia, or Sea Transport' and embarked from Bombay for England on the *Royal George* on 18 November 1918, the war having ended. She was a Sister by the time she did duty in Southall, England for six months. Lily requested leave to do a course in Domestic Science at the Battersea Polytechnic, London from 16 April 1919 and satisfactorily completed the three-month course on 18 July 1919, before leaving England in October 1919 on the troopship *Ceramic* to return to Australia, disembarking 3 October, and was discharged on 18 November 1919.

There were great celebrations at 'Greylands' when Lily returned home. 'Mr and Mrs Alfred Dennis entertained about 90 guests to welcome home their daughter, Sister L.B. Dennis after three years' service as military hospital nurse abroad. The evening was spent in dancing, music, billiards ... Dainty refreshments and a two-tier cake made by Mrs. Dennis and ornamented with white doves, a miniature ambulance wagon, and the inscription: "Welcome home, Lil" were provided.'⁴

Sister Lily Dennis was appointed to Home Service on 29 November 1919, which was terminated on 31 March 1921 when she transferred to the AANS Reserve list. During this period, she briefly served as a staff nurse at the Kyoomba Sanatorium at Stanthorpe⁵ where a military hospital had been set up during World War I for those returning service personnel who suffered from tuberculosis or the effects of nerve gas on the lungs. Lily also nursed at Rosemount Hospital, Lutwyche Road,

² <https://www.awm.gov.au/visit/exhibitions/nurses/ww1>, accessed 14 September 2018.

³ *ibid.*

⁴ *The Brisbane Courier*, 19 November 1919, p. 11.

⁵ Deborah Wheeler, *Kyoomba Sanatorium 1916–1935*, Volume 1 (Stanthorpe: Kyoomba RSL research project, 2016); also *Stanthorpe Sanatorium – Part I* (Department of Repatriation, 1919–22), List of Staff 20 September 1920, p. 185.

Windsor in the 1920s, before being appointed Matron of 'Anzac Hostel', Shafston Avenue, Kangaroo Point where she worked from the 1930s until 1943.

In the aftermath of World War I, Anzac Hostels were established by the Repatriation Department to care for totally and permanently incapacitated returned servicemen. In 1919 Shafston House, Castlebar Street, Kangaroo Point was purchased by the Commonwealth Government, extensively renovated and converted into an Anzac Hostel for this purpose. It received its first patients in July 1920 and functioned as a repatriation hospital until 1969.⁶

As Matron of the Anzac Hostel⁷ at Kangaroo Point, Lillian entertained visiting high profile dignitaries who were curious to see what good care was being accomplished for returned injured servicemen. 'Mr W.M. Hughes, the Minister for Health and Repatriation, after inspecting the comfortable appointments of the institution, described it as: "Better than anything he had seen in Australia. It is a beautiful place and ideally situated." The Minister was introduced to the nine patients by Matron Dennis who subsequently entertained the Minister and other visitors at morning tea.'⁸

This was only one of a number of such occasions when visiting dignitaries including successive Governors of Queensland, their wives and families⁹, and the Governor-General and Lady Isaacs visited Anzac Hostel and



Front view of Shafston House 1930, commenced in 1852, listed on the Queensland Heritage Register, and known as Anzac Hostel 1920–69.



A cheering word – The Governor (Sir Leslie Wilson), Miss Marjorie Wilson and Lady Wilson visit Anzac Hostel and are received by Matron Dennis on 8 July 1932.

⁶ https://www.revolvy.com/topic/Shafston%20House&item_type=topic, accessed 20 August 2018.

⁷ Photograph of Shafston House/Anzac Hostel, State Library of Queensland, undated.

⁸ *The Telegraph, Brisbane*, 23 July 1935, p. 9.

⁹ Photograph, 'A cheering word', *The Telegraph*, 8 July 1932, p. 10.

were received by Lily. There were also Christmas parties every year and numerous social functions.

Lily was one of the recipients of the King's Silver Jubilee Medal in May 1935, given to public servants and persons holding official positions, for faithful and distinguished service of a national character during the 25 years of King George V's reign.¹⁰ Lily had already been awarded the 1914–15 Star and the British War Medal for her services during World War I. However, as she had not been awarded the Victory Medal, she wrote to Base Records in Melbourne in June 1935 requesting that she be issued with this as well. After her request was referred to the War Office, it was denied as she had not served in a theatre of war and was not employed in nursing duties on board a hospital ship or transport prior to 12 November 1918, and therefore did not qualify for the Victory Medal.

Lily's mother Elizabeth Dennis died in December 1940, aged 83, at 'Greylands'. An article in the newspaper stated: 'Mrs Dennis was for many years a member of the City Tabernacle Baptist choir. She also was an expert needlewoman and fond of gardening.'¹¹

Lily retired in 1943, aged 58, during World War II. She may have retired to spend more time with her aging father who died the following year aged 90.

However, life was about to take an interesting twist. Lillian Beatrice Dennis married George McIver of Bardonia on 11 September 1948, the marriage being performed by Rev Haughan of Enoggera Baptist Church. George died on 3 September 1950, and Lily McIver died in 1968, aged 83. She was cremated and her ashes interred at Mt Thompson Memorial Gardens Columbarium with her plot having the AIF plaque attached thereto.¹² And that's not the end of the story.



At a City Tabernacle Church Business Meeting in 2015, the honoured and aged previous church secretary and retired deacon, Max Lockhart, gave details of how the Greenlees McIver Estate came into being. He said that an excited Miss Ivy Dennis had come to him, being her solicitor, to make a new Will, as she was

¹⁰ *The Northern Miner*, 7 May 1935, p. 4.

¹¹ *The Telegraph*, 16 December 1940, p. 12.

¹² *Australian Nurses in World War I*, <http://www1nurses.gravesecrets.net/de.html>, accessed 20 August 2018.

getting married for the first time to a Mr Greenlees. Amusingly, she asked if he would give his consent, as she no longer had a father to ask for permission to marry. The Will that she signed on the day of and immediately after her marriage, dated 26 March 1977, became the instrument on which the Greenlees McIver Estate was formulated for the City Tabernacle after she died.

When Lily McIver died, she left her estate to her sister, Ivy Dennis, who was Lily's only surviving sibling. It was Ivy Dennis who contacted Max Lockhart to change her Will after becoming interested in John Thomas Greenlees at Resthaven Garden Settlement, Brookfield where they were both living. They decided to get married, much to everyone's amazement. Ivy was 85 and John 91. The ceremony took place in the pastor's vestry at the City Tabernacle. They agreed to keep their estates separate.

Ivy Greenlees died at Resthaven (now known as Brookfield Village) on 21 August 1980 aged 89 years, three years after her marriage, having survived her husband.

The Corporation of the City Tabernacle was left part of the estate which was to be applied for the religious charitable purposes of the City Tabernacle. The estate was named the 'Greenlees McIver Estate', being the combined estates of the two Dennis sisters, Lily and Ivy. This estate has proven of great benefit to the Church and to many people.

Conclusion

In our present age we witness many disputes: in politics where Prime Ministers are rolled out of office suddenly, in a matter of days, with a ballot of party members; where Banks try to gain as much money as possible from their customers even if by illegal methods; and where churches are split by dissenting members, for even churches are not immune. Behind it all is the quest for power.

This whole book has been the result of a dispute between Germany and England, the quest by Germany to take possession of what was not rightfully hers in a bid for power over all her neighbours. What started in 1914 came to an end in 1918 after much suffering and bloodshed. A peaceful settlement was achieved but did not last long before the world was embroiled in yet another war.

There must be another way to solve our disputes, and there is though it comes at a cost, that of giving up our selfish rights and aspirations, for 'perfect peace will only prevail when He, the Prince of Peace takes His place in the hearts and lives of kings and people'.¹ An example of this can be found in the Bible story of King Nebuchadnezzar, king of the mighty empire of Babylon in 600BC. He experienced what happened when he was filled with pride in his own accomplishments, how God humbled him in a devastatingly terrible manner, and how God restored him to his throne after seven years of insanity. Nebuchadnezzar then made a decree to 'all people, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth', telling his story and praising, exalting and glorifying the king of heaven 'for everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble'.²

The Bible talks of a time of peace that is coming on the earth: 'And He [God] shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more'.³ 'What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'⁴

The City Tabernacle enjoys singing a third verse to the National Anthem that was composed many years ago by an unknown author. It forms a fitting prayer to close this book:

¹ Rev WG Pope, *City Tabernacle Year Book 1918–19*, p 5.

² *The Bible*, Daniel Chapter 4 (in toto).

³ *The Bible*, Isaiah Chapter 2 Verse 4.

⁴ *The Bible*, Micah Chapter 6 Verse 8.

God's people! Let our praises ring
For freedoms we hold dear,
And blessings of this precious land
That fill our hearts with cheer.
We pray for all our citizens
Who in this country share
That under God's almighty hand
We'll Advance Australia Fair.

The authors

David Driver has been an adherent of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church since 1996. He is a retired high school Mathematics and Science teacher and holds a BSc, MEd, and BA from various Australian universities. He is the author or co-author of numerous high school Mathematics textbooks.

David has had an interest in preserving family stories for over 20 years.



Hope Colegrove is the daughter of an ex-US Staff Sergeant stationed in Brisbane during World War II. She has been a member of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church since 1972 and has subsequently maintained connections with two other churches where she is on their pipe organ rosters.

Hope gained an Associate Diploma of Applied Science Architectural Technology in 1996 leaving a 19-year career in banking. In her retirement, she serves the church by singing in the choir and being the Flower Coordinator, and is the Treasurer of Baptist Heritage Queensland.

This book makes a valuable contribution to the Centenary commemoration of World War I in general, but for the congregation of the City Tabernacle Baptist Church it holds special relevance. The names on their Roll of Honour will be given new life through familiarity, and you will find many with a generational thread of faith and service clearly inherited from those who founded the church. We can relate to these men and women in a real heart sense through the extensive research carried out in writing this book.

These men and women in particular came from a community formed around the person of Jesus Christ, who while being at the same time God, sacrificially served, even to the cross. Following that example deserves to be honoured, and by this book David Driver and Hope Colegrove have done that for them.

Brigadier Jim Wallace AM (ret)

