

RESIDENTS OF THE SMELTERS CAMP			
Agnew, Matthew	Smelter's Camp	war veteran/railway worker	1954
Allison, John	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1902-6
Bansatti 'the Albanian'	Robb's Jetty	ringbarker	1931
Barnett, Horace	Chesterfield	labourer	1909
Barry, Thomas	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Beaton, Donald	Smelter's Camp	-	1934
Beresford, Charles	South Beach	showman	1910
Collie 'Black' Paddy	Smelter's Camp	stockman/boxer	-
Black, George	rear Robb's Jetty	miner	1919-31
Boswell, Robert Charles	Smelters, South Fremantle	horse driver/carpenter	1948
Bottomley, Arthur Albert	Smelters' Camp	labourer	1943-54
Bray, William	Smelters' Camp, Robb's Jetty	miner	1839-
Brown, Alice	Smelters Camp	-	1949
Brown, Archibald	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-6
Brown, Cornelius	Smelters, South Fremantle	pensioner	1933
Brown, Thomas	Smelters' Camp, Robbs Jetty	fireman/gentleman	1913
Brown, William	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1947
Bryce, Archibald McPhail	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1953-55
Bryce, Elizabeth Stuart	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	-	1953-54
Bryce, Colin	Smelters' camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1953
Burns, Charles Joseph	Robb's Jetty	carpenter/shipwright/boxer	1916-17
Butler, John	near Smelting Works	-	1905
Caporn, Sidney/Sydney	Smelters Camp/Poverty Point	pensioner	1937-49
Carey/Carrey, William	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1919-26

Carrera, Angelo	Camp near Smelting Works	guest	1906
Carlton, Owen	Fremantle Smelters	sampler	1916-9 1925-31
Chalmer, Hames Boteler	Copley's Siding	commercial agent	1931-36
Clark, Richard	Robb's Jetty	groom	1909-10
Clarke, Bettie	South Beach	home duties	1903-6
Clarke, Mary Ann	Smelters' Camp	home duties	1919-43
Clarke, Robert John	South Beach	shunter	1903-6
Clatterton, Henry	Robb's Jetty	stockman	1909-12
Claydan/Claydon, George	Owen's Anchorage	tallowman/slaughterman	1909
Clunes, Hugh	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1909-12
Clyde, Patrick	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-6
Cosgrove, James	Camp near Smelting Works	labourer	1906
Costello, John	Owen's Anchorage/Robb Jetty	labourer/storeman 1909	1903-31
Cox, John	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-6
Cronin, Joseph	Smelters' Camp, Robb's Jetty	carpenter	1909-34
Dalton, James Michael	Robb's Jetty	prospector	1912-13
Davies, William John	Smelters' Camp	nil	1934
Day, Joseph	Robb's Jetty	stockman	1909-10
Denney, Charles Dumaresq	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer FCC/waterside	1949
Drew, John	South Beach	engine-driver	1910
Drew, Richard	South Beach	engineer	1910
Duff, Francis	Robb Jetty	labourer/drover	1903
Dunn, Sarah Ann	Smelter's Camp	home duties	1937-43
Dunn, William Brian	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1902-6, 1937-9
Ebery/Esvery/Every, Frank	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1921

Edgar, John	Smelters' Camp, Fremantle	labourer	1912
Ellis, Joseph	Rear Smelting works	retired	1926
Fairburn, Henry	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Fitzgerald, Catherine C.	Robb's Jetty	married	1909-10
Fitzgerald, Richard	Robb's Jetty	stock inspector	1909-10
Fitzsimmons, Charles	Between Smelting Works and Robb's Jetty	unemployed/boilermaker	1898-1904
Flynn, Peter	Pensioner's Camp, Robb's Jetty	labourer	1934-43
Forward, William Pascoe	Hut on beach, Robb's Jetty	no vocation	1928
Fraser, Dolores	Seagull Camp	artist	1980-4
Fulton, Edward James	Smelters' Camp	wool hand	1948-54
Fulton, Florence Irene	Smelters' Camp	home duties	1949-54
Frost, Wilfred John	Off Robb's Jetty	tanner/farmer 1926	1926
Gaibullini, Charles	Camp near Smelting Works	labourer	1907
Gallagher, Charles	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1928-31
Gentle, Simon	Smelter's Camp	stock agent representative	-
Gibson, Robert William	Smelters Camp	freezer hand	1949
Gibson, Rosina Margaret	Smelters Camp	home duties	1949
Golding, Edward Henry	Copley's Siding	-	1919-22
Graham, Mitchell	South Fremantle	slaughterman	1914-25
Graham, James	Smelters	ship's fireman	1938
Hardiman, Patrick	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Harrison, Michael	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1929
Hart, Herbert Edward	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1953
Healey, Thomas	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Hearne, John Henry	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1946-7

Herdigan, Effie Maxine	South Beach	-	1949-53
Herdigan, William	South Beach	child	1952
Heron, Thomas George	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	war veteran	1953
Hof, Helena	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	married	1909-14
Hof, Louis	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	butcher	1909-15
Horneman, John Clarendon	Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle	slaughterman	1909-43
Horton, William	Smelters Camp	-	1949-54
Hosking, John Nation/Hoskins, John	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Howard, Agnes Beatrice	Smelters Camp	home duties	1949-58
Howard, Frederick William	Smelters Camp	boat proprietor	1949-58
Hughes, Alice	South beach	home duties	1903-6
Hughes, William	South beach	constable	1903-6
Hughes AKA Quigley, Patrick Christopher	Smelters' Camp, near Robb's Jetty	nil/former miner	1928, 1934
Huntley, Frederick	Smelters Camp	yardman	1936-49
Hyland, John (Joannis) Francis/Matthew	Robb's Jetty	pensioner	1905
Hyland, Augusta Agnes	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1951
Inman, Arthur Stanley	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1946-7
Inman, Mary Gladys and children	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1947-8
Jamison, Frederick	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1901, 3-6
Jetta family (Hannah Yarran, Doreen & Dorothy)	Smelter's Camp	holiday visitors	1950s
Kelly, John William Thomas	Smelters Camp	labourer	1935
Khan, Mary	Smelters Camp	domestic	1955
Killeen, John	Smelter's Works	miner	1926-29
Knight, John Albert James	Copley's Siding/Smelters Camps	gardener	1943-58

Knight, Lizzie	Copley's Siding	home duties	1943-54
Krueger, Carl Frederic A.	Robb's Jetty, Fremantle	sausage skin manufacturer	1921-22
Lillywhite, Julia Bertha	Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle	unemployed	1937, 54
Locke, William Reuben	Robb's Jetty	-	1927
Lujo, Pietro	Robb's Jetty	labourer/nil 1926	1914, 1926-43
Manser, Jesse Thomas	Smelters South Fremantle	war veteran	1949
McCallum, Arthur Andrew	Smelter's Camp	invalid pensioner	1953-4
McCallum, William	Owen's Anchorage	smelter	1910-22
McCaskie, Ted	Smelter's Camp	shearer	1951
McDonald, Ronald	Camp, Robb's Jetty	prospector	1919-31
McInerney, Michael	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6, 1914
McKenzie, Kenneth	Robb's Jetty	prospector/baker 1917	1912-17
McGee, James	Smelters Camp	labourer	1929
McLaughlin, William	Owen's Anchorage	fisherman	1903-6
McLean, James	Smelters	pensioner	1932
McMillan, Evander Cameron	Gage Road, Robb's Jetty	nil	1914-17
McMillian, Ewin	Robb's Jetty	butcher	1909-10
McNamara, Martin	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1931-54
McNeill, Neal	Robb's Jetty, near Smelters	traveller	1915-17
Mears, Jack	Robb Jetty	stockman	1920s-30s
Mippy, Doris	Smelters' Camp, South Beach	domestic	1951
Mitchell, Lavinia	Lock's New House, near Smelter	home duties	1917
Mitchell, Phillip	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Mitchell, William Henry	near Smelters, Mandurah rd	surveyor	1917
Mocken, Florence Martha	Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty	home duties	1958-63

Mocken, William David	Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty	labourer	1958-63
Monaghan, Bartholomew	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1936-43
Monaghan, Martin Joseph	Smelters' Camp	-	1937-43
Monaghan, Patrick Cogan	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1928-31
Moog, Charles	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
Moran, John	Woodman's Point	fisherman	1909-10
Moroney/Maroney, John	Smelters' Camp	labourer/lumper	1934-9
Mutton, Robert	Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle	shearer/merchant seaman	1949
Nebro, Addil	Smelters Camp	-	1953-4
Nebro, Donald	Smelters Camp	-	1953-4
Nebro, Donald Peter	Smelters Camp	-	1953-4
Nebro, Andy	Smelters Camp/Poverty Point	-	1953-4
Nebro, Rose	Smelters Camp/Poverty Point	-	1953-4
Neilson, Issac	Smelters	pensioner	1933
Phoebe Newell	Robb Jetty	-	1920s-30s
Nolan, Maurice	Camp, Robb's Jetty	labourer	1919-21
O'Connor, William	Owen's Anchorage	slaughterman	1903-6
O'Halloran, John William	Smelter's Works Camp	labourer	1949
Page, Stephen Lee	Smelters' Camp	prospector	1934-37
Pedro, Don	Smelters Camp	stockman	c1950s
Peirce, Alfred John	Robb's Jetty	caretaker	1943
Perry, Henry	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1949
Phillips, Ginger (& Mrs Phillips)	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	c1950s
Pickett, Margaret	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	-	1954
Power, Alice	Robb's Jetty	married	1910
Power, Thomas Joseph	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1909-13

Preston, Elizabeth	South beach	domestic service	1903-5
Pritchard, Tom Stanley	South Beach	coach builder	1919-31
Reed, William Thomas	Smelters' Camp	-	1937-40
Reilly, Leslie Norman	South beach Camp	labourer	1950
Richards, Alan Humphrey	Robb's Jetty	cement worker	1934-6
Richards, Edith Lillian	Robb's Jetty	home duties	1936
Richards, Frank Parry	Robb's Jetty	cement worker	1936
Richards, Walter	Robb's Jetty	manufacturer	1931
Robertson, William John	Smelter's Camp	-	1943-9
Roddam, Thomas	near Smelting Works	prospector	1928
Rogers, Edward Manton	Woodman's Point	labourer	1914
Rooney, James	Owen's Anchorage	labourer	1903-43
Ryan, Dennis Leonard	Fremantle Smelters	assayer/metallurgist	1912-14
Ryan, John	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1928-43
Ryan, May Gertrude	Fremantle Smelters	married	1912-14
Ryan, William Denis	Fremantle Smelters	child of May Ryan	1912-14
Scott, Violet	Smelter's Camp	home duties	1929-43
Shearer, William John	South Fremantle	lumper	1912
Siddons, Charles Harry	Smelters' Camp	labourer	1931-42
Skinner, Lucille Hilda	Robb's Jetty	-	1920-1
Stewart, Amelia Mildred	Smelters' Camp, Fremantle	domestic	1954
Stewart, John George W.	Sandhills near Robb Jetty	naval deserter	1944
Sutton, Ada	South Beach	home duties	1903-6
Sutton, Anthony Francis	South Beach	labourer	1903-6
Tapper, John Arthur	North of magazine	fisherman	1903-6
Taylor, John (Jack)	Owen's Anchorage	labourer/ganger 1909	1903-9,48

Thompson, Colin	Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle	labourer	1953,48
Tremellen, Charles Thomas	Owen's Anchorage 1909	labourer/smelter 1909	1903-13
Trinidad, RE	Smelters' Camp, South Beach	-	1949
Tully, William Charles	Smelters	miner	1938
Turner, Archibald	Robb Jetty	labourer/drover	1903
Vaggs, Deafy	Smelters Camp	wanderer	1950s
Vasseur, Amelia	Camp near Smelting Works	-	1903
Wallis, Ernest Edward	Smelters Camp	labourer	1943
Walsh, P. and family	near Smelters	-	1906
Walton, Andrew Joseph	Smelter's Camp	labourer	1954
Wandi	Smelters Camp	stockman	1880s
Watson, Roderick	Smelters' Camp	-	1943
Wellington, Herbert Leslie	near South Fremantle Smelting Works	war veteran	1922-25
Westicott, Maud	Smelters Camp	home duties	1946-53
Westicott, William	Smelters Camp	labourer	1946-53
White, Tom	near Smelting Works	butcher	1928-31
Whybrow, June Ellen	Robb's Jetty	home duties	1949
Williams, Sarah	South Beach	home duties	1903-6
Wilson, Wilfred James	Smelters Camp	-	1949
Winder, Alexander George	Robb's Jetty	-	1920-21
Windi, Charlie	Smelters Camp	stockman	c1950
Wise, Emily	Smelters' Camp, Fremantle	widow	1913-4
Wood, Arthur James	Robb's Jetty	labourer	1912-26

THE SMELTERS CAMP

Information

The Smelters Camp initial research began under the banner of 'A Narrative for a Coastline', and was originally made possible with financial support of City of Cockburn under auspice of the Historical Society of Cockburn. My gratitude is extended to everyone who offered assistance and knowledge from the Cockburn community, including, but not only: Christine Elaine and the volunteers of the Historical Society of Cockburn, Cassandra Cooper, Digger and Kay Cleak and the members of City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch, Sandra Nebro, Dolores Fraser, Peter Ford, Joe Northover Riley, William Herdigan and Hara Herdigan.

Dr. Aaron Pegram, Australian War Memorial, Dr. Andrew Richardson, Australian Army History Unit, Wes Olson, Cockburn Libraries, Leah Napier, Cherie Cable, Dr. Denise Cook, Bill Bunbury, Jenni Carder and Pam Harris.

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Fremantle History Centre

Fremantle Press / Ron Davidson

State Library of Western Australia

National Archives of Australia

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The Author respectfully acknowledges the traditional ownership of the area of the Cockburn coastline described in this report and greater the Cockburn area by the Beeliar Nyungar people, a clan of the Whadjuk people of the metropolitan region.

This report contains the names of deceased Aboriginal people. Where appropriate, community consultation has been taken to prevent causing distress to Aboriginal people who follow specific cultural protocol concerning using such names.

The reader should also be warned that this report contains language and concepts of the historical area in which they originated. This includes some derogatory, racist and culturally inappropriate naming and contexts not acceptable at the present time: toward indigenous individuals and groups, women, the elderly, migrants and persons experiencing economic disadvantage. Where particularly unsound, prior warnings have been provided.

The reader is advised that all information included in this report is provided respectfully, with no offence intended. The goal of the research is to benefit and provide vital information for historical use. All information in the report is available in the public domain unless otherwise specified or referenced.

This report contains descriptions of violence and adult concepts and parental guidance is recommended.

Limitations

This report is a work in progress and incomplete. Email notification of any errors or additional information would be most appreciated, to thesmelterscamp@gmail.com.

Much further work accessing oral histories and histories of indigenous residents in the area is required. Similarly, much further work is required to explore the lives of Smelters Camp residents briefly noted here, and to deepen the exploration of all residents through government records and further genealogical and historical research and descendants, for example, links to convict ancestors or war service. Time limitations precluded this detailed research beyond what is included here.

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© Westpix WAN-0017615 Picture of Old Smelters' Huts. 21 Dec 1956

THE SMELTERS CAMP

'I lived through the Great Depression and heard many references to "Hollywood", which was the locals' way of referring to the Smelters Camp which I believe had been gradually established since post World War I days when returned shell-shocked soldiers...with their lives in tatters and no homes for various reasons, found refuge among the sand hills in an isolated and shunned beach.

These broken men built their huts or humpies from salvaged materials (the rubbish tip was a short walk away) partly into the lee side of the sand hills as protection from the prevailing winds.

As the Depression deepened and more and more people fell on hard times the population of the Smelters Camp grew. One can imagine the spirit of camaraderie between the unfortunates who had dropped through the cracks and were doing it tough, although for the enterprising there was fish in the ocean, a wine saloon on the corner of Douro Road where they could buy their four-penny darks, across the road was the terminus of the South Fremantle tram...'

Kevin 'Rusty' Christensen, Cockburn City Herald 2011¹

All following newspapers referenced up to 1952 were accessed on National Library of Australia's TROVE catalogue: <https://trove.nla.gov.au> unless otherwise noted.

¹ Christensen, Rusty, 'Smelters Camp in the Sands', Cockburn City Herald, 5 November 2011, p 24 (clipping held by author)

When my husband David Ryder first drew my attention to this article written for the Cockburn City Herald by much-loved bush poet and balladeer Rusty Christensen, I could not reconcile that a long family residency of the Fremantle and Cockburn area had not introduced me to the curious existence of an itinerant camp – on land traditionally a Nyoongar camping ground,² along the beautiful stretch of wild coastline of Cockburn Sound and Woodman Point near where Robb Jetty once stood.

For decades we had heard colourful stories about the odorous area surrounding the smelters; the tanneries and abattoirs from my maternal grandparents John and Jean Bozanich who, along with daughters Margaret, my mother Janice and Kaye, farmed a market garden surrounding the stone home at what is now 51 Goldsmith Road, Spearwood. My paternal grandparents, Silvy 'Soota' and Jean Raffaele lived in a house with backyard stables in Taylor Street, now White Gum Valley. Soota trained pacers at the South Beach Horse Exercise Area, much to the displeasure of son Brian, who was intimately involved in the strict daily activity, while my father Dennis and younger sister Peg seemingly escaped this activity through their prior employment or tender age. My paternal great-uncle George McAlpine, noted harness-trainer and owner, also exercised horses there.

The presence of this camp was intriguing, and seeded an idea of researching the details, with a self-imposed restriction to the time period from just before the turn of the century to the mid 1950s.³ I began this research project assisted by the Historical Society of Cockburn and City of Cockburn. The project is still in progress, but following is research gathered to the commencement of 2019, with an acknowledgment of the much deeper investigation that could continue.

A MOONLIGHT RIDE. (By Emily H. Pelloe, 1929) Part I

'To ride from Perth to Rockingham is a pleasant experience at any time. On a still summer night, by moonlight, it is a joy... once upon the white limestone road which skirts the coast from the point where motorists turn off for Rockingham via Hamilton Hill and Spearwood, the light, with the moon then sailing high in the heavens, was brilliant.

The beach was gained by crossing the railway line near Robb's jetty. The piles of galvanised iron buildings at the smelters flanked by the great smokestack and a graveyard of dead furnaces, the abattoirs, and the boilingdown works, none of which are architecturally attractive by daylight, were decidedly picturesque in the moonlight. A few lights gleamed from the quaint habitations of the old-age pensioners who have established themselves in the lee of the sand hummocks close to the smelters, exempt from rents and rates.

² 'Statements of Significance for the Fremantle Area and Registered Aboriginal Sites Cantonment Hill, Rocky Bay and Swan River', see https://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/sites/default/files/Statements_of_Significance_Whadjuk_Nyoongar.pdf, accessed September 2018

³ For an excellent history prior to the 1900s read Berson, M, 'Cockburn: The Making of a Community' Town of Cockburn, 1978

An old wreck, a broken-backed, rusty remnant of a once gallant iron ship, lying broadside on to the shore near the boilingdown works was a melancholy spectacle. The rippling tide sucked round the battered rudder post with a ghostly gurgle. Bobby, my steed, stirred up the sand considerably before he could be induced to pass it. Delay due to his obstinacy at this spot of unsavoury odours was unfortunate. But it seemed to speak of the danger of contamination of beaches all along the lovely coast south of Fremantle for many miles by the proposed discharge of metropolitan sewage effluent into the ocean. A notice, readable even in the moonlight, signed by Dr. Everitt Atkinson, Commissioner for Public Health, announces at the entrance of Robb's jetty that "all shellfish found in the vicinity are dangerous for human consumption." The inference is obvious.⁴

The land area to the base of where Robb Jetty later stood was known as Robb's Ground, having been once owned by Captain George Robb and later acquired by the Manning family.⁵ Robb Jetty camp aka the Smelters Camp was first reported by O'Connor, Bodney and Little (1985) behind Robb Jetty in proximity to Catherine Point and the smelters at Fremantle owned by Bradford Kendall P/L Iron Foundry.⁶ The coastal area, bookended by South Beach to the north and Jervoise Bay to the south, featured explosives magazines, a quarantine station, various industrial establishments including meat processing abattoirs, fellmongers and the smelters, Newmarket and Coogee Hotels, a lighthouse, the Coogee lime kilns and later, the power station.

Informal camps existed in several Perth and Fremantle locations, with many expanding traditional indigenous camping areas,⁷ and the Smelters Camp also provided a home for miners, stockmen, itinerants, travellers and migrants. The camp was a symbolic microcosm of changes in society and along this coastline. With earliest published European-descendent residence specifically at the Smelters Camp currently around 1898, but undoubtedly preceding this,⁸ and continuing beyond the

⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 16 February 1929, page 4

⁵ Herald (Fremantle, WA : 1867 - 1886), Saturday 11 March 1882, page 3; The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation Azelia Ley Homestead 22/06/2001. <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Content/PdfLoader.aspx?id=f05e86a2-e4e3-4008-82b1-bd1c3b43e9ae&type=assessment> (accessed November 2018). The Mannings later lost this land when their claim was rejected by the Western Australian Government in 1887.

⁶ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions (1985), distributed by the Heritage Council of W.A., 1985. [Report held by State Library of Western Australia]; <http://www.derbalnara.org.au/indigenous-heritage-sites-1/robb-jetty-camp>, Accessed November 2018

⁷ See excellent research by Dr Denise Cook and her upcoming book for further information on Perth-wide camps, to be published by UWA Publishing in 2019: "That was my Home" Stories from the Noongar Camps of Fremantle and Perth's Western Suburbs'. See <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/blogs/marginalia/from-2018-to-2019>, Accessed January 2019

⁸ See entry for Charles Fitzsimmons, describing an already well-established camp including population of European descent in 1898.

official demolition of the camp in the late-1950s,⁹ the extraordinary lifespan of the Smelters Camp can possibly be attributed to the original Crown Land ownership inhibiting possible action by local councils, and the acquiring of land during wartime by the Australian Federal Government.

In 1916 the Commonwealth Government acquired land at Cockburn Sound for 'defence purposes', including all parcels of land comprising Clarence town site; with detailed descriptions of the boundaries but including land in the vicinity of Hamilton Road, Koojee lake, Rockingham Road, Russell Road and Jervoise Bay, but only to the high water mark at Cockburn Sound, and 'saving and excepting all reserves, Government roads and Crown Lands.' Then in 1928, part of the land west of the railway reserve (where Cockburn Road now lies) was transferred to the State of Western Australia and part-leased. The Commonwealth recognised at that time that the compulsory acquisition in 1916 required a payment of compensation, but without interest to the total of rental rate (£964 15s. 6d.), as a condition of the return of the land, 'being no longer required for any public purpose.' Part of this land comprised the Explosives Reserves 8907. A similar acquirement of land occurred during WWII.¹⁰

Battler's Haven

'Nestling in the hollows of the sand dunes beyond the partly-demolished buildings of the old Fremantle Smelting Works is a motley collection of tenements, the existence of which is probably unknown to thousands of metropolitan dwellers. A less-inviting prospect as a permanent home-site would be difficult to conceive; yet men have lived there for as long as twenty years.'¹¹

A rather nostalgic report titled 'BATTLERS' HAVEN' in the *Daily News* in 1928 describes the melancholy scene just to the west of the railway line between Fremantle and Jandakot where, 'the wayfarer is depressed by the semi-ruin of the once prosperous smelting works, the two giant chimneys of which, stripped of their onetime buildings, stand gaunt against the background of silent seashore.' It imagines the lingering memories of busy workmen tending the thumping machinery and roaring furnaces of past industries, now being dismantled and removed, and stray bullocks wandering in sparse paddocks alongside the refuse tip, dotted with sewage-effluent enriched green patches.



⁹ South Fremantle area Electoral Rolls indicate residency through to 1958 at least; see Electoral Roll data summary compiled by Julie Raffaele, 2018 (held by the author)

¹⁰ Commonwealth of Australia Gazette No. 35, 3 May 1915; No. 47, 29 May 1915, page 993; No. 110, 13 October 1927, p 2114; No. 55, 28 Jul 1949; page 2115; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 23 June 1916, page 6

¹¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

'And yet less than half a mile away, on the other side of the smelters is busy life — South Fremantle, with its tramways, its electric light and macadamised roads the Hydrodrome and its enticing foreshore where the people in their thousands foregather during the summer months.'¹²



SLWA 111700PD South Beach promenade 1923

The fascination with the mostly pensioner population of the camp in the 1920s seemed to revolve around their choice to live in such deprived and primitive circumstances, forgetting that at that time, these residents were remnants of the gold rush; hardy, determined and independent, self-made in the 'wilds of the outback' with a particular aversion to authority of any kind.

Their simple huts were constructed from old galvanized iron, hessian, driftwood and 'kero' tins but 'their tiny homes are snug within, proof against the weather and sheltered from the winds of winter by the friendly dunes around.' Though lacking in amenities, hand-dug wells provided water, and these ex-goldfields dwellers learned lessons of hygiene the hard way, remembering 'when typhoid was a scourge' and keeping their surroundings clean. Some huts are even decorated, evidencing the presence of a woman, with a small garden 'and other refinements.'¹³

'Notorious Beach Camp Must Go

"Get out—you'll get killed down here."

But by the mid-1950s, a completely new set of survival skills has been adopted by residents, and the threat to neighbourhood humanity is no longer disease, it is each other, and possibly the *Sunday Times*.

'It's a filthy eyesore, a disgrace to the authorities, a threat to health, and a hideout and entertainment place for a vicious criminal element.'¹⁴

¹² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4

There is references to 'inside walls black with flies,' 'strewn throughout with filth and rubbish', and 'bed clothes under bushes.' Outrage whirls around the idea that the ramshackle huts could be clandestinely rented, bought or sold illegally, that some residents had been there for years. The *Sunday Times* predicted a 'slum murder', being the result of 'regular plonk and metho parties...held day and night' and the estimated 50 or so residents being a mix of pensioners, veterans and 'decent people' being terrorised by 'a criminal element'.¹⁵



Sunday Times 16 Jan 1955 p4

Baker W. Wilson proved a little more level headed, assuring reporters he had been calling regularly to the area for many years to sell his wares and did not consider his customers 'no-hopers'. 'Most of my customers are decent people hit in many ways by different circumstances and general poverty... To me this little place is like most others. You have all types. Here I have my good payers and my bad payers just like everywhere else.'

The newspaper ran an effective public-awareness campaign beginning in March 1953 to close the Smelters Camp, re-branding the area 'Poverty Point' in the style of Sydney's La Perouse 'Happy Valley' itinerant Depression community of the 1920s. They noted that an official sign was erected four years prior to the article, adjacent to the area warning, 'All buildings erected without authority of Crown Lands in this locality must be removed by June 30, 1949, failing which prosecution will be instituted.'¹⁶

By 16 January 1955, bulldozers were expected within a few days, to begin clearing an area for industrial development, which at the time may have affected some of the dwellings. Fremantle Road Board was at the helm of the decision, they would ask the

¹⁵ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 24 October 1954, page 5

¹⁶ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

Lands Department to demolish the 'shanty town' after an inspection by 'Members of Parliament...asked to take action to abolish the camp,' and the general feeling was that the wider community and police would feel relieved. The *Sunday Times* may have even been slightly remorseful with a sub-article headed 'They Keep Cheerful' and disclaiming benevolently

'After the squalor of Poverty Point and the condition of the homes in which people are compelled-for one reason or another-to live, Sunday Times reporters were most impressed by the cheerful fortitude and bright good nature of the occupants. That people living in such a way could face a regular adversity with such cheerfulness was indeed surprising. It is felt that in some cases circumstances beyond their control prevent them from improving their conditions.'¹⁷

Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3



With little follow-up by the newspaper, the exact chronological details of the unfolding fate of the camp is unclear, except that the 1958 South Fremantle Electoral Roll still lists a handful of residents at the Smelters Camp, Copley's Siding and Robb Jetty, but all are absent except the Mockens, who are living at Robb's Jetty on the following electoral roll in 1963. However, the electoral rolls cannot account for people living there casually.¹⁸

Many of the long-term pensioner residents of the Smelters Camp had passed away before 1958. After 1954, places of residence named 'Camping area, Coogee', 'Coogee Beach' or 'Caravan park, Coogee Beach' begin to emerge, as the remaining occupants were evicted and moved on. Also care facilities are established, with listings for 'Anglican Home, Coogee Beach', and 'Nazareth House' appearing in the general electoral rolls, indicating new charitable care options.¹⁹

¹⁷ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4

¹⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [Electoral Roll].

¹⁹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 24 October 1954, page 5; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4

Fremantle Impressions

'You pass a valley near the Catherine Point groyne. In the valley was a place called Hollywood, a camp for Fremantle's aspirational drunks. Hollywood residents live in cottages made from packing cases and flattened tin salvaged from the local tip. They use paint tins for their pot plants and grow pelargoniums along their shack walls, hence the occasional pelargonium still showing its head about the sand at the camp site. Friends come from other camps to holiday there, I'm told. But they are a different class of resident from those at the Smelters Camp or nearby Beverly Hills, which is a suburb of Hollywood and attracts the real outcasts. A strong sense of irony must have guided some unofficial nomenclature committee. Those at Beverly Hills made a little money digging and sifting shell grit which they dry on the beach before bagging it. Everyone has chooks. The Beverly Hills grit means harder shells on eggs from Fremantle chooks fed on wheat which was probably brought home from the wharf in a lumper's billy.'²⁰

THE RESIDENTS OF THE SMELTERS CAMP

Current historian focus holds a fascination with the recording of itinerant and transient communities. But sharing these stories of the returned veterans, the migrants, the homeless and the underprivileged also enriches us with examples of overcoming adversity, resilience, humanity and compassion.

It should be noted that dates listed are confirmed from source reading, but in certain cases, residencies may have actually extended without documentation beyond this time period, or in the instance of a single listed year, have included months, weeks or days within that year.

Particularly when dates listed are extracted from electoral rolls, there are intervening years not subject to elections for which confirmation is not always possible. However, where a resident's behaviour suggests they remained at the campsite, occupancy has been listed here as spanning the time between book-ending election dates.

In many cases, occupancy was intermittent, with some Smelters Camp residents rotating between several temporary campsites throughout Western Australia.

How the Smelters Camp is named applies to the particular listing – this name varies with geographical and cultural changes and industrial development, e.g. early listings refer to the location of the camp as 'Owens Anchorage', latter listings 'Smelters Camp'. This tends to be recorded as a reflection of 'community' interpretation rather than governmental (i.e. more specific than electoral boundaries). The occupation of each resident listed is that recorded at time of occupancy, but additional occupations of interest are also included.

²⁰ Davidson, Ron, 'Fremantle Impressions' Fremantle Press; Australia, 2007, p246

Electoral rolls, newspapers and other source material may occasionally reflect misspellings, being the colloquial rather than the correct spelling e.g. Robb's Jetty instead of Robb Jetty, Woodman's Point instead of Woodman Point. In the interests of accuracy misspellings are retained. Residents are listed alphabetically, with variations in some cases of family groupings.

Agnew, Matthew

1893 – 1958

Smelter's Camp 1954

WWI veteran and former railway labourer

Matthew Agnew was born in 1892 in Maryhill, Barony, Lanarkshire.²¹

In the 1901 Scotland Census, Agnew was a scholar aged 9, son of Arthur (35), a coal merchant, and Irish mother, Margaret (37),²² surrounded by brothers Arthur (17), John (14), Thomas (5) and Joseph (2). They lived at 545 Garscube Road, Kelvin, St George in the Fields, Glasgow, Lanarkshire.²³ Father Arthur lived some of his childhood just down the road, at 229 Garscube, with his father, also Arthur, his mother Ann and his siblings, brothers William, Jessie and Joseph, Samuel, and one sister, Mary Ann.²⁴

Whether it was adventure's call or simply living in Maryhill's garrison town environment that inspired him, Agnew served, and survived as a private in The Royal Scots (Lothian Regiment), Gordon Highlanders, Seaforth Highlanders, Highland Light Infantry and the Royal Engineers 1914-1920.²⁵ Agnew was living independently with his brothers Thomas and John in Fernie St, Maryhill, Glasgow following the war,²⁶ then on 23rd June 1923 he embarked from London on board the 'Orvieto', of the steamship line Orient. He was a carter of 31 years of age, travelling 3rd class, on his way to a new life in Western Australia.²⁷

²¹ General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Ref 622/1 558 Maryhill

²² Margaret 'Maggie' Cronan born c1864, Ireland, married 1887 in Maryhill (National Records of Scotland 622/1 57)

²³ Scotland. 1901 Scotland Census. Reels 1-446. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Glasgow St George in the Fields; ED: 107; Page: 16; Line: 16; Roll: CSSCT1901_303

²⁴ Scotland. 1871 Scotland Census. Reels 1 - 191. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Parish: *Glasgow St George*; ED: 54; Page: 2; Line: 9; Roll: CSSCT1871_135

²⁵ [Regimental Number: Royal Scots 35528 Pte., Gordon Highlanders 15764, Seaforth Highlanders 10921, Highland Light Infantry 31980, Royal Engineers 367886 Driver], The National Archives of the UK; Kew, Surrey, England; *WWI Service Medal and Award Rolls*; Class: WO 329, Piece Number: 446. Also Army Medal Office. WWI Medal Index Cards. In the care of The Western Front Association website, accessed on Ancestry.com. *British Army WWI Medal Rolls Index Cards, 1914 - 1920* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2008 (Accessed 12 September 2018) and Medal card of Agnew, Matthew. Corps: Royal Scots Regiment No.: 35528; 1914 - 1920. Ref WO 372/1/27529 National Archives, Kew (Discovery Catalogue accessed 12 September 2018).

²⁶ Glasgow, Lanarkshire electoral registers, Glasgow Museums and Libraries Collection: The Mitchell Library, Special Collections. Glasgow 1920; Register of Voters, Glasgow Spring, Wards 14-25, 1920 p12

²⁷ Board of Trade: Commercial and Statistical Department and successors: Outwards Passenger Lists. BT27. Records of the Commercial, Companies, Labour, Railways and Statistics Departments. Records

Railway Man

Agnew worked as a casual employee on the Western Australian Government Railways as a labourer in 1927-1928, but was eventually retrenched.²⁸ He is listed again in mid-1930. His pay rate per day was £16, 10 shillings, 11 pence as a labourer on the Caron-Buntine line. Buntine is about 30km from Dalwallinu.²⁹

In September of the same year, he had a different kind of experience with the railways, when in a story from Dalwallinu in the *West Australian* reported, 'About 11 p.m. on August 30, Constable Rowbottom discovered Matthew Agnew lying near the Grant-street railway crossing with a deep cut in the back of his head. Agnew was taken to Dr. Anderson, who inserted six stitches. The wound was caused by a heavy fall on to the footpath.'³⁰

In July 1933 he worked for the WAGR again on the Hines Hill regrading (half-way between Kellerberrin and Merredin). It was a more substantial job, lasting until March 1934.³¹ He found steadier work in the north of Western Australia; in 1939-1940 Matthew Agnew appears in The Western Australian Directory [Wise's] in March, living in Marble Bar.³² He was also listed on the Western Australian Electoral Roll, under the Division of Kalgoorlie, Subdivision of Gascoyne, in 1949 and 1954. He was residing at Carnarvon and listed as a labourer.³³ Christmas Eve of 1949 found him in the Carnarvon Police Court, after having been Christmas carousing in Baston Street.³⁴

Agnew lived at the Smelters Camp some time between 1950 and 1958. In 1954 he was reported as 'Matthew Agnew of the smelters' camp, South Fremantle,' when arrested during a particularly large and well-organised swoop by police –

'RAID YIELDS 19 TWO-UP MEN

A police raid on a two-up school in the sandhills at South Fremantle led to the appearance of 24 men in the Fremantle Police Court yesterday. The raid was led by Inspector A.O. Fiebig and Sgt. C. H. Brown with 12 other police officers. The cases

of the Board of Trade and of successor and related bodies. The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England. Ancestry.com. *UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890 - 1960* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012 (Accessed 12 September 2018)

²⁸ Railway and Employment Records. State Records Office Western Australia; *Casual Employment*; Reference Number: ACC 2629/7-8; 7 March 1928

²⁹ WAGR & T. – Register of Casual Workers 10 June 1930, pg 239; see 44767_352669-00240 Agnew_Railways.jpg; State Records Office, Western Australia

³⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 9 September 1930, page 12: Country News, Dalwallinu

³¹ Railway and Employment Records. State Records Office Western Australia; *Casual Employment*; Reference Number: ACC 2629/12 - 13

³² The Western Australia Directory [Wise's], March 1939 - 1940, page 365.

<http://slwa.wa.gov.au/explore-discover/wa-heritage/post-office-directories/1939-1940> (accessed 11 September 2018)

³³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

³⁴ Northern Times (Carnarvon, WA : 1905 - 1954), Thursday 29 December 1949, page 1

against five of the men were dismissed.’³⁵ The remaining 19 men included Agnew, who was fined £2.³⁶

Agnew and the police were participating in a longstanding South Fremantle ritual. Raids had been occurring for half a decade, with the ‘dispersion of the famous South Fremantle two-up school’ reported as early as 1916.³⁷

By 1958, Matthew Agnew had left the Smelters Camp forever; on the electoral roll he had moved to Sunset Hospital in Curtin, Nedlands.³⁸ Sunset was formerly known as the Claremont Old Men’s Home,³⁹ and sadly, after a life of very hard graft and brave service, this would be his last address.

Agnew died in Perth in 1958 at 65 years of age.⁴⁰ The Metropolitan Cemeteries Board confirms Matthew Agnew’s date of death as 26 November 1958 in Nedlands, and his grave is in the Roman Catholic area of Karrakatta Cemetery.⁴¹

Allison, John
Owen’s Anchorage 1902-1906
labourer

John Allison is listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1903-1906,⁴² but is also named in newspaper articles as being a resident in 1902.⁴³ There was an incident involving Allison (who was described as a middle-aged man) threatening to harm a gentleman called Reidy whilst at the Beaufort Street entrance of Perth train station, in which Reidy claims Allison accused him of hypnotising him;⁴⁴ and several newspaper reports about Allison indecently exposed.⁴⁵

No Western Australian births, deaths or marriages; or shipping registers list this particular John Allison and there is possible use of an alias. John Allison has not been fully researched.

³⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 27 May 1954, page 15

³⁶ Matthew’s fine was approximately \$68 in today’s currency. Calculated £2 (1954), decimal equivalent 2017 <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html> accessed 15 Sept. 2018

³⁷ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 31 December 1916, page 8

³⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. *[Electoral Roll]*.

³⁹ <http://www.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/news/2016/11/28/sunset-heritage-precinct-opens-to-public>, accessed October 2018

⁴⁰ BDMWA registration no. 3180

⁴¹ Section OA Gravesite 0134

⁴² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. *[Electoral Roll]*.

⁴³ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 24 May 1902, page 3

⁴⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 14 Feb 1906, page 4

⁴⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 27 May 1904, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 23 May 1904, page 5

Bansatti, 'The Albanian'
Robb's Jetty 1931
ringbarker

Grave Fears

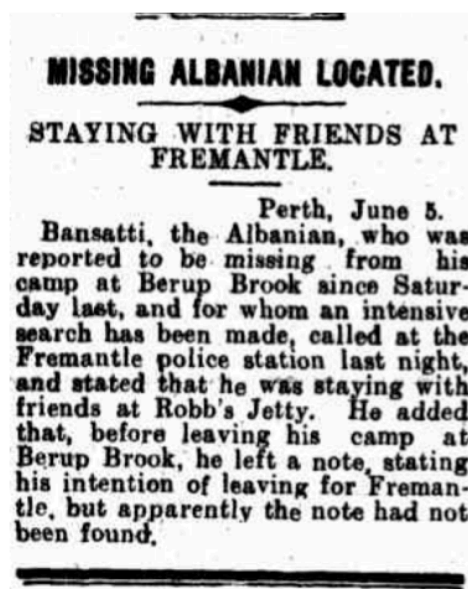
A migrant timber worker disappeared near Pemberton in 1931, and a flurry of newspaper articles portended disaster. Reported as widely as Tasmania, when a search in 'heavily-timbered country, too dense for penetration by horsemen... failed to reveal any trace of the Albanian named Bansatti,' searchers entertained 'grave fears... for his safety'.⁴⁶

A report in the *West Australian* on Thursday 4 June provided details of Bansatti's employment as a ringbarker with the Dunnet brothers at Nannup.⁴⁷ Bansatti had been involved in land-clearing operations on a new property adjoining Berup Brook. Last seen on Friday 30 May evening, and due to return with the camp to Nannup on Saturday, he did not appear. Constable Sholl at Nannup was notified; and Constable Marriott from Pemberton unsuccessfully led search parties through the area.

Local police knew of a brother working in the wheat belt, and that Bansatti had friends in Fremantle, the latter of which proved a fruitful speculation when,

'Bansatti, the Albanian, who was reported to be missing from his camp at Berup Brook since Saturday last, and for whom an intensive search has been made, called at the Fremantle police station last night, and stated that he was staying with friends at Robb's Jetty.'⁴⁸

When Bansatti assured that 'before leaving his camp at Berup Brook, he left a note, stating his intention of leaving for Fremantle, but apparently the note had not been found,'⁴⁹ the mood around his disappearance transformed, and the press quickly turned against him, running a headline reading 'SEARCHERS' WASTED EFFORTS—Supposed Missing Man Safe', further noting, 'Constables from Nannup and Pemberton, assisted by a party of experienced bushmen have been engaged for several days in the *unnecessary* search.'⁵⁰



West Australian 9 June 1931 p28

⁴⁶ Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954), Thursday 4 June 1931, page 12

⁴⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 4 June 1931, page 13

⁴⁸ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Saturday 6 June 1931, page 4; see also Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 7 June 1931, page 24; Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1916 - 1938), Tuesday 9 June 1931, page 28 and Northern Times (Carnarvon, WA : 1905 - 1952), Thursday 11 June 1931, page 3

⁴⁹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Saturday 6 June 1931, page 4

⁵⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 5 June 1931, page 19 [Author's emphasis]

The tension surrounding Southern European newly-arrived migrants was reflected in an article in the *Daily News* eighteen months prior. The reporter included mention of the Albanians residing in the smelters camp at the time, musing over their lodgings,

'A FOREIGN INFLUX

But into this haven has come recently another generation, and another race, of men — swarthy young men from Southern Europe, probably equally deserving of sympathy by reason 'of the homelessness which has driven them to 'squat' in similar hessian and tin shanties amongst the sand dunes of South Fremantle...'

to their lack of cutlery,

'In the humpy, about 10ft. by 8ft., yesterday eight men were having their morning meal of smoked fish of the sardine variety, picked up with the fingers from a common bowl and eaten with hunks of dry bread,'



EIGHT IN A HUT
Eight Albanians were eating in this humpy.

Daily News 13 Nov 1928 p6

their inability to master a new language in a matter of weeks; and their livelihood,

'Two only of the eight could speak English intelligibly, and it was difficult to learn whence they came, beyond, that they were Albanians. From some of the old men, however, it was learned that the Albanians had been working in the country and arrived at South Fremantle some weeks ago. They rented the camps from one of the older settlers, bought a boat from another and engaged intermittently in fishing. Further along the foreshore, between the sea and what is known as the four mile, is another colony of foreign fishermen...'

And to complete the dismantling, by reasons of culture rather than poverty - a particularly curious reference to sanitary habits and odour that reflects the era's inherent racism,

'The same forbearance and tolerance towards these could — and doubtless will — be extended provided it is assured that they maintain a proper regard for the public health insofar as sanitation is concerned... Thus far there does not appear much reason for objection — the advent of the foreign element has been only recent. No objectionable odors are noticeable, and there is an absence of flies; but the foreign colony already totals thirteen distributed in two tents, and one humpy, and sanitary conveniences are conspicuous by their absence.'⁵¹

⁵¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

During the Depression, many Albanian migrants followed work to rural Northern Queensland,⁵² and by 1925 reports of 'Indigent Albanians' experiencing poverty were published, with the number of Albanians considered destitute in Fremantle numbering 56, with deportation being investigated by the Federal Government.⁵³

Barnett, Horace
Chesterfield 1909
labourer

Horace Barnett is listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1909 as a labourer.⁵⁴ Horace Barnett has not been fully researched.

Barry, Thomas
Owen's Anchorage 1903 – 1906
slaughterman

Thomas Barry is listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman. When Barry left the camp in 1906 he moved to Boulder and was running his own slaughterhouse.⁵⁵ Thomas Barry has not been fully researched.

THE SMALLPOX AT FREMANTLE. THE PATIENTS PROGRESSING FAVOURABLY.
LANDING AND DISINFECTION OF CAMELS...

'Latest intelligence from the quarantine station at Woodman's Point states that the three quarantined Lascars [*Indian sailors*] are progressing favourably. The sick patient's case is running the usual course of small-pox, though the disease is not of a malignant nature. The two men who were placed in quarantine on account of having exhibited suspicious symptoms were less feverish yesterday, and the health officer, Dr. Hope, believes that a virulent development of small-pox in their cases may be averted.

The camels brought by the Cloncurry from Calcutta for this port were landed at Robb's jetty yesterday morning, great precautionary measures being taken in their transport to the camel quarantine ground. Twenty-nine camels were landed in lighters from the steamer, and upon shipment in the lighters and when landed on the jetty were subjected to a thorough spraying with diluted carbolic acid. The holds

⁵² Carne, J.C. 'Moslem Albanians in North Queensland'. Lectures on North Queensland history. No. 4. edited by Dalton, B. J.. Townsville: James Cook University of North Queensland, 1984; p185. Accessed 17 September 2018 online at <https://espace.library.uq.edu.au>. See also:

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/snapshots/uncommon-lives/muslim-journeys/arrivals.aspx>

⁵³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 17 January 1925, page 10

⁵⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Coolgardie Miner (WA : 1894 - 1911), Saturday 29 June 1907, page 4

of the lighters were thoroughly fumigated by means of pans of burning sulphur being placed under the hatches. At the stock receiving yards at the shore end of Robb's jetty the camels were examined carefully by Mr. H. Edwards, the Government Veterinary Surgeon, under whose direction their landing was effected.

In order that the animals may receive proper attention, the agents for Messrs. McIlwraith & Co., owners of the Cloncurry, have engaged four Afghans residing in the colony to act as caretakers.⁵⁶

The Smelters, Stinking Weed and the Woodman Point Quarantine Station

The suggestion of a bill 'to enforce and regulate the performances of quarantine' in Western Australia, and conditions and fines in regards to masters, crew, passengers, cargo and vessels carrying any 'infectious disorder' requiring quarantine were released by the Perth Colonial Secretary's Office in early 1833. Carnac Island ceased to be used for quarantine and was replaced by the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, another 'hidden community' in the Cockburn Sound area.⁵⁷

This move was prompted by the case of 226 civilians and military personnel who had contracted whooping cough aboard the 'Anna Robertson', when, because of water contamination, they were moved from Carnac to tents on the beach at Woodman Point. The subsequent construction of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station allowed for a specific location to base an isolation hospital to care for plague patients, and later, those with infectious diseases.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly drew attention to the danger from the arrival of vessels at the port carrying smallpox in 1892, with the medical officer returning from an excursion there, warning that the disease could be 'a menace to the health of the town.' Member for Roebourne, Horatio Sholl, wisely pondered with some irony that he 'thought it strange that a medical man should go to that vessel and attend a small pox patient and then mix with the public.'

In April 1900 the fear brought by a bubonic plague outbreak to Fremantle was easing, and the Fremantle Public Hospital, which had been isolated for 11 days, reopened for patients. At Woodman Point Quarantine Station, satisfactory progress was being made by all 'contacts'.

Nearby at the sea jetty, the precaution had been taken to restrict public access with the presence of a guard, and the port wharves and jetties had been disinfected with 'one and a quarter tons of chloride of lime and 50 gallons of phenyl and carbolic

⁵⁶ West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 19 January 1895, page 6

⁵⁷ The Perth Gazette and The West Australian Journal (WA : 1833 - 1847), Saturday 2 February 1833, page 17; <http://www.woodmanpointquarantinestation.com/index.html> , accessed November 2018; for Quarantine Station history see Darroch, Ian, 'Western Sentinel: A History of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station 1851 – 1979', 2018 email friends@woodmanpointquarantinestation.com

acid', this process driving so many rats from the filth under the South Quay, that a bounty was implemented for each dispatched and cremated rodent.

750 tonnes of seaweed from South Beach was gathered by a party of men employed for that purpose; proving very unpleasant as 'a large quantity of decaying matter was found underneath the top layers'. It was transported by train and spread out for drying near the Smelters, originally intending to be left there to prevent sand drift, until Dr. Anderson insisted it would be risky, and should be burned.

'The Town Clerk remarked that he had that morning received a telephone message from the officials of the Smelting Works Company, objecting to the stinking weed being dumped near their works. Councillor Webster replied, "Well it's going there anyway. There's no one at the works"'.⁵⁸

A new portable Reek's steam disinfecter was moving through the homes of blighted families, cleansing their clothing and bedding. Various steps were suggested, including concreting sodden backyards where urine and bathwater was thrown, the disposal of waste, the careful monitoring and recording of Fremantle Port arrivals, the installation an incinerator for dead animals and closing the Oval tip. Councillor Willis suggested taking all waste to the end of the Owen Anchorage railway line. 'There was plenty of room there, and it would be away from everybody.'⁵⁹

But the community's improving confidence was to be short lived with Dr. Anderson's diagnosis of 6-year-old Septimus Sweeney, son of the Constable Sweeney from the Fremantle Police Station, who had been quietly ill for nine days, with vomiting and diarrhoea, severe pain in the groin area and glandular swelling. The entire home, attached to the lock-up, and the family was isolated.⁶⁰

A MOONLIGHT RIDE. (By Emily H. Pelloe) Part II

Nurses' Graves.

'Within the quarantine reserve there is a little known half-acre where grey granite records the fate of some of Australia's war nurses. They rest among native wattles, banksias and jarrah trees in a neat and tended enclosure where sunshine alternates with dancing shadows in summer and the blast of winter storms is checked by surrounding dense shrub growth, with the moan or murmur of the sea beating neverending requiem close by.

These members of a noble sisterhood, with soldier patients near, were victims of the pneumonic influenza outbreak on the troopship Boonah. On the grave of one nurse, a Queensland girl, an imposing monument has been erected by her relatives. Others have the regulation A.I.F. headstones. The grave of Nurse H. Williams, of Western Australia is marked by a white-painted wooden cross. Nurse Williams was one of

⁵⁸ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Saturday 21 April 1900, page 46

⁵⁹ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Saturday 21 April 1900, page 46; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 19 April 1900, page 5

⁶⁰ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Saturday 21 April 1900, page 46

those who volunteered when a call was made by the Department of Public Health on December 1918, for local civilian nurses for duty at Woodman's Point, where hundreds of returning soldiers suffering from pneumonic influenza, many hopelessly ill, had been landed...

It would have been quite easy to visualise a filmy wraith in the sandy hollow near the stranded schooner Ababama, where are buried the ashes of a plague patient cremated before the reservation of the quarantine station. The grave is marked by a picket fence, from the corner posts of which the sand has been swept away by many a wintry gale, leaving the pickets well up in the air all round.⁶¹

Beaton, Donald
Smelter's Camp 1934

-

Donald Beaton is listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle (Supplementary section) in 1934. He did not declare an occupation.

But when he earlier appeared in the 1931 Fremantle Electoral Roll, living at the rear of 95 South Terrace, his occupation was labourer. Similarly, his listing in the 1943 Perth, Nedlands Electoral Roll, at Varsity Flats, Stirling Highway. Donald Beaton has not been fully researched.⁶²

Beresford, Charles
1876 - 1959
South Beach 1910
showman

Charles Beresford is listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle district electoral roll in 1910.⁶³ His address is simply 'South Beach', but it is his occupation of 'showman', that instantly casts a sparkle across the sand. Whilst not strictly within the boundaries of the Smelters, the lives of the itinerant show people often intermingled with those of the more established camp.

Theatrical types

Travelling shows supplemented family entertainments available at the Hydrodrome (more follows). But South Beach hosted many theatrical types of colourful and often questionable character.

⁶¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 16 February 1929, page 4

⁶² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁶³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].



Fremantle History Centre Image # 4693 South Beach (not dated, post-1898)

When Mr Herbert Turnham was discovered residing at South Beach in December 1929, the *Mirror* announced, 'There is no better known man in the show grounds of the State, from the Royal to distant country shows, or at South Beach, where he always spends Xmas and New Year.'⁶⁴ It describes a man born to a journalistic family, who instead decided to travel, then became a 'dealer with cheeses, walnuts, fish, prawns, York hams and poultry.'⁶⁵ But upon the stupendous discovery of a six-legged sheep at Bunbury, 'Bluey' Turnham was able to take his talent to the Nation, as a showman. After travelling Australia, he sold the sheep in Tasmania, where it sadly pined away and died. An equally ambitious enterprise exhibiting a whale in Perth was scuttled by hot weather, expensive ice and zealous health officials, and 'Bluey' advantaged the same escape – 'the monster was sold to some foreign fishmongers, and ended up as the best deep-sea schnapper.'⁶⁶

In 1941 the *Mirror* sensationally reported court appearances following a horrific razor attack on showman Albert 'Clarry' Clarence Paull as he was eating his 9:45pm post-performance dinner seated on a box beneath yellow lamplight at South Beach. Fair-haired Noliene Heyward had arrived from Kalgoorlie the day before, and possessed by apoplectic revenge, purchased a razor and left Paull, a married but estranged magician, with a terrible face and neck injury requiring 14 stitches. "Paull is the father of my baby," she alleged... "I only meant to frighten Paull, to make him go and see his people and tell the truth."⁶⁷ Heyward was released on £100 bond, thanking Judge Dwyer for his clemency, indicating, 'she had not the slightest wish to see anything more of him.'⁶⁸

⁶⁴ *Mirror* (Perth, WA: 1921 - 1956) Saturday 21 Dec 1929, page 9

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

⁶⁷ *Mirror* (Perth, WA: 1921 - 1956) Saturday 11 Jan 1941, page 13

⁶⁸ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), Saturday 8 February 1941, page 16

Old Pop

Charles Beresford, an infrequent visitor to the West beyond 1910,⁶⁹ was known affectionately in his old age as 'Pop'. He recounted being an only child, born in 1875 near Ararat to English parents.⁷⁰ He was without other Australian relatives or a wife and children, so for the most vital years of his life, 'Pop never stayed long in one spot. His job in life called him from place to place...'⁷¹ Beresford worked in the travelling entertainment industry; shooting galleries, electric poker stalls, with a sideline of illegal betting.⁷²

It was a tenuous and makeshift lifestyle, fraught with occupational hazard. In 1926, Charles Beresford was called before a magisterial inquiry in Queensland under distressing circumstances. He was a 51 year-old labourer working for another travelling showman, Joseph Trindell, and in late June he was erecting a shooting gallery on a vacant section of land in West End, Brisbane, when screams alerted him to the electrocution of Henry Burnett.⁷³

'The scream was followed by a dull thud. He immediately ran into the shed and called out, "Is anyone there? Is anyone hurt?" There was no reply. He went behind a calico screen and saw the body of a man tangled up in wires, lying on the floor.'⁷⁴

Later in life, Beresford was a resident of the Shepparton area,⁷⁵ his shooting gallery occupying a tent on an empty block not far from the Lyric Theatre in Maude Street. By 1951, Charles Beresford had lost his sight, and locals 'affectionately called him 'Pop'. They loved the "old blind man", as he always referred to himself.'⁷⁶

RED CROSS AIDS "POP" was a heart-warming story that made the front page of the *Shepparton Advertiser*. Beresford was to become a new resident at Bairnsdale Benevolent Home, supported by contributions from the Red Cross, staff of Mooroopna hospital, Shepparton ambulance volunteers and 'all of Pop's friends'. The Red Cross offered public gratitude, wishing to thank 'all who helped in the smallest way in arranging Mr Beresford's departure and comforts,' noting, 'He left Shepparton well clothed and happy', with him humbly expressing, "'Thank you from the bottom of an old blind man's heart, especially the children.'"⁷⁷

A year later, as his faltering eyesight demanded specialist care, the Red Cross arranged for comfortable transportation and accommodation in a new 12-bed hostel for the blind in Ballarat. This was again reported on the front page of the *Shepparton Advertiser* as he was 'well remembered in Shepparton as a sincere gentleman...'⁷⁸

⁶⁹ The Australian (Perth, WA: 1917 - 1923), Tuesday 29 April 1922, page 1

⁷⁰ The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld.: 1872 - 1947), Monday 5 July 1926, page 2

⁷¹ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.: 1914 - 1953), Friday 4 January 1952, page 1

⁷² Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.: 1914 - 1953), Tuesday 16 May 1944, page 3

⁷³ The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld.: 1872 - 1947), Monday 5 July 1926, page 2

⁷⁴ The Telegraph (Brisbane, Qld.: 1872 - 1947), Monday 5 July 1926, page 2

⁷⁵ Shepparton Electoral Rolls between 1937 and 1949 list him as a resident

⁷⁶ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic. : 1914 - 1953), Friday 4 January 1952, page 1

⁷⁷ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic. : 1914 - 1953), Tuesday 3 July 1951, page 1

⁷⁸ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.: 1914 - 1953), Friday 4 January 1952, page 1

The reporter respectfully noted that Pop lived by his sworn philosophy, “Make what you can honestly, spend only what you have to on your own bare needs and give the rest to the needy.”⁷⁹

Charles Beresford died in Ballarat in 1959, aged 83.⁸⁰ He was cremated and his ashes scattered at the new Ballarat Cemetery.⁸¹

Hydrodrome To Be Demolished: Baron Frieze’s Last Battle

‘One of the finest baritone voices in the State was that possessed by the hustlesome Baron Frieze, of South Perth. Full and melodious, he was an excellent exponent of the songs... being in request at almost every social or concert in Perth... (and playing) the sergeant of police in an amateur performance of the “Pirates of Penzance.”’⁸²



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1761 Aerial view hydrodrome and South Beach c1950

Fremantle City Council decided in February 1949 that the dangerous Hydrodrome building should be demolished, and this commitment was reaffirmed in March. Lessee Baron Harry Frieze, who occupied the front shop kiosk, was refused his request to stay and expand upon his plans to reinvigorate the seaside facilities. Frieze had long-harboured a passion to improve the facilities by building, ‘another forty feet of frontage,’ to help resolve ‘the difficulty of any congestion,’ and promised ‘hamburgers and hot dogs will be a popular item for the South Beach goer. There is an excellent dancing floor and everything will be first class.’ But it was not to be.⁸³

⁷⁹ Shepparton Advertiser (Vic.: 1914 - 1953), Friday 4 January 1952, page 1

⁸⁰ BDM Victoria, registration no. 27017

⁸¹ <https://web.ballaratcemeteries.com.au>; search Beresford

⁸² Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 26 March 1933, page 7

⁸³ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 22 March 1949, page 8;

Baron Frieze, a secessionist, and tailor by trade; in the 1930s the secretary of the Coastal District Master Tailors' Industrial Union of Employees, and later the president of the South Fremantle Progress Association as well as proprietor of the South Fremantle tearooms, was a fine singer and had a fervent interest in entertainments. He had advertised for 'amateur vocalists and instrumentalists' in the interest of 'forming an amateur opera club in Perth' in 1907, despite being sued three years earlier for non-payment to musicians in a comic opera company. (Which caused him consternation, with the company in 'great straits, as far as finances were concerned,' and other musicians 'had been content to wait.')

⁸⁴

He had been involved, in an identical capacity, championing certain developments at South Perth where he previously lived, with ideas about filling in Miller's Pool, building swimming baths; and general committee involvement in the area in the late 1920s, before turning his interest to South Fremantle in his twilight years. Age was no barrier to his enthusiasm, devising plans to build a £40,000 hostel structure in 1949, with council leasing the land to him at a nominal amount, despite the demolition order for 31 August and the 'inroads of white ants making the structure unsafe.'

⁸⁵

The Hydrodrome, an elaborate structure of wood and iron, had previously been part of the Fremantle old Base Hospital, and was transferred to South Fremantle following the Great War. It originally housed the colourfully-named 'Comet Skating Rink' and other fabulous entertainments, eventually also including a dedicated swimming area illuminated at night time. Council opinions concerning the building were always divided, with disputes about connecting it to sewage in 1925, and when heavy gales damaged the retaining wall in 1926, the lessees announced to the council they should not be paying full rent while structural repairs were in progress.

⁸⁴ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 23 September 1934, page 6; Tailor, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 October 1939, page 26; Opera, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 10 May 1908, page 7; Secretary, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 16 June 1932, page 16; Progress Association, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 23 November 1946, page 6; Comic opera, Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 8 June 1904, page 2; Tearooms, Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Tuesday 21 May 1940, page 7; Singer, Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 14 July 1909, page 4

⁸⁵ South Perth, Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 3 Feb 1928, page 9; Miller's Pool, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 5 November 1937, page 26; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 7 May 1925, page 10; white ants, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 21 June 1949, page 6

⁸⁶ Comet Rink, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 12 December 1910, page 9; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 22 March 1949, page 8; sewerage, Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 16 May 1925, page 10; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 30 October 1926, page 12



AFTER THE BLOW.

Western Mail 31 July 1924 p24

But the vibrant activities at the 'seaside resort' Hydrodrome delighted the public. Only ten minutes by tram from Fremantle, and a perfect place to be entertained on a hot evening, additional excursion trains from country areas were organised to deliver more patrons.⁸⁷ In 1925 the lease moved from Arthur Cowell to new manager, Mrs. Davies, who immediately began renovating; advertising that they had recently purchased the 'very latest floor-finishing machines, electronically driven, to ensure the dance floors may have absolutely a "glaciarum" surface.' Christmas and New Year dances were very popular, with a large orchestra engaged and the dance floors 'given great attention' and 'all kinds of teas and soft drinks being procurable.'⁸⁸

⁸⁷ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 4 February 1928, page 11; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 20 November 1928, page 12

⁸⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 14 Mar 1924, page 10; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 17 January 1931, page 5; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 22 August 1925, page 10; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 26 December 1925, page 9; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Teas, Saturday 20 November 1926, page 12



SLWA 100312PD Colin Smith and the Palais Royal Band play for a crowd at the South Beach Hydrodrome 1929

By 1927 the Hydrodrome was crowded nightly, with bathers 'anxious to cool off' in the shark-proof reserve. Conversational-style weekly advertisements highlighted the civilized advantages of the venue, from 'a beach devoid of seaweed and sharks', the 'coolest ballroom' to exceptionally green grass, a merry-go-round, rollerskating and miniature golf.⁸⁹



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1779 The Baths, South Beach, Fremantle c1920s

But Mrs. Davies relinquished management in 1928, with notorious, annual 'winter waves' and 'stormy winds' on the horizon, and plans to embark on a 'tour of England and Wales' with Mr. Davies seeming more attractive.⁹⁰

⁸⁹ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 27 December 1926, page 12, Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 24 December 1927, page 11; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 18 December 1926, page 11

⁹⁰ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Thursday 22 July 1926, page 15; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 19 May 1928, page 10

Weekly dances and regular roller-skating carnivals continued, with 'Hydrodome(sic) fans, incidentally... still finding golf at this popular entertainment venue an attraction,' when Baron Frieze finally arrived.⁹¹

But the demolition proceeded and two years later both Frieze and his dreams of expansion had died, as he exited stage right in 1951.⁹²

Black Paddy/Collie Paddy
Late 1880s - 1944
Smelters Camp (date unknown)
stockman, boxer

'Black Paddy' was known more respectfully by close associates as 'Collie Paddy', showing his connection to the Collie area and Boronia Gully.⁹³ Paddy enjoyed an enduring friendship with one of the earliest recorded residents of the Smelters Camp, Wandi. (See Wandi entry). Both were noted boxers who fought in local competition, and entertaining exhibition matches for over 20 years, and Wandi was the first 'cobber' to greet Paddy upon his return, when a charity effort brought him home after his Eastern States boxing

commitments came to an disappointing end, after many losses⁹⁴ and he was languishing on Palm Island.⁹⁵



National Library Australia PIC 8395/824
Jerry Jerome shakes hands with [R] Black Paddy c1913 [Brand]

'He was about 5ft 4in or 5ft 5in, with legs like an emu and a big chest and to see him you would think he couldn't fight. But he was good. He was a true welterweight and he took on six-footers and all-comers.'⁹⁶

Known in the industry as 'Black Paddy', a welter-weight of Murchison origin,⁹⁷ Paddy was considered the second-best aboriginal boxer in Australia, with large winnings

⁹¹ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 21 February 1931, page 4; rollerskating, Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 10 April 1926, page 10

⁹² BDM WA, Registration # 1101

⁹³ Joe Northover Riley, conversation with Julie Raffaele 12 April 2019

⁹⁴ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 5 January 1913, page 3

⁹⁵ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions (1985); Permit, Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 8 September 1916, page 8; Palm Island, The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 26 Feb 1924, page 8; Westralian Worker (Perth, WA : 1900 - 1951), Friday 29 February 1924, page 16

⁹⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1958) Saturday 5 August 1944, page 3

that he generously spent, and he was very popular around Fremantle, having been found work at Robb Jetty upon his return from Queensland. He was known for 'his hearty laugh and care-free mode of living', but died in poverty 1 August 1944 at the Sunset Rest Home.⁹⁸

Black, George
rear Robb's Jetty 1919-1931
miner (1917), no occupation

A Notice of Application for Auriferous Lease number 1176T was published in the Laverton and Beria Mercury, 1 December 1900, announcing that the agent Kerridge was applying on behalf of F. Foreman, for the 'ground known as The Golden Orbit'.⁹⁹ At the time, Western Australia's annual average of gold production in 1901 to 1909 was £14,485,648 – almost double that of the closest rival State, Victoria.¹⁰⁰

They proceeded to work the 12 acres with optimism, 'on which a great amount of sinking and driving has been done... by Messer W. Kerridge and Party, who are pushing on the further development of the property with the intention of shortly putting through a parcel of 50 tons.' Expectations were to glean 30dwt of gold from 'a good body of stone' at the south end of the lease.¹⁰¹

At the close of 1901 Kerridge and party are 'still of the opinion that a policy of energetic development is the only necessary one to achieve riches, as evidenced in their present work.' With their North shaft already reaching water level at 75ft, they are justifying a reef at 50ft, which was 'of good value.'¹⁰² But they were flagging fast.

Meanwhile, in 1901, 'Messrs Black & Party', George Black and his brothers Leslie James and Charles Robert, busily exhibited their enterprising natures in nearby claims, including recovering a respectable 15oz 12dwt of gold from 12 tons of rock in April;¹⁰³ placing 'The Tired Feeling' claim under option, 'with a view to an ultimate ownership,' putting through crushings on the 'Cartledges' claim;¹⁰⁴ and in February 1902, cheekily and successfully applied to 'sink a shaft for gold mining purposes on the Presbyterian Church property.'¹⁰⁵

As luck would have it, the Western Australian mining industry was about to experience the best returns of the year, and opportunely, circumstance and gravity brought George Black and his brothers to the Golden Orbit gold mine. In April 1902,

⁹⁷ The Evening Star (Boulder, WA : 1898 – 1921) Friday 2 August 1912, page 4

⁹⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 – 1950) Tuesday 1 August 1944, page 5

⁹⁹ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 1 December 1900, page 4

¹⁰⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics, <http://www.abs.gov.au>, [Search '1301.0 – Year Book Australia, 1911'] 23 Nov 2012, accessed 19 September 2018

¹⁰¹ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 20 April 1901, page 3

¹⁰² Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 7 December 1901, page 2

¹⁰³ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 20 April 1901, page 3

¹⁰⁴ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 18 May 1901, page 2

¹⁰⁵ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 15 Feb 1902, page 3

the *West Australian* reported how digging an extra 5ft beyond that reached by Kerridge and party yielded a strike!

'Mr Black and party, of the Golden Orbit Mine, Mount Weld, has brought in a cake of gold weighing 50oz, 10dwt., ...the crushing was taken from the water level at 80ft.'¹⁰⁶ With an average return of £3 /13 that year, the windfall of approximately £150 would have been equivalent today to \$22,000.¹⁰⁷ The brothers formally applied for the Golden Orbit lease in September,¹⁰⁸ but also continued with many other options.

Charles and George invested in another lease with partners Willis and Clive at 'The Charleston' in October.¹⁰⁹ Leslie and Charles then moved on to other leases called 'the Enterprise'¹¹⁰ and 'the Bush Lawyer'¹¹¹ in 1904 and 1905 with other partners.

George was still in the area, mining in the Burtville, and later in 1906 worked with Charles at Charleton GM, while Leslie was employed at Sons of Westralia.¹¹² Leslie then worked as a carter, moved to the Coolgardie area, and apart from a painful incident in 1907 when George Black accidentally shot himself in the leg while out hunting roo with his mate Mr Oldfield,¹¹³ the Black brothers kept busy in the industry. By 1912 George was in Moolyella,¹¹⁴ but the area, which at its height experienced a tin-mining boom and offered employment to hundreds of men, then hosted only dozens.¹¹⁵

George Black listed on the Fremantle, Claremont Electoral Roll in 1914 and 1915 as a resident of the Claremont Old Men's Home.¹¹⁶ Perhaps after years of dangerous and debilitating mining toil, his health was suffering. But whether discharged or voluntarily moving on, he did not return to the goldfields, and lived a long period from 1917 until 1932 at the Smelters Camp.¹¹⁷

¹⁰⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 22 April 1902, page 3, see also Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 19 April 1902, pg 2

¹⁰⁷ Approximation <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

¹⁰⁸ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 13 September 1902, page 4; see also Laverton Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1919) Saturday 6 September 1902, page 4 and 13 September 1902, page 4

¹⁰⁹ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 18 October 1902, page 4

¹¹⁰ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Friday 11 May 1904, pg 4

¹¹¹ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Friday 2 June 1905, pg 2

¹¹² Coolgardie, Burtville Electoral Roll 1906; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 -*

1980 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed Sept 2018

¹¹³ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 14 Sept 1907, page 2

¹¹⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed September 2018

¹¹⁵ Northern Times (Carnarvon, WA : 1902 - 1954) Saturday 12 July 1912, pg 6

¹¹⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed Sept 2018

¹¹⁷ South Fremantle Electoral Roll; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*] accessed Sept 2018

George Black was a man for whom hard work and a little luck had substituted religion. He passed away at 75 years of age on 19 September 1932 and was buried in Fremantle Cemetery's Non-denominational section.¹¹⁸ The Golden Orbit mine continued to change hands to other lessees, still producing returns in 1917.¹¹⁹

Boswell, Robert Charles

1880 - 1957

Smelters, South Fremantle 1948

horse driver (1916), carpenter, caretaker

Robert Charles Boswell was born in 1883 to mother Lucy and father Robert.¹²⁰

Six Chambers Loaded

In Fremantle court, witness George Allen recalled receiving a terrible shock in April 1902, after opening his front door to a very angry John McCartney, who was looking for his wife. McCartney was an ex-cavalry soldier invalided at Middelberg during the Second Boer War. Allen described his wife leading McCartney to the gate to encourage him to leave the address, when McCartney drew a revolver from his pocket menacing, 'It is either one or two of us tonight.' McCartney's wife was indeed inside the home, having sought shelter and protection with the Allens.

McCartney then walked to 22-year-old Robert Boswell's house, arriving about 11.45pm. Boswell remembered McCartney saying of the gun, 'This is my only friend,' and pointing it at him. McCartney argued in court that he never threatened to shoot Boswell, but also declared paradoxically that he had no memory of holding a revolver. Constable Plummer confirmed he had arrested McCartney in Alma Street, drunk and with all six chambers of the gun loaded. He was warned and fined £10 by Mr. Fairbairn, magistrate.¹²¹

Three Fingers

Robert Boswell's application for enlistment in the Australian Army in 1916 describes a 36-year-old man living at 64 Mandurah Road, South Fremantle (then an extension of South Terrace),¹²² who was 5ft 8in tall with a chest measurement of 36-38 inches. The application was rejected however, because of '3 fingers missing on left hand' – perhaps a consequence of his occupation as a horse driver.¹²³

¹¹⁸ Metropolitan Cemeteries Board. Mon Q Section, gravesite No 0104

¹¹⁹ Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 7 July 1917, pg 3 (other leasees); Laverton and Beria Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Saturday 8 December 1917, page 1 (returns)

¹²⁰ BDM WA Registration #102 (Death entry)

¹²¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 21 April 1902, page 3

¹²² 'Mandurah Road was the continuation of South Terrace, beginning at South Street and ending south of Island Street, where the abattoir used to be. It was changed to South Terrace during 1951/52.' Fremantle City Library History Centre "City of Fremantle and Town of East Fremantle Street Names Index", pg 48 <https://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/changingfaces>

¹²³ NAA: MT1486/1, Barcode 6516263 Boswell, Robert Charles

Boswell was charged in April 1945 for 'obstructing the free passage of pedestrian traffic during the weekend' aka picking up his returns, or laying a bet with an SP bookie at Canning Highway, South Fremantle. Boswell was 63 and working as a carpenter.¹²⁴ He was targeted again in a raid in October, receiving the same charge, but this time warned any further offence would result in gaol time.¹²⁵

Bob the Rat

Three years later, Boswell was living at the Smelters Camp, and friction had developed between him and another resident, 39-year-old labourer Edward Fulton. Fulton assaulted 66-year-old Boswell with a stick by hitting him on the head with a broom handle. It was 7pm in the evening along Mandurah Road, when Fulton passed Boswell, uttering, 'Bob, the rat,' and when confronted by Boswell he performed the blow, which resulted in injuries to Boswell's scalp. Fulton was fined £3 with 14/ costs.¹²⁶

Boswell raised the alarm just before Christmas 1948, when he had not seen his neighbour John (Jack) Taylor for many days; this led to the troubling discovery of Taylor's body in his four-room shack. Just over a week later, the same shack was destroyed by fire.¹²⁷ (See John Taylor entry for more information)

Robert Charles Boswell died in Fremantle in 1957 at 74 years of age.¹²⁸

Bottomley, Arthur Albert

c1879 - 1956

Smelters' Camp 1943-1954

labourer

Arthur Albert Bottomley was born about 1879 in Fremantle, the son of William Bottomley and Isabella Griffin.¹²⁹

Arthur's father William Bottomley was born c1832 and arrived in Fremantle as a convict from Bradford, England on the *Belgravia*. He was a semiliterate coach maker serving 7 years for larceny. His date of arrival was 4 July 1866 and yet his ticket of leave date was 18 October 1867 – perhaps remand time or good behaviour was taken into account. He was employable as a servant, wheelwright, blacksmith, carpenter or gardener.¹³⁰

¹²⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 4 April 1945, page 2

¹²⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 15 October 1945, page 6

¹²⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 27 August 1948, page 4

¹²⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 22 December 1948, page 7; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 29 December 1948, page 1

¹²⁸ BDM WA Registration #102

¹²⁹ BDM WA Registration #19870

¹³⁰ <http://fremantleprison.com.au/history-heritage/history/convict-database/>

William Bottomley died 2 July 1900. His age is listed as 64, but may have been closer to 68, according to his convict record.

Arthur Bottomley and his brother Benjamin shared accommodation in 1901 at Orient Street, Beaconsfield, and by 1905 their mother Isabella, who had become a widow, lived with them at number 25. Arthur was a storeman and Ben, a tinsmith.¹³¹ Isabella moved between her sons and her daughter Eliza Anne's residence, because she does not appear at the Orient Street location between 1906 and 1912. By 1914 she was living with them again after the death of her daughter on 29 November, aged 44. Both of her sons were lumpers in 1916, and they lived together at 24 Orient Street, now South Fremantle.

In April 1916 Arthur Bottomley tried to enlist in the AIF. He listed his occupation as miner and he was 37 and 5'6 1/2". He refused to be vaccinated and was rejected, despite being deemed fit for active service.¹³²

Isabella died 3 December 1916, aged 70. Her sons lived together until 1917, after which Arthur lived alone. Later, in 1938, he appeared in the WA Government Gazette as an owner and cabinetmaker at 8 Orient Street, South Fremantle. Then in 1943 Bottomley was living at the Smelters' Camp, Fremantle and working as a labourer.¹³³

The headstone at Fremantle Cemetery for William, Isabella and Eliza Anne is marked as 'erected by their loving son, Ben.'¹³⁴

In the Sunday Times article 'THEY CALL IT POVERTY POINT – AND NO WONDER!' Bottomley is happily and articulately quoted;
'Among those who talked openly to reporters was aged pensioner A. A. Bottomley. "I certainly am not proud to be found living in these conditions," he said, "but what choice do you think I have, young man? With prices what they are and rents like they are I have my choice of starving in a slum in town or eking out a frugal existence rent free here. I choose this. I've had this place for a number of years and it would do the politicians good to come out and have a look at it and see how it compared with their own. Then they might at least raise my pension.'"¹³⁵

Arthur Albert Bottomley died in Fremantle in 1956, aged 77. He was buried in Fremantle Cemetery.¹³⁶

¹³¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

¹³² NAA, Item Number 6516298 Bottomley A.A. military record

¹³³ Government Gazette of Western Australia, Friday 11 March 1938, <https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/gazette/gazette.nsf>; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]

¹³⁴ <https://billiongraves.com/grave/Isabella-Bottomley/7624898>

¹³⁵ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

¹³⁶ BDM WA Registration #195; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board <http://www2.mcb.wa.gov.au/NameSearch/details.php?id=FB00019657>

Bray, William

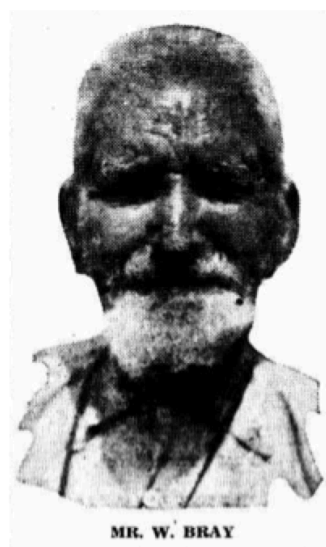
1839 -

Smelters' Camp, near Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle

1915-1917, 1922, 1926-1928, 1932

miner

'Living quietly upon his pension away down in a little slice of Federal territory between the old Fremantle smelters and Robb's Jetty, veteran alluvial man Bill Bray. The old battler is now nearing the ninety mark, and looks hale and hearty in spite of his long and arduous span upon this mud-ball.'¹³⁷



Daily News 29 September 1932 p2

Miner Bill Bray appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle 1915-1917 electoral rolls living at Smelters Camp, near Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle. He is listed again on the 1922, 1926-1928 and 1931 rolls, with absences in between testifying to a nomadic lifestyle even in his older years.¹³⁸

Bray was a gentle man who lived on his own terms, sharing many audacious stories with his old mate Pat C. Quigley AKA Hughes (see later entry) in their sunset years. Clashing with a mining giant wasn't an action pre-planned by Bray, but he would no doubt say his sense of fairness got the better of him.

The 'Notorious Bray' of the Ivanhoe Venture Riots

THE IVANHOE VENTURE LEASE. TWO DIGGERS IMPRISONED FOR CONTEMPT. EXCITING SCENES AT KALGOORLIE. MR. MORAN HUSTLED headlined in the *West Australian* in early March 1898.

Bray and Hughes were charged with contempt of the Warden's Court in Kalgoorlie for disobeying an 1897 order and mining for gold on the lease of the mighty Ivanhoe Venture company. The company had disputed and ordered them off the lease. Bray was randomly assumed a ringleader. He produced his valid license, asserting his rights. The men decided to continue working their diggings despite the Warden's advice they let the Supreme Court take care of it. From the sense of foreboding described in the article, it apparent that it was sombrely understood this was a cause Bray and Hughes believed in.

'The warden spoke severely to the men and said he would commit them to the Fremantle gaol until they themselves considered that they had purged the contempt, and petitioned for their release. The sentence was, therefore, unlimited.'¹³⁹

¹³⁷ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 1 April 1928, page 2

¹³⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]. Mentioned in Sunday Times 1 April 1928, p2; and Daily News 29 Sep 1932 as resident those years

¹³⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 8 March 1898, page 5

The sentencing immediately ignited a gathering of 400 diggers, which grew to 600 as they marched two and a half miles to Kalgoorlie to acknowledge Bray and Hughes in the railway carriage in which they were being detained before the leaving with the Express train. There was a risk of a breakout, quelled by 'the more sensible' of the men present, who kept a necessary order and earned the respect of the police and reporters present.

Member for Kalgoorlie, Mr. C. J. Moran, refused to speak with miners who gathered at Wilkie's Hotel; he was jostled and extracted by police. The excitement level increased.

'The crowd then went up Hannans-street and opposite the Palace Hotel an effigy of Mr. Wittenoom (*Minister of Mines*) was publicly hanged to an electric light post in Maritana-street. The effigy bore a label with the words, "Ten Feet Drop" on it, in allusion to the amendment of the regulation. After the hanging, which took place about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, the effigy was burned amidst deafening cheers. As the effigy was falling a voice cried, "There goes a worse man than Deeming."¹⁴⁰

Not one to miss a political opportunity, Mr. J. J. Wilkinson (defeated in the last election by Moran) called upon the raging miners, "'Be quiet boys. Everything will turn out all right,'" as they returned to replace Bray and Hughes at the mine in a show of defiance.

How is it that a Minister of Mines was compared to a serial killer and yet the miners and the police show mutual restraint? A mass meeting that night in Kalgoorlie discussed the accepted privileges given to alluvial or surface miners under the Goldfields Act of 1835, so a sense of righteousness pervaded all, and a challenge to stuff each and every one of them in prison cells was issued. Mr F. C. B Vosper MLA, himself a former journalist once arraigned for seditious libel as shearers' and miners' actions disrupted the working man's landscape across Australia, did not take part in the riot but promised to visit the men in Fremantle Prison, and would raise the question of the whole affair in Parliament.

'With several others, Bill Bray was sent to the House of the Hill, but while there they were treated as political prisoners, all literature being allowed them as well as having their hot dinners sent in to them.' Some further men were arrested from later trouble on the lease, but Bray and Hughes only served a month, Bray recounting

'Judge Hensman, who was on the Supreme Court Bench, was a fair man. He decided the case in our favor and we got the 300oz. of gold which were in dispute.'¹⁴¹

Cold Dip

Bray came out from Devonshire to Melbourne, Victoria in 1853 as a young man with his father, a sea captain who was later a building contractor, his mother, a brother and sister. He was spirited away from a building apprenticeship by gold fever in the

¹⁴⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 8 March 1898, page 5

¹⁴¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2

'Roaring Nineties', spending fifty years working as a miner, first in Castlemaine and Victoria, then taking the long trek to Western Australia in 1893, at Black Flag, then Kalgoorlie.

"I never struck anything big, but I had fair luck. Most of the time I was prospecting, but there were times when I was satisfied to work for wages; — but not for long."
"I made a lot of money in my time, and I spent it," and the old man laughed lightly as he made the admission. "Like all miners... I have had my good times and bad."¹⁴²

When asked if he ever married, Bray confessed he once had, in Melbourne, finding it the biggest mistake in his life and not long-lasting. 'For a long time I felt like the man who stands and shivers on the bank afraid to plunge into cold water. At last I made up my mind and plunged— and I found the water colder than I thought it would be.'¹⁴³

A Kind Soul

September 1928 saw a fire at the Smelters Camp, at that time commonly known as the Pensioners' Camp, which housed about 30 small structures in the dunes.

'Burned out of his well-appointed camp near the old Fremantle smelters, old Bill Bray, who will be remembered as being a kindly-souled alluvial man when the big trouble was on around the famous Adelaide leases along the Golden Mile. In the fire he lost most of his belongings as well as a well-built camp. He didn't deserve his hard luck.'¹⁴⁴

Taking all in his stride, he simply built another.¹⁴⁵ Still a resident in 1932, he was interviewed by a reporter mysteriously named 'Q.C' from the *Daily News*, who approached the camp and found Bray laying on his trundle bed, enjoying the newspaper with the aid of a reading glass. Skeptical of advice he had received and observing a man who didn't look more than 60 years old -

'A pair of keen blue eyes, an alertness of mind and movement, and a remarkably retentive memory belie his years,' the reporter asked Bray his age, who replied, 'I will be 93 next month, and I think I will see the century.'¹⁴⁶

Mr Bray still had strong opinions about how a man should conduct himself in the world and refused to join the new pensioner's association; he would harshly judge those who used their pension in the public house instead of the market, and then came asking to 'borrow a bob', and create drunken havoc for younger drivers on the roads. He loved his tobacco, and his independence, and lived in his shack in the dunes 'contented with his lot', 'on and off' for nearly 20 years.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴² *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 2 September 1928, page 2

¹⁴⁵ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

¹⁴⁶ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2

¹⁴⁷ *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 1 April 1928, page 2

Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 2 September 1928, page 2

Inspired by William Bray, the humbled reporter suggested that the Centenary Committee recognises 'those veterans who have done so much to lay the solid foundations of the present prosperous State,' and 'see that these Old Pioneers are in the first vehicles of any proposed procession.'

Brown, Alice
Smelters Camp 1949

-

Alice Brown is listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle in 1949. She does not declare an occupation. Alice Brown has not been fully researched.

Brown, Archibald
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
labourer

Archibald Brown is listed at Owen's Anchorage, on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1903 - 1906 as a labourer.¹⁴⁸ Archibald Brown has not been fully researched.

Brown, Cornelius William
1862 - 1933
Smelters, South Fremantle 1933
pensioner

Cornelius William Brown's death is reported in the *West Australian*, 22 June 1933 under 'General News'.¹⁴⁹ Brown was born at Fremantle in 1862 to mother Anna (Hannah Alice) Adams and father John.¹⁵⁰ He had an early charge of disorderly conduct, where he was fined 15s and costs. His three companions were fined 10s.¹⁵¹

He 'died suddenly' at the Smelters Camp 'while sitting on the verandah at his home last night.'¹⁵² Cornelius Brown has not been fully researched.

Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 29 September 1932, page 2

The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 8 March 1898, page 5

The W.A. Record (Perth, WA : 1888 - 1922), Saturday 15 December 1900, page 46

¹⁴⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

¹⁴⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 22 June 1933, page 13

¹⁵⁰ BDMWA, registration no. 6632

¹⁵¹ Police Gazette, 7 May 1884, page 94

¹⁵² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 22 June 1933, page 13

Elsie Tonkin, the daughter of Edwin Tonkin, was interviewed by Jean Teasdale on behalf of the State Library of Western Australia in 1975 as part of the Battye Library oral history programme. Elsie lived with her family at the Welsh Harp Hotel on the corner of Collie and Pakenham Street, and remembered the Smelters and the presence of Afghan cameleers in the vicinity.

‘The family had separate eating quarters to the boarders... We boarded a couple of smeltermen when the smelter works started out south but there weren’t many travellers - not much passing trade. There was another Hotel as well - the Esplanade I think.

While we were living at the Hotel, camels often used to be brought down to the parks nearby and they would camp on the beach. They had empty packs, two each side and were brought by Indians with turbans - Afghans. They would camp a few days then go off to load up and return to Kalgoorlie. They didn't interfere with any one - just camp and move on. We children used to go down and watch them. I’ve seen them kill the baby camels – they couldn’t take them with them. I don’t say I saw this often but a thing like that remains in your memory for a long time.’¹⁵³

Brown, Thomas

Smelters’ Camp, Robb’s Jetty 1909-1925 fireman, gentleman (1913)

Thomas Brown is listed at the Smelters camp, Robb’s Jetty, as a fireman on the Fremantle, subdivision South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1912.¹⁵⁴ Along with Driver F. R. Dalley, he was charged of stealing a case of Usher’s whiskey from the Geraldton to Cue train in 1899, due for delivery in a batch of 12 cases to Mt Magnet. After multiple witness statements were delivered and a forensic examination of the evidence at hand, both men were dismissed of the charge.

They were later reinstated by the railway company by means of a telegram, ‘after perusing the evidence given on the case, arrived at the same conclusion as the jury... who acquitted the men without a stain on their character,’ but transferred him to Kalgoorlie. ‘Dalley and Brown have since been warmly congratulated by their friends’¹⁵⁵ – *perhaps involving a few celebratory drinks?* As well as harbouring a penchant for fine spirits, Brown was a man of sartorial humour – on the 1913 to 1922 Electoral rolls in the same camp locale, he declared his occupation as ‘gentleman’. Thomas Brown has not been fully researched.

¹⁵³ Tonkin, Elsie, Oral History. Held by Battye Library SLWA 29 July 2004
http://purl.slwa.wa.gov.au/slwa_b1766738_10

¹⁵⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

¹⁵⁵ Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA : 1894 - 1925), Thursday 31 August 1899, page 2; see also Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA : 1894 - 1925), Saturday 5 August 1899, page 2

Brown, William
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1947
labourer

William Brown is mentioned in the *West Australian* 4 March 1947 as a resident of the Smelters Camp.¹⁵⁶ The article briefly describes his involvement in illegal street betting. Mr Brown has not been fully researched.

Bryce, Archibald McPhail (McFall Brice/Bryce)
1896 - 1969
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953 - 1955
labourer

Bryce, Elizabeth Stuart
1899 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953 - 1954
-

Bryce, Colin
1924 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953
labourer

The Bryce family do not appear on any South Fremantle Electoral Rolls, all dates mentioned are sourced from newspaper articles, and likely correspond over the 1953 - 1954 time period.

Archibald McPhail Bryce was born in Glasgow, Scotland 26 January 1896. He was a married labourer of almost 45 years of age when he enlisted for WWII service in February 1941. He had migrated from Glasgow to Albany in 1923 with wife Elizabeth and toddler sons John and Colin.¹⁵⁷

His wife Elizabeth's address in 1941 was the Ritz Hostel in Murray Street, Perth and later at Chester Street, South Fremantle. There is also a note of an earlier residency at Hester Siding. He had served previously in the Royal Horse and Royal Field Artillery in WWI in France. His enlistment was brief and fraught with difficulty. He was immediately injured on Rottnest during training, and two months later reported as absent without leave three times in April, and reported for disobeying a lawful command. He suffered detention and then multiple AWOL infractions and another casualty on Rottnest in May lead to his eventual discharge for 'discreditable service' at the end of August, with an additional note of 'his services being no longer required'.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 4 March 1947, page 6

¹⁵⁷ SRO of Western Australia; Albany: Inward Passenger List from Overseas 1900 - 1932; Accession: 108; Item: 2; Roll: 18; UK, Outward Passenger Lists, 1890 - 1960 Ancestry.com, Provo UT, USA, 2012

¹⁵⁸ NAA: B884, W27555 Barcode 6496617 Bryce, Archibald military record

Eunice Hornby Trial

Three years earlier in July 1938, Archibald McPhail Bryce had been a witness at a murder trial. Bryce was then a dairy farmer at Hester Siding, near Bridgetown, and Walter Hornby had been shot in the back of the head whilst sitting in a chair in his home after dinner. Hornby's daughter, 18 year-old Eunice Hornby, was charged for murdering her father with a .22 shotgun. Bryce had personally experienced Walter Hornby's violent temper, but bravely ran to the neighbouring farmhouse, sheltering under cover – thinking that Hornby himself was on a shooting rampage. He proceeded inside the house and wrapped the dying Mr Hornby's head in towels. Young Eunice had emerged from the house crying, 'I shot Daddy,' and assured her mother, who was in hiding that day after another violent exhibition from her husband, that she was not to worry because her 'eighteen years of misery are over.' A burst of applause, mostly from female supporters, erupted from the public gallery when Eunice Hornby was acquitted.¹⁵⁹

Keen to Serve

Archibald's son, Colin McPhail Stewart Bryce was born 26 November 1922 in Perth, Scotland. Bryce was a 19 year-old stockman and farm hand when he enlisted in May 1942, and his family lived on a farm near Nannup. Bryce was keen to serve, signing up and only later received his parents' consent.



Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia. NAA: A9301, 80371
Bryce, Colin McPhail

After a period of training at Pearce Base Perth (RAAF) and then in Mitcham, Melbourne, Bryce disembarked two days before Christmas in 1942. Bryce found his service fulfilling, recording no infractions, unlike his father. In 1944, Archibald Bryce wrote from Marhill Farm, near Hester Siding, asking his son to request a discharge to help on the dairy farm. Colin does so in October and December, citing his father's weak heart and his request for assistance during the harvest, but the application was denied and only later granted in January. Bryce enlisted again after the war in 1946, to the interim RAAF in the same role, an LAC Guard.

Colin Bryce is reported as living at the Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle at age 30, in a 1953 newspaper article, which identified him as a labourer gaoled for one month for having 'been an idle and disorderly person without visible means of support.' Four years earlier, in 1949, at 27 years of age, Bryce lived in Francis Street, Perth, and faced charges for receiving stolen goods in the Perth Police Court. He pleaded guilty, and blamed alcohol as clouding his judgment. He was released on bond.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Wednesday 13 July 1938, page 4

¹⁶⁰ NAA A9301_80371 Barcode 4936225 Bryce, Colin McPhail, Military Record; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 22 September 1953, page 8; Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 3 December 1949, page 10; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 10

He was still living in the Smelters Camp in 1955, when in January Mary Khan, a 33-year-old domestic and fellow resident of the camp, assaulted him, which resulted in his admittance to Fremantle Hospital early in the morning.¹⁶¹

Fighting seemed to be an unfortunate aspect of camp life during this time period, with Colin's father Archibald also involved in a court case in 1955 over charges relating to a fight between him and 'a Balt' over a tin of sardines. 'Balt' was a derogatory geographical term for a gentleman of origins in proximity to the Baltic Sea. The fight erupted during a dare that Bryce could eat the contents of the tin 'in a moment' after a period of heavy drinking. Bryce pleaded guilty under provocation and 'the Balt' took flight and was largely blamed.¹⁶²

Elizabeth Bryce was also twice a victim of violence at the camp. In 1953 she was repeatedly attacked by 25-year-old Bevan Howard Hay with a broomstick, after going outside her hut to identify the source of a brick being thrown on her roof. Hay, from Hilton Park, was among a group of young men who entered the camp just after midnight. Hay was gaoled for a month and Mr. J. M. Groom, JP stated, 'This is a most despicable and cowardly offence for a youth of your age to have done. Disturbances of this nature are too prevalent at the camp.' Bryce, who was 54 at the time, was treated for bruises at Fremantle Hospital.¹⁶³

The following year, on 23 September 1954, fellow resident Andrew Joseph Walton (46) was charged with assaulting Elizabeth Bryce with a punch over her right eye. He was also sentenced to one month.¹⁶⁴

Archibald and Elizabeth Bryce later lived in the northern suburbs of Perth, Western Australia. Archibald McPhail Bryce died aged 73 in 1969.¹⁶⁵

Burns, Charles Joseph
Robb's Jetty 1916-1917
carpenter, shipwright, pugilist

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in 1904.

Charles Burns was a carpenter, boat builder and boxing coach accustomed to using a little shuffling and skirting to survive. Bankruptcy proceedings against him on 25 October 1897 introduce him already experiencing a challenge. 'In the matter of

December 1949, page 31; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 8 December 1949, page 10

¹⁶¹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4

¹⁶² Blackwood Times (Bunbury, WA : 1905 - 1920; 1945 - 1955), Friday 24 March 1950, page 1

¹⁶³ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 20 December 1953, page 6; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 21 December 1953, page 25

¹⁶⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 23 September 1954, page 14

¹⁶⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. *[Electoral Roll]*.; BDM WA Registration # 1807

Charles Joseph Burns... the bankrupt's deficiency amounted to £81 17s 6d.¹⁶⁶ He attributed his insolvency to his having had too much work on hand at one time, and to the low prices for tendering.¹⁶⁷ He also claimed an 'inability to secure timber caused him a loss,¹⁶⁸ as the industry was experiencing high demand.¹⁶⁹

He diversified as a sporting promoter and coach. The boxing editorial of the *Evening Star* on 12 November 1904 announced Burns was in the process of 'endeavouring to arrange another match between Tom Dunn and Bob Turner for a purse of £200.'¹⁷⁰ It was his involvement with the boxing scene that put him in a few scrapes.

Coffee Point was a boating slipway on the Melville foreshore where passengers would board the Perth-bound paddle steamers before a dedicated bus service existed.¹⁷¹ Burns was working in the boatshed on 9 August 1904 when 'Joseph Brown otherwise Pluto, a well-known colored pugilist,'¹⁷² arrived and an argument and fight commenced. Burns denied all accusations, however Brown admitted having used bad language in response to Burn's insults. The case was dismissed.

Burns was later presented as a witness in a 1906 city court case, as he taught boxing in rooms in a building on Barrack Street, Perth, which also leased an illegal gaming house. Access was via a trapdoor to the rear; through which Burns curiously happened to have been exiting, after which claiming, although not actually inside, that the complainant had not been assaulted or robbed by two other thugs.¹⁷³

Charles Burns is listed at Robb's Jetty on the 1917 Fremantle, subdivision South Fremantle Electoral Roll, suggesting he had once again suffered an economic pummelling.

Butler, John near Smelting Works 1905

-

John Butler was admitted to hospital early on the morning of 4 September 1905 with 'severe burns about the head, arms and shoulders.' Falling asleep in a tent near the Smelting Works, South Fremantle, his bedding and tent were ignited by a candle left lit for reading. Although suffering immensely, he was able to get to the Smelters,

¹⁶⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 9 October 1897, page 2. £81 17s 6d would equate to more than \$12,000 by today's value. Approximation

<https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

¹⁶⁷ Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), Fri 29 Oct 1897, pg 11

¹⁶⁸ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Friday 29 October 1897, page 12

¹⁶⁹ <https://www.jarrahdale.com/a-history-of-jarrahdale-western-australia/>

¹⁷⁰ The Evening Star (Boulder, WA : 1898 - 1921), Saturday 12 November 1904, pg 3

¹⁷¹ Heritage of Coffee Point, see City of Melville WA, Local Government Inventory at https://www.melvillecity.com.au/static/attachments/2014/June/3499_2014_LGI_Place_Records_Merged.pdf Accessed 20 September, 2018

¹⁷² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 18 August 1904, page 4

¹⁷³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 21 September 1906, page 6

where the night watchman, Mr. Julius Major dressed his injuries and alerted the Fremantle Police and ambulance. All of Butler's possessions were destroyed but he was expected to survive.¹⁷⁴

There are several stories mentioning a 'John Butler' in the vicinity of Fremantle, but none can as yet be precisely matched with the former Butler. These include several AIF recruits and a drover also based around Wyndham, but would require further research. An article published in 1902 describes a spirited race –

'RECKLESS RIDERS John Butler and Walter Holding were fined 20s, with costs, at the Fremantle Police Court this morning, for furious riding. There were racing horses along the South Beach at top of their speed, while Holding, so far from "holding", had lost control of his steed.'¹⁷⁵ John Butler has not been fully researched.

Caporn, Sydney Samuel

c1868 - 1958

Smelters Camp/Poverty Point 1937-1949*
pensioner

Sydney Samuel Caporn was born about 1868 in Fremantle, the son of James and Sarah Caporn (née Tonkin).¹⁷⁶ He is mentioned in an article concerning the camp, published in 1953.

"I am as happy as a king living here – provided the authorities leave me alone," said Mr. Sydney Caporn, an 85-y-o pensioner who has been living in the area 16 years.¹⁷⁷ He died in 1958 in Fremantle, aged 90.¹⁷⁸ Sydney Caporn has not been fully researched.



Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3

*'Poverty Point' article reports residence 16 years prior to 1953, estimated 1937

¹⁷⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 4 September 1905, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 5 September 1905, page 4

¹⁷⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 26 August 1902, page 3; see also The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 27 August 1902, page 3

¹⁷⁶ BDM WA Registration #10557

¹⁷⁷ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

¹⁷⁸ BDM WA Registration # 207

Carey/Carrey, William
Robb's Jetty 1919-1926
labourer

William Carey is listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle at Robb's Jetty from 1919 until 1926. He does not declare an occupation. William Carey has not been fully researched.

Carrera, Angelo
Camp near Smelting Works 1906
-

Angelo Carrera was a recorded guest for one night at the Smelters Camp. Staying at the shack of Charles Gaibullini on 14 March 1907, Carrera stole a mirror, a serge suit and two dozen eggs. He then entered the nearby shack of James Cosgrove and stole a suit, a silver chain, boots and a few other items to the value of £4 15s. Labourer Gaibullini had allowed Carrera to stay the night and then went in search of work in Jandakot the following morning. He discovered the theft after returning home at lunchtime.

When Carrera was brought to the camp by detectives, he was identified as wearing part of the stolen suit. Carrera admitted to the theft, and for stealing the boots from Cosgrove. The detectives retrieved trousers and the mirror, and later he showed them where he had hidden the boots. Carrera had form in petty thievery and was imprisoned a total of nine months.¹⁷⁹ Angelo Carrera has not been fully researched.

Carlton, Owen
Fremantle Smelters 1916-1919, 1925-1931
sampler

Owen Carlton is listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle at Fremantle Smelters, occupation sampler, from 1916 until 1919, and again 1925-1931. A sampler collects and analyses data – in this case it was probable Carlton is connected with the smelters and was looking at geographical test samples. His mining connection is confirmed as he was also camping at Laverton prior to this time, where, incidentally, he was robbed by Alice 'The Great Boulder' Edwards of £10.¹⁸⁰ Whilst in the Fremantle area, Carlton supplemented his income 'unlawfully frequenting and betting in Mandurah-rd',¹⁸¹ Owen Carlton has not been fully researched.

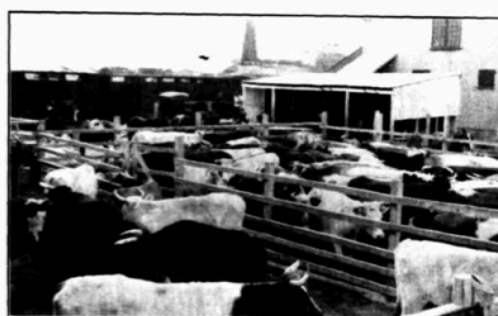
¹⁷⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 26 August 1902, page 17

¹⁸⁰ Laverton Mercury (Laverton, WA : 1899 - 1921) Friday 11 Nov 1904, page 2

¹⁸¹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954, Sunday 8 September 1918, page 2; see also Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931) Saturday 14 September 1918, page 4 and The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Tuesday 10 Sept 1918, page 6

Chalmer, Hames Boteler
Copley's Siding 1931-1936*
commercial agent

Hames Boteler Chalmer is registered on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle at Copley's Siding from 1931 to 1936. His occupation was as a commercial agent. The following electoral roll for Fremantle, South Fremantle, only includes a Supplementary list – it's possible Hames Boteler Chalmer also resided at Copley's Siding in 1937. Hames Boteler Chalmer has not been fully researched.



A CATTLE SALE AT COPLEY'S SIDING, ROBB'S JETTY. THE "FATS" SHOWN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH ON THE RIGHT REALISED FIVEPENCE PER POUND. Lockwood photo.

Western Mail 4 August 1911 p3

Copley's Siding

Copley's Siding comprised of 65-plus acres, housing several large brick and galvanized iron buildings, sheds and an abattoir 'being serviced by a splendid Railway Siding.'¹⁸² The siding, built in 1903 at a cost of £1400,¹⁸³ was an unloading area for livestock, including all-weight bullocks and lambs from the Nor'West, the South-West and other regions; and market for the private and agent sale to metropolitan buyers and country butchers, later working in tandem with the adjacent Robb's Jetty. By 1911 it housed 'commodious sale yards' that had 'disposed of 5,000 head of fat cattle and 301,000 sheep.' It was named for Ben Copley, Ord River Station partner and founder of Anchorage Butchers Ltd in 1914 (who later established the freezing works for lamb exports), whom the *Sunday Times* later accused of collusion with railway officials to facilitate ongoing fraud by the understating of the weights of transported goods, to increase profit margins.¹⁸⁴

¹⁸² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 10 February 1928, page 2

¹⁸³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 1 April 1903, page 4

¹⁸⁴ The Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Thursday 15 July 1920, page 17; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 4 February 1907, page 8; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 25 May 1911, page 6.

<http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/Details/07aa1fd2-0dec-44ba-82f0-320760533bd8> (accessed November 2018); commodious, The Western Mail, (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Saturday 5 August 1911, page 26; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 24 February 1902, page 6; according to this article, Copley later handed over account books to the Railways for identification of any possible freight owed.

When Copley proposed the Siding operations to the Board of Health of the Fremantle Roads Board in 1903 there was also received an application 'signed by two hundred and forty ratepayers of South Fremantle', which stated concerns 'to the best interests of South Fremantle and its immediate neighbourhood, by causing depreciation in the value of property, and also that the health of the residents would be endangered' with the establishment of another abattoir. Mr. Bamkin, a local ratepayer, stated that many residents had settled in South Fremantle 'on the understanding that nothing of the nature of a noxious trade would be started,' that would be 'detrimental to health.' The residents were already suffering from the fumes from Robb's Jetty Abattoir.

Mr. Copley assured that the model was based upon the best Chicago slaughterhouses and with the use of an Anderson's patent dryer, gases and blood would be harmlessly reduced to solids. Board member Mr. Davies 'thought it would be unadvisable to turn back money', and Health Officer Dr. Owen Paget stated that his understanding of the treatment would mean, 'all that went into the sea would be practically pure water.' The motion was seconded and carried.¹⁸⁵

Clark, Richard
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
groom

Richard Clark resided at Robb's Jetty 1909-1910, as listed on the District of Fremantle, subdistrict South Fremantle Electoral Roll. He worked as a groom. Richard Clark has not been fully researched.

'Across the road was a line of disused old lime kilns, material from the limestone ridge which extends from Mosman Park to beyond Mandurah. It was a typical industrial area containing two abattoirs (Robb Jetty and Anchorage) also a couple of fellmongers where the hides were dried. It was well-known as 'Pong Alley' for an obvious reason: It was pretty much a no-go area except for the many horse trainers who had stables in South Fremantle and beyond who used the beach to fine-tune their charges.'¹⁸⁶

The Pony Race

The Heritage Council of Western Australia's Register of Heritage Places notes the South Beach Horse Exercise Area, which includes within its vicinity the site of the Smelters Camp, as including 'sites of Aboriginal heritage significance, including

¹⁸⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 1 April 1903, page 4; Copley's Siding was sold in February 1928 after dissolution of the partnership. The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 3 February 1928, page 2

¹⁸⁶ Christensen, Rusty, 'Smelters Camp in the Sands', Cockburn City Herald, 5 November 2011, p 24

mythological sites pre-dating European settlement, and the site of the Aboriginal stockmen's camp at Robb Jetty.¹⁸⁷

South Beach from Woodman Point to Fremantle had been used for a horse training and exercise area since the 1830s, including by Engineer-In-Chief C. Y. O'Connor, who died and is commemorated there and the 10th Light Horse Regiment.¹⁸⁸ At times, up to 400 horses could be seen training in the area, with some housed in local stables such as Randwick, or marshalled on the former tip site near the smelters. Aboriginal stockmen camped near Robb Jetty would occasionally moonlight as jockeys or assist with training.

'South Beach Horse Exercise Area, the site of the first official horse race in Western Australia in October 1833, along with the adjoining dune area, including the bridle path, the former rubbish tip site, Hollis Park, the cycle way and Ocean Road, has played an integral part in the history of the horse racing industry in Western Australia, in particular in the 1830s, and in the period from c. 1900 to the mid-1970s, when the industry thrived in Fremantle, with various winners of every major State and national event other than the Melbourne Cup having trained at the place and numerous trainers and jockeys of State, national and international repute having worked horses there.'¹⁸⁹

The proximity to surrounding stables, and horse-related industries including blacksmiths, farriers and saddlers, and established tracks through the dunes, including one wide enough to accommodate pacers' spiders made the South Beach Horse Exercise Area. But also the natural presentation of the beach area provided an ideal setting, particularly to the south of the main family recreation area where

'there was a straight of about six and a half to seven furlongs between James Rocks to Robb Jetty. When the tide was out, there was sufficient area for the horses to gallop four or five or more abreast over a distance of seven furlongs.'¹⁹⁰

But the much earlier 'duty to record' by the Perth Gazette and Western Australian Journal gives an account of the first horse race across the sands at Cockburn Sound -

¹⁸⁷ The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> (accessed November 2018)

¹⁸⁸ Charles Yelverton O'Connor died by self-administered gunshot in 1902, commemorated by Tony Jones' oceanic, partially submerged statue; The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> (accessed November 2018)

¹⁸⁹ The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> (accessed November 2018)

¹⁹⁰ The Heritage Council of Western Australia: Register of Heritage Place – Assessment documentation 30/03/2007; <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Admin/api/file/0b8131cd-70e4-045c-15b9-e905af4d574a> (accessed November 2018) - for a full history of the beach in relation to the racing and pacing industries see this excellent report by historian Robin Chinnery.

‘Capt. Taylor of the *Helen*, who has lately imported a number of Timor Ponies, aided by Mr. C. Smith and Mr. J. Weavell, for the institution of an amusement calculated to excite a considerable emulation amongst the breeders and importers of Horses.’ With a course decided upon and a plan for regular meets, the prospect was promising. A view from the hills, ladies and gentlemen in their finest, booths adorned with flags, a ‘ginger-bread nut-stall-and the lame fiddler, contributed much to the animation of the scene.’ Four thrilling races, featuring racers named Dandy, Tinker, Mr. Sampson’s black mare and Jack filled the programme (and one foot race between humans Misters Morrell and Davey, with Race Four proving ‘more amusing than edifying’ as from a field of five ponies, ‘most of them preferring the branch roads soon after starting,’ resulted in course hilarity.

But a regular race day didn’t begin until the 1880s, and the whilst the Fremantle Jockey Club were granted a lease in 1899, the event had ended by 1901, part of the failure attributed to the reluctance of parliament to extend the railway line from Owen’s Anchorage to Woodman Point, despite the club’s enthusiasm, profit projections and prior investment of over £2,000.¹⁹¹

Clarke, Bettie
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

The Clarke family lived at South Beach between 1903-1906 approximately. Bettie Clarke’s occupation is ‘home duties’. Bettie Clarke has not been fully researched.

Clarke, Robert John
South Beach 1903-1906
shunter

Robert John Clarke was the patriarch of the Clarke family, living at South Beach between 1903-1906 approximately. His occupation is shunter. Robert Clarke has not been fully researched.

Clarke, Mary Ann
Smelters’ Camp 1919-1943
home duties

Mary Ann Clarke lived at the Smelters Camp between 1919-1943.¹⁹² She was the longest residing female identified to date, with a 24-year-occupancy. Her

¹⁹¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 29 April 1833, page 3; Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Friday 5 May 1899, page 60; Lease, Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Friday 2 June 1899, page 41

¹⁹² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

employment is simply listed as 'home duties'. Periodic listings on the electoral rolls of South Fremantle span this time period, assuming permanent residency. Mary Ann Clarke has not been fully researched.

Clatterton, Henry
Robb's Jetty 1909-1912
stockman

Henry Clatterton is listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1909¹⁹³ as a stockman. Henry Clatterton has not been fully researched.



Fremantle History Centre Image # 2500 Unloading cattle from the SS Mindaroo at Robb Jetty c1920

Claydan/Claydon, George
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1909
tallowman/slaughterman 1909

George Claydan is registered on the Fremantle, South Fremantle, Owen's Anchorage Electoral Roll 1903-1909. His occupation was tallowman and slaughterman connected to the abattoir industry at Robb Jetty. Tallowmen would render the suet or fat of the animals, preparing it for industrial or domestic application. Claydan moved to the Newmarket Hotel after 1909. George Claydan has not been fully researched.

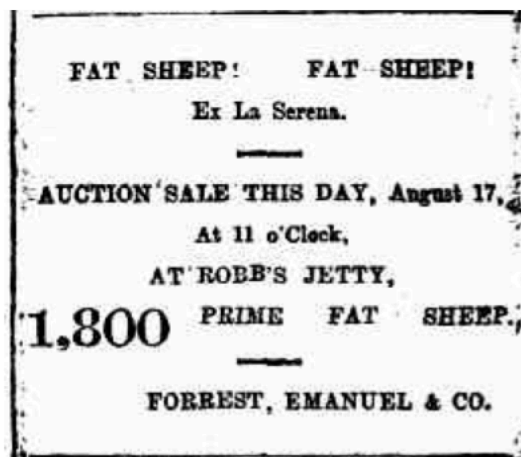
¹⁹³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].



Fremantle History Centre Image # 4816 Cattle at Robb Jetty c1890

Robb Jetty

Before the construction of Robb Jetty in 1877, Owen Anchorage, just south of Gage Roads, functioned as a mooring area for ships since the establishment of the Western Australian colony. The deep water allowed access for large ships and relieved congestion at the Swan River entrance. Further dredging was speculated upon from 1892, but the eventual and expensive development of the Fremantle inner harbor hastened its demise. The popularity of Owen Anchorage and Robb Jetty (built in 1877) facilitated the construction of a linking railway, which proved essential to the success of the slaughterhouses, whose pastures and holding yards sprawled over a substantial area.¹⁹⁴



West Australian 17 August 1897 p8

¹⁹⁴ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 1954), Saturday 2 January 1892, page 44; railway, Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Wednesday 13 April 1898, page 5; Berson, M, *Cockburn: The Making of a Community Town of Cockburn*, 1978, page 100.

The 1901 - 1903 Wise's Directory for Owen's Anchorage, Beaconsfield, lists the following businesses in the area: Explosives magazines for the Western Australian Government (Sergeant Major Timothy McCarthy, in charge), Strelitz Bros., J & W Bateman, Sandover & Co. and W. Moore & Co.; the slaughter yards of Connor, Doherty & Durack Ltd. (also hide and skin processing, including sheep, bovine hides, tallow, kangaroo and opossum skins, horns, cowtails, horse hair and manna gum)¹⁹⁵ and Forrest, Emanuel & Co.; and the Government Cattle Quarantine yards.¹⁹⁶

Later businesses established adjacent to Robb Jetty included Western Australian Tanners and Fellmongers Ltd, processing hides for shoes and bags; slaughterhouses Messrs. S W. Copley and Co. and Elder, Shenton & Co. (later Elder, Smith & Co.); Dalgety and Co., the Fremantle Smelting Works (later the W.A. Smelting Company and Bradford Kendall P/L Iron Foundry) and the Fremantle Freezing Works. Into the 1930s and 1940s, the West Australian Meat Export Co. dominated the landscape, and diversely advertised tenders for manure removal, requested 'bones, tallow and meat offal at best prices' with 'all animals removed', and provided an early-morning bus from Collie St, Fremantle, for men looking for export lamb slaughtering piece work with 'experience not required.'¹⁹⁷

The area also hosted the kilns of lime merchants Brown & Waugh, T. McLaughlin & Co., Oaten's Davilak Lime Works and Briggs & Co., (who also sold stone) and advertised 'Lime from our Works awarded Gold Medal, Coolgardie International Exhibition 1899, proving to be the highest percentage of Lime obtainable.' The Coogee kilns stood nearby on the east of Mandurah Road (now Cockburn Road), the ruins of which can still be viewed.¹⁹⁸

Jarrah destined for Asia (particularly Singapore) and sandalwood were valuable exports, but the primary activity at Robb Jetty was the delivery of cattle, shipped on steamers from the South West and the Nor'West (Meekatharra, Carnarvon, Derby) and often unloaded after the dispatch of general cargo and disembarking of passengers at Fremantle, no doubt with handkerchiefs clasped to delicate noses.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁵ Bunbury Herald (WA : 1892 – 1919), Tuesday 20 June 1899, page 3

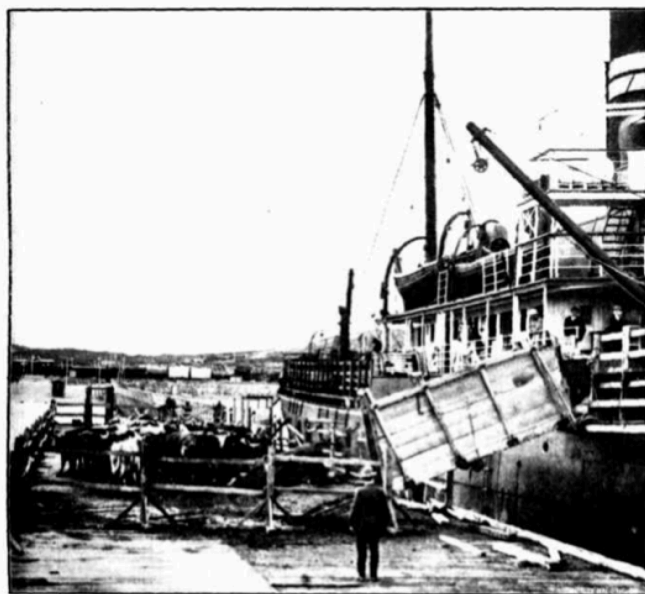
¹⁹⁶ West Australian Post Office Directory, H. Wise: 1901, p105 [Towns, Fremantle], see <http://www.slwa.wa.gov.au/explore-discover/wa-heritage/post-office-directories> (Accessed November 2018); The Fremantle Herald (WA : 1913 – 1915), Saturday 10 January 1914, page 1 and Tuesday 10 Feb 1914, page 1; Fellmongers, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 – 1954), Sunday 3 March 1935, page 1

¹⁹⁷ Manure, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 25 July 1951, page 17; Bones, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 29 Jul 1938, p10 and Beverley Times (WA : 1905 - 1977), Thursday 15 November 1956, page 8; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 1 November 1948, page 24.

¹⁹⁸ McLaughlin & Co., The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 28 April 1916, page 10; Oatens, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 22 December 1903, page 4; Brown & Waugh, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 23 March 1904, page 4; Briggs & Co., The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 20 January 1906, page 9; Elder, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 31 August 1910, page 2 and Friday 4 April 1941, page 2 (also Dalgety); Freezing Works, West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 19 June 1919, page 4 and Wednesday 5 Jun 1929 p11

¹⁹⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 24 November 1910, page 7

On one occasion, a live kangaroo was delivered from Katanning. Aboriginal stockmen who unloaded the cattle often camped near the jetty before returning North.²⁰⁰



CATTLE LEAVING THE SHIP AT ROBB'S JETTY.

Western Mail 5 August 1911 p26

The unloading, though haphazardly and initially involving a ramp prior to the extension of the jetty, proved more efficient than prior arrangements of simply pushing the animals from the ship into the sea, and forcing them to swim ashore. Conditions were rough, stock often strayed and appeared in the lost and found columns of the Fremantle newspapers,²⁰¹ and the chaos provided rodeo-style entertainment for the locals, albeit often with a gruesome tone

'Bullock and Sharks. – Early yesterday morning the stock brought down from the Nor'-West by the cattle-boat Moonta were being discharged at Robb's Jetty when a diversion was afforded those engaged in the work. One well-proportioned beast, which is supposed to have been blind, became fractious and broke away from the mob. The inevitable result followed, and the bullock fell overboard into the sea. At first it struck out, making for the shore, but subsequently turned in its swimming, and made out to sea. When about 200 yards out from the jetty, the animal was attacked by a number of sharks, and a boat put off to try and effect a rescue. It is estimated that some eight or nine sharks were engaged in attacking the unfortunate bullock, which struggled gamely. The men in the boat were unable to scare the sharks away, and had to leave the animal to its fate.'²⁰²

²⁰⁰ Great Southern Herald (Katanning, WA : 1901 - 1954), Friday 27 September 1946, page 1; stockmen, Berson, M, *Cockburn: The Making of a Community Town of Cockburn*, 1978, pp. 94-95; <https://australianabattoirs.com/2013/06/24/robb-jetty/>

²⁰¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 2 July 1910, page 1 (one fat bullock)

²⁰² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 24 June 1909, page 4

Cruelty was also recorded in the cattle yards, with the issuing of a summons by the inspector of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against Mr. Frank Connor, MLA, representing Connor, Doherty and Durack Co., for 'cruelly ill-treating a number of bullocks by causing them to be kept in such a place as to cause them unnecessary pain and suffering.'²⁰³ And over a decade later reports were still filed.

'With regard to the abattoirs at Robb's jetty, a letter "was received from Dr. Atkinson, forwarding a report from Dr. Dale, complaining of the method or killing cattle by youths at Robb's jetty." It was decided to



SLWA 013237PD Robbs Jetty Abattoir 1938

KILLING A BULLOCK.

Man Fined for Cruelty.

"During the killing operations the bullock was mad with pain and it was moving about the pen with blood streaming from its wounds." This was the statement of a witness in a prosecution brought yesterday by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals against Henry Graham in the Fremantle Police Court.

The case was taken before Captain Biddles and Mr. Parker, J's.P. Mr. J. Moss, assisted by Mr. Crooks, secretary of the society, conducted the prosecution.

Graham was charged with cruelty in connection with the killing of a bullock at the Anchorage Butchers' abattoirs, South Fremantle, on November 23.

West Australian 2 December 1922 p14

forward a request to the Department of Agriculture to prohibit youths from using the hammer in the destruction of bullocks at the abattoirs.'²⁰⁴

All meat was consumed in the metropolitan area or railed to the goldfields, with restrictions prohibiting the further transportation of any live beasts beyond the slaughter yards.

"Poitrel" was reminded by the mention of sheep of an incident during his soldiering days. He was one of a draft of troops who were hurried out of Northam camp and entrained for the usual "unknown destination". The train made a stop at Koojeda, a meal halt between Northam and Perth, and the troops began to pester the guard to find out where they were bound. He was a bit closed-mouthed, but at length told them that the last train he had taken to their destination had carried 1,000, "and they're all dead now". That rocked them a bit, but finally he admitted that the previous train had been a stock train, loaded with sheep, and bound for Robb's Jetty.'²⁰⁵

²⁰³ Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA : 1896 - 1916), Tuesday 6 October 1903, page 20

²⁰⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 6 May 1920, page 28; For further history of Robb Jetty, see Wilkinson, Danielle, 'From Beef to Reef: The Maritime Cultural Landscape of Robb's Jetty', Dept of Archaeology, Flinders University SA. Report—Department of Maritime Archaeology, Western Australian Maritime Museum, No. 54. <http://museum.wa.gov.au/maritime-archaeology-db/maritime-reports/beef-reef-maritime-cultural-landscape-robb-jetty> (Accessed November 2018)

²⁰⁵ Albany Advertiser (WA : 1897 - 1950), Monday 19 September 1949, page 4

Clunes, Hugh
Owen's Anchorage 1909-1912
Labourer

Hugh Clunes is listed on the Chesterfield, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1909²⁰⁶ as a labourer. Hugh Clunes has not been fully researched.

Clyde, Patrick
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
labourer

Patrick Clyde is listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906²⁰⁷ as a labourer. Patrick Clyde has not been fully researched.

Cosgrove, James
Camp near Smelting Works 1906
labourer

James Cosgrove was a neighbour of Charles Gailbullini at the Smelters Camp. Cosgrove suffered the loss of a pair of boots, a suit and a silver chain which were stolen from his hut by Angelo Carrera, an overnight guest of the unwitting Gaibullini. He discovered the theft after returning from his new job at the Smelters Works at 5.30pm; he'd been absent since 7.30am. Carrera was found with some of the items in his possession and partially confessed to the crimes, earning three months imprisonment for robbing Gaibullini, and six months for robbing Cosgrove.²⁰⁸

James Cosgrove has not been fully researched. (See other entries for Gailbullini and Carrera).

Costello, John
Owen's Anchorage/Robb's Jetty 1903-1931
labourer/storeman 1909

John Costello lived for an extended period at the camp, for 28 years between 1903 and 1931. During that time, the location description of the camp changed from Owen's Anchorage to Robb's Jetty(sic), reflecting the industrial development of the era. Costello is listed as a labourer and storeman. Periodic appearances on the electoral rolls of span this time period, assuming permanent or returning or intermittent residency. John Costello has not been fully researched.

²⁰⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²⁰⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²⁰⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 20 April 1907, page 17

Cox, John
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
labourer

John Cox is listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a labourer. John Cox has not been fully researched.²⁰⁹

Cronin, Joseph
c1868 - 1936
Smelters' Camp/Robb's Jetty 1909-1934
carpenter

Joseph Cronin is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp, Robb's Jetty from 1909-1934 as a carpenter.²¹⁰ Periodic listings on the Electoral rolls span these years, assuming permanent or intermittent residency. A report in the *West Australian* indicates the death of Cronin, aged approximately 68. He was found deceased after missing for several days, at Capel's Siding, and a post-mortem examination was ordered.²¹¹ Joseph Cronin has not been fully researched.

Dalton, James Michael
Robb's Jetty 1912-1913
prospector

James Dalton is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1912; occupation prospector.²¹² A Notice to Creditors was published in the *Sunday Times* in July 1914, 'In the Matter of the Estate of James Michael Dalton (deceased)... late of South Fremantle,'²¹³ and he is named a miner who passed away on the 25th or 26th of August 1913. James Dalton has not been fully researched.

Davies, William John
Smelters' Camp 1934
nil

William Davies is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp in 1934 with no occupation. William Davies has not been fully researched.²¹⁴

²⁰⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²¹⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²¹¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Saturday 20 June 1936, page 20

²¹² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²¹³ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 5 July 1914, page 5

²¹⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Day, Joseph
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
stockman

Joseph Day is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1909-1910 as a stockman. Joseph Day has not been fully researched.²¹⁵

Denney, Charles Dumaresq
1910 - 1967
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1949*
labourer/waterside worker

Charles Denney was born 22 January 1910 in Boulder to mother Florence and father Frank.²¹⁶ Denney's residency at the Smelters' Camp is stated in a newspaper article concerning a minor charge of supplying liquor in August 1949.²¹⁷ Before this, he lived at various locations around Fremantle.²¹⁸



West Australian 14 June 1950, p13

Denney enlisted in 1939 in Perth.²¹⁹ A later newspaper articles confirms that Denney was 'a gunner in the Australian Military Forces during the war... discharged as medically unfit after two years' service. He then served with the U.S. Navy forces stationed at Fremantle.'²²⁰

'39-year-old bachelor' Denney was introduced to the reading public in the *West Australian* in June 1950 as a 'FRIEND OF BLIND BABY' wishing to become the godfather of a child receiving eye treatment for cataracts at Princess Margaret Hospital. He hoped to give her his name, open a bank account and tailor his will for her. He approached the Department of Native Affairs with a character reference from the Town Clerk of Fremantle after reading about Elizabeth in the newspaper, visiting her and taking her toys. He was an experienced volunteer at Sister Kate's Cottage Homes,

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ BDM WA Registration #77

²¹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 17 August 1949, page 21

²¹⁸ 1943 Electoral Roll Denney is in Harbour Rd, Sth Fremantle; 1949 in Russell St; 1939 Parmelia St

²¹⁹ NAA: B884, W46627 Barcode 6493831

²²⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 14 June 1950, page 13

doing odd jobs and providing financial assistance.²²¹ He had earlier supported another ward, now a young girl of 15 and gaining some independence.²²²

However a report in the *West Australian* in June 1950 warns that Denney's endeavor to adopt Elizabeth will not succeed, assuring that Elizabeth's mother Neadiwidi and her father Bullinimbi waited patiently in a mission beyond Meekathara for the completion of their daughter's eye operations. 'Lizziebizzie' was well-loved at the Aboriginal Rescue Mission baby clinic at Jigalong.

'So the desire of Mr C. Denney, a Fremantle waterside worker, to give Elizabeth his name and to rear her is not likely to be realised.' However Sister Sheila Turnbull praised Mr Denney for his benevolence and wished there were more people willing to help.²²³

Denny also worked for Fremantle Council beginning at 4am in the morning, then would spend his afternoons on the beach or at sea in his 18 foot dinghy, from which he loved to spearfish in the shadows of Garden Island. He had an enterprising plan to make pleasure boating an income stream to save money for his new charge Elizabeth, and as a sideline also posed for art classes.

Denney made the papers once again in June 1950 attempting to raise interest in his speculative plans for a youth playground at the Hydrodrome. Described as 'of splendid physique', his focus on physical fitness was intended to provide young men direction, to 'make them up like me,' adding that he was 'awfully fond of kids.' Meaning to attract children to the 'working man's' South Beach, he feels that building canoes would be an excellent start.²²⁴

The Mirror celebrated Denney's efforts to raise money for 2-year-old Elizabeth with delight. Torturing himself with 60 hours of tattooing was a unique way Denney felt he could contribute, which the plan of exhibiting himself in a sideshow tent as 'Sinbad the Tattooed Sailor' at the Royal Show for money.

'..a South Fremantle man suddenly had his Apollo-like torso – and legs – smothered with designs of sultry eyed hula girls, grass skirted sirens and everything else from model pin-ups to Walt Disney characters and even autographs!' ²²⁵

²²¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 14 June 1950, page 13

²²² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 17 June 1950, page 14

²²³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 20 June 1950, page 2

²²⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 17 June 1950, page 14

²²⁵ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 21 October 1950, page 9



The Mirror 21 October 1950 p10

Tattooist in residence at the 'Just For Fun' arcade in Hay St, Professor Broom created the works – the back tattoo alone taking 5 hours.

'At left a sultry-eyed siren sprawls beneath his heart. She sighs when he breathes. Above is an idyllic island scene. When he waggles his shoulder blades they dance hula.'²²⁶

But he and showman Ern Bowler, owner of the arcade, were eventually disappointed. Bowler footed a bill of £31/3/0 for the tattooing, tenting, labour and transportation, and Broom only received half-payment from Denney toward the £73 tattoo masterpiece. Neither they, nor Denney, were to receive a split of the substantial profits they anticipated. Showing off the work at a 'bob at a time', Denney only collected £5 total, which he did deposit into Elizabeth's Child Welfare trust account. Denney was left sunning himself on South Beach, speculating future carnival exhibition options.

According to the 1958 and 1963 South Fremantle Electoral Rolls, Denney was living with wife Maxine June in South Terrace. In 1954 they lived in Mosman Park. Together they had four daughters.²²⁷

Charles Denney died in Fremantle 7 July 1967, aged 57 and he was buried in Fremantle Cemetery.²²⁸ In 1977, his wife Maxine returned to live in Mosman Park.

²²⁶ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 21 October 1950, page 9

²²⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; <https://trove.nla.gov.au/list?id=47543>

²²⁸ BDM WA Registration #351; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/182118280>

Drew, John
South Beach 1910
engine-driver

Drew, Richard
South Beach 1910
engineer

John and Richard Drew are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at South Beach in 1910 as an engine-driver and engineer respectively. John and Richard Drew have not been fully researched.

Duff, Francis
Robb Jetty 1903
Drover, labourer

Francis Duff had the misfortune to be one of two last people to see Thomas Whelan alive at Robb Jetty explosives magazine reserve. At the time he was camping at Robb Jetty and working on the construction of Copley's Meat Freezing Works at Copley's Siding.²²⁹ See following entry.

Relocation of the Explosives Magazine, Robb Jetty

The Inspector of Explosives, Mr. Mann, and Harbor-master Captain Russell inspected Woodman Point and Garden Island for suitability of explosives magazines placement in February 1902 and were expected to choose Woodman Point. The relocation would allow safer unloading and transport of explosives materials from a new 400-foot jetty to be built for this particular purpose. Total cost of the transfer was expected to be £20,750, to be recouped from magazine rent at £2,000 annually.

The Minister of Mines, Mr. H. Gregory and Mr. McDonald, M.L.A. and other representatives again visited the site, in proximity to the old racecourse and about a mile from the quarantine station, later in the month. They noted the progress of the railway line and sidings construction, work which had found employment for a large number of unemployed men, and discussed plans to move to the new magazines within three months, as well as to 'proceed as quickly as possible with the construction of the abattoirs at the present magazine site.'

There had occurred concerning earlier breaches of the act at Robb Jetty, with one lessee, Strelitz Bros. charged with storing 60 tons of explosive in an area licensed to hold only 30 tons, simply because another suitable accommodation had not been constructed yet. Paul and Richard Strelitz had received a small fine.²³⁰

²²⁹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Saturday 18 July, page 7 and Monday, 20 July 1903, page 5

²³⁰ Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA : 1894 - 1925), Saturday 9 Feb 1902, page 2; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 12 December 1902, page 2, Thursday 26 February 1903, page 1, Thursday 23 July 1903, page 1 and Monday 16 May 1904, page 7; small fine, The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), Friday 2 December, 1898; Western Mail (Perth, WA:



SLWA 090581PD Possibly Owen's Anchorage, North Coogee area c1900

Blown to Atoms

Thomas Whelan was 28 years of age when he was working as senior caretaker for a dozen explosives magazines on the Robb Jetty reserve. He lived with his wife and child in the caretaker's hut at the magazine area.

At 7.15 pm on the night of Wednesday 15 July 1903, Whelan observed a light through cracks in the galvanised iron walls, inside one of the smaller explosives magazines belonging to Mssrs. Guthrie and Co. Whelan asked Archibald Turner and Francis Duff, drovers who were camped close by, to accompany him while he inspected the source of the unusual light, but recognised the risk of explosion some 80 yards short, and asked them to wait behind the sand buttress that partially surrounded the iron building.

When Whelan reached the 10-foot square magazine, he knocked twice, then began to break open the door with an axe which had been provided by Turner, then turned and shouted to Turner and Duff to clear out. 'The explosion was almost simultaneously with the last blow' of the axe.

Beyond the jetty '...the residents of Beaconsfield and South Fremantle were startled by the loud report. The noise was like that made by the firing of a cannon, but the deep rumbling of the earth which accompanied the reverberation resembled the premonitory signs of an earthquake. The walls of buildings shook, windows rattled, and ornaments fell from mantelpieces and brackets. Several people rushed out of their houses in alarm.'²³¹

Turner and Duff, recovering from the shock, retraced their steps to find 'galvanised iron twisted into all kinds of shapes...together with some pieces of clothing and minute bits of flesh...' and debris scattered all around. The whole magazine was destroyed 'and the body of Whelan was found about 60 yards away, terribly mutilated.'

1885 - 1954), Saturday 15 August 1903, page 43; West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 27 February 1903, page 6

²³¹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Saturday 18 Jul 1903 page 7

‘Corporal Edmondson, the officer in charge of the Beaconsfield police station, was immediately despatched to the scene of the catastrophe,’ followed by Mr. E. A. Mann, inspector of explosives, and Fremantle’s Detective Condon.

‘Detective Condon was found this morning carefully raking together a few bits of galvanized iron and shattered woodwork from the loose sand. There was a knot of curious spectators this morning to look at the scene of the terrible catastrophe, which last evening hurled a man into eternity...’²³²



Western Mail 25 July 1903. Site of Explosion

The concussion was felt 15 kilometres away in Perth, but the cause was a mystery. Original damage was estimated in the realm of £200, but increased to between £3,000 and £4,000 according to the *West Australian* reporter’s conversation with Mr. Barrymore, manager of Messrs. Guthrie and Co., who stated that their two magazines were ‘nearly full of gelignite dynamite and other explosives.’ The magazine was later proved to be a detonator store and cost devalued to less than the original estimation.

The fatal accident was reported in Eastern States newspapers, with the exaggerated phrase that Whelan was ‘blown to atoms’ giving some indication of the level of sensationalism of the event. Within days key intelligence was leaked by the press -

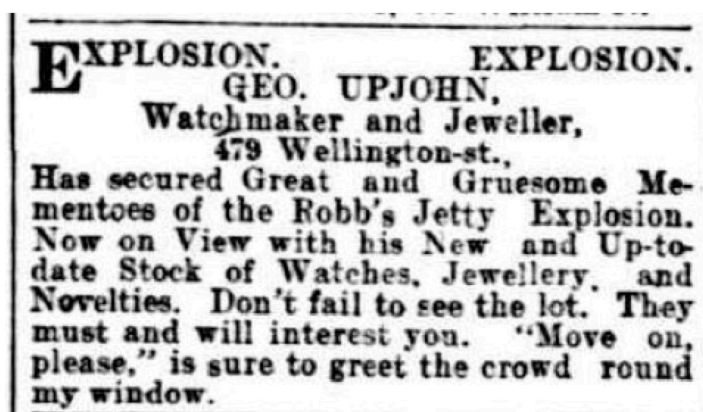
‘Friction has existed for some time between the senior caretaker and some of his assistants, and it is suspected in some quarters that this may have had something to do with the explosion.’

It was ascertained that the magazine had been open earlier in the day to store some new detonators arriving from Fremantle, but should have been locked at 5 o’clock that night, as per regulations.

Mr. Gawler, representing the Crown, made a thorough inspection of the disaster on behalf of the caretaker’s relatives and considered supplementing the Government-offered reward for information.

²³² The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 16 July 1903, page 1

It was remarkable that the concussion, thanks to the protection of the sand ridge, did not ignite the seven other magazines nearby.



West Australian 18 July 1903 p12

The following inquest by resident magistrate Mr. R. Fairbairn at Fremantle Court was a crowded affair. The Inspector of Explosives Mr. Mann attributed the cause to be a small fire igniting the sawdust inside the detonators. Robert Carrick, the magazine's head keeper, was rigorously questioned about the cause of the explosion. He confirmed that he had speculated to many people after the event as to the possible cause, and was asked to explain why he had stated, when the keys to the magazine were found, 'Poor Whelan must have had them, after all.'

Carrick had been referring to the missing keys being later found near to where Whelan's remains had been discovered. There had been other infringements around the magazine reserve, with the door to the Messrs. Strelitz Bros. store being mysteriously left open on another occasion – and these infractions had caused tension between employees, and with the clients.

It was determined through the inquest that the keys had not been present at the explosion and instead had been placed there and later found by Mr Carrick. Rumours whirled around Carrick, including that he had been one of few white men who worked for the Japanese Navy in the war with Russia and 'had the reputation of knowing more about time fuses than any other man living.'

The jury's open verdict found that, 'The evidence placed before us, however, does not warrant us in coming to the decision that Mr. Carrick exploded the magazine.' Two months later the case had still not been solved, and Mr Carrick was suspended. He wrote to the Minister of Mines demanding an official inquiry to clear suspicion surrounding his name as a result of the jury's findings, which was rejected.

On 11 August, Mr. A. J. Diamond, Member for South Fremantle moved to the Western Australian Legislative Assembly, that as a consequence of the tragedy, 'the House is of opinion that the explosives magazines are a serious menace to the lives of the citizens of Fremantle and suburbs; and that the necessity for protecting life

and valuable property demands the removal forthwith of the magazines to a hulk anchored in a safe place.’²³³

The *Daily News* somberly noted that Mr. Thomas Whelan’s remains were buried on the anniversary of the death of his father – an old army pensioner. The community later rallied around Mr. Whelan’s widow, hosting a football match and auction to raise money for the family. The family had declined payment for expenses but government donation of £500 compassionate allowance was granted.²³⁴

Boiling the Billy

In November 1908 two fishermen, William Barrett and Edward Egbid, were jointly charged with, ‘found committing an act tending to cause fire about the explosives magazine, situated at Woodman’s Point.’ Barrett and Egbid claimed to have been ‘only boiling the billy’, blissfully unaware that they were not only contravening the act but also surrounded by gelignite.²³⁵

Dunn, Sarah Ann

1883 - 1955

Smelter’s Camp, Mandurah rd 1937-1943

home duties

Dunn, William Brian

Owen’s Anchorage 1902-1906, 1937-1939

lumper

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language possibly relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in 1939.

William Brian Dunn married Sarah Ann Hughes at Fremantle in 1930.²³⁶

²³³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 12 August 1903, page 9

²³⁴ Murchison Times and Day Dawn Gazette (Cue, WA : 1894 -1925) Saturday 18 July 1903, page 3; Gympie Times and Mary River Mining Gazette (QLD. : 1868 - 1919), Saturday 18 July 1903, page 3; Geelong Advertiser (Vic. : 1847 -1851), Friday 17 July 1903; The Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 19 July 1903, page 16; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 23 July 1903, page 1; West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 – 1954), Thursday 16 July 1903; Murchison Advocate (WA : 1898 - 1912), Saturday 18 July 1903, page 3; Inquest, Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950) Saturday, 1 Aug 1903, page 1; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), 20 July 1903, page 5 and Thursday 20 July 1903, page 5; WA 18 Sept 1903; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 15 January 1906, page 1, Saturday 22 August 1903 and Remains, Friday 17 July 1903, page 1; Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Saturday 10 October 1903, page 31; granted, Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 22 July 1903, page 1

See also <http://inherit.stateheritage.wa.gov.au/Public/Inventory/PrintSingleRecord/855c07b9-21c9-4207-9701-df9731cb4125> (Accessed Nov 2018)

²³⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 25 Nov 1908, page 8

²³⁶ BDM WA Registration # 241

The Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll places William Dunn at Owen's Anchorage from 1902-1906, and although he is not on the electoral roll at the Smelters camp in 1943, his wife is living there, and on his funeral notice it was also printed as his address. A complete picture of their interim residency, between 1906-1939, is as yet unconfirmed, but in 1912 William Dunn was at Norfolk Street, 1913-1917 at John Street, in 1925 at Fothergill St, Fremantle, in 1928 at the rear of 116 South Street; he was steadily employed as a lumper and lived locally around the port.

In mid-September 1940, while exercising a horse on the beach near Robb Jetty at 11am, James Norrie was shocked to find the body of a woman floating in the shallows. She was fully clothed and unconscious when retrieved from the water, but the station master at Robb Jetty successfully resuscitated her and she was administered carbogen (carbon dioxide and oxygen) while taken by ambulance to Fremantle Hospital, in a serious condition.

Sarah Ann Dunn (59), who lived at the Smelters Camp, was suffering from immersion and shock. The following morning, her name was removed from the provisional danger list.²³⁷

The Fremantle Lumper's Union buried their late comrade, William 'Darkie' Dunn, on 27 December 1939 in the Roman Catholic portion of the Fremantle Cemetery. He had died the day after Christmas.²³⁸

Sarah Ann Dunn died in 1955, aged 72.²³⁹ William and Sarah Dunn have not been fully researched.

Ebery/Esvery/Every, Frank

1891 - 1942

Robb's Jetty 1921

labourer

Frank Every was born in Condobolin, New South Wales, in 1895, to mother Emma Emily Bowden and father Frederick.²⁴⁰

At the age of 21, Frank Every was already raising havoc with a group of friends on the streets of Fremantle, principally Alexander Winder and David Joslin. They were charged with stealing with violence in January 1916, their victim being the baker, Charles Thomas Anning. Anning had been heading home after going to the pictures and enjoying some liquid refreshments, and at 11.15pm had the misfortune of coming across Every, Winder and Joslin near the South Fremantle seawall. After

²³⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 17 September 1940, page 13; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 16 September 1940, page 6; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 18 September 1940, page 14

²³⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 27 December 1939, page 1; BDM WA Registration # 336; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board FB00013611, Section Mon CC, 0766

²³⁹ BDM WA Registration # 470

²⁴⁰ BDM NSW Registration # 31477/1895

Winder approached him for a match, the other two men pinioned him, threw him down and emptied his pockets. A threat of strangulation stopped him crying for assistance, but they were frightened away when a policeman arrived and unsuccessfully chased them. Anning was semi-conscious from the violent assault when found at 1.30am.²⁴¹

Every and Winder had refined and added a further element of expertise to their operation by 1920. Lucille Skinner, who had turned Frank Every's head, and then joined the duo to create a posse so notorious they were well-known to police. When arrested at an old dilapidated camp at Robb Jetty in August, they were frequently robbing drunken men, whom Skinner would tempt into ambush. The court's decision required payment of a surety each was required, under threat of six months' imprisonment.²⁴²

When questioned about his relationship with Skinner, Skinner denied Every had been living in her humpy at Robb Jetty.

'Every asked Detective Porter, "Do you say I, a bludger (*pimp*) for Lucy Skinner?" "Yes, a very dangerous one, too." Every: "I say it is a lie." "Yes, indeed," chipped in Lucille, "I have no man living with me. I never have.'" Later Every confessed he was living with Skinner, but was not her bludger. Every exerted his rights of representing himself at trial, and when asked about the camp said, "—"Oh, just a camp, and that. Any amount of men and women live in rougher places in the bush. Everybody can't get a two-storey house like you detectives, you know." "Weren't you with a man when you were arrested, who had just came out of gaol?"—"Yes, I was. But what about it? I am a convicted thief myself. Do you think you do us any good by sending us to gaol?"'

Every sported a cut hand, blaming this for his recent lack of employment.

"Yes," interrupted Detective Dungay, 'immediately striking while the iron was hot, "you cut it while you were trying to steal some crayfish."'²⁴³

Every and Skinner had a terribly tempestuous relationship, fined in 1917 for noisy lovemaking and in 1921 for using obscene language in High Street, Fremantle.²⁴⁴

Every continued to mix with bad company and in 1936 was charged with fighting Frank Miller and James Conlon (32), also a labourer, in Queen Street, Perth and imprisoned for 14 days.²⁴⁵ He was then arrested in 1937 for swearing, and sentenced to 14 days.²⁴⁶

Every was described as 'quivering and shaking with emotion' and 'almost incoherent'

²⁴¹ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 22 January 1916, page 3

²⁴² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 12 August 1920, page 10

²⁴³ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3

²⁴⁴ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 3 November 1917, page 7; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), 21 February 1921, page 7

²⁴⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 7 January 1935, page 3; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 20 Jun 1936, page 21

²⁴⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 10 May 1937, page 2

when he was sentenced to another three months' gaol in 1938. Described as 45 years old (although actually 48), Every admitted stealing £20/3/9 in a bag from the seat of a carter's van. Detective Richardson gave evidence that Every was under the influence of alcohol when arrested, with most of the money spent but two torn cheques and a postal note linked him to the crime, leading to his confession.²⁴⁷

One year later a 'shabbily dressed' Every was arrested for pickpocketing a watch and chain, some keys and money from James Temple, who sitting on the kerb outside the Royal Hotel in Wellington Street, Perth at 8.45pm. Arrested after being witnessed by a pedestrian, Every was found with the watch on his person. In his court appearance Every blamed 'a newsboy' for hanging the watch in his pocket, but Magistrate H. D. Moseley sentenced him 3 months hard labour.²⁴⁸

Frank Every was living at Boddington but visiting the city when died at 5am Sunday 22 March 1940 after being knocked down by a car at 9.15pm on the previous night in William Street, Perth.²⁴⁹

See also Alexander Winder and Lucille Skinner entries.

Edgar, John
Smelters' Camp, Fremantle 1912
labourer

John Edgar is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp in 1912²⁵⁰ as a labourer. John Edgar has not been fully researched.

Ellis, Joseph
rear Smelting Works 1926
retired

Joseph Ellis is listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll as living at 'Rear Smelting Works' in 1926.²⁵¹ His occupation is 'retired' – the only time this description is formally offered. Joseph Ellis has not been fully researched.

²⁴⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 26 February 1938, page 2

²⁴⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 26 June 1939, page 9

²⁴⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 23 March 1942, page 3;

BDM WA Registration #762

²⁵⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²⁵¹ Ibid.

Fairburn, Henry
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

Henry Fairburn is listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1905²⁵² as a slaughterman. Henry Fairburn has not been fully researched.

Fitzgerald, Catherine C.
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
married

Fitzgerald, Richard
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
stock inspector

Catherine and Richard Fitzgerald are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls (Robb's Jetty) in 1909 and 1910, with occupations listed as 'married' and 'stock inspector' respectively. After 1910 the Fitzgeralds moved to 194 Lefroy Road, Fremantle. Catherine and Richard Fitzgerald have not been fully researched.

Fitzsimmons, Charles
bwt Smelting Works and Robb's Jetty 1898 -1904
unemployed/boilermaker

Charles Fitzsimmons is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1904, but it was his letter to the *Fremantle Herald* in October 1898 which ordains him the fatherly activist of the Smelter's Camp community, and a man ahead of his times.

Well-aware of his tenuous existence at the camp location, he begins an eloquent letter to the editor thus -

'A COMPLAINT FROM TENT DWELLERS. To THE EDITOR.

SIR,- Would you do me and a number of unemployed men the favour to publish the following account of the unnecessary misery to which we are subjected by some person or persons at present unknown to us.'

He goes on to describe 'a number of us are camped between the smelting works and Robb's Jetty, which is Crown land, and as this narrow strip of sand bank is covered with scrub.' He and his companions are unemployed or awaiting work at the Smelters. The campers have already moved from the Company's lease to avoid construction, and with brush removed, 'with it the protection from the drifting sand or rain has been removed, leaving no shelter for the mens' tents.'

²⁵² Ibid.

‘Many of the men are like myself married, with wives and large families in the other colonies, and we in-tend to bring them here when we earn sufficient money. On Saturday the police visited our camp, and gave those they found there verbal notice to shift. Complaints had been made, they said, and they had instructions to clear the camp.’

Fitzsimmons, after consulting with Mr. Back, the Inspector of Police, confirmed the complaints, along with a deputation sent to Perth asking how the camp could exist on Crown Lands. Fitzsimmons suspected the deputation to have been issued by either land sharks or boarding houses, who were

‘putting up secondhand galvanised iron houses on bald sand hills, which have no protection from the inclemency of the sea coast weather, which is as shifty and changeable as the dolls of a Parisian show.’

However, he endorsed their location, being away from the public houses, proudly describing it as ‘free from the evil association of bad women and quite void of larrikinism.’ He described the men of the camp occupied themselves in fishing, being ‘too proud to steal or beg’ and with boarding houses beyond their means.

He implores, ‘If we are compelled by law to shift our camp, where shall we go? Shall we be compelled to roam the streets at night with the criminal class, or what? At present my tent is my mansion. Though humble it may be, I feel there at least a quiet resting spot where I can condole with others and ponder over my own misfortunes, which, I must confess, have pursued me since I landed in Western Australia.’

Fitzsimmons continued to make political enquiries, suggested a petition or deputation to the State government asking for permission to occupy the scrub land ‘until such times as it may be required for some other useful purposes. Yours, etc. CHAS. FITZSIMMONS. Fremantle, October 20.’²⁵³

Little did Fitzsimmons know the land would still be occupied over 50 years later. Charles Fitzsimmons has not been fully researched.

Flynn, Peter
Pensioner’s Camp/Robb’s Jetty 1934-1943
labourer

Peter Flynn is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll as living at ‘Pensioners’ Camp, Robb’s Jetty’ in the nine year period between 1934 and 1943.²⁵⁴ The description of ‘Pensioners’ Camp’ is not often used in the electoral rolls, though

²⁵³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 29 October 1898, page 10

²⁵⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

it was sometimes used in newspaper articles. His occupation was 'labourer'. Peter Flynn has not been fully researched.

Forward, William Pascoe
Hut on beach, Robb's Jetty 1928
no vocation

William Forward literally lists his address as 'Hut on beach, Robb's Jetty' in 1928's Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll, with 'no vocation' noted as his occupation. He died in 1929.²⁵⁵ William Forward has not been fully researched.



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1713 South Beach c1920s

Fraser, Dolores
Seagull Camp 1980-1984
Artist

Dolores Fraser was interviewed in the film 'Freo Yorgas'²⁵⁶ and she was a resident of the 'Seagull Camp', which was a short distance north of the site of the Smelters Camp. Dolores Fraser is a Wadjari Nyarlu artist born at Big Bell, 700kms north of Perth, and she lived on the streets of Fremantle for many years as well as at her beach camp for three years from 1984, and then in the later community²⁵⁷ known as the Seagull Camp.²⁵⁸ This camp was near to the Smelters Camp, and consisted of seven couples. Dolores looks back on her time at the Seagull Camp fondly.²⁵⁹

²⁵⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 20 April 1929, page 1

²⁵⁶ Quartermaine, Blanche and Roberts, Paul 'Freo Yorgas' (Director and Producer), 30 minutes; made with assistance of the Indigenous Community Stories Initiative, Screenwest and Lotterywest. Fremantle, Western Australia; FTI 2010 (Held by Fremantle Library)

²⁵⁷ Residents of the camp included Dolores Fraser, her partner Yallabowie, her mother Beatrice Fraser, Geoffrey Arago, Mitchell Waigana, Ruby Spratt, Kelly Lui and Maxine Moody, Donald Claude Nona 'Mice', and Ezekial Babia 'Dr Robert'.

²⁵⁸ <https://www.daa.org.au/bio/dolores-fraser/biography/> (accessed January 2019)

²⁵⁹ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019

‘..we had little camps in and out of these castor oil bushes here. We lived there for three winters and you couldn’t see our camp because it was camouflaged. You couldn’t see it from down here or anywhere around. You could hear us but you couldn’t see us. We used to party there all the time.’²⁶⁰

The Seagull camp suffered the same fate as the Smelters Camp in 1987.

‘They bulldozed the place. I had a big tea box full of all my cooking gear. I had a camp oven and I had (a) primus and everything like that. And when I came back to pick my stuff up and there was nothing there.’²⁶¹ Many thanks to Dolores Fraser for sharing her story.

Fulton, Edward James

1909 -

Smelters’ Camp 1948 - 1954

wool hand

Fulton, Florence Irene

1901 -

Smelters’ Camp 1949 - 1954

home duties

Edward and Florence Fulton, who were married in 1935, are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1954. Edward is a wool hand and Florence is occupied with home duties. Edward Fulton was born in 1909,²⁶² and had an early association with the Smelters. Facing court in September 1927, he was found unlawfully on the premises of the smelting works, but he declared his good intentions and the case was dismissed.²⁶³ But this area was obviously part of his beat, and he and his friend were later arrested not far from the Smelters, at Mandurah Road. This time it was a minor infringement of stealing and receiving a showcase of 18lbs of cake; they were arrested in a park throwing cake at each other.²⁶⁴

Fulton had perpetual problems with accommodation. Unemployed at 20 years of age and a labourer, he was convicted of vagrancy in Fremantle, and sleeping rough at a friend’s house. Judgment was suspended provided he moved on. When this did not occur, he was arrested again and sentenced to three months in prison. He had since married his friend, Florence (34), who was a widow. He and Florence were found living illegally in a South Fremantle house that was unoccupied. Florence was released with a caution.²⁶⁵

²⁶⁰ Quartermaine, Blanche and Roberts, Paul ‘Freddie Yorgas’ (Director and Producer) 30 minutes; made with assistance of the Indigenous Community Stories Initiative, Screenwest and Lotterywest.

²⁶¹ Ibid.

²⁶² BDM WA Registration #348; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; BDM Registration #393

²⁶³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 22 September 1927, page 19;

²⁶⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 28 February 1928, page 7

²⁶⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 7 December 1935, page 10; Daily News

Accidentals

Fulton was driving with his wife Florence, then 36, and her three children from a previous marriage, William Hopkins (13), Roy Hopkins (10) and Harry Hopkins (8) after picking them up from Clontarf Orphanage, Kelmscott, to take them for a drive. When the car skidded and overturned on the Albany road beyond Armadale, Florence had to be treated for head abrasions and lacerations, William sustained a broken collarbone and the other two boys, abrasions.²⁶⁶

Fulton also met with military challenges, 'Twice discharged from the Army during the past few months, Edward James Fulton... was convicted in Perth Police Court yesterday of having failed to enrol for military service. Finding him guilty of a technical offence in that he should have registered following his second discharge in April, Magistrate cautioned Fulton, ordered him to pay costs.'²⁶⁷

Bob the Rat, part 2

By 1948, friction had developed between Fulton and another camp resident, 66-year-old Robert Boswell. Despite the later's age, Fulton assaulted him by hitting him on the head with a broom handle. It was 7pm in the evening along Mandurah Road, when Fulton passed Boswell, uttering, 'Bob, the rat,' and when confronted by Boswell he performed the blow, which resulted in injuries to Boswell's scalp. Fulton was fined £3 with 14/ costs.²⁶⁸

In a sad state of affairs, in 1952 Cox Bros. (Aust.) Ltd, a furniture department store, seems to have not been paid for items hire purchased by the Fultons, as an advertisement in the *West Australian* in June 1952 advised an auction 'would soon take place, on the premises at Smelters Camp, South Beach... One double bed; one single bed; one wooden oval table; four padded chairs and sundries.'²⁶⁹

A Mistake

Edward Fulton's maternal relationship was also a little fraught, albeit unintentionally comical.

'Edward James Fulton (43), of the Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle, pleaded guilty In the Fremantle Police Court yesterday to having stolen a roast of beef worth 7/-- from his mother's refrigerator on Saturday night. Fulton said that it was all a mistake. He had been drinking (with his mother) and soon after leaving her house he had returned to collect his share of the Joint. Being "slightly under the weather," he had taken it all, he said. He was placed on a £20 bond to be of good behaviour for six months.'²⁷⁰

(Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 21 December 1935, page 2; see also *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 24 December 1935, page 5

²⁶⁶ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 27 April 1938, page 18

²⁶⁷ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 30 October 1942, page 4

²⁶⁸ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 27 August 1948, page 4

²⁶⁹ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 21 June 1952, page 17

²⁷⁰ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 24 March 1953, page 7

Frost, Wilfred John
Off Robb's Jetty 1922, 1926-1943
tanner/farmer 1926

John Frost is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll as 'Off Robb's Jetty' in 1922 as a tanner and later between 1926-1943 as a farmer.²⁷¹ John Frost has not been fully researched.

Gaibullini, Charles
Camp near Smelting Works 1907
labourer

When labourer Charles Gailbullini offered Angelo Carrera a place to sleep in April 1907, he did not expect to arrive home from his Jandakot job search at noon the next day to find he had been relieved of a mirror, a serge suit and two-dozen eggs. After 5.30pm, his unhappy neighbour James Cosgrove alerted him that his own hut had also been pillaged of a suit, a silver chain, some boots and other items.

When Carrera was presented at the camp by detectives from Perth, he was wearing part of the stolen suit and partially-confessed to the crime. The detectives subsequently retrieved trousers and the mirror, and later he showed them where he had hidden the boots. Carrera had form in petty thievery and was imprisoned a total of nine months.²⁷²

Charles Gaibullini has not been fully researched. See also entries for Carrera and Cosgrove.

Gallagher, Charles
Smelter's Camp 1928-1931
labourer

Charles Gallager is listed in the supplementary section of the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1928 as a labourer living at the 'Smelter's Camp' and resides there until 1931.²⁷³ Charles Gallagher has not been fully researched.

²⁷¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²⁷² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 26 August 1902, page 17

²⁷³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Gentle, Simon

1893 –

Smelters Camp (date unknown)

stock agent representative

Simon Gentle was a stock agent representative and 'White City' rodeo rider, included in Dr. Denise Cook's research, with oral history provided by Cedric Jacobs, as a probable resident of the Smelters Camp.²⁷⁴ Gentle was a stock agent employed by Emmanuel Bros. at Robb Jetty and Gentle Road in Kwinana is named for him. He was also the first employee of the Kwinana Road Board in 1938.²⁷⁵

Gentle is mentioned in a public information notice informing that his certificate of exemption, under the Native Welfare Act, 1905 – 1954 had been cancelled, due to the fact it was considered void since he was classified 'quadroon and not a native within the meaning of section 2 of the Native Welfare Act, 1905 – 1954'.²⁷⁶



Fremantle History Centre Image # 2486 Stock agent representatives c1935 –
[R] Simon Gentle (Emmanuel Bros)

²⁷⁴ Cook, Denise, "'That was my Home' Voices from the Noongar Camps in Perth's Western Suburbs', Thesis BA (Hons) 2016, Murdoch University. See

<http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/id/eprint/32328/> (Accessed January 2019). Soon to be published by UWA Publishing in 2019: "'That was my Home' Stories from the Noongar Camps of Fremantle and Perth's Western Suburbs'. See <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/blogs/marginalia/from-2018-to-2019> (Accessed January 2019)

²⁷⁵ <http://voicesofkwinana.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Origins-of-Calista-street-names.pdf>

See also <https://www.cockburnlibraries.com.au/blog/local-history/oral-history-bryan-atkinson-voices-from-the-camps-oral-histories-2012/> (Accessed January 2019)

²⁷⁶ 'Government Gazette of Western Australia', No. 82, Friday 5 October 1956, p2446. See [https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/gazette/gazette.nsf/13922cd566c0cf38c82574e500013de5/156de25b91b1c120c825768d001ff54a/\\$FILE/Gg082.pdf](https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/gazette/gazette.nsf/13922cd566c0cf38c82574e500013de5/156de25b91b1c120c825768d001ff54a/$FILE/Gg082.pdf) (Accessed January 2019)

Gibson, Robert William
Smelters Camp 1949
freezer hand

Gibson, Rosina Margaret
Smelters Camp 1949
home duties

Robert and Rosina Gibson lived at the Smelters Camp, perhaps until they got on their feet financially, in 1949. They are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll, with Robert's occupation as 'freezer hand' and Rosina's as 'home duties.'²⁷⁷ In the 1954 electoral roll they are listed at Arundel Street, Fremantle. It is possible that they spent some further time between 1949 – 1954 living at the camp. Robert and Rosina Gibson have not been fully researched.

Golding, Edward Henry
Copley's Siding 1919-1922

-

Edward Golding is listed without occupation at Copley's Siding in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll between 1919 and 1922.²⁷⁸ As the following electoral roll was compiled in 1925, it is possible Golding lived an additional two years at Copley's Siding. Edward Golding has not been fully researched.

Graham, Mitchell
South Fremantle 1914-1925
slaughterman

Graham Mitchell is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle electoral roll 'Off Robb's Jetty' between 1914 and 1925 as a slaughterman.²⁷⁹ Graham Mitchell has not been fully researched.

Graham, James
Smelters 1938
ship's fireman

Scotsman James Graham (52), a ship's fireman, is mentioned in connection with William Tully in the *West Australian* 6 August 1938 while 'camping in a shed at the

²⁷⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Smelters'.²⁸⁰ Graham appears to be living in poverty, and did not, up to that point, have a criminal record.

The two men engaged in the risky endeavor of stealing seven lengths of belting, an endless chain, an emery wheel and a hammer belonging to the Fremantle Road and Pavement Company, that was being stored at the nearby smelter in South Fremantle, sometime between the dates of 30 July and 3 August. They appeared before Fremantle Court on the 5 August, where the goods were valued at £20, with Graham charged with stealing an additional four lengths of belting (£4). Detective J. Johnson explained that the belting had been cut directly from machinery and the lock broken on the storeroom to steal the other items, and then sold to a second hand dealer, 'under fictitious names'²⁸¹ where the items were later recovered by police. When arrested, Graham deferred blame to Tully.

He explained to Magistrate H. J. Craig that he had been eating only bread and dripping, to which Mr. Craig replied, 'I have done that in the bush before today. It is a terrible thing to destroy property like this.'²⁸²

Magistrate Craig, perhaps not known for his jocular originality, then asked Detective Sergeant Cowie, "'How much money did this man have when arrested?" Detective-Sergeant Cowie: Ten shillings. Mr. Craig: Then he's Scotch, all right. He had more left than the other man. (To accused): You will have to go to gaol for three months, the same as your companion.'²⁸³

Shipwrecks and Rust

'Our History Marks The Coast Road – To the Editor.

Sir,... Not even the Fremantle Harbour or the Goldfields water scheme can compare with the vast possibilities of the opening up of that magnificent stretch of deep water in Cockburn Sound for the future prosperity of this State.

Down the old coast road from Fremantle to James or Case Point a few old landmarks of the past are still to be seen. The Catherine Point jetty and the smelting chimney have vanished, but a rusty tin shed, slag heaps and camps remain.

Near the foot of Robb's Jetty a rusty tin shed is all that is left of a pressed stone factory. At the bacon factory the rusty battered 50-year-old wreck of the Omeo recalls the part that she took under Capt. Calder in the laying of the overland telegraph line in 1871 at the Roper River. A couple of still fruitful old mulberry trees mark the site of a decayed home and the honeycomb workings of the old burners. The pretty tree-shaded glade at Woodman's Point brings to mind the bygone dreams of the City of Clarence, and the white stone tower of Woodman's Point lighthouse looks down "to those who go down to the sea in ships."

²⁸⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 6 August 1938, page 9

²⁸¹ Ibid.

²⁸² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 5 August 1938, page 3

²⁸³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 6 August 1938, page 9

Jervoise Bay revives the Henderson Naval Base, for here are the rusty hulls of the Dutch submarine K12, whilst the naval tug Alacrity and the old burnt-out wooden schooner Abbemamana lie close together. The white obelisk and the cliffs cut away form the groyne so beloved of fishermen. Farther south Mt. Brown or Booneeannup, the highest point 224 feet, dominates the Naval Base. Case or James Point recalls the wreck of the brig James in May, 1830, and how P. N. Meares intended to form a jetty by using the wreck and the old settlement of James Town. -Yours, etc., I.B.²⁸⁴

Hardiman, Patrick
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

Patrick Hardiman is listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.²⁸⁵ Patrick Hardiman has not been fully researched.

Harrison, Michael
Smelter's Camp 1929
labourer

Michael Harrison appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1929, working as a labourer, living at the Smelter's camp. Michael Harrison has not been fully researched.

Hart, Herbert Edward
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953

-

Herbert Hart (24) is named in a report in the *West Australian* in 1953 in connection with being charged with assaulting a man named Morris Morgan. He was fined £2.²⁸⁶ Peter Ford says he remembers visiting Mr Hart at the camp, who was a stockman. William Herdigan remembers that Hart came from Collie.²⁸⁷ Herbert Hart has not been fully researched.

²⁸⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 15 March 1952, page 4

²⁸⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²⁸⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 28 January 1953, page 13

²⁸⁷ Peter Ford conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019; William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

Healey, Thomas
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

Thomas Healey is listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.²⁸⁸ Thomas Healey has not been fully researched.

Hearne, John Henry
1888 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1946-1947
labourer

John Hearne is named in two newspaper articles, on the 25 January 1946²⁸⁹ and the 31 March 1947.²⁹⁰ Both incidents were alcohol-related and involved damage to property and giving a wrong name to arresting police, a fine and costs applied. John Hearne has not been fully researched.

Herdigan, Effie Maxine
1924 - 2010
South Beach 1949-1953*

-

Herdigan, William
South Beach 1951

-

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in the 1940s.

11 year-old William Herdigan lived at the Smelters Camp with his mother Maxine in 1952. His mother was known as Maxine, but Effie to her family. William's grandparents Jack and Lorna Hume (née Narkle) were originally from Collie, and worked at the fruit orchards in Armadale before making their way down to Fremantle. The economic situation was quite unsettled in 1947, and it was difficult to find work. Men gathering at places like the Smelters Camp and the town hall awaited pick up to do piecemeal work. These casual labourers were known as 'seagulls.'

²⁸⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

²⁸⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 25 January 1946, page 5

²⁹⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 31 March 1947, page 6

After a chance meeting with Paddy Troy, the communist and working-class 'celebrity' secretary of the Coastal Dock, Rivers and Harbour Works Union of Workers and later the Maritime Union, Jack Hume's fortune would change. One of Troy's favourite phrases, William Herdigan recalls, was 'Trade wheat with Russia, not bullets.' A firm believer in Aboriginal emancipation, Troy offered work to William's grandfather, who remained fully employed for most of his life. Being part of 'Paddy Troy's mob' was beneficial for Jack Hume. He later bought a house at 21 King William Street in South Fremantle.²⁹¹

Sadly, with her struggle with alcoholism leading to problems at home, Maxine later left the family home to live at the camp. The sand dune they lived upon was known as 'Mackie's Hill' after Maxine, and lay between the sewerage area and the tip, encircled by a few little huts built from secondhand or discarded materials. William Herdigan remembers the closely-knit Cox family living in those huts; Pastor Ben Taylor was there sometimes.

A large fig tree grew at the base of the hill, next to the tip, which provided snacks for the local children, and missiles when thrown at each other for fun. Coal that had fallen from the wagons was magpied from along the railway line to the smelter and used at the camp. The hill also had its own well, although much of the camp's water came from a well for cattle at Robb's Jetty and a tap on the irrigation pipe that ran through the camp at the bottom of Mackie's Hill. Sanitation was a concern that periodically caused the Health Department to come calling.

The nearby cement factory eventually consumed the hill with their demands for sand resources. It was an area known to police for the locals' fondness for two-up games, and was a popular habitat for dugites.

William remembers the big steel industries in the area, the imposing structures, with noise and lights frightening him as a boy at night, when he would be sneaking off to, or returning from the movies.

William recalls how in the 1950s 'a lot of people were not doing well'. Times were difficult, and aboriginal people experienced the added pressure of tight restrictions on their lifestyle and movement. The size of the camp would fluctuate, growing larger in the warmer months as the 'summer squatters' arrived. Groups and families often circulated together, ending up at the camp. During the tourist season, camp residents such as one-armed Fred 'Wingy' Howard was making a modest income on the rental of his dinghies.

Brave Action

'If she had not stopped the U.S. Negro sailors, taxi-driver Daniel Harrison would have been killed... Effie Herdigan (21) told Detective-Sergeant D. Richardson when

²⁹¹ See also an oral history by Patrick Hume, interviewed by Leonie Stella at <https://www.cockburnlibraries.com.au/blog/local-history/patrick-hume-aboriginal-oral-history-project/>

she was questioned.'

Herdigan appeared in Perth Police court in September 1945 charged with unlawful use of a Yellow Cabs taxi without consent, but Magistrate McMillan, after hearing evidence, stated,

'I have come to the conclusion that the two native girls did not know that the negroes intended to assume control of the cab and take them out to the bush,'

The brave action taken by Effie Herdigan and her companion saw Daniel Richardson Harrison, taxi driver, recovering in hospital from a fractured skull, instead of dead. Harrison confirmed that at 8.45pm on September 5 he was signaled to pull over near the Swanbourne fire station by an American negro man dressed in dungarees, who was a sailor, accompanied by another sailor and two women, who wanted to go to South Fremantle. After stopping briefly at a house, he was advised they would now travel to Perth while they shared alcohol, but once in Swanbourne he was smacked in the back of the head, and wrestled to the ground outside the cab.

'The next thing he remembered was that the car was being moved away. He was lying in a ditch at the side of the road and his head and face were bleeding badly.'

The taxi-cab was later found on the York-Northam road by Detective-Sergeant Richardson, the petrol tank empty, and the occupants were found about ten miles from Toodyay, with one of the sailors holding the taxi-cab keys.

When Richardson questioned Herdigan, he charged her with 'having assumed control of the taxi', although this wasn't pre-planned by the women. Herdigan said 'that they both wanted to get away from them but were frightened, thought that the sailors would ill treat them.' She had tried to escape but was pulled back in.²⁹²

Herdigan's residency at the Smelters Camp also unfortunately coincided with alcohol-related violence from other camp dwellers and transients including theft of cash and her few possessions of value.²⁹³ She was also involved in a nasty accident in 1952, knocked down by a car in William St, Perth on a Saturday evening, resulting in a fractured left collarbone and concussion.²⁹⁴

Colin Thompson, another resident of the Smelters Camp, established a defacto relationship with Maxine Herdigan. William remembers Thompson was from Queensland, and met his mother after travelling across Australia with one of the well-known circuses. Thompson was an aboriginal man from Rockhampton, whose

²⁹² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 20 September 1945, page 7; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Friday 21 September 1945, page 4

²⁹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1953, page 12; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 14 February 1953, page 9; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 21 February 1953, page 7

²⁹⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 15 November 1947, page 21; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 16 February 1952, page 8; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 17 March 1946, page 4

Afghan heritage could be discerned from his impressive nose. He was a fitter and turner on the railway later, when William, his mother and Thompson travelled up to York, following the tracks and sleeping in a tent. They were together until William was 18 or 19, when alcohol finally caught up with them. Later Thompson returned to Rockhampton to die.²⁹⁵

Effie Maxine Herdigan passed away in 2010 in Bayswater, at 86 years of age.²⁹⁶ Many thanks to William Herdigan and his daughter Hara Herdigan, who kindly shared these stories and offered their hospitality.

Heron, Thomas George

1888 - 1953

**Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953
war veteran**

A public funeral notice for Thomas George Heron of the Smelters Camp appears in the *West Australian* on 16 April 1953. Heron was about 65 years of age.²⁹⁷

The National Archives of Australia holds Heron's military, repatriation and medical files, indicating a long military career, substantial injuries, or both.²⁹⁸

Born in Hobart, Tasmania on 19 October 1888 to mother Josephine and father Thomas James, Heron was baptised in the Methodist faith at New Norfolk, Tasmania in December 1888. He enlisted aged almost 27 years of age at Kalgoorlie in July 1915. His mother, Josephine White, was then living in Rosebury, Tasmania. He was 5 foot 5 inches, with a dark complexion and hair and brown eyes.²⁹⁹

Heron embarked from Australian on the 4 October 1915, and was transferred to the 48th Battalion in Tel e Kabir, Egypt. A brief AWOL in 1916 was cleared up with a forfeit of two days' pay, and then with the 12th Brigade Machine Gun Company he was sent to Serapeum, Egypt, then transferred to Alexandria and then a month later, Marseilles.

After recovering from the mumps in June 1916, Heron was promoted to lance corporal in France in August 1916 until gas poisoning in November resulted in his evacuation to England and an initial four months in various hospitals. Perhaps he was feeling confined – another episode of AWOL behaviour lost him four days' pay in February 1917.

²⁹⁵ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

²⁹⁶ Metropolitan Cemeteries Board FB0023658 Fremantle Cemetery Lawn P, 1038

²⁹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 16 April 1953, page 28; See also BDM WA Fremantle Reg 113, 1953

²⁹⁸ Main military file is NAA:B 2455 Barcode 5476722, Heron Thomas George service number 2897; see also NAA: PP18/1, R11857 Barcode 31843712 – Repatriation file, NAA: PP2/8, H11857 Barcode 32653498 and 32653499 – Medical files and NAA: PP13/1, C11857 Barcode 30805651

²⁹⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Births and Baptisms, 1792 - 1981* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. FHL Film number: 992650

Heron was finally sent back to France in October 1917, a total of 11 months' hospitalisation, but by February 1918 he was again in hospital. A placement with the 4th Machine Gun Battalion ended with a bout in hospital suffering with VD. He returned to Australia on the 'Anchises' via Albany to Fremantle in February 1919, and was discharged in June 1919.

Heron's medical case sheet indicates the graphic effects of the gas inhalation: Coughing, choking, vomiting, headaches and a raw sensation in his chest. He was the recipient of the 1914/1915 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.³⁰⁰

Thomas G. Heron married Gladys A. Hedge in East Coolgardie in 1924.³⁰¹ He lived most of his life in the Kalgoorlie region, moving to Toodyay in 1943 and finally to Fremantle in 1949 and the Smelters Camp sometime between 1949 and 1953.

Centaurs Into Giants – The 10th Light Horse Regiment

'There is no doubt that the camp of the 10th Light Horse at Naval Base is the most ideally situated of all the military establishments. Built on a hillside by the Rockingham Road, the camp looks out on to the blue-green waters of Cockburn Sound, with Garden Island for a background.'³⁰²

Following Australia's entrance into WWII in September 1939, the first militia training camps began in early 1940 in Western Australia. Divided between Northam, the 25th Light Horse at Melville and the 10th Light Horse at Naval Base, new recruits were due to flood in at the month's end. Exercises occurred between 5 January and 3 April, with training moving from voluntary to compulsory, and allotment of these new troops commencing as soon as they were able, and favouring students who would need to return to university.

³⁰⁰ NAA:B2455 Barcode 5476722, Heron Thomas George service number 2897

³⁰¹ BDM WA, Registration #50

³⁰² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 23 November 1939, page 15



Camped east of the Naval Base-Rockingham Road, and south of the Woodman Point Quarantine Station, the impressive sight of the squadrons' picketed 600 horses in a 'shallow depression on the hilltop' east of the camp had been facilitated by special trains bringing troops and their own mounts (for which they received a small allowance) from country areas such as Toodyay, York and Kelmscott to Spearwood railway station. From there the soldiers, who were not only farmers, but also bankers and lawyers, rode their horses to just beyond Woodman Point, to the hutted camp. The beach horse exercise area near the Smelters Camp was also used during WWI as the troops participated in training.³⁰³

³⁰³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 6 January 1940, page 12; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 15 November 1939, page 23; The Beverley Times (WA : 1905 - 1977), Friday 19 January 1940, page 2

'In a marked distinction from the old Light Horse that stuck a bayonet on the end of the Lee-Enfield rifle, these men carry their rifles in holsters and are armed with swords, as thus armed they proved their worth as cavalry in the Holy Land.'³⁰⁴

Concentrating on the Light Horse's role as a coastal defence, the 10th also consisted of a signals, transport and light car troop, serviced by the regimental tailor, sergeant-cook, bootmaker and saddler, after tough 12-hour days beginning at 5.45am with Reveille and the hoisting of the regimental flag, with occasional 'surprise' attacks -

'In one night attack the whole regiment was awakened at 2 a.m., instructed to dress and saddle up and move into allotted manoeuvres in a complete "black out".'³⁰⁵

This gathering culminated, at least by scale, in the largest cavalry exercise in Western Australia since the Great War, during an annual four-day bivouac camp under the watchful eye of Lieut. -Colonel A. H. Sweetapple, a Palestine veteran. The objective was to repulse an enemy landing at Safety Bay back into the sea – the enemy in this case being the 'hostile cavalry' of a 10th Light Horse Regiment detachment, with the main body of the Light Horse defending the coastline at Naval Base.³⁰⁶

"Horseholder" Bill Harding and Ray Piggot, of Brunswick, couldn't stop to talk to us. They were busy handling machine guns as casually as Al Capone in his heyday would handle a "pineapple" or sawn-off shotgun.'³⁰⁷

After several outflanking manoeuvres – the 10th fought equally well as a dismounted infantry - and a 'spectacular mounted charge with drawn swords against the enemy's flank', a staff officer responded that 'this final operation was brilliantly controlled and carried out.' Less complex tactical exercises were to follow the next day before which horses were watered, fed, and settled for tea by 5.30pm, with troops in 'good health and the horses in fine fettle.'³⁰⁸



Western Mail 26 December 1940 p24 Horses of the 10th Light Horse Regiment being watered after morning exercises last March at Naval Base [FW Flood]

³⁰⁴ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 17 December 1939, page 31

³⁰⁵ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 17 December 1939, page 31

³⁰⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 8 March 1939, page 23

³⁰⁷ Mirror (Perth, WA: 1921 - 1956), 2 December 1939, page 13

³⁰⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 8 March 1939, page 23

‘Did you hear about Wilf Warby! If you haven’t heard about him, visit the camp after lights out and you’ll certainly hear him; champion snorer of the 10th Light Horse.’³⁰⁹

His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Gowrie, on the occasion of visiting W.A. to inspect the defence forces, provided an opportunity for some epic photographs at Naval Base, taking the salute from the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Lord Gowrie watched an attack exercise as ‘the regiment, acting as an advance guard to a brigade of cavalry, moved north from Mandurah, encountered an ‘enemy’ force in the vicinity of the Naval Base. Twice checked by the enemy, the Light Horse gained its objective by outflanking movements each time. Lord Gowrie followed the manoeuvres from heights overlooking the valley through which the regiment was advancing.’

‘Accompanied by Major T. Tweedie, commanding officer of the regiment in the absence of Lieut.-Colonel A. H. Sweetapple, His Excellency took the salute from the 10th Light Horse as they paraded along the beach. Those who had accompanied him on his tour of the defence forces were aware that Lord Gowrie had been greatly impressed with all that he had seen, and, in particular, that he was well satisfied with the keenness of all officers and men in the task in hand.’³¹⁰

The original 10th Light Horse had departed for the Second Boer War in 1899 under Major H. L. Pilkington and numbered 130. This consisted of mostly infantry officers and soldiers, with 6 mounted men. Later contingents were mounted infantry men and the ‘Bushmen’s Corps’, and the fourth contingent or ‘Imperial Bushmen’ – which included the first Western Australian to be awarded the Victoria Cross for gallantry in action, Lieutenant Frederick William Bell. The men were famed for their riding skills –

‘It was a war in which the scouting and riding prowess of the Western Australians reached a high standard, just as it did in Palestine during the Great War.’³¹¹

They were also immediately identifiable by the emu feather adornments in their hats, although the original contingents often wore a decoration exclusively referencing their origin, magpie feathers or possum fur bands.³¹²

‘The war strength of this regiment has been reached and although it embraces some of the finest horsemen in Western Australia and some of the finest physical types, the fact is that there are several hundreds more young fellows on the waiting list to join the regiment.’³¹³

³⁰⁹ Mirror (Perth, WA: 1921 - 1956), 2 December 1939, page 13

³¹⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 6 March 1940, page 12; Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 21 March 1940, page 8

³¹¹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 17 December 1939, page 31

³¹² Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 17 December 1939, page 31; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 16 December 1915; <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/bell-frederick-william-5191> (accessed 28 November 2018)

³¹³ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 17 December 1939, page 31

The famed 10th as known today was formed around one existing squadron in October 1914, eventually having enough skilled volunteers to form a full regiment, consisting of, 'headquarters, machine gun section, and three squadrons.' Troops trained in 'musketry, manipulation of the rifle, bayonet exercises, physical exercises, camp and regimental duties, horse mastership...solid drill and stern discipline' supplement upon their arrival at Rockingham with 'more advanced work, such as scouting, reconnaissance tactics, advanced, flank and rearguard work, outpost duties, attack and defence, and field firing.'³¹⁴

Incidentally, this training coincided with an increase of sharks sighted along the beach, with regimental regulations tightened regarding look-outs and the swimming of the horses, who were thought to be attracting the sharks.³¹⁵

On the 8th and 17th of February 1915, HMAT A47 Mashobra and HMAT A52 Surada disembarked, headed to an unknown destination, that we now know as Alexandria, Egypt.

They joined the 3rd Light Horse Brigade and served dismounted at Gallipoli, the Nek and Hill 60 (with Lieutenant V. H. Throssell earning a Victoria Cross), then on to the Suez Canal, Sinai (Romani and Magdhaba); the capturing of Jerusalem, the John Valley and were the 'first formed regiment to enter Damascus.'³¹⁶

'Our men were the pick of Westralia's manhood, chosen from the very best families of our State, and better, more manly, well conducted, physically fit and loyal fighting comrades, no officer could ever wish to command and be associated with. It fairly made one's heart lift with pride to belong to the emu-plumed 10th Light Horse Regiment.'³¹⁷

Hof, Helena

1868 - 1937

Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1909-1914

married

Hof, Louis

1839 -

Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1909-1915

butcher

Louis Hof was born 8 August 1839 in Hesse Darmstadh, near Frankfurt, in the Grand Duchy, Germany. He arrived in Australia on 23 December 1861 aboard the 'Agincourt'.

³¹⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 16 December 1915, page 8

³¹⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 25 November 1939, page 11

³¹⁶ <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51044> (Accessed November 2018)

³¹⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 16 December 1915, page 8

After his arrival, Hof lived in Victoria (Beechworth), New South Wales (Tambernuka, Arraluen), Queensland and Western Australia (Collie and Fremantle), plying his trade as a small goods manufacturer and butcher; and in Queensland he prospected at Limestone Creek, Cawarral in the Hinterlands. He and his wife Helena had two daughters.³¹⁸

Once arriving in Western Australia, his time at Collie was not without colour, probably due to his proximity to the hotels of the town - he worked as the yardman at the Robinson's Hotel, and he was punched in a barfight in November 1904, which erupted between patrons over the possession of a hat.³¹⁹

Then when the Colliefields Hotel was completely gutted by fire in 1902, the Hof's were lucky to escape unharmed. Thomas Phillips, who was minding the hotel in the manager's holiday absence, '...woke a little after 3 o'clock; he judged the time by looking at his watch after the fire was in progress; he was awakened by the crackling noise of the fire; he went to his bedroom door...he saw there was a blaze in the passage in the direction of the bar and the place was full of smoke; the fire was in the walls...'

Phillips awoke the occupants of the house, Anne the cook, Louis and his wife, Thomas Thomas the billiard marker and other guests in the adjoining building, later stating at the inquest, '...when he woke Hof and his wife the fire was almost all over the building...' There were some questions during the inquest that raised suspicions of multiple fire origins in different parts of the building, but no occupant of the building was suspected. The jury decided, 'there was not sufficient evidence to prove the origin of the fire, but that there was some grounds for suspicion of incendiarism.'³²⁰

The Election Day

The *Blackwood Times* describes Election Day at Collie with great vigour - 'A host of vehicles were kept very busy all day and almost every horse in Collie will have good occasion to remember the election of 1905.' Louis Hof's horse, judged the reporter, was embarrassed and insulted at his landau carriage being converted into a tandem, whereupon 'the poor jaded beast' decided to simply sit down, 'and had to be dragged along on his haunches to the great amusement of the crowd of boys which followed in the rear.'³²¹

Louis Hof's application for certificate of naturalization was issued 13 January 1910, with his address as South Beach, Fremantle c/o Mrs Connell, 265 Mandurah Road. He was 70 years of age and had been in Australia for 48 years. Hof appeared before

³¹⁸ Morning Bulletin (Rockhampton, QLD. : 1878 - 1954), Monday 4 December 1893, page 5; NAA: A1, 1909/14976 Barcode 5867, Louis Hof - Naturalization 1909 - 1910

³¹⁹ Collie Miner (WA : 1900 - 1906), 1 November 1902, page 3; Southern Times (Bunbury, WA : 1888 - 1916), Saturday 26 November 1904, page 5

³²⁰ Collie Miner (WA : 1900 - 1916), Saturday 29 Mar 1902, page 3; Southern Times (Bunbury, WA : 1888 - 1916), Saturday 29 March 1902, page 3

³²¹ The Blackwood Times (Bunbury, WA : 1905 - 1920; 1945 - 1955), Wednesday 1 November 1905, page 3

Edmund Power Dowley, Stipendiary Magistrate on the 2nd December 1909, presented his certificate and took the Oath of Allegiance.³²²

Hof collapsed while crossing the intersection of High and Market streets, Fremantle on 25 February 1916 and was taken by ambulance to local hospital for treatment.

Louis Hof died 26 May 1916 at age 76 in Claremont. He was buried in the Roman Catholic section of Karrakatta Cemetery.³²³

Helena passed away 19 September 1937 in North Fremantle at 69 years of age. She was buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery.³²⁴

Horneman, John Clarendon
Robb's Jetty, South Fremantle 1909-1943
slaughterman

'People who may happen to be out late at nights should be very careful, as some very dangerous characters are at large in the community.'

This was the warning published in the *Kalgoorlie Western Argus* the weekend John Clarendon Horneman was mugged walking home early on a Sunday morning. Presumably not on his way to church, in 1903 Horneman was resident in Kalgoorlie working as a butcher. He was walking home past the racecourse when he was followed by three men, struck on the head and jaw with a stick and robbed of £13. He luckily lived to report the incident, but was dazed and could not describe his assailants.³²⁵

In 1917 the Slaughtermen's Strike was causing disruption in the metropolitan Perth area, with no early settlement in sight. Shopmen and carters were expressing their support mid-June, but refusing to handle prepared meat. Butchers shops were closed as they were forced to slaughter and prepare their own 'black meat' themselves, and deliveries were cancelled.

'The Amalgamated Butchers' Union, and now the whole strength of the butchering industry employees is marshalled in opposition to the masters,' warned the *West Australian*, with a mass meeting on Sunday 17 June, and although the decision not to handle 'black meat' was considered peculiar by pundits observing developments, it was most effective and crippled all progress.

³²² NAA: A1, 1909/14976 Barcode 5867, Louis Hof – Naturalization 1909 - 1910

³²³ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 25 February 1916, page 4;
<http://www2.mcb.wa.gov.au/NameSearch/details.php?id=KB00017272; KB00017272> section FC, gravesite 0060

³²⁴ Metropolitan Cemeteries Board, Mon AA Gravesite 0610; certificate of naturalisation #8978

³²⁵ Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA : 1896 - 1916), Tuesday 18 August 1903, page 17

‘The men, it is stated, are standing well together, and are confident of their ability to come out on top.’ It was hoped the railway men would be sympathetic and further make it difficult for ‘black meat’ to reach shops, and the Shop Assistants’ Union was already in support, having ‘pledged themselves to become vegetarians until such time as the trouble was settled.’³²⁶

The master butchers at the Fremantle abattoirs prepared 230 bullocks, 1420 sheep and 20 pigs to supply the metro area public, the military and government until the Thursday, and encouraged the public to pick up directly from non-Government shops as supplies, until that time were deemed satisfactory.

Nine union slaughtermen were prosecuted for downing tools, ‘under the provision of the Masters and Servants Act.’ The slaughtermen were in the employ of Messrs. McIntosh, Fry, and Mawley, and Messrs. J. Fell and C. I. King. master butchers, and these complainants were claiming £50 for breach of contract compensation from each of them. All of the striking slaughtermen, including John Horneman, would plead not guilty for absenting themselves.³²⁷

John C. Horneman died in 1944 at Fremantle. An article in the *Daily News* named him as a 77 year-old retired slaughterman who was found dead at the Smelters Camp, with death attributed to old age. Fremantle Police asked for relatives to come forward. The Meat Industry Union published a public notice respectfully inviting members and friends to the funeral of Horneman of Robb’s Jetty. Pending transferal of his estate to the Public Trustee was advertised as widely as Victoria, on behalf of his nephew, Clarence, suggesting a familial connection that that State. John Clarendon Horneman has not been fully researched.³²⁸

Enjoy Your Chop

The Western Australian Government was quick to publish a response to an article published in the *West Australian* on 14 November, where ‘Politicus’ describes a Government ‘Union’ abattoir in 1922.

‘Ancient Filth, in which the rafters are festooned with the cobwebs and gathered dirt of years; in which the pillars supporting the ceiling are haggard and grimy with longing for the lime brush; in the floor channels of which a mixture of blood and water lies in stagnant offensiveness, unable to escape quickly; in which a writhing mass of maggots may be seen, was observed in decaying animal matter on the offal floor. Pah! Enjoy your chop, brother.’³²⁹

Admitting the description applied to the offal floor rather than the main killing floor, the writer was kinder to Copley’s Abattoir, leased from the government and housing slaughtering and freezing facilities, with a goal of processing 419,800 lambs per

³²⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 19 June 1917, page 7

³²⁷ Ibid.

³²⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 12 December 1944, page 1; The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Tuesday 21 May 1946, page 15. BDM WA, Registration #380

³²⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 14 November 1922, page 6

season. He describes the facilities as 'clean and efficient beyond any comparison with the slaughter house directly operated by the government.'

Minister for Agriculture, Mr. H. K. Maley, responded thus, 'Let me say frankly at once our abattoirs are not as we would like them, but we have to do the best we can with buildings that are not modern. However, the public may rest assured that the meat for human consumption is under constant supervision by the Health Department inspectors, and the slaughtering floor is well above, and separate from, that portion of the premises used for treating the by-products.'³³⁰

It was decreed that with the completion of the Fremantle Freezing Works, the North Fremantle works could be closed, and the Anchorage and Union abattoirs could be favoured.



SLV H2004.89/35 Freezing works, Robbs Jetty, Fremantle c1922

Horton, William **Smelters Camp 1949-1954**

-

William Horton is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at the Smelters Camp in 1949-1954, without an occupation.³³¹ As the following electoral roll was compiled in 1958, it is possible Horton lived for additional time at the camp. William Horton has not been fully researched.

³³⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 15 November 1922, page 10

³³¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Hosking, John Nation/Hoskins, John
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

John Nation Hosking is listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.³³² Later in 1909, the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll he lives in Russell Street, but the spelling of his name is 'Hoskins'. He is still a slaughterman. John Hosking has not been fully researched.

Howard, Agnes Beatrice
Smelters Camp 1949-1958
home duties

Howard, Frederick William
Smelters Camp 1949-1958
boat proprietor

Agnes Howard and her husband Frederick are listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at the Smelters Camp from 1949-1958. Agnes Howard's occupation was 'home duties' with Frederick a 'boat proprietor'. He advertised his services to fishermen, enticingly writing, 'Herring and Skippy are in at South Beach. Hire a boat from Fred Howard, Smelters Camp.'³³³ His boat was well-appointed and included netting for fishing.³³⁴ Sometime after 1958 the Howards resettled at 444 South Street, and they appear on the 1963 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll with Howard now working as a labourer. William Herdigan remembers Mr Howard's nickname as 'Wingy', named such because of his single arm.³³⁵

Hughes, Alice
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

Hughes, William
South Beach 1903-1906
constable

William Hughes was not the only constable residing at South Beach 1903-1906, Peter Reynolds was also camping at the same time, but had moved before 1906. Both are listed on the Chesterfield Electoral Rolls.³³⁶ Alice Hughes also appears 1903-1906, with her occupation being 'home duties.'

³³² Ibid.

³³³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 23 January 1947, page 17

³³⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 1 July 1948, page 23

³³⁵ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

³³⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Hughes AKA Quigley, Patrick Christopher
Smelters' Camp, near Robb's Jetty 1928, 1934
former miner

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race, quoted from a newspaper published in 1934.

'It was said of him that there was scarcely a line of reef from Norseman to Hall's Creek that he had not traversed and tested, but, like many others, he left the riches in them for those who followed after...he had a natural gift for rough oratory and a keen grip on political affairs, his outspokenness frequently constituting a barrier to his financial advancement.'³³⁷

Pat C. Hughes was born in Ireland, but his liberal and iconic storytelling often supplemented the truth. Most accounts read that he came to Western Australia as a child of seven years of age with his mother and stepfather aboard the 'Orient', and had some limited schooling before setting off bush. This aside, the blessing of a rich understanding of Hughes is thanks to his fervent love of writing and activism, with many letters, columns and editorials published in newspapers throughout the State, gifting his humour and an obsessive dislike for politicians and injustice.³³⁸

Born Patrick C. Quigley, Hughes took the surname of his stepfather, a sergeant in the Imperial Army.³³⁹ He had a half-brother, Tom, who had a little success prospecting around Dwellingup. Upon Hughes' death on 23 January 1934 he was warmly acknowledged as a pioneer and prospector in the mold of Carr-Boyd, Paddy Hannan, Dan Shea or Malachi O'Dwyer. He was an explorer, a supreme bushman, 'alluvial agitator and salmon-gum stump orator.' He even had a racehorse named after him. He was a man with an enormous range of skills, not always taught in school.³⁴⁰

'..ever since he was able to toddle he imbibed a wonderful store of knowledge that the average lad can never acquire, a lot of his worldly lore being obtained from a splendid old black and a gin attached to his mother's home at Beaconsfield, Fremantle, the bushcraft imparted to him, the actual study of the sun, moon, and stars as a guide, being a revelation in his case.'³⁴¹

So advanced was his cosmic skill, on a voyage to New Zealand in a small boat, with instruments damaged, he was able to assist the skipper with his knowledge of

³³⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 17

³³⁸ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7

³³⁹ Hughes was known as both 'Hughes' and Quigley, with 'Hughes' used as a preference, particularly by friends in the Murchison region

³⁴⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 17; salmon gum, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 23 April 1911, page 13; Tom, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 24 March 1929, page 3; racehorse 'Pat C. Hall' May meet of the Gill Handicap, jockey Elwick F. Riley, Examiner (Launceston, Tas. : 1900 - 1954), Friday 5 May 1950, page 12; prospectors, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 5 January 1908, page 1

³⁴¹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7

navigation by the stars until help appeared on the horizon.

During his childhood he learned to swim early, and as a lad he rescued a boy who fell from the Fremantle old jetty in the excitement of hooking a large fish, then years later he almost drowned saving an 18-year-old youth from the same spot. Even more dangerously, whilst traversing the Great Australian Bight in a schooner, he fearlessly leapt into the sea to hold his skipper above water 'till rescued.'³⁴²

'Pat has followed multitudinous avocations in his time of such a diversified nature as cattle-punching on the N'or"-West cattle boats, prospecting and mining, holding up fencing contracts, sailing the seas as a sailorman, and dozens of other kinds of jobs that tighten the muscles and stiffen the backbone.'³⁴³

Hughes arrived at Mt. Magnet during the rush ignited by the discovery of gold by William Watson. He situated his camp at Jones Well, which quickly ran dry due to the number of men arriving by 20-mile foot trek, 'carrying swags, picks, shovels, dishes, and the indispensable water bags.' He left to pursue rushes at Cue, Carey, Lake Austin, Peak Hill and the Horseshoe Bend, unfortunately without much reward.³⁴⁴

The Trouble at Ivanhoe

When the mighty Ivanhoe Venture Company braced against the righteous stubbornness of William Bray and Pat C. Hughes and their 'alluvial boys,' they perhaps didn't anticipate the chaos that would ignite. Hughes had political form, Bray was a quieter man. But when both were arrested for disobeying an 1897 order by mining for alluvial gold on Ivanhoe's lease, Bray simply showed his license and questioned the legal validity of the order. Hughes suspected more unsound motivations. They were hauled before the Warden's Court.

'The warden spoke severely to the men and said he would commit them to the Fremantle gaol until they themselves considered that they had purged the contempt, and petitioned for their release. The sentence was, therefore, unlimited.'

After sentencing, Bray and Hughes were detained in a railway carriage connected to the evening's express train. An enraged mob of 400 diggers began to march the two and a half miles to the railway station, joined by an additional 200 along the way. A few among the mob threatened to break out their martyrs from the train, but were subdued by 'the more sensible' of the miners, who kept order and earned the respect of the police and reporters present.

³⁴² Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 23 April 1911, page 13; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7

³⁴³ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 7 March 1914, page 4; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 9 July 1922, page 15; see also Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 20 December 1925, page 2

³⁴⁴ Geraldton Guardian and Express (WA : 1929 - 1947), Saturday 3 February 1934, page 2; see also Evening Star (Boulder, WA : 1898 - 1921), Thursday 5 July 1906, page 1; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 25 December 1932, page 12

The crowd surged into Maritana-street and an effigy of the Minister of Mines, Mr. Wittenoom, was publicly hanged. The men then returned to the mine to work, replacing Bray and Hughes in a final show of defiance. (See also Bray entry earlier).

Hughes lamented the possibility of justice in the Warden's Court or the Supreme Court; their only hope was Parliament. He maintained the protesting miners were 'unjustly and wrongfully' incarcerated and agreed with his comrade Bray that the Wardens had 'grossly maladminister(ed) the Mining Act' and 'were acting under pressure of the then Minister of Mines, Mr Wittenoom, or...other influential personage.' It was an issue affecting thousands of people making an honest livelihood and he could not bear the injustice of Sir John Forrest's relationship with Mr Moran, M.L.A. and Moran's position as largest shareholder in the disputed lease, and so in a letter to the editor, he called for a Royal Commission to examine documents produced during the agitation, and to interview witnesses.³⁴⁵

Bray and Hughes only served a month, although some additional men followed them to Fremantle Prison from Ivanhoe from a later agitation. They eventually received a Government apology.

Hughes continued to campaign, believing there were plentiful resources for all, with alluvial available for the diggers and the 'reef or lode matter' left for the companies. He also refuted the claim the alluvial digger did not invest capital (citing poverty and sweat) into the fields and found errors in the application of the Goldfields Act.³⁴⁶

Digger v. Leaseholder

Hughes was also critical of a practice bearing contemporary resonations in Western Australia. He saw the legal but morally corrupt example of Hannans Proprietary Company advantaging 300 acres of rich auriferous land to 'only contribute in the way of rent to the State £300 per annum, or £1 per acre, and employ one man for every six acres, or 50 men in all to comply with the labor conditions' with exemptions, as at odds with the requirements of the individual miner. If the alluvial digger wished to access 300 acres, 'he must pay the State £1333/ 10s rent' in miners' rights... and man it with 2667 men,' without exemptions.

'So much Mr. Editor, for the respective positions of the alluvial miner and the reefer and the rotten mining laws of West Australia.'³⁴⁷

Union Man

Hughes' commitment to unionism was legendary; he truly enjoyed the chairing, committee work and policy development. Key was his involvement the formation of the first branch of the A.W.A. in Coolgardie and the Alluvial Rights Association. Following Hughes' death the *Sunday Times* dryly reminded readers that prior to

³⁴⁵ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Monday 1 August 1898, page 3

³⁴⁶ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Thursday 3 February 1898, page 2; see also Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Tuesday 1 February 1898, page 2

³⁴⁷ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Monday 10 April 1899, page 3;

1900, he also founded the Anti-Asiatic League.³⁴⁸

He wrote letters when helping to set up a shearing union in W.A. to improve conditions – he enquired into a successful model in Queensland. He was president of the Darling Ranges Firewood Getters Union, and involved in organising workers at Robb's Jetty in 1900, resulting in the formation of the powerful Slaughtermen and Assistants Union of Fremantle. Meetings could be informal; he could turn up in the early hours with a bottle of whisky and the morning milk delivery.³⁴⁹

His leadership skills were also used benevolently, such as the desperate plan to combat a 'violent epidemic of enteric fever' sweeping through the mining camps at Cue, killing perfectly healthy men in their 30's.³⁵⁰

One incident enjoyed by the press was his attempt to begin an alternative Waterside Workers' Association to the monopoly of the Fremantle Lumpers' Union. A meeting was planned, which got out of control and resulted in a disappointing personal beating. When asked by the *Truth* newspaper if the workers attacked him, he declared – "I never knew I had a solar plexus until I *stopped that punch*."³⁵¹

A kinship with the Secessionist Frederick C. B. Vosper, a passionate orator and anti-Federationist, led to Hughes accompanying him and Mrs. Vosper in late 1900 on lecture tours of the goldfields. Whilst initially polite in Kalgoorlie, speeches at Boulder, where he spoke from the balcony of a local hotel, invited a shower of 'stones, fruit and jam tins' from the 'howling mob'. Later they were almost denied supper at a Kalgoorlie café due to the brewing trouble outside the premises, and Vosper left Kalgoorlie shouting to the angry mob,

"You fools! You are denouncing me now, but when it is too late, when you are bound and shackled to the Eastern States, you will come to me...but it will be too late, too late!"³⁵²

A Plea for Separation

But it seems Hughes saw that the vehicle of federation could not be slowed, and endeavoured to throw his nemesis Premier Sir John Forrest into its path.

³⁴⁸ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Tuesday 4 April 1899, page 7; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7; Anti-Asiatic, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 4 February 1934, page 8

³⁴⁹ Slaughtermen's, Westralian Worker (Perth, WA : 1900 - 1951), Firewood Getters, Swan Express (Midland Junction, WA : 1900 - 1954), Saturday 4 June 1904, page 2; Friday 14 November 1902, page 2; whisky, Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 20 April 1924, page 18

³⁵⁰ Geraldton Guardian (WA : 1906 - 1928), Saturday 16 October 1926, page 1; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 8 July 1923, page 2

³⁵¹ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 7 March 1914, page 4; Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1898 - 1919), Sunday 8 March 1914, page 5

³⁵² Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 2 April 1933, page 7; see also Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 15 March 1925, page 18; see also Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 2 September 1934, page 10

'Now, Sir, as federation would in every way be of advantage to the residents of the goldfields — and nobody knows that better than Sir John — can it reasonably be supposed for a moment that even the southwest crowd would acquiesce to anything that would deprive them of the right to milk — aye, until they milk, practically speaking, the very life blood of the wealthy goldfields' cow.'

Hughes' own Federationist campaign for separation mirrored his distrust of city politicians, and what he described as their 'baneful and tyrannical influences of that pestilent and festering sore on the body social - from Perth, the seat of the sand-groping conspirators...' He admitted in a letter to editor of the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, 'Sir, it may seem strange for myself - a working man and a unionist - to be supporting disintegration,' but he keenly felt a rising union of the oppressed gave 'battle to the oppressors, the tyrant or money-grabber' and was 'healthy, noble and moral.'³⁵³

He promoted further in letters to editors that a division of the colony and the banding together of sympathetic Western Australian provinces in earlier Federation would be beneficial, and warned of Premier 'Sir John and his clique's' motives.

'..let us get separation first from that incubus, that old man of the sea, that octopus that drains the very sap of our young life — Sir John, the prince of the south-west and their sandy district — and our prospects of becoming part of a federated Australia will be a hundred times more favorable.'³⁵⁴

Sly Grogeries and Frizzyhaired Proprietresses

Hughes had an opinion on the full spectrum of issues of the day, and a cheeky sense of humour. He lamented to the *Kalgoorlie 'Sun'* newspaper in February 1900 about the unfair prosecution of hotelkeepers supplying refreshments on Sundays, claiming it was impossible to get even a drink of water without having to beg, and that the ban would drive people to illegal 'sly grogeries', and 'unlicensed drinking dens' run by 'frizzyhaired proprietresses'. He railed against the problem of obtaining liquids 'essential to a man's health' in the midday heat.³⁵⁵

A Renaissance man with a love of the celestial, he took time to celebrate the passing of the Great Comet of 1901.

'Sir,—I constituted one of all Coolgardieites, big and little, old and young, who rapt in admiration viewed our comet, which showed to such great advantage just after sunset last evening... But what beat all was an old beer-chewer soliloquising, 'Does it not look like the light in front of the Bed Bluff Hotel at 2 a.m. ?'³⁵⁶

³⁵³ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1950), Tuesday 5 July 1898, page 7; *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1950), Friday 22 July 1898, page 6;

Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Friday 5 August 1898, page 7

³⁵⁴ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1950), Friday 8 July 1898, page 8; see also *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1950), Friday 23 September 1898, page 2

³⁵⁵ *Sun* (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1898 - 1919), Sunday 11 February 1900, page 5

³⁵⁶ *Dynamite*, *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 9 February 1930, page 1; *Coolgardie Miner* (WA : 1894 - 1911), Friday 3 May 1901, page 4

The Ministerial Trip And the Bubonic Plague

One of Hughes' particular joys in life was to poke fun at politicians, hilariously drawing attention to the coinciding of both the visit of the bubonic plague, and the W.A. Premier to the goldfields region. Suggestions to stymie the disease included strict quarantine, burying all vessels used 'to guzzle the ratepayers' champagne' with, fumigating, or 'cremating' all buildings occupied by the political suspects, and having any rare grant money promised - if it indeed appeared - to be 'dipped in carbolic.' But his last proposition was most creative

'..let there be large and commodious passenger dips provided the other side of Southern Cross, near, or at the goldfields boundary line and kept well filled with disinfecting solutions in which all passenger men, women, and children— a la sheep—shall be dipped; some rough and ready sheep farmers, from scab infected districts, to have control.' He later merrily suggested 'alluvial boys' do the dipping.

He signed off warning the goldfields authorities that without these controls, 'up goes the price of whisky ; for our ladies will have to make that special afternoon cup of tea—extra special —for fear of the bluebolic, God bless 'em.'³⁵⁷

A Splendid Soul

Reports that Pat Hughes was dangerously ill were published in mid January.³⁵⁸

'A splendid soul fluttered from its earthly tenement when last week died at Fremantle, Patrick Quigley (Pat C. Hughes)... Of big and powerful stature, with a wonderfully kind and generous disposition.'³⁵⁹

He was remembered by many, including a public notice from E. G. 'Dryblower' Murphy, the poet and newspaperman, and reminisces continued for years.³⁶⁰

'He was a rugged type, but a great heart. He never did a dirty action and stuck to his friends to the limit. For some time he had been living quietly in a little shack near Fremantle where the illness which took him off seized him. There are very many who will miss him. Vale Pat Hughes.'³⁶¹

³⁵⁷ Evening Star (Boulder, WA : 1898 - 1921), Thursday 3 May 1900, page 4

³⁵⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 17 January 1934, page 17; An earlier report in the Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 7 January 1934, page 14 names his death bed at a camp he intermittently occupied in Forrestdale, but this proves inaccurate as all other reports name the Smelters Camp, then Fremantle hospital.

³⁵⁹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 28 January 1934, page 7; see also Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 27 January 1934, page 14

³⁶⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 1

³⁶¹ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 27 January 1934, page 14; See also Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Friday 26 January 1934, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 25 January 1934, page 1; BDM WA [under Quigley, Patrick C] Registration #36, 1934

Huntley, Frederick
1878 - 1949
Smelters Camp 1936-1949
yardman

Frederick Huntley lived and worked in hotels in Fremantle and country Western Australia, before spending approximately 13 years as a resident of the Smelters Camp. In 1903 he was a bottler at the Terminus Hotel, then in 1909 at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle as a yardman. From 1912-1914 he was a labourer at the Exchange Hotel in Pingelly, then 1917-1934 he worked as a yardman at the National Hotel in Fremantle. He did not have an occupation while at the Smelters Camp approximately 1936-1949. In 1906 he was a witness in a court trial. Later he was a yardman at the Oceanic Hotel, and gave evidence as to the striking of Charles Cowain in the face with a glass by the female accused, Esther Warden.

Huntley died in the Smelters Camp at South Fremantle in 1949 at age 71 and was buried in the Church of England portion of Fremantle Cemetery. Frederick Huntley has not been fully researched.³⁶²

Hyland, John (Joannis) Francis/Matthew
1831 – 1905
Robb's Jetty 1905
pensioner

John Francis Hyland (73), also known as Matthew, was found deceased in his camp at Robb's Jetty in 1905. The simplicity of the discovery belied the fantastic adventures Hyland lived.

John Hyland's mother was Bridget Jones and his father's name was Matthew. He hailed from County Cavan, Ireland. John (Joannis) was at one time the husband of Mary Ann McCaffrey and had ten children, including daughter Violet Ellen and sons Philip Thomas and John Francis.³⁶³

Hyland had been living at the camp at Robb's Jetty for several years, subsisting on a pension. He seemed in his usual health when seen on the previous Thursday evening, and it was presumed he died in his sleep.

Hyland was a sergeant in the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers, serving under General Lawrence for the duration of the Indian Mutiny and subsequently, serving for two years under General Gordon at the Boxer Rebellion in China and held medals for

³⁶² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 5 April 1906, page 10; BDM WA Registration #255; MCB FB00017181, Section Mon AA, Gravesite 1493; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 22 August 1949, page 1

³⁶³ BDM WA Registration #1049; Violet Registration #22765 /1882; John Registration #18185/1877; Philip FHL Film number 1363695, 1879

each. He carried a letter of recommendation from Gordon, acknowledging his services and he received an Imperial Pension.

After serving in China, he was sent to Yorkshire to instruct the 6th West York Volunteers in Musketry, and filled a similar role at Hythe. He was invited to Western Australia by the late Mr. W. Childers, and arrived in the ship *Naval Brigade* in 1874.

Hyland was buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery. It was noted that he was 'a very old and esteemed member of the Lord-Warden Lodge of Freemasons, of Deal, Kent.'³⁶⁴ John Francis Hyland has not been fully researched.

**Hyland, Augusta Agnes
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1951**

-

Augusta Hyland's death in Perth appears in the Births, Deaths and Marriages Western Australia registry in 1964. Her age is 73, her father's name William F P and her mother's name Clare.³⁶⁵ Hyland is mentioned in the *West Australian* on 7 July 1951 as a resident of the camp, when Doris Mippy was charged with assaulting her on the South Beach reserve on 16 June.³⁶⁶ Augusta Hyland has not been fully researched.

**Inman, Arthur Stanley
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1946-1947
labourer**

**Inman, Mary Gladys
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1947-1948**

-

Arthur and Mary Inman and their seven children occupied a hut at the Smelters Camp from approximately 1946 to 1948. The electoral rolls are not accurate in their case; they were also known to reside in a house in Duoro Road South Fremantle, and had often moved around the State in order to be together.³⁶⁷ Life was very tough for the Inmans, and in the struggle of surviving camp life, and navigating their circumstances, Mary Gladys met with tragedy.

Arthur Inman had been a street sweeper in Melbourne, Victoria before arriving in Western Australia. When he met Mary, they were not permitted to marry, but they

³⁶⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 16 June 1905, page 3; See also Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 17 June 1905, page 8; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 19 June 1905, page 4

³⁶⁵ BDMWA, registration no. 2794

³⁶⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 7 July 1951, page 7

³⁶⁷ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019

were determined to be together, and for many years played a game of cat and mouse with authorities around the State. But they were deeply in love and determined, and finally they achieved success after many remonstrations, and legally married. They had eight children together, Pauline, Beatrice, Bernard, Stanley, Mary, Dorothy, Margery and Vincent. These children joined their elder siblings, Margo, George and Phyllis to Mary's first husband whose name was Sargent. Beatrice, at 14 years of age, was sent by Welfare from Home of Good Shepherd to travel to Mt Vernon for employment as a domestic. Unhappy with life at Mt Vernon, she ran away, then was transferred to Belele Station, where she met Douglas Fraser, a Wadjari Yamatji who was working there. Douglas' mother Jiggabirri was a Wadjari Nyarlu and his father a Scotsman named David Gordon Fraser. Together they had seven children Dolores, Gregory, Stanley, Susan, Glenda, Bernard and Dennis. Dolores Fraser later lived at the Seagull Camp in South Fremantle.³⁶⁸

On Friday night, 13 December 1946, responding to camp residents requesting police protection, Constable Minnett and other Beaconsfield police found a drunken brawl in progress, with Arthur Inman (then 50 and working as a labourer), involved in the scuffle. When presented at court Inman told the court he had no memory of the event, but admitted to resisting arrest.³⁶⁹

'SEVEN CHILDREN. Parents Convicted Of Neglect' is an article in the *West Australian* that details the unforgivable living conditions of the Smelters Camp in the 1940s and 50s, and highlights the lack of basic assistance afforded the Inmans.

The article describes that the family is living in a 'three-roomed corrugated iron shack', which was cramped and difficult to keep clean. When advised that the parents struggled with alcohol issues, Special Magistrate Schroeder was a little kinder toward Mrs. Inman than her husband, stating

"Your children have been getting into trouble." To Mrs. Inman he said: "You have conducted your defence very ably; if you looked after yourself you would be all right." The magistrate treated Mr Inman more harshly: "I don't think you have much sense. If you had as much as your wife and she used the sense she has got you would be a successful couple."³⁷⁰

The Inmans were fine £10 each and put on good behaviour bonds for twelve months. But they were often the targets of police and were not afraid to defend themselves, on one court date following an encounter at the waiting shed of the South Fremantle tram terminus on Mandurah Road, Sergeant M.J. Riggs paraded a two-inch scar on his cheek as evidence.³⁷¹

³⁶⁸ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019

³⁶⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 14 December 1946, page 27; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 15 December 1946, page 13; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 16 December 1946, page 14

³⁷⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 21 March 1947, page 3

³⁷¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 5 September 1947, page 10

Found in Sea

When Mary Gladys Inman (42) was found floating in the sea near Robb's Jetty on the 8 January 1948 at 11.45am, she could not be revived by artificial respiration, nor placement on a rocking stretcher for 45 minutes once rushed to Fremantle Hospital.

'According to a report made to the police, (Inman) went paddling shortly before noon. Later she was seen to be in difficulties on a sandbank in shallow water some distance from the shore. Two women assisted her ashore.'

Coroner Mr. J. E. Oustafson. J.P. gave his findings at the Fremantle Courthouse in late February, 'that deceased met her death from drowning while suffering from the effects of an alcoholic carousal'. It had been evidenced that Inman had been drinking with companions the previous night and the morning of the tragedy, and disorientated, drowned when she went swimming.³⁷²

Dolores Fraser, Mary Gladys' grand daughter, is regretful she never had the opportunity to meet her. Dolores recalls that her devastated grandfather Arthur had told her mother Beatrice that Mary Gladys had been hit over the head with a bottle earlier during the fateful evening, by another person at the camp. Beatrice later shared this information with Dolores.

But Dolores remembers her grandfather Arthur well, describing him affectionately as a lovely old man, completely devoted to his wife.³⁷³

With thanks to Dolores Fraser for her permission to share her family history.

Jamison, Frederick Owen's Anchorage 1901, 1903-1906 slaughterman

Frederick Jamison is listed on the Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1901, and then between 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.³⁷⁴ Frederick Jamison has not been fully researched.

Jetta Family Smelters Camp 1950s holidays

The Jetta family are included in Dr. Denise Cook's research, with oral history provided by Doreen Nelson (née Jetta) as residents of the Smelters Camp during

³⁷² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 8 January 1948, page 1; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 9 January 1948, page 17; also Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Saturday 10 January 1948, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 24 February 1948, pg 13

³⁷³ Dolores Fraser interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 11 May 2019 and 14 June 2019.

³⁷⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

holiday periods.³⁷⁵ Doreen Nelson recalls spending time camping with her family; including grandmother Hannah Yarran, at the Smelters, swimming and older family members sourcing building supplies from the nearby tip and picking fruit from trees and fishing.³⁷⁶

Kelly, John William Thomas
Smelters Camp 1935
labourer

William Kelly, also known as John, generally lived a quiet life eking out a living labouring through the worst of the Depression. In March 1932 Kelly was arrested by plain-clothed policeman Constable Cox as a consequence of executing a search warrant and finding an unlicensed rifle under Kelly's bed. Kelly denied having used the rifle 'for some time'³⁷⁷ and was only fined £1 with 4/6 costs. Then in May that same year, Kelly successfully sued and gained an order for payment of a balance of £2 wages in weekly instalments, ordered by magistrate Mr H. J. Craig R.M. in 1932, for Kelly's work carting pig food for Mrs. Alice Tanner at Hamilton Hill.³⁷⁸

But it was an unfortunate discovery that William Kelly made in the sandhills near his camp at Robb's Jetty, Fremantle in 1935, which entwined his life forever with that of another man who struggled, but under completely different circumstances.

Kelly was 'cutting trees about 11 a.m. when he came across the fully clothed body,' a quarter-mile north of Robb's Jetty. Kelly telephoned the police at Beaconsfield and 'Constable Simmons, who proceeded to the spot, found that death had occurred probably an hour or two previously.' Simmons found papers and a cheque in the deceased man's pockets. Curiously the report concludes with, 'There was no trace of the man's hat.' Perhaps this inferred a robbery with foul play, but as customary in such events, a post-mortem examination was scheduled at Fremantle Hospital.³⁷⁹

At the inquest in September, the tragic demise of William Percy Groves, a 39-year-old secretary to the Mundaring Road Board, was described. Groves, steadily and tragically unraveling, had methodically premeditated options for his own demise. Roy Alexander Anderson, supervisor at the road board, spoke of Grose's usually 'cheerful disposition', but 'he had been in a muddle for some time past,'³⁸⁰ indicating

³⁷⁵ Cook, Denise, "'That was my Home" Voices from the Noongar Camps in Perth's Western Suburbs', Thesis BA (Hons) 2016, Murdoch University. See

<http://researchrepository.murdoch.edu.au/id/eprint/32328/> (Accessed January 2019). Soon to be published by UWA Publishing in 2019: "'That was my Home" Stories from the Noongar Camps of Fremantle and Perth's Western Suburbs'. See <https://uwap.uwa.edu.au/blogs/marginalia/from-2018-to-2019> (Accessed January 2019)

³⁷⁶ Doreen Nelson Oral History told to Dr. Denise Cook, 1 November 2012, p1

³⁷⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 22 March 1932, page 2

³⁷⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 26 May 1932, page 19

³⁷⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 17 August 1935, page 11; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 16 August 1935, page 5

³⁸⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 17 September 1935, page 11

recent circumstances around work, a car accident court case and additionally Grose 'had complained about his health, the state of which he attributed to being gassed at the war.'³⁸¹

Anderson stated, 'I saw a bottle of poison in the strongroom on several occasions... Deceased was the only one who had the key.' It was thought to be strychnine and it was also stated that Grose was found carrying cigarettes laced with the poison, but in a thoughtful manner had included in the tobacco tin a note reading, 'These are poisoned,' as well as a small blue bottle.

'Some time after Grose had failed to appear at the office on August 9, he was reported missing, witness continued, and on August 12, when the strongroom was opened, it was found that the poison was missing.' Grose had appeared at his Aunt's home on 12 August, 'looking very limp and with a vacant look,' after having been missing for four days. "'Thank God you have come back,'" were her first words when she saw him at the door. She made him rest inside, and he told her that he had walked from Fremantle and had tried to take poison. Something had stopped him, and he was so cold that the poison had dropped from his hand. In the night he had a violent headache and could not sleep. A doctor was called, and said that deceased was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. Later he became delirious. Next day he left for Mundaring, and that was the last she saw of him.'³⁸²

'The Coroner (Mr. J. H. Payne) found that death was due to poison, presumably self-administered, while deceased was suffering from mental depression.'³⁸³

The following electoral roll for Fremantle, South Fremantle, only includes a Supplementary list – it is possible William Kelly also resided at the camp in 1937.

Khan, Mary
Smelters Camp 1955
domestic

Mary Khan is mentioned in the *Sunday Times* on 16 Jan 1955 as a resident of the smelters camp. She was arrested for an assault on Colin McPhail Bryce, which resulted in his admittance to Fremantle Hospital early in the morning. Mary Khan has not been fully researched.

³⁸¹ Ibid.

³⁸² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 17 September 1935, page 11

³⁸³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 17 September 1935, page 11 See also Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Thursday 22 August 1935, page 10

Killeen, John
1863 - 1934
Smelter's Works 1926-1929
miner

John Killeen, a retired miner, appears in the 1926, 1928 and 1929 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls at the Smelter's Works.

Three years earlier, in 1923, Killeen was living in a Newcastle Street boarding house and attempted to cut his own throat with a razor. It's reported he 'struggled violently while being conveyed to hospital, where it was found that the wound was not very serious.'³⁸⁴

Killeen died in East Coolgardie and was buried in Kalgoorlie Cemetery in 1934. A probate of £1076 was left for Patrick Joseph Russell.³⁸⁵ John Killeen has not been fully researched.

Knight, John (Jack) Albert James
Copley's Siding/Smelters Camp 1943-1958
gardener

Knight, Lizzie
Copley's Siding 1943-1954
home duties

John and Lizzie Knight are listed at the Copley's Siding site on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll. John Knight is listed 1943-1958 as a gardener, and Lizzie Knight 1943-1954 as occupation, home duties. They are fond friends of Jesse Manser, another resident of the camp.

The Knights also advertised in the *West Australian* in 1947, 'For sale: Muscovies, 26 ducks and drakes, 10 wks old. Knight. Smelters' Camps, east of railway line, South Fremantle.'³⁸⁶

The Knights had a son, John (Jack) Jnr.³⁸⁷

³⁸⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 9 July 1923, page 2; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Tuesday 10 July 1923, page 5

³⁸⁵ BDM WA Registration #169; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 19 March 1920, page 8; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Monday 6 August, page 4

³⁸⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 25 September 1947, page 1

³⁸⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 13 May 1949, page 1 (mentioned in a public notice following the death of Jessie Manser)

The Steamer Venus, 1923

'We decided on Sunday to accept the invitation of Messrs. J. Ball and Sons to journey to Rockingham from Fremantle in the steamer Venus... As the vessel proceeds along the line of buoys marking the Naval Base passage points of interest on land are pointed out. First come the remnants of the old sea jetty, which carried the heavy rush, of traffic in the early days, of the goldfields, and for long before that. Next the South Beach, its jetty, and the skeleton framework for the very commodious two-storied bathing house, which it is hoped will be ready in a month's time. A little further on are the smelters, which have sent several large consignments of ingot lead overseas recently. Then the huge freezing works, the abattoirs being nearby, with their sea approach, Robb's Jetty. On past the Woodman's Point lighthouse, and then the quarantine station, and the breakwater of the Naval Base is off the quarter...'³⁸⁸

Krueger, Carl Frederic August Robb's Jetty, Fremantle 1921-1922 sausage skin manufacturer

Carl Krueger announces his intention to apply for naturalisation in the *Daily News* in September 1921. He declares himself of German Nationality, born in 'Norenberg, Pomerania', but having lived in Australia for 31 years, and his occupation was 'Sausage Skin Manufacturer.'³⁸⁹

In April, the Commonwealth Gazette lists Krueger as receiving his certificate of naturalisation on the 11 March 1922.³⁹⁰

The Commonwealth Gazette names Carl Frederic August Krueger, Robb's Jetty, Fremantle, Western Australia in a long schedule of German Nations with whom the Commonwealth of Australia is declaring peace under the 'Treaty of Peace Regulations' [Statutory Rules, post-dated to 10 January 1920, no. 25] in 1922. In the act, Henry William, baron Forster, Governor General is releasing, 'from the charge so created all property, rights and interests'³⁹¹ to these persons.

Carl Krueger has not been fully researched.

³⁸⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 16 January 1923, page 5

³⁸⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 19 September 1921, page 1

³⁹⁰ Commonwealth Gazette, no. 30, 6 April 1922, held by National Library Australia
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/25028037> accessed March 2018

³⁹¹ Commonwealth Gazette, no. 5, 18 January 1923, held by National Library Australia
<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/25029666> accessed March 2018.

Lillywhite, Julia Bertha
Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle 1937, 1954
unemployed

Julia Bertha Lillywhite was born about 1888 in Fremantle to mother Jane Elizabeth Hudson and father Matthew Bateman. She married William Gordon Lillywhite in 1911 and they had children Dora Jane, Hudson, Lavinia and Bertha Jean between 1911-1918. In 1916 they were living in Sewell St, East Fremantle and Julia was working as a domestic and William was a motor driver. In 1917 they had moved to King William Street, Fremantle.³⁹²

In 1917 the pattern that was to control Lillywhite's life began, with her receiving some stolen articles of clothing from a relative, Emily Bateman. It is proved to be an established behaviour, as the police found other items in her house when it was searched.³⁹³

Lillywhite's last daughter, Bertha Jean, was born in 1918, but Bertha was not to know her father very long. In 1919, William Gordon posted a public notice warning that he would not be responsible for any debts incurred by his wife, Julia Lillywhite. At this time he was living separately in Douglas Street, South Fremantle.³⁹⁴

In November 1921, Lillywhite was detected in the act of rolling a piece of fabric inside another, which was stolen from Freedman's store on the corner of Hay and William Streets, Perth. Emily Bateman was again involved in this theft. Lillywhite appealed that she had been drinking and was not responsible. Another charge for theft occurred in 1922.³⁹⁵ Lillywhite was arrested for vile language in 1923, under circumstances which required deeper consideration than that which the magistrate was prepared to offer. The arrest occurred in a vacant block off John Street, Fremantle. Lillywhite was missing one tooth after just being assaulted by a man, and her clothing 'was disarranged, and her blouse saturated with blood'. Her claim that she had been greatly provoked was discounted; she was fined £2 with costs or gaol.³⁹⁶

Lillywhite spent the next 24 years receiving fines, attending court or short sentences in Fremantle Prison for mostly petty theft of clothing or fabrics; on 9 July 1926 she was released from Fremantle on the same day as Lucy Skinner (see Lucy Skinner entry below).³⁹⁷

³⁹² BDM WA Reg #688/67, #4084. Marriage in Fremantle Reg #55; BDM WA Children Dora Jane (Reg # 776, 1911), Hudson G (Reg #851, 1913), Lavinia (Reg #145, 1916), Bertha Jean (Reg #408, 1918); Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

³⁹³ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 26 November 1917, page 2

³⁹⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950) Wednesday 12 November 1919, page 7

³⁹⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950) Wednesday 9 November 1921, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 25 May 1922, page 9

³⁹⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 11 April 1923, page 5

³⁹⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 11 April 1923, page 5; Fremantle Prison Entry Registers, SRO Western Australia (44765_352486-00230) discharged 9 July 1926 with Lucy Skinner;

But theft was also a way of attending to costs and balances. Lillian she was accused of stealing in 1929 she considered in lieu of £8 owed to her by Pearl McDonald. Lillywhite had assured the laundry shop proprietor that she had permission to pick up the bed linen and rug freshly cleaned for McDonald, but when the police came for the goods they also found a quantity of serge stolen from a tailor's shop in Fremantle at her house. Due to her numerous prior offences, Lillywhite was sentenced to three months.³⁹⁸

Meanwhile at least one of her children was in care. Bertha Lillywhite is mentioned in newspaper articles in 1932, attending a sports carnival planned by the Labor Women of WA, where she won a prize in a 'special race' and in 1935, when the Union Secretary visited Mt Lawley Depot where games were played, 'community singing was enjoyed and a competition was won by Betty Powell and Bertha Lillywhite' – with prizes and sing-alongs being high points of what must have been a challenging childhood for young Bertha, distanced from her mother.³⁹⁹

1932 was the same year Bertha's mother was receiving one month's imprisonment for using obscene language in a bus on Rockingham Road; she and her companion Weston Sutherland were ejected from the bus; and in 1934 Lillywhite stole two jars of fish paste from Charlie Carters grocery shop and gave one to her niece Rene, who luckily was dismissed from charges of receiving.⁴⁰⁰

Lillywhite is linked to the Smelters Camp in 1939, when Sergeant Lowrie heard swearing coming from the vicinity of Cyprus Valley, an area where 'there were several camps in the valley, which is situated near the Fremantle Smelters.' Lillywhite, now 51 and described as 'middle-aged' and under the influence of liquor, later admits to the charge, and her honesty was well-received, 'Magistrate Craig, in fining her, said that the Bench had decided to be lenient, as Lillywhite had not been convicted since 1934.'⁴⁰¹

Lillywhite's final years ended as they had begun, with a charge of 14 day's gaol for supplying alcohol to companion Doris Jarvis in 1943, who notably hexed the magistrate with the warning, 'I hope you choke with your Christmas dinner'. And in 1946, while already in gaol for habitual drunkenness, Lillywhite was charged with a further one month's imprisonment for stealing shopping, including stout, and a bag

see also 26 January 1929, 14 September 1929, 4 September 1930, 20 February 1931, 12 and 16 December 1931, 30 April 1932,

³⁹⁸Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 14 September 1929, page 6; NB Lillywhite is listed as 34 years of age and actually would have been 41.

³⁹⁹Westralian Worker (Perth, WA : 1900 - 1951), Friday 6 May 1932, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 11 Feb 1935, page 8; Bertha would have been 14 and 17 respectively.

⁴⁰⁰The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Thursday 17 November 1932 page 7. Fish paste: Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 1 September 1934, page 4; (Rene May Lillywhite /Mellowship was Lillywhite's niece by marriage. Walter, Rene's husband Walter, was the son of Harold Lillywhite, William's brother, married to Bertha). Article states Lillywhite was 40 years of age, but was 46.

⁴⁰¹Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 26 May 1939, page 25

belonging to Gwen Warner. Some of the contents of the bag ended up with Lillywhite's sister in law, Mary Bateman, who was treated leniently as it was her first offence. Warner had noticed the bag missing after allowing Lillywhite and Bateman to nurse her baby after meeting in the street, then upon seeing Lillywhite the following day in Fremantle with the bag, approached her and was told, 'If it's yours, dearie, you take it.'⁴⁰²

And finally, Lillywhite, then aged 57 and an unemployed resident of the Smelters Camp, was fined £1 in March 1953 for stealing one pint of milk valued at 9d.⁴⁰³

Lillywhite died in 1967 at 79 years of age and was buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery.⁴⁰⁴

Locke, William Reuben

1861 - 1927

Robb's Jetty 1927

-

The *Daily News* recorded William Locke's passing as a 'Sudden Death' after his collapse at Robb's Jetty camp that morning, and his transferal to Fremantle Hospital's morgue, 'where life was pronounced extinct.'⁴⁰⁵

The passing of Locke was also recorded in the 'Local Happenings' column of the tabloid *Sunday Times* newspaper, as being the result of natural causes.⁴⁰⁶

Locke's death is confirmed by Births, Deaths and Marriages in Western Australia at Fremantle in 1927.⁴⁰⁷ William Locke has not been fully researched.

Lujo, Pietro (Lujo, Petar)

1857 - 1943

Robb's Jetty 1914, 1926-1943

labourer/nil 1926

Pietro Lujo arrived in Western Australia in 1889 from Dubrovnik, Croatia and lived in Boulder.⁴⁰⁸

⁴⁰² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 20 Dec 1943, page 7; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 14 February 1946, page 9; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 15 Feb 1946, page 12

⁴⁰³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 21 March 1953, page 10

⁴⁰⁴ BDM WA Registration #688; MCB FB000024051

⁴⁰⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 12 December 1927, page 1

⁴⁰⁶ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 18 December 1927, page 17

⁴⁰⁷ Births, Deaths and Marriages, Western Australia, registration no. 325

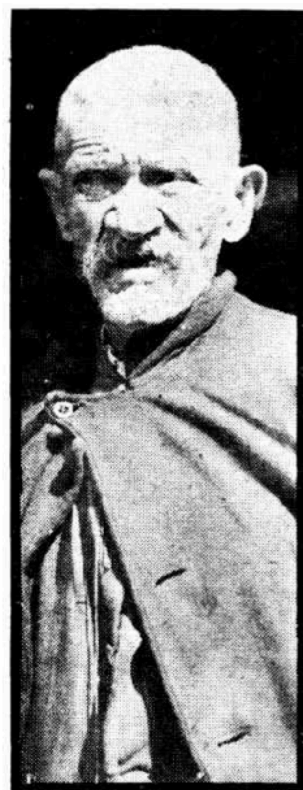
⁴⁰⁸ Šutalo, Ilija, Dr, 'Croatians in Australia: Pioneers, Settlers and Their Descendants', Wakefield Press, South Australia, 2004

Also known as Petar Lujo, Peter Lujo or simply 'Peter the Slav', Lujo also worked as a fireman in the mines. But in 1911 he received the results of an X-Ray and a diagnosis of miner's phthisis in the lungs and given only two months to live. He was advised by another doctor to drink bullock's blood to prolong his life, so Lujo moved to Fremantle and with Alec Watson, manager of Emanuel Bros' permission, set up a home in a shack near the hay shed of the abattoirs at Robb's Jetty, with his dogs Billy and Susie, 'where there would be a plentiful supply of the magic fluid.'

"'He (Watson) was a good man,'" Peter recalled today. "He let me have as much bullocks' blood as I needed. It was nothing for me to drink three or four pints a day. Other people could not take it...but I found the blood tasted like milk. For 16 years my diet consisted mainly of bullocks' blood, which I caught in a basin as the beasts were slaughtered. Doctors cannot believe now that I was ever a victim of miners' phthisis.'" ⁴⁰⁹

Lujo had left a wife and son in Yugoslavia but claimed he could never afford to bring them here, and could not afford to go home, fearing the European winter sent him to his grave.

Lujo was a resident of Claremont Old Men's Home 9 February 1942 – 2 February 1943. He died in Perth in 1943. ⁴¹⁰



Daily News 9 March 1939 p12

⁴⁰⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 9 March 1939, page 12

⁴¹⁰ State Records Office WA: AU WA S1930- cons5409 LUJO; BDMWA Registration #1513

COOGEE BEACH. *West Australian Correspondence*, 1950

Sir, - It was with grave concern that I read of the probable closure of Coogee Beach within three to five years owing to pollution by the discharge of effluent into the sea from offensive trade establishments on the foreshore between Robb's Jetty and the beach.

It is an amazing fact, but, alas, only too true, that this offensive trades area will commence approximately two miles from the Fremantle Town Hall, which is a distance similar to that between Crawley, Beach and Perth. Imagine the outcry should such a proposal be submitted to have a similar effect on Crawley Beach.

At the present time there are several offensive trade establishments in the area and the effluvium therefrom is carried by the prevailing winds to as far as Marmion Street, East Fremantle. The effect can well be imagined should these industries be increased and this effluvium intensified. What effect will it have on Fremantle and the residential areas adjacent thereto.

I maintain that the area between Robb's Jetty and the magazines should be retained for residential purposes as it would accommodate over 1,000 homes with an almost unobstructed sea view owing to the very favourable fall of the land. Such a residential area would be served by all essential public facilities with the added advantage of being in close proximity to Fremantle and with the elimination of the existing offensive trades would prove most desirable from a homebuilder's point of view.

Travellers whose destination is anywhere south of Fremantle almost invariably travel the coast road owing to the view obtained of the sea, but with the intensification of offensive trades, it will be necessary to take a considerable detour to avoid this area.

The logical site for an offensive trade area is at Jandakot or some other dry sandy district where such establishments should have little effect on general development. It does not make sense that the public should be driven inland and the most desirable coastal foreshore be left to pollution by offensive effluent. Coogee Beach as a public pleasure resort is extremely popular for camping and caravan parking, there being approximately 400 units there every Christmas holiday, and it is also a most popular site for large organised picnics when from 2,000 to 5,000 persons make use of this beach almost every Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer months. It is most suitable for children owing to the absence of surf and for persons who wish to swim and bathe in a calm sea.

--Yours, etc., ROAD BOARD MEMBER.⁴¹¹

⁴¹¹ West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 6 April 1950, page 12

Manser, Jesse Thomas
c1879 - 1949
Smelters, South Fremantle 1949
war veteran

The *Daily News* recorded the discovery of Jesse Manser's body on 12 May 1949. Manser's age was approximated at 65 years, but was closer to 70, and he was found outside his camp at the Smelters at 6.45am, and moved to the Fremantle Hospital Morgue, where an autopsy was performed. Death was 'believed to have been due to natural causes.'⁴¹² Manser's death is confirmed by Births, Deaths and Marriages in Western Australia at Fremantle in 1949.⁴¹³

Manser was injured in WWI. He enlisted in 1915 at almost 36 years of age. A native of Kilburn, London in the parish of Willisden, he at that time lived in East Cannington with wife Elizabeth (whose name appeared on a tattoo he had) and one child, a daughter named Elsie.⁴¹⁴ He worked as a labourer. He served in the 10/4 Field Ambulance Corp and then the 12th, and survived the war, committing only some minor disciplinary infractions until severely fracturing his leg and returning to England from France in August 1918.⁴¹⁵

Elizabeth had another child, Maud, and then died in 1927, nine years after Manser returned from war. Manser was known as Jerry to his friends, including the Knights (see earlier entry) who lived at Copley Siding. In a nod to Manser's lengthy war service, in their public notice following his death, they bid him 'au revoir.'⁴¹⁶

Jesse Manser has not been fully researched.

RECRUITING OF MEN EMPLOYED IN MUNITIONS MANUFACTURE (1916)

'The following instructions have been received and are published for the benefit of all concerned: Men employed in the manufacture of munitions or in industries such as smelting or making steel incidental to the manufacture of munitions Australia, should not be enlisted if it is certified that their services cannot be spared. When such men are employed in the local manufacture of munitions their applications to enlist or the notification from them in the recruiting cards that they are willing to do so are to be referred to the Stale Munitions Committee, but where, or in the case of the smelting industry, the product may be used for the manufacture of munitions in the United Kingdom, it will be referred to the Camp Commandant for necessary action.'⁴¹⁷

⁴¹² *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 12 May 1949, page 1; NAA B2455, 8214724

Manser, Jesse Thomas Military Record

⁴¹³ Births, Deaths and Marriages, Western Australia, registration no. 132

⁴¹⁴ NAA B2455, 8214724 Manser, Jesse Thomas Military Record; Elsie BDM WA Registration 1297

⁴¹⁵ *Western Argus* (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1916 - 1938), Tuesday 19 November 1918, page 11

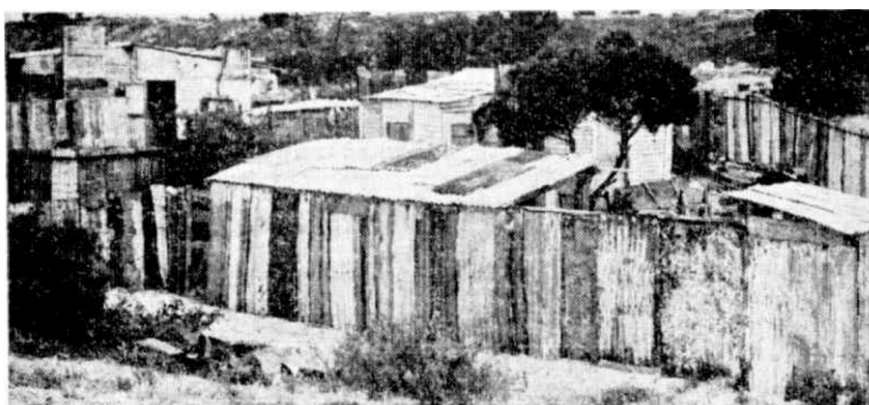
⁴¹⁶ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 13 May 1949, page 1 (mentioned in a public notice following the death of Jessie Manser)

⁴¹⁷ *Camp Chronicle* (Midland Junction, WA : 1915 - 1918), Thursday 27 January 1916, page 4

McCallum, Arthur Andrew
c1899 -
Smelter's Camp 1953 - 1954
invalid pensioner

Arthur McCallum (54) was accused of drawing a knife on fellow Smelters Camp resident, labourer Colin Thompson, to which Thompson retaliated by hitting McCallum with the buckle end of his belt. They both appeared in court in December 1953 to submit evidence. Thompson admitted the assault and was fined £10.⁴¹⁸

Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall was losing patience with the residents of the Smelter's Camp appearing before him in Fremantle Police Court by 1954, warning invalid pensioner McCallum (then 55), and Andrew Walton, a labourer, "Things are getting serious. Any more assaults from Smelter's Camp dealt with here will be treated severely." Each received a 6-month personal bond of £20 to ensure good behaviour, after admitting assaulting each other.⁴¹⁹ Andrew McCallum has not been fully researched.



Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3

McCallum, William
Owen's Anchorage 1910-1922
smelter

William McCallum is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll between 1910 and 1922, as a smelter at Owen's Anchorage. William McCallum has not been fully researched.

Fremantle Smelting works

'Mr. G. Aarons has returned from a trip to Europe and America, where he has been posting himself in the latest achievements in mining and metallurgy. During his stay in London, he successfully floated the Fremantle Smelting Works, and the company has a working capital of £75,000 with which to erect and fund the works. The site at Fremantle has been alter to a spot near the cattle jetty, beyond the town, and the new location is described as about perfect having both water and railway

⁴¹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 15 December 1953, page 16

⁴¹⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 4 September 1954, page 11

communication... Mr Aarons is satisfied the Fremantle Smelting Co has a very bright future before it.⁴²⁰

Following this promising announcement in February, in July a reporter from the *Kalgoorlie Miner* accompanied Mr. G. Aarons, attorney for the W.A. Smelting Co., Fremantle, on a survey of northern mines that would supply lead and copper ores to the smelter. Travelling Northampton roads made of quartz ore, that sparkled and were scented with sulphur and lead, the writer speculated upon the potential and promise of the vicinity, despite the mines of the region having fallen into disrepair – Gwala copper mine and others had closed 30 years previously. He notes an abundance of water, horse feed and worthy, if neglected, equipment, and the driving necessity of a domestic smelters at Fremantle would more than justify the expense of repairs to the railway lines required

Indeed, by 1899 the second smelter at the works was ‘blown in’ by the Western Australian Premier, members of Ministry, both Houses of Parliament ‘and a large gathering of public men.’ Specialising in the processing of various grades and tailings of gold ore from the Horseshoe mines of the Golden Mile, Northampton and the north east, processing lead, copper, sulpho-telluride ore and good-quality sulphides, companies such as the Associated Mines were supplying plentiful ore to maintain the two smelters at Fremantle, shipping over 120 tons daily.

The Western Australian Smelting Company is not only a processor of ore, but of dreams, with mines eagerly sending new ‘parcels’ and awaiting purity and percentage readings with anticipation.

Eighteen months after acting manager Mr. Pitblade ascended to replace the original manager Mr. Koehler, the Smelters is exceedingly successful, with a *Western Mail* article noting, ‘RMA Oruba, which left Fremantle, homeward bound, on Monday, shipped at the Port, for London, 42 boxes of gold bullion, valued at £161,353 also 150 tons of base bullion from Fremantle Smelting Co., valued at £18,500.’⁴²¹

‘MORE DAGOS. SACKING AND SWEATING

At Fremantle Smelting Works.

White Men Must Give Way to Foreigners’

An article published in the *Truth* newspaper in 1903 brandishes a problematic title and furnishes a brutal assessment of the changing labour market and the residents of the Smelters Camp. After a six-week closure, men awaiting re-engagement expressed grievances to wit the preference of management to the ‘preponderance of alien labor over the white workers...’ The matter extended beyond the smelters fenceline, in that the men camping on government and some smelter property there, had in the past been permitted to do so if employed by the company, ‘This concession was a matter of considerable importance to them, as any person can readily realise. After a shift at such laborious work as firing smelters a man is not inclined for a long tramp to his home...’

⁴²⁰ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1950), Thursday 17 February 1898, page 4

⁴²¹ *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1950), Saturday 23 July 1899, page 3

This created a benevolent atmosphere, until the manager 'issued instructions' that they needed to move on following dismissal 'at a moment's notice', and their subsequent replacement by foreign workers who *were* permitted to camp there.

'Free from the responsibilities of family ties... they live on the smell of an oily rag,' work copious overtime at low rates and allegedly are the first to report drinking infringements or infractions resulting in dismissal of the original workers, in a 'pimping' conspiracy rife at the works.⁴²²

But despite investing in their own mines at Narra Tarra, by 1907 the smelters cannot offset very high transit costs – even for a load of highly profitable copper ore, transport would still consume one-third of profits – and Fremantle Smelters management warned in May that they cannot source enough crude ore 'to keep the furnaces going' and will lose 300 men to a glutted labour market. Even the port is suffering as 'Daily one can see knots of workless men supporting the telephone and lamp posts about High-street'.⁴²³

In January 1907 the smelters was offered for sale in London and received no bids, and by 1908, 150 men are laid off, with Acting Premier Mr. H. Gregory stating that the Government 'had made every reasonable effort to get smelters started at Fremantle...had offered to advance a firm £3000 if they would establish smelters to cost £6000.' Jokes circulated that the works were now haunted by a ghostly 'spectre' such was the desolation.⁴²⁴

A bright light appears at the end of the tunnel in the form of Mr. W. G. Sutherland in 1910. Once of the Golden Horseshoe Mines and Broken Hill Proprietary Company, the innovative metallurgist was 'a hardworking, brainy man of brilliant parts.' He busies himself with the pumping out of flooded Northampton mines, which hold respectable employment through to 1916, with numbers of men only slightly declining through to the early 1920s.⁴²⁵

By 1922 international competition on wage market forces Sutherland to concede defeat, and the smelters is officially closed, staggering along in limited capacity until 1929, when the Smelters is employing an average of only 20 gang-men and

⁴²² Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 19 December 1903, page 2

⁴²³ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 10 October 1908, page 3

⁴²⁴ The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 – 1950), Thursday 14 Jul, 1898, page 3; The Western Argus (Kalgoorlie, WA ; 1916 – 1938), 1 June 1899, pg1; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 19 June 1899, page 6; Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 1954), Saturday 30 September 1899, page 61; Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 1954), Saturday 16 March 1901, page 40, Saturday 30 March 1907, page 30, Monday 25 March 1907, page 51 and Saturday 25 May 1907, page 20; Geraldton Guardian (WA : 1906 - 1928), Thursday 16 January 1908; 150 men, Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 – 1931), 15 August 1908, page 3; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 29 April 1908, page 3 and Thursday 25 March 1909, page 4; Spectre, Geraldton Express (WA : 1906 - 1919), Friday 29 June 1908, page 2

⁴²⁵ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 – 1950), 29 July 1899, page 3; Geraldton Guardian (WA : 1906 - 1928), day 22 January 1910, page 2; day 23 November 1916, page 2 and Thursday 15 June 1922, page 2

mechanising horses and drays. At the commencement of WWI in 1914 the cutting up and removal of old metal from the Smelters begins, despite public submissions the facility should be used to manufacture munitions.⁴²⁶



Fremantle History Centre Image # 1662
The Fremantle Smelting Works c1920 [Arthur Saxon]

McCaskie, Ted
Smelter's Camp 1951
shearer

Ted McCaskie, shearer, is mentioned in the *West Australian* 18 May 1951 as a resident of the Smelters Camp.⁴²⁷ He sounded the alarm when the makeshift well he was digging with fellow resident, William Westicott (53), outside McCaskie's shack, collapsed and trapped Westicott, almost smothering him. McCaskie, who lived only 100 yards from Westicott in the camp, had run to supply Westicott with a length of garden hose to breathe through, when in the following moments another sand avalanche covered him completely. More than a dozen men worked over four hours to try to free Westicott.

The well, about 4ft wide, had been dug to 12ft deep and struck water at approximately 2pm. 'Mr. McCaskie had his foot on the bottom rung of the ladder preparing to climb out of the hole when the sand surrounding them caved in. Both men were buried to their waists, but Mr. McCaskie was able to maintain his hold on the ladder and climb free. Mr. McCaskie worked hard to free his friend but, as he said, "the more I dug, the more sand came in."⁴²⁸

After the arrival of additional men, lighting and a mobile crane, a 44-gallon drum shell was positioned to protect Westicott from the sand. 'A St. John ambulance arrived and the driver (Mr. E. Armfield) pumped oxygen into Mr. Westicott's lungs.

⁴²⁶ Horses, *Westralian Worker* (Perth, WA : 1900 - 1951), Friday 18 January 1929 and Friday 15 March 1929, page 5; munitions, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 5 April 1941, page 16; *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 31 May 1941, page 5

⁴²⁷ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

⁴²⁸ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

He appeared revived. "Get me out of this, Ted," he said to Mr. McCaskie.⁴²⁹

After the fall of darkness, a final supreme effort from the men resulted in them lifting the trapped man free from the quicksand. Cheering sounded upon Westcott's release. He was admitted to Fremantle Hospital alive but suffering from shock. Ted McCaskie has not been fully researched.

A MOONLIGHT RIDE. (By Emily H. Pelloe, 1929) Part III

'It was delightful to canter along the damp sand in the cool, sweet night air, with the moonlit sea vividly blue near the shore, but deepening darkly in tone in the distance and merging with the misty out-lines of Garden Island against the skyline.

On the land side, the sand looked white and soft like snow, with the coarse vegetation of the low ridge beyond the tide-line in heavy contrast. Woodman's Point light was like an enormous emerald set in the dark hill of a gleaming ivory pionard, the long thin blade formed by the white sand of the point jutting far out to sea.

It was necessary on reaching the explosives' magazine barrier beyond Coogee pier to cross the sand ridge and take to the road. The whiteness of its rough limestone surface was blurred by the shadows of the great trees about the lightkeepers' cottages, and the green light suddenly changed to crimson as its sector edge was passed near the entrance to the quarantine station...

To dispel sad memories of a visit paid last year to the nurses' graves, and thoughts of the hermit of Woodman's Point of years ago, the mystery of whose tragic disappointment at the non-arrival of letters from England each time a mail arrived, for which he would walk to Fremantle, was never solved, and to make short work of an eerie part of the journey, I travelled fast along the old coast road, ghostly with its memories of the past.⁴³⁰

McDonald, Ronald
Camp, Robb's Jetty 1919-1931
prospector

The Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll lists Ronald McDonald, prospector, as a resident of the camp, at Robb's Jetty between 1919-1931, a time period of 12 years. Ronald McDonald has not been fully researched.

⁴²⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

⁴³⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 16 February 1929, page 4

McInerney, Michael
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906, 1914
slaughterman

Michael McInerney, slaughterman, is listed intermittently on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll from 1903-1906 and again in 1914. After 1914 he moved to 314 Mandurah Road. In 1903 McInerney appeared as a corroborating witness in the charging of William Price, a foreman at Robb's Jetty, for removing fodder from a quarantine area at night, when there was a risk of spreading ticks brought down from the Kimberley on the cattle.⁴³¹ Appearing in court with him was Arthur Wood, also of the Smelters Camp. Michael McInerney has not been fully researched.

McKenzie, Kenneth
Robb's Jetty 1912-1917
prospector/baker (1917)

Kenneth McKenzie, prospector, appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll between 1912-1916. In 1917 McKenzie moved to 88 Lefroy Road and became a baker. There is a possibility that he was rejected from AIF enlistment in 1917, requiring further research. Kenneth McKenzie has not been fully researched.⁴³²

McGee, James
Smelters Camp 1929
labourer

James McGee is registered on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll at the Smelters Camp in 1929. He's listed as a labourer. James McGee has not been fully researched.

McLaughlin, William
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
fisherman

Fisherman William McLaughlin appears on the Chesterfield Electoral Roll in 1903-1906. William McLaughlin has not been fully researched.

Nine feet long (1928)

Entangled in a fisherman's nets, a hammer-head shark almost nine feet long and weighing 4 1/2cwt [*Almost 240 kilos*], was caught about 30 yards from the shore between Robb's Jetty and the South Fremantle Smelters on Monday morning.⁴³³

⁴³¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 – 1950), Saturday 28 March 1903, page 1

⁴³² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; NAA MT1486/1, 9712432 KcKenzie Kenneth, military file

⁴³³ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Thursday 29 November 1928, page 53

McLean, James
c1861 - 1932
Smelters 1932
pensioner

James McLean's death is reported by the *West Australian* on 8 August, 1932, in tragic circumstances, described sensationally as 'Indescribable Filth and Neglect.'⁴³⁴

'The death occurred in the Fremantle Hospital early on Saturday morning of James McLean (71), a pensioner, who was discovered in an unconscious condition on a reserve at South Beach, Fremantle, on Friday morning. When found, his clothing was soaked, and he had apparently been exposed to the weather throughout the previous night. A police report stated that the deceased lived in a humpy at South Fremantle at a locality known as the Smelters. The camp, the report stated, was in an indescribable state of filth and neglect. Four pieces of wood comprised a bed. The man had lived on bones, fish-heads and potato peelings, and rarely washed himself.' James McLean has not been fully researched.

McMillan, Evander Cameron
Gage Road, Robb's Jetty 1914-1917
nil

The listing of Gage Road, Robb's Jetty is an unusual description for a resident of the Smelters Camp, however Evander Cameron McMillan declares this his address between 1914-1917 in the South Fremantle Electoral Roll. McMillan's occupation simply reads 'Nil', and he disappears from the roll in 1919, so may have been a resident in 1918 also. Evander Cameron McMillan has not been fully researched.

McMillian, Ewin
Robb's Jetty 1909-1910
butcher

Ewin McMillian, butcher, appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robb's Jetty in 1909 and 1910. Ewin McMillian has not been fully researched.

McNamara, Martin
Robb's Jetty 1931-1954
labourer

Martin McNamara is listed as a labourer and first appears on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1931. He resides at Robb's Jetty until 1954, a total of 23 years. Martin McNamara has not been fully researched.

⁴³⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 8 August 1932, page 11

McNeill, Neal

**Robb's Jetty, near Smelters 1915-1917
traveller**

Neal McNeill is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls, Robb's Jetty, near Smelters 1915-1917. His occupation is named rather exotically as 'traveller', and McNeill had some credentials, as an article in *The Observer* suggests:

'PAPUA EXPLORATION: The British Expedition. Fremantle, January 21. On their way to New Guinea, the advance party of the British Pacific Science Expedition arrived at Fremantle today on the steamer Ballarat... Mr. Connolly (Expedition leader)...states that the idea of the expedition had been conceived when he and another Australian (Mr. Neal McNeill) met in London. Both had been in New Guinea, and they were of the same opinion as regards the possibilities of the expedition revealing hidden wealth in the unexplored interior of the island. They took an office in London and invited a number of influential people and the press, and from that start the expedition had grown...' ⁴³⁵ Neal McNeill has not been fully researched.

Mears, Jack

**Robb's Jetty (1930s)
stockman**

Jack Mears was a Bardi man from Roebourne who worked as a stockman regularly on the Canning Stock Route and who often camped at Robb Jetty at the end of his long journeys. After one trip in the late 1920s-early 1930s ⁴³⁶ he met a young woman named Phoebe Newell from the Badjaling and Collie region who was camping with her partner there, and Jack Mears took a shine to her. He was so confident he could offer her a better life that he instructed her to put her things near his horse and sit there and wait for him, while he began 'negotiations' for her to accompany him. Mears dispatched her partner in a brief bare-knuckle fight and he and Phoebe Newell left Robb Jetty camp together.

The 'Red Star' in 1934 describes an attempt by George Clamp to not pay Jack Mears, Donald Nebro and Ray Davis the correct award wages for work completed shearing over 5000 sheep on his Mukinbudin property, arguing his case because they weren't officially A.W.U. members. The newspaper condemned Clamp, who eventually paid. ⁴³⁷ Jack Mears later lived in the Collie area, working for a timber mill for over a

⁴³⁵ The Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 27 January 1923, page 15

⁴³⁶ Phoebe Newell died 1959 aged 61, born in 1898. Jack Mears died 1963 aged 78.

http://www.ozburials.com/CemsWA/Collie/c_nov.htm (accessed 26 July 2019)

Jack had lived at the mill for 13 years in 4-room shack with his wife. So approximation is that he moved there in 1934, placing him at the camp late 1920s early 1930s.

⁴³⁷ Red Star (Perth, WA : 1932 - 1936), Friday 19 October 1934, page 2; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 11 Jun 1947, page 16; North-Eastern Wheatbelt Tribune (Wyalkatchem, WA : 1926 - 1940) Friday 27 January 1933, page 1

decade.⁴³⁸ Many thanks to Mr Joe Northover Riley, who is the son of Kathleen Mears, for sharing his grandparents' story.⁴³⁹

Mippy, Doris
Smelters' Camp, South Beach 1951
Domestic

Doris Mippy is mentioned in the *West Australian* on 7 July 1951 as a resident of the camp, when she is charged with assaulting Augusta Hyland on the South Beach reserve on 16 June.⁴⁴⁰ The article reads that Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall imposes a £10 six-month good behaviour bond on Mippy (30), whose occupation was domestic. Mippy pleaded not guilty. Augusta Agnes Hyland was also a resident of the Smelters Camp (see earlier entry). Doris Mippy has not been fully researched.

Mitchell, Lavinia
Lock's New House, near Smelter, Mandurah rd, South Fremantle 1917
home duties

Mitchell, William Henry
near Smelters, Mandurah rd, South Fremantle 1917
surveyor

William and Lavinia Mitchell, whilst not strictly camping at the Smelters, are mentioned here for their proximity. The curious description in Lavinia's entry as 'Lock's New House' is different to that of her husband's in the 1917 South Fremantle Electoral Roll; whilst both can agree that they are living closely to the camp – perhaps this encouraged Lavinia Mitchell's more precise information. William Mitchell was a surveyor and Lavinia Mitchell was occupied with home duties during their residency. By 1919, and perhaps to Mrs Mitchell's relief, they have both relocated to 73 Douro Road. William and Lavinia Mitchell have not been fully researched.

Mitchell, Phillip
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

South Fremantle Electoral Rolls 1903-1906 list Phillip Mitchell, a slaughterman as a resident at Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906. Phillip Mitchell has not been fully researched.

⁴³⁸ *West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 11 June 1947, page 16

⁴³⁹ Joe Northover Riley to Julie Raffaele, July 2019

⁴⁴⁰ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 7 July 1951, page 7

THE BOY SCOUTS (1923)

'At South Fremantle we visited the abattoirs, where the technicalities of butchering were explained to the boys, and the Health Department inspector kindly showed how healthy meat could be distinguished from diseased. As Sea Scouts have before now had to be their own butchers, the knowledge will prove useful. On the way to Rockingham we paid a visit to the old wreck at Coogee, and the Kwinana, and at Rockingham by the kindness of the authorities we were shown over the new turtle canning factory, the boys being greatly interested in the fine machinery and the large pen of turtles awaiting bovrilisation. It takes eight hours to cook a turtle.'⁴⁴¹

Mocken, Florence Martha

Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty 1958-1963
home duties

Mocken, William David

Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty 1958-1963
labourer

William and Florence Mocken appears on the South Fremantle Electoral Rolls 1958-1963. After 1958 there are no entries in the electoral rolls referring to the Smelters Camp, and there is a gap of five years until the 1963 roll. The Mockens list their residential location as 'Railway Yards, Robbs Jetty.' William and Florence Mocken have not been fully researched.

Monaghan, Bartholomew

Smelter's Camp 1936-1943
labourer

Bartholomew Monaghan, a pensioner and labourer, was a resident of the Smelters Camp for seven years, appearing on the 1936 and the 1943 South Fremantle Electoral Roll. As the 1937 electoral roll is supplementary only, it can be assumed his occupancy was relatively stable.⁴⁴²

When Stephen Lee Page (70) commits suicide using gellignite, it was Bartholomew Monaghan who finds him in the bush not far from his camp near the smelters, South Fremantle.⁴⁴³ Bartholomew explains Page's recent activity to the investigators and his later discoveries while searching the camp. (See Stephen Lee Page entry)

⁴⁴¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 10 September 1923, page 6

⁴⁴² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁴⁴³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 6 November 1937, page 17

Monaghan, Martin Joseph
Smelters' Camp, Mandurah rd 1937-1943

-

Martin Monaghan is listed in the 1937 (Supplementary) and the 1943 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters' Camp, Mandurah Road; with no occupation.⁴⁴⁴ There was a man with an identical name living in South Fremantle at 7 Louisa Street during this time period. Martin Monaghan has not been fully researched.

Monaghan, Patrick Cogan
c1855-1934
Smelter's Camp 1928-1931
labourer

Patrick Monaghan appears in the Fremantle, South Fremantle electoral rolls of 1928 (Supplementary) - 1931 as a resident of Smelter's Camp, his occupation is labourer.⁴⁴⁵

While working at the Smelters on a hot January afternoon in 1930, Patrick Monaghan(sic) noticed a grass fire at the northern end of the old abattoirs at Copley's Siding. He ran to a small hut nearby and awoke fellow resident James Rooney, who ran to a telephone to alert the fire brigade.⁴⁴⁶ A dramatic scene then unfolded. (See James Rooney's entry).

A death notice for Patrick Cogan Monaghan of Mandurah Road, South Fremantle appears in the *West Australian* in April 1934. It names Monaghan as the 'husband of the late Ellen Monaghan, of Bendigo, Victoria, and loving father of Cyril, Basil and Gerald and the late John.' Monaghan had another son, Edward, who was killed in WWI, and one more daughter, Eileen. He was aged 79.⁴⁴⁷ Patrick Monaghan has not been fully researched.

⁴⁴⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁴⁴⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁴⁴⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 6 January 1930, page 15. The Perth temperature forecast was 27C.

⁴⁴⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 6 April 1934, page 1

TREE DESTRUCTION

-To the Editor

Sir, -I would like to draw the attention of the Lands and Forest Department to the ruthless destruction of cypress trees fringing the beach between Robb's Jetty and the Smelting Works at south Fremantle. A number of Greek and Italian fishermen are camped along the beach, and the trees are being cut down by them for firewood. The Fremantle Roads Board and the municipal authorities are apparently powerless to take action in the matter, but surely the Lands Department has the necessary authority to prosecute these nomadic aliens for what must be an illegal practice. – Yours, etc., ANTI-ASIATIC. Fremantle, January 29⁴⁴⁸

Moog, Charles

Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

Charles Moog is listed on the South Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage in 1903-1906 as a slaughterman.⁴⁴⁹ Charles Moog has not been fully researched.

Moran, John

Woodman's Point 1909-1910
fisherman

John Moran appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls 1909-1910⁴⁵⁰ at Woodman's Point, but his exact residence is not known. It's possible he was a neighbour to the camp, or lived at the camp. His occupation was fisherman. John Moran has not been fully researched.

Moroney/Maroney, John*

c1886 -
Smelters' Camp 1934-1949
labourer/lumper

*There are two spellings for Moroney. John Moroney is listed in the electoral roll, but Maroney is not. Maroney is named in a newspaper article. With the low probability of two men with such similar names living at the Smelters Camp at the same time, and both working as lumpers, the assumption is made that there is a spelling error in the newspaper article and these two are the same man.

⁴⁴⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Friday 30 January 1903, page 6

⁴⁴⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁴⁵⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

The Kangaroo Gang

A senseless accident involving two lumpers at Victoria Quay who fell into the uncovered No. 3 hold of the motor vessel 'Kangaroo' was examined in the Fremantle Court in March 1931 by the Deputy-Coroner Mr. G.W. Shepherd, J.P.. The Kangaroo gang was loading cargo bound for Singapore when John Maroney and William Wallace Wilson, a married man 41 years old from Beaconsfield, fell into an uncovered hold, with Maroney suffering shock and injuries, and Wilson later dying from a fractured skull. Alfred Hall, the Fremantle Harbour Trust Stevedore in charge of the loading operations when the accident happened, argued that the men 'had no business' working in No. 2 hold, and that a ladder had been provided.

Maroney explained that 'grids and pipes' blocked their routine transit to No. 2, necessitating a diversion, and the absence of hatch on the No. 3 hold could not be seen.⁴⁵¹ The *Daily News* verifies this fact, elaborating, 'Owing to the main deck hatch coverings being on No. 3 hold, the 'tween decks were dark, and the two men fell to the bottom of No. 3 hold. Wilson fell first, striking his head on the side of the hold, and on the cement floor. Maroney fell on top of him.'⁴⁵²

'I Did Wrong'

"These are going to be expensive tacks," said Magistrate J F McMillan to John Maroney*, labourer (64) before the Fremantle Police Court in 1950. Maroney, then a resident of the Smelters' camp, stole a packet of tacks to the value of 1/, property of the Fremantle Harbour Trust. A fine of £2 plus 2/6 costs was imposed. John Maroney was remorseful, musing in court, "I thought the tacks were going to waste so I took them. I realise now that I did wrong."⁴⁵³

John Moroney/Maroney was a resident of the Smelters Camp from 1934 to 1949, appearing in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls over that 15-year time period and listed as a labourer, but also worked as a lumper. In the 1954 electoral rolls he had moved to 63 Daly Street, Fremantle and resumed his occupation as lumper. John Moroney/Maroney has not been fully researched.

Mutton, Robert J.

1901 - 1948

Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle 1949
shearer/lumper/merchant seaman

"Robert James Mutton (46) was found dead at the Smelter's Camp, South Fremantle about 7.45 last night. Police found the door of his camp wide open. He appeared to have been dead about two days. The body was in a sitting position on a bed and was propped against the wall. On the floor near him was an empty quart wine bottle, and

⁴⁵¹ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 23 March 1931, page 7; see also *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Friday 20 February 1931, page 15

⁴⁵² *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 19 February 1931, page 1

⁴⁵³ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 13 January 1950, page 13; see also *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 12 January 1950, page 3

a pint wine bottle, which was almost empty. He was formerly a shearer and later a merchant seaman. An autopsy has been ordered.”⁴⁵⁴

Incredibly sad, and disturbingly repetitive among the older, male residents of the Smelters Camp, are articles like this one in the *Daily News* concerning a recent death. Robert Mutton’s passing is confirmed by Births, Deaths and Marriages Western Australia,⁴⁵⁵ but therein also catalogues a rich life lived – a marriage to Grace Buchanan,⁴⁵⁶ and the birth of son Neville.⁴⁵⁷ Mutton had a sister Phoebe, nephews and nieces and a high spirited and loving mother, Susannah, who curiously changed her name.⁴⁵⁸

Like Father

Robert G. Mutton (Snr) was a miner from Kent, England, born into a large family⁴⁵⁹. He and Susannah Ridley were in a hurry to start a family, with their son Robert James Mutton born at Northampton, Western Australia the same year as their marriage at Nannine in 1901.⁴⁶⁰ His sister Phoebe was born four years later.⁴⁶¹

Susannah embraced the collapse of her marriage with an unconventional defiance. She published a notice in 1927 to warn her long-absent husband she intended to marry again. But following the notice was a witty four-verse poem entitled ‘Signed, Susannah Mutton’. Susannah had decided that if the community wanted sensation – she herself would arouse it:

*‘She means to have a red-blood man
Not one like Bob, who dudded:
She means to do the best she can
Though once in life she thudded.
And so that he who runs may read,
From Southern Cross to Sutton,
She warns the absent-minded Robert-
“Signed—Susannah Mutton.”’⁴⁶²*

In 1925 her husband had been hauled up before the Bunbury Police Court in arrears of maintenance, on behalf of an order from their Geraldton counterpart. He stated

⁴⁵⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 24 February 1948, page 7

⁴⁵⁵ BDMWA Registration # 64. Death at Fremantle 1948

⁴⁵⁶ BDMWA Registration #153, Robert J Mutton marriage to Grace G Buchanan Fremantle 1932

⁴⁵⁷ BDM WA, Registration #125/80/t (information from death certificate)

⁴⁵⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1942, page 1; Sister Phoebe May born 1905, died in January 1942, children Mervyn, Kenneth, Daphne, Ronald, Leslie, Colleen; Mother was Susannah Mutton (née Ridley), changed to May Patterson. No record of marriage found to date.

⁴⁵⁹ Class: RG11; Piece: 978; Folio: 95; Page: 17; GSU roll: 1341232; Original data: *Census Returns of England and Wales, 1881*. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1881. Accessed Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. *1881 England Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2004.

⁴⁶⁰ BDM WA, Registration #3534 (birth); BDM WA, Registration #955 (marriage)

⁴⁶¹ BDM WA, Registration #3338

⁴⁶² Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 21 August 1927, page 6

he had not paid the maintenance despite being in a position to do so, but was issued a warning only.⁴⁶³ Susannah concludes her poem with her occupation – dryblower, a punishing, but necessary occupation for a single mother of two.

Like Son

Robert James Mutton was 31 when he married Grace Gladys Buchanan in 1932 in Fremantle.⁴⁶⁴ In 1937 they were living together in Beach Road, Hamilton Hill.⁴⁶⁵

From 1938 to 1942, Mutton was testing the local constabulary with low-level infractions – drunk driving,⁴⁶⁶ participating in a South Fremantle two-up school run by a wayward juvenile⁴⁶⁷ and a small fine for the theft of 18 wireless valves that he denied stealing until they were found in his possession, an action taken while working as a lumper at Fremantle Harbour.⁴⁶⁸

But in 1944, his marriage to Grace had reached an impasse. She had petitioned for divorce as a result of her husband's adultery 'with a woman unknown.'⁴⁶⁹ Grace had been working at the Esplanade Hotel as a cook, to support herself and her son when, she claimed, Robert would not provide for them.

Immensely fond of a lurid headline, the *Mirror* newspaper devoted considerable column space to Grace Mutton's grief

'COOK GRILLED HUBBY IN FREMANTLE ROE-DEO!

...On the face of it, Grace Gladys Mutton's story seemed a watertight one: hubby, she said, had thrown up his job as a lumper, gone to sea on a coastal steamer without the formality of leaving her any money. So, she said, she got a job at the Esplanade, was living-in with her child there. Tall, dark brunette, in a well-fitting tailor-made, Grace said hubby had previously been to sea in the *Aquitania*. She told the Chief Justice that she did not ask him for money when next she saw him, because she believed it was a man's place to offer it.'⁴⁷⁰

The Chief Justice was not convinced Grace had been abandoned, and chastised her for not asking for money; and the reporter adopted a derogatory tone, 'Wifie admitted that on 3 occasions hubby had turned up at her place of employment and had either left or given her a pound for the child's maintenance.' But on 20 June, Grace received a shock. While walking with workmates in Fremantle, she saw her husband on Bannister Street.

⁴⁶³ South Western Times (Bunbury, WA : 1917 - 1929), Thursday 12 March 1925, page 1

⁴⁶⁴ BDM WA, Registration #153

⁴⁶⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁴⁶⁶ Sunday Times (Perth, Wa : 1902 – 1954), Sunday 3 July 1938, page 3

⁴⁶⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950) Thursday 13 March 1941, page 5

⁴⁶⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 23 July 1942, page 6

⁴⁶⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 8 August 1944, page 6

⁴⁷⁰ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 26 August 1944, page 17

'We followed him, and saw him enter a house of ill-fame,' she added. 'I got my friends to wait for me, and when he came out about 20 minutes later I tackled him. He said: 'Well, you left me, so I can please myself.' I told him I should go for a divorce and he said: 'Go ahead'.

Still, Chief Justice resisted, chuckling with lawyers about the 'house of ill-fame... "I didn't know Fremantle was sufficiently civilised to possess one!"' and 'adjourned the case for further consideration.'⁴⁷¹ But Grace was eventually granted a decree nisi.⁴⁷²

Four years later, Robert Mutton was dead. Three months after his death was reported in the newspapers, a nondescript notice appeared in the *West Australian*. The Public Trustee was advertising a tender, with all the customary instructions, for the removal of all trace of Robert James Mutton at the Smelters Camp. He hadn't lost his love of the sea; he possessed an 18ft clinker-built boat and a 16ft yacht. The remainder of the list is heartbreaking in its sparsity.

'(a) Shack: A re-erected army building, 19ft x 12ft., asbestos roof, plain iron walls. (b) Contents consisting of 1 single bedstead, 1 dressing table, 1 stove, 1 cupboard, 1 kerosene stove...' with sealed tenders to be received, 'not later than 2 p.m. on Friday...'⁴⁷³



Sunday Times 29 Mar 1953 p3

Following Robert J. Mutton's death in February 1948, the Fremantle Sailing Club acknowledged Mutton's passing as a 'respected member',⁴⁷⁴ and the Fremantle

⁴⁷¹ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 26 August 1944, page 17

⁴⁷² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 19 August 1944, page 3

⁴⁷³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 15 May 1948, page 26

⁴⁷⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Thursday 26 February 1948, page 1

Lumpers' Union assisted their 'late comrade' by arranging the funeral.⁴⁷⁵ Grace and her new family - she remarried to William Lumsden in 1947⁴⁷⁶ and was then living at Hilton Park - remembered her 'Bluey' as a 'sincere friend'.⁴⁷⁷

Mutton's mother Susannah Mutton, now known as Mrs May Patterson of Victoria Park,⁴⁷⁸ published a thank you notice in the *West Australian*, thanking all relatives and friends for their kind thoughts,⁴⁷⁹ and in his death notice wrote that he 'died at home'.⁴⁸⁰ She also published an In Memoriam the following year, with 'sad thoughts today, treasured memories of my beloved and only son, Bobbie, who was called away suddenly...his ever-loving mother.'⁴⁸¹

Robert Mutton was only 46 years old at the time of his death.⁴⁸²

Grace Mutton survived the death of her first husband, her parents, her second husband, two sisters and her son Neville, living until 1993.⁴⁸³

Nebro, Addil (Adelaide)
1886 - 1964
Smelters Camp 1952-1954
-

Nebro, Donald
- 1971
Smelters Camp 1952-1954
tracker, shearer

Addil Nebro⁴⁸⁴ was married to Donald Nebro⁴⁸⁵. The Nebro's are listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1954 at the Smelters Camp, but there

⁴⁷⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 25 February 1948, page 1

⁴⁷⁶ BDM WA, Registration # 146

⁴⁷⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 25 February 1948, pg 1

⁴⁷⁸ Susannah Mutton and May Patterson are proven the same person because May Patterson's death entry at 74 years of age in Perth (Registration # 109) in 1958 lists her same parents, James and Isabella. On Phoebe's funeral notice published in the West Australian in 1942, Mrs May Patterson is the name also used. Patterson is living at 69 Kitchener Ave, home duties, Western Australia, Swan, Victoria Electoral Roll 1949.

⁴⁷⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Saturday 6 March 1948, page 1

⁴⁸⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 25 February 1948, pg 1

⁴⁸¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 23 February 1949, pg 1

⁴⁸² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 25 February 1948, pg 1

⁴⁸³ Husband Robert died 1939 (#1478); Parents Anne Morrison McKeig (1872 - 1941), and Walker Pollock Buchanan (1868 - 1944), sisters Catherine Louise (Kit) Buchanan (1900 - 1973), Ethel Ellen Buchanan (1902 - 1981 - in USA), Neville Buchanan (1936 - 1980). Her own death, 30 August 1993 in Fremantle.

⁴⁸⁴ Addil's name was sometimes spelled Addel or Adele. Sandra Nebro provided the Addil spelling 25 May 2019, from the original *Adelaide*. Addil was granted her Certificate of Citizenship under the Natives (Citizenship Rights) Act in 1947 in Busselton. South-Western News (Busselton, WA : 1903 - 1949), Thursday 7 August 1947, page 1

⁴⁸⁵ BDM WA: Reg 34 1941, Sussex

are indications that they lived there longer, along with their son, Donald Peter.⁴⁸⁶ A newspaper court report in 1952 places Donald Nebro at the camp, and a later interview with their son Anderson claims they had lived there, 'for ages', despite not appearing on South Fremantle Electoral Rolls in 1943 and 1949.⁴⁸⁷

Addil and Donald's granddaughter is Sandra Rose Nebro, who was born in York in 1954. Sandra shared that the family name, when her grandfather lived in the Broome area, was Roe and he changed it after moving south, creating a joined name from 'Nipper Roe'. Addil's maiden name was Cowcher (but was sometimes known by the name Dyer) and that she had been born in Wagin lived in Darkan area where her father was a farmer. It was here that she met Donald; she 'wasn't a young woman' and was caring for her mother. At first the family did not approve of Donald, but after her mother died, Donald returned for Addil. Sandra described her as having 'long red hair, rolled around her head,' and believes her background was Irish. They moved to Collie, and then the Smelters Camp. There was a general movement of people at that time to the area, with work available as the younger men set off to fight in WWII. Donald was familiar with the camp, having stayed there during his time travelling around Western Australia as a member of a boxing troupe.⁴⁸⁸

Donald Nebro was a skilled tracker, and in 1932 he led a police search and found Jack Spencer (24) and Alice Mervell (16) near a bush camp outside Collie. There had been several difficult breaks in the trail and some pressure to locate the girl, as Spencer had alleged abducted her and had left a note in his camp stating that they 'were going to die together.'⁴⁸⁹

Donald was also a qualified shearer. A report in the 'Red Star' in 1934 describes an attempt by George Clamp to not pay Nebro and his colleagues Mears and Davis the correct award wages for work completed shearing over 5000 sheep on his property at Mukinbudin, because they weren't officially A.W.U. members. The 'Star' advocated for the men. Clamp and his brothers appeared to have found gold in Mukinbudin in 1933, giving no excuse not to pay a full wage.⁴⁹⁰

After the Smelters Camp was closed Addil and Donald Nebro were listed on the Canning, Williams Electoral Roll 1958 with the address, c/o F. T. Hardie, 'Braefield', Narrogin, Addil's occupation was home duties and Donald was not working. In 1963 they are residing at Collie.

⁴⁸⁶ Donald Peter Nebro was born 2 Aug 1933 - 14 May 1980. Aged 46 years. Donald was the brother of Mary, Andy, Laura (dec), Yvonne (dec), Roma, Susie (dec), Peter (dec) and Harold.
http://www.ozburials.com/CemsWA/Collie/c_nov.htm

⁴⁸⁷ Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 26 April 1952, page 1; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁴⁸⁸ Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

⁴⁸⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 9 February 1932, page 7

⁴⁹⁰ Red Star (Perth, WA : 1932 - 1936), Friday 19 October 1934, page 2; North-Eastern Wheatbelt Tribune (Wyalkatchem, WA : 1926 - 1940) Friday 27 January 1933, page 1

Anderson Nebro (see entry following) was Addil and Donald's son. Addil passed away in East Coolgardie in 1964, aged 68.⁴⁹¹ Compiled with kind assistance and permission from Sandra Nebro.⁴⁹²

Nebro, Donald Peter

1933 – 1980

Smelters Camp 1952-1954

Don Peter Nebro (born 1934) was another son of Donald and Addil Nebro. Sandra Nebro confirmed that Don Peter Nebro lived at the camp, but there is evidence of his being in the vicinity.⁴⁹³

Nebro was a boxer, fighting in popular South-West tournaments with the Busselton and District National Fitness and Amateur Sports Club. A review of his bout against W. Crowe in 1946 stated that he was 'showing plenty of aggression but his punches were somewhat wild and did not register to any extend(sic) on his nimble opponent, whose good footwork was a factor which no doubt influenced the judges in making the decision in his favour.'⁴⁹⁴

Donald Peter Nebro died in Perth in 1980, aged 46. He is buried at Collie General Cemetery.⁴⁹⁵

Nebro, Andy (Anderson)

1931 -

Smelters Camp/Poverty Point 1953-1954*

-

Nebro, Rose (Rosaleen)

Smelters Camp/Poverty Point 1953-1954*

-

Rosaleen Nebro's maiden name was Ford and her husband Anderson Nebro was born in Collie and was the son of Donald Nebro and Addil Cowcher/Dyer.⁴⁹⁶ Andy

⁴⁹¹ BDM WA Registration #170

⁴⁹² Goode, Brad and Harris, Jacqueline, *Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Lots Associated with the Glen Iris – Moorlands Structure Plan, Bunbury, Western Australia 2013*; <http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/pdf/Planning> and Building/South Moorlands Structure Plan Appendix 5 Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey.pdf; also Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

⁴⁹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 21 February 1953, page 7

⁴⁹⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 23 October 1946, page 5; South-Western News (Busselton, WA : 1903 - 1949), Thursday 24 October 1946, page 1

⁴⁹⁵ BDM WA Registration # 1856/80/1

⁴⁹⁶ Goode, Brad and Harris, Jacqueline, *Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Lots Associated with the Glen Iris – Moorlands Structure Plan, Bunbury, Western Australia 2013*;

Nebro is listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1954, and he and Rose were occupying the camp in 1953. He is described in a newspaper article about the possible demolition of the camp as aged 22 and married. He was a 'golden gloves' boxer who also worked as a railway ganger and later as a porter.

The reporter identifies Nebro as indigenous, and announces the place as having, 'all nationalities, including New Australians'. Nebro informs him, "We're moving out of this shanty shortly. I don't mind so much but my wife has just got nothing here. Anyway, I think we'd have to go sooner or later – some big buildings are going up and some bulldozers are coming through in some area they tell me. We've been here for ages: I think Mum bought the joint for £50."⁴⁹⁷

After leaving the camp, Andy moved for work to Kalgoorlie and then he and Rose settled back in the South West. In 1963 Andy Nebro is listed on the Kalgoorlie, Dundas Electoral Roll at Daniels Siding, working as a repairer. Anderson and Rose Nebro are listed in the Forrest, Bunbury Electoral Roll 1968 at Teeluk Road, Carey Park with Rose occupied with home duties and Anderson's occupation railway porter. They remained at this address in the 1980 electoral roll with an additional family member, Daniel Rowley, who was a labourer.⁴⁹⁸

Anderson Nebro was also an amateur boxer. His daughter Sandra remembers he fought regularly at the Royal Show at Claremont, and how popular the matches were. She and her siblings were allowed to enter the show free of charge, and they would enjoy rides and visit the boxers' tent. Anderson also travelled to Fremantle and country tournaments and competed in exhibition matches.⁴⁹⁹ When the Busselton boxers travelled to Narrogin, Nebro fought A. Derepae 'exceptionally well and after having his opponent on the canvas on two occasions, gained a T.K.O. in the second round.'⁵⁰⁰

On another occasion, 'A. Nebro (Busselton) 7.7 and C. Hastie (Bunbury) 8.0 provided a very spirited contest, but Nebro was too quick for his opponent and after a strenuous three rounds led on points.'⁵⁰¹

His fighting spirit extended to politics, with a later newspaper recalling his activism. 'In April 1980, protestors carrying banners and slogans marched down Parkfield Street in Bunbury in protest against mining on sacred sites in the South West. The

<http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/pdf/Planning> and Building/South Moorlands Structure Plan Appendix 5 Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey.pdf

⁴⁹⁷ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁴⁹⁸ Goode, Brad and Harris, Jacqueline, *Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey of Lots Associated with the Glen Iris – Moorlands Structure Plan, Bunbury, Western Australia 2013*;

<http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/pdf/Planning> and Building/South Moorlands Structure Plan Appendix 5 Report of an Aboriginal Heritage Survey.pdf; also Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁴⁹⁹ Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

⁵⁰⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 10 July 1951, page 11; South-Western News (Busselton, WA : 1903 - 1949), Thursday 17 June 1948, page 1

⁵⁰¹ South-Western News (Busselton, WA : 1903 - 1949), Thursday 19 June 1947, page 1

Bunbury Aboriginal Progress Association predicted that about 100 people would march, but only 30 took part. President Andy Nebro said he was pleased with the march, saying it had achieved the purpose of showing that South West Aboriginals supported the Noonkanbah people.⁵⁰²

Awareness of Anderson Nebro's community service extended to Government House. On 18 August 1998 the Hon. Dr. Chrissy Sharp addressed the Legislative Council, telling the council about a newspaper article she had read concerning Nebro.

'An interesting article appeared in *The West Australian* of 11 August about a new security force called Nyoongah Security Services that has been established in Perth by Nyoongah people. That service will be run by Aboriginal elders and older Aborigines, and is led by a former boxer from Collie called Andy Nebro. The article states that - His remedy for repeat troublemakers is to speak to their parents to gain permission to take them to their families' traditional lands. There, they could learn new skills including horticulture and farming, and their own language and culture under guidance from elders. I found it interesting that the Nyoongah people make a connection between Aboriginal offenders and the lack of connection with the land.'⁵⁰³

Andy Nebro was the One Nation candidate for seat of Girrawheen in the 2001 Western Australian state election. The Labor seat was won by Margaret Quirk.⁵⁰⁴

Anderson Nebro passed away at Bunbury Nursing Home on 19 September 2012, with affectionate newspaper notices posted by his many children.⁵⁰⁵

Nebro was buried at Collie.⁵⁰⁶ Sandra Nebro says her mother Rose was an 'East Perth socialite' who shared an enduring love with Andy. She had a 'good life with mum and dad' and after Rosaleen passed away and Andy was affected by Alzheimer's disease, he would often look for her.⁵⁰⁷

Many thanks to Sandra Nebro for her permission to share her family memories.

*'Poverty Point' article⁵⁰⁸ reports residence by Andy and his wife 'for ages' prior to 1953.

⁵⁰² South Western Times (Busselton, WA : 1903 – 2949), Thursday 21 April 2016

⁵⁰³ Hansard Historical Search. House: LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, Date: 4.43 PM TUESDAY, 18 August 1998, Member: Sharp, Hon Dr Chrissy, Subject: MOTION, Page: 304 / 1.
<http://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/hansard/hans35.nsf/451a59fb51257dd248256c85002bc738/160b5c625960f06c482566910009c3ad?OpenDocument> (Accessed November 2018)

⁵⁰⁴ Adam Carr's Election Archive <http://psephos.adam-carr.net/countries/a/australia/states/wa/wa2001assembly1.txt>, accessed October 2018

⁵⁰⁵ <http://www.westannouncements.com.au/obituaries/thewest-au/obituary-preview.aspx?n=anderson-nebro&pid=160139785&referrer=3057>, accessed October 2018; BDM WA Registration #87 Debbie Nebro; Registration #18 Andrew Peter Nebro

⁵⁰⁶ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180804042> accessed October 2018; Memorial ID 180804042

⁵⁰⁷ Sandra Rose Nebro conversation with Julie Raffaele 25 May 2019

⁵⁰⁸ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

Neilson/Nilsen, Issac

c1849 - 1933

Smelters 1933

pensioner

Issac Neilson is mentioned in the *Daily News*, 9 March 1933 after his harrowing death, and is described as a resident of the Smelters camp. Neilson had been struck by the Fremantle Jandakot train sometime after 9pm on Wednesday night and was discovered at 7.35am on Thursday morning by Alfred Britton, a railway ganger and his team who were travelling on a trolley past the South Fremantle Smelters when they noticed the critically injured man lying beside the track. The report titled, 'All Night Ordeal', reads

'He was Isaac Neilson, 84, a pensioner, and one of the camp of old men who live in tin shanties close to the Smelters. His left leg was fractured in several places, and his other injuries included a broken arm and lacerated head.'⁵⁰⁹

Neilson recognised a fellow pensioner and asked for a drink of water, but was unable to relate any details as to the cause of his injuries.

'It was concluded that he had been struck by a train while walking along a narrow path at the side of the railway line on his way to a camp in which he lived nearby. He was apparently injured before midnight as only two trains passed the spot where he was found during the night — one about 9 o'clock and the other shortly before midnight.'⁵¹⁰

Neilson lapsed into unconsciousness died at 10 a.m. in Fremantle Hospital.⁵¹¹ Charles Siddons, a fellow resident of the camp, identified the body.⁵¹² A report from the inquiry, involving the Acting Coroner, police and Western Australian Government Railways outlined that they had heard from Alfred Britton, the employee who found Neilson, Dr. N. L. Cass from the Fremantle Hospital, Charles Siddons and Charles Hargrave, who was a fireman on the train which struck Neilson. There had been some indication of a minor collision, and a hat found, but despite lights to the front and rear of the locomotive 'burning brightly', the driver Joseph Coombs confirmed nothing irregular had been found.⁵¹³

Issac Neilson has not been fully researched.

⁵⁰⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 9 March 1933, page 1

⁵¹⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 11 March 1933, page 11

⁵¹¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 9 March 1933, page 1; see also Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Thursday 16 March 1933, page 18

⁵¹² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 5 April 1933, page 10

⁵¹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 5 April 1933, page 10

Newell, Phoebe
Robb's Jetty (1930s)

-

See entry Mears, Jack.

Nolan, Maurice
Camp, Robb's Jetty 1919-1921
labourer

Maurice Nolan appears in the supplementary section of the 1919 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll. Nolan was a labourer who stayed at the Smelters Camp until sometime before 1922, when he is no longer listed. Maurice Nolan has not been fully researched.

O'Connor, William
Owen's Anchorage 1903-1906
slaughterman

William O'Connor is listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield roll between 1903 and 1906, as a slaughterman. William O'Connor has not been fully researched.

O'Halloran, John William
Smelter's Works Camp 1949
labourer

The Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1949 lists John O'Halloran at Smelters Works Camp. O'Halloran is a labourer, who left the camp some time before the next electoral listing in 1954. John O'Halloran has not been fully researched.

Page, Stephen Lee
c1867 - 1937
Smelters' Camp 1934-1937
Prospector

In the early hours of 22 October 1937, Stephen Page, a prospector of 70 years of age, decided that taking control of his future would involve the tools of his trade, a detonator and plugs of gelignite.

In an inquest before Mr. C. Christie, J.P. at Fremantle Courthouse, Sergeant Growden and Bartholemew Monaghan, a fellow pensioner living in the camp, described the gruesome scene that Constable Simmons of the Beaconsfield police investigated which was, ultimately, Stephen Page determining his destiny.

The blunt headline of the *West Australian* that Saturday morning is no less shocking today:

'HEAD BLOWN OFF. "Sufferer from Miner's Phthisis." That deceased had suffered considerably from miner's phthisis was mentioned in evidence during an inquest before Mr. C. Christie, J.P., in the Fremantle Courthouse yesterday concerning the death of Stephen Lee Page (70), a pensioner living in a camp near the smelters, South Fremantle. He was found not far from his camp with his head blown off and several fingers missing on the afternoon of October 22.'⁵¹⁴

It was determined the damage was self-inflicted, as after the terrible discovery, Bartholemew Monaghan had found further plugs of gelignite and a detonator in Page's camp. This, as well as Page's previous expression to him that if he owned a revolver he would 'blow his brains out'⁵¹⁵ rather than endure an enforced return to the Claremont Old Men's Home, was offered as testimony.

Monaghan came to Page's camp looking for him at 5.30pm when he had not been seen, as he had promised to assist him with transporting his luggage. In the acting-coroner's hearing, Dr. A. R. Bean, police surgeon, gave his professional assessment noting that there was 'no sign of any struggle.'⁵¹⁶ Other pensioners in the camp had heard an explosion around 2.30pm but 'nothing was thought to have been amiss, as blasting operations were in progress.'⁵¹⁷

Stephen Page, after prospecting on the Kalgoorlie goldfields, had lived at the Smelters Camp for the past four years and had a brother at North Fremantle.⁵¹⁸

Pedro, Don

c1904 -

Robb's Jetty, Smelter's Camp c1950s

William Herdigan recalls the enigmatic Don Pedro being so legendary at the Smelter's Camp, where he lived in a tent, and around Fremantle, that 'songs were written about him'.⁵¹⁹

Pedro was a tall, thin aboriginal stockman from the north of Western Australia, around the Roebourne or Kalgoorlie area. He also held a cheeky disregard of authority. A newspaper in 1953 describes his arresting policemen being so surprised to find him exactly where they'd put him, in the back of a police car - but now enjoying a bottle of wine, that they charged him.⁵²⁰

⁵¹⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 6 November 1937, page 17

⁵¹⁵ Ibid.

⁵¹⁶ Ibid.

⁵¹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 21 October 1937, page 17

⁵¹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 21 October 1937, page 17; see also Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 24 October 1937, page 11; BDM WA, death registration #282; also South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1934

⁵¹⁹ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁵²⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 22 August 1953, page 14

Peirce, Alfred John
Robb's Jetty 1943
caretaker

Alfred Peirce is listed in the supplementary section of the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1943 at Robb's Jetty as a caretaker.⁵²¹ He does not appear in the next roll in 1949 at that same location. Alfred Peirce has not been fully researched.

Perry, Henry
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1949
labourer

In January 1949, Henry Perry of the Smelters Camp, South Fremantle, was working at the refinery of the Colonial Sugar Refining Co. Ltd. in Bateman Street, Mosman Park when his leg was fractured,

'He was struck by a bag of sugar weighing 160lb. which fell from the top of a 15ft. stack.'⁵²²

Within minutes, fellow worker Arthur Bosward (43) was struck to the lower back and foot with another bag, also causing fractures, but luckily he avoided a deadly head injury. The men were transported to Fremantle Hospital by a St. John ambulance. There does not appear to have been any workplace safety investigation ordered, although advertisements appear requesting a house to rent for a visiting 'senior officer' throughout late June.⁵²³

Despite nationwide factories, CSR Co. Ltd. was experiencing some stress as a company in 1949. Mr. J. L. Tucker, manager, was under siege. In a January article in the *Kalgoorlie Miner*, he explains that it is the Federal Government's sugar quota ration of 1946 that was causing shortages, and so he was unavailable to offer immediate relief to housewives complaining there was 'not enough sugar for jam making'. Whilst the general quota was higher, 'not all of this was the refined sugar housewives wanted,' and supplies had dropped by a quarter. He readily assured them, 'They would be the first to benefit if more refined sugar became available.'⁵²⁴

Perhaps of little consolation to Henry Perry and Arthur Bosward, who were recovering from their injuries. Henry Perry has not been fully researched.

⁵²¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵²² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 11 January 1949, page 9

⁵²³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 13 January 1949, page 26; Tuesday 18 January, 1949, page 19; 25 January 1949 *et al.*

⁵²⁴ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Thursday 27 January 1949, page 4

Phillips, 'Ginger'
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle c1950s

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Ginger Phillips and his wife lived at the Smelter's camp in a small shack in the time period that William Herdigan lived on 'Mackie's Hill', also at the camp, with his mother Maxine. He remembers that their child also lived with them for a time.⁵²⁵

Pickett, Margaret
c1916 -
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1954

-

Margaret Pickett is mentioned in a newspaper article in 1954 as being a resident of the Smelters Camp; she does not appear on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll.⁵²⁶ Margaret Pickett has not been fully researched.

Gallantry Award from Governor-General

A telegram from His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Gowrie) stating that, as Chief Scout for Australia, he had approved of awards for gallantry in saving life at sea to five West Australian sea scouts, was read by the Chief Scout for the State...at the annual display of the boy Scouts' Association last night. The five scouts formed a party which rescued Mr. and Mrs. K. Drake-Brockman from a sinking dinghy in Cockburn Sound in April last. Mr. Drake-Brockman's launch had caught fire during a night trip to Garden Island and he and his wife abandoned the launch in a small dinghy, which filled with water in a heavy swell. After the rescue the scouts helped extinguish the fire on the launch.⁵²⁷

Power, Alice
Robb's Jetty 1910
married

Power, Thomas Joseph
Robb's Jetty 1909-1913
labourer

Both Alice and Thomas Power lived at the Smelters Camp but according to the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll,⁵²⁸ Alice did not join Thomas until 1910, and then appears to have moved to 37 Commercial Road in 1911. Thomas, a labourer, stayed on at the camp but then moved to the same Commercial Road

⁵²⁵ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁵²⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 9 December 1954, page 21

⁵²⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 21 August 1936, page 18

⁵²⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

location in 1914, reuniting with his wife. Alice and Thomas Power have not been fully researched.

Preston, Elizabeth
South Beach 1903-1905
domestic service

Elizabeth Preston is listed as a resident of 'South Beach' in the 1903-1905 Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Rolls.⁵²⁹ Preston was employed in domestic service and has not been fully researched.

Pritchard, Tom Stanley
South Beach 1919-1931
coach builder

Tom Pritchard requires further research, as he is enigmatically listed at 'South Fremantle' in the Fremantle Electoral Rolls over an extended period of time. Since he was not using the location 'South Beach', there is a possibility he was not camping.⁵³⁰ It is noted that Bolton's was the primary coach building and importing business in Fremantle until 1936. The company later moved to West Perth.⁵³¹

Reed, William Thomas
Smelters' Camp, Mandurah rd 1937- c1940

-

William Reed, of no occupation, appears on the supplementary Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Smelters Camp, Mandurah Road in 1937. He is absent from the 1943 roll. Reed's name appears with partners in Notices of Application for an Auriferous Lease in 1896 at Broad Arrow near Kalgoorlie, and later in 1901 near Norseman, Western Australia.⁵³² Births, Deaths and Marriages WA show a William T Reed dying in Perth in 1940.⁵³³ William Reed has not been fully researched.

⁵²⁹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵³⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵³¹ <http://bcsv.org.au/vm/boltons/> accessed September 2018

⁵³² The Broad Arrow Standard (WA : 1896 - 1899), Saturday 19 September 1896, page 2; The Broad Arrow Standard (WA : 1896 - 1899), Wednesday 23 September 1896, page 2; Norseman Times (WA : 1898 - 1920), Tuesday 4 June 1901, page 3

⁵³³ BDM WA Registration # 1107

Reilly, Leslie Norman
South Beach Camp 1950
labourer, prospector, veteran

Leslie Reilly was born in North Coolgardie (Menzies) in 1916.⁵³⁴ He was a labourer who lived briefly at the South Beach camp in 1950,⁵³⁵ but had also been a prospector.

Reilly enlisted in the Australian Army on 23 October 1940 in Claremont, Western Australia. He was a private in the 2/4 Machine Gun Battalion but was discharged after only four months, on 7 March 1941.⁵³⁶ The discharge followed Reilly being fined £5 and being asked to repay £3 by Magistrate Mr W.J. Wallwork for 'having imposed upon the Commonwealth Government by an untrue representation...'⁵³⁷ While in the A.I.F. and stationed at Claremont, Reilly was told about a woman who lived in New South Wales by his friend Lance-Corporal Brian Martin; Reilly later wired her requesting money using Martin's name.

Reilly was also fond of a punt on the ponies. In 1940 at about 25 years of age,⁵³⁸ 7 months before he enlisted, the Kalgoorlie plain-clothed detectives arrested and fined him £60 plus costs 'in connection with premises at 123 Hannan street, Kalgoorlie.'⁵³⁹ The police were targeting unlicensed SP or 'Starting Price' bookies (bookies who offered average odds on a horse that was corrected later to match the trackside price). These commonplace illegal bets made in locations other than the racecourse raised the ire of the government as they were untaxed. A cockatoo, or 'cocky' would look out for police in urban or neighbourhood settings, and raise the alarm. Perhaps unsuccessfully in 1947 while Reilly was living in Leederville, as he was again fined £20 among a group of other men, by Police Magistrate Moseley for obstruction, a charge of convenience that literally meant the men were blocking the public's way while betting. The group was warned that gaol time would be the punishment for any further offences.⁵⁴⁰

In 1950, while living at the camp, Reilly was sentenced to three months in Fremantle Prison. He admitted that in February he had kept money from a charity collection for the family of a girl killed in Jandakot. He was gaoled in light of the previous October 1940 offence. Magistrate Mr K. I. Dougall judged, "It was a despicable thing to do."⁵⁴¹

Leslie Reilly has not been fully researched.

⁵³⁴ BDM WA Registration #2, however his military record lists his birthdate as 20 December 1914 (NAA: B883, WX8697, item barcode 6456298)

⁵³⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵³⁶ <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=744981&c=WW2#R> accessed Oct 2018

⁵³⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 4 March 1941, page 8

⁵³⁸ Reilly's age is listed incorrectly in the below Kalgoorlie Miner at 25

⁵³⁹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Monday 15 April 1940, page 4

⁵⁴⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 11 August 1947, page 8

⁵⁴¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 3 March 1950, page 24

Richards, Alan Humphrey

1901 - 1970

Robb's Jetty 1934-1936

cement worker

Alan Richards appears in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls of 1934 and 1936, and in the supplementary roll of 1937, at Robb's Jetty. He was employed as a cement worker. Richards died in 1970 at age 69.⁵⁴² Alan Richards has not been fully researched.

'ARTISTIC' CHRISTMAS CAMP IN SANDHILLS

'When children playing "Cowboys and Indians," stumbled across a camp in the South Fremantle sand hills beyond the Smelters plant, they did not expect to see a half-naked Aphrodite...

"Doubtless she was a lovely lady, but from the distance all that could be distinguished was that she was a lady."

Reported by The 'Call' is a diverting account of a young woman draped only in a towel, her moustachioed gentleman photographer and a bunch of slightly embarrassed kids, who in the innocent act of "a blast on a scout whistle" in their game, started an instant stampede of adults enjoying the portrait session. Upon their departure, the naughty children descended to the tents in the gully and tied as many knots as possible in the bathing suits and clothing found there.

Returning the next day, the tents and clothing had disappeared, all except for "...a dainty garment, very prettily monogrammed," in shades of blue, and then the prize was held by the newspaper office, "if the owner cares to call for it."⁵⁴³

Richards, Edith Lillian

Robb's Jetty 1936

home duties

Richards, Frank Parry

Robb's Jetty 1936

cement worker

Richards, Walter

Robb's Jetty 1931

manufacturer

In the 1931 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll, Walter Richards and his wife Edith Lillian and son Frank Parry were living at Robb's Jetty. Walter Richards was a

⁵⁴² BDM WA Registration #3527

⁵⁴³ New Call (Perth, WA : 1931 - 1934), Thursday 31 December 1931, page 4

manufacturer and Edith is listed as 'home duties', while Frank is a cement worker.⁵⁴⁴ Walter and Edith were married in Perth in 1917, and in 1925 were living in South Street, Fremantle. At that time, Walter was working as a draughtsman.⁵⁴⁵

In 1954 Edith was living in Claremont with Frank, a fitter's assistant, and his brother, Arthur George, and later she and Frank lived in Attadale, then Palmyra.⁵⁴⁶

Walter did not live to see the wedding of his 20-year old daughter Florence Laura in 1944.⁵⁴⁷ Walter, Edith, Frank Parry and family have not been fully researched.

Robertson, William John **Smelter's Camp 1943-1949**

-

William Robertson is listed in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll of 1943.⁵⁴⁸ He's living at the Smelters Camp and does not have an occupation. He appears again in the 1949 roll at the same location, but is absent by 1954. Births, Deaths and Marriages WA lists a William J Robertson dying in Perth in 1953.⁵⁴⁹ William Robertson has not been fully researched.

Roddam, Thomas **Near Smelting Works 1928** **prospector**

Thomas Roddam was a prospector who lived near the Smelting Works in 1928.⁵⁵⁰

Undaunted

Roddam and Stephen Martin were part-partners in mine lease 1562, impressively named the *Undaunted* in the Marvel Loch district on the Yilgarn goldfields, from 1900-1912. The 1888 discovery of gold in the hills behind Southern Cross was second to the discovery in the Pilbara in 1885, but Yilgarn was already in a depressed state by 1892, when the larger, now-famous discoveries rocked Coolgardie and Mt

⁵⁴⁴ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]. BDM WA Registration # 448, Walter and Edith L Richards married Perth 1917

⁵⁴⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁴⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁴⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 12 February 1944, page 1; BDM WA Registration #3449 Florence Laura Richards birth

⁵⁴⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁴⁹ BDM WA Registration #542

⁵⁵⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Charlotte at Kalgoorlie and fuelled the ignition of the gold rush in Western Australia.⁵⁵¹

Despite some early disagreements about expenses in February 1911,⁵⁵² undaunted they were, and proceeded with sensible expectations, until 'Messrs. Thomas Roddam and party, cleaned up at Howlett's Donovan's mill a parcel of 90 tonnes which yielded by amalgamation 98ozs. of bullion worth £3/17/6 per ounce.'⁵⁵³ This total would have today been the equivalent of \$45,500.⁵⁵⁴

In November, Baliff of the court in Southern Cross was asking for the claim to be satisfied or all titles and interests in 100 shares for the Undaunted to be sold. An announcement in the same local newspaper reveals this action is occurring after the death of another partner, Samuel West.⁵⁵⁵ Roddam moved on to other claims, at the 'Cambrian' in 1914, and the 'Ironsides North' with Clarrie Smith in 1923.⁵⁵⁶

In 1928, Thomas Roddam moved to the Smelters Camp at Fremantle; he is listed as a late Supplementary entry in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll.⁵⁵⁷ He disappears from this area in the 1929 and 1931 rolls, but by 1934 he was living in Fremantle and working as a watchman.

A report about his involvement, or more precisely, his non-involvement in a sensational murder places him living in 'an ancient cottage near the Fremantle end of the Traffic Bridge.'⁵⁵⁸ Sitting by the doorway in an armchair that night between midnight and 1am, Roddam failed to notice the cries of young Albert Mollor, aged ten, being brutally murdered.

Albert's father Lawrence had been living at the Richmond Hotel nearby and involved in intimate relations and an unannounced engagement with Mrs Olive Harper, the licensee. When the engagement ended acrimoniously, Mollor plunged into a desperate depression, lead his son into the dark bushland and stabbed him to death. Later the poor boy was found in Olive Harper's car. With no memory of events of that night, Mollor was deemed to be temporarily insane, and eventually locked up in the Claremont Mental Hospital. Fifty yards away from the scrubby location of the murder, Thomas Roddam retired for bed, none the wiser, a newspaper reporter

⁵⁵¹ <http://museum.wa.gov.au/explore/wa-goldfields/rush-gold>

⁵⁵² The Southern Cross Times (WA : 1900 - 1920), Saturday 4 February 1911, page 5

⁵⁵³ Southern Cross Times (WA ; 1900 - 1920), Saturday 30 November 1912, page 3

⁵⁵⁴ Approximation <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

⁵⁵⁵ The Southern Cross Times (WA : 1900 - 1920), Saturday 23 November, 1912, page 2; Saturday 7 December 1912, page 2

⁵⁵⁶ The Southern Cross Times (WA ; 1900 - 1920), Saturday 20 June 1914 page 3; Monday 22 October 1923, page 4

⁵⁵⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA:

Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁵⁸ Western Mail (WA : 1885 - 1954) Thursday 12 April 1934, page 12

helpfully noting 'Mr Roddam is hard of hearing, and that may account for the fact that he heard nothing.'⁵⁵⁹

Rogers, Edward Manton
Woodman's Point 1914
labourer

Edward Rogers may not have been a direct occupant of the Smelters Camp. He was employed at the Coogee limekilns, but his actual place of residence is not confirmed; he may have been camping nearby. In the 1914 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll his location was Woodman's Point, and his occupation was labourer. There are other employees of the limekilns in the electoral rolls, but their residences are listed as Coogee, or Rockingham Road (Jeffery, Jenkyn, Stook 1909).⁵⁶⁰

Rogers had recently arrived in Fremantle from Elaine, Victoria, near Ballarat. He had declared himself insolvent in October 1895, due to lack of employment.⁵⁶¹

On a Thursday evening in August, 1897, Edward Rogers was partaking of liquid refreshments at the Cleopatra Hotel in High Street, Fremantle, when in his inebriated state, was taken advantage of by two predatory patrons, John Love and William R. Bard. Luckily James Dunbar, the barman, was not a fellow to tolerate injustices or fools and was sympathetic to Mr Rogers' condition; he noticed the men accessing Rogers' pockets, and some coins tumbling on to the floor. He flagged down a constable who happened to be passing, who charged Love and Bard.⁵⁶²

THE STABBING AFFRAY AT COOGEE

Rogers unfortunately repeated this pattern of alcohol-induced vulnerability on a Saturday evening in September 1904. While imbibing at the Coogee Hotel with his workmate, lime-burner George Beresford, Beresford took violent exception to Rogers' opinions, followed him and stabbed him in the back with a small penknife.⁵⁶³

After the elderly victim managed to transmit a message to the Fremantle police, Constable Brady arrived and arrested Beresford with intending to do Rogers grievous

⁵⁵⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 10 April 1934, page 15; The Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), Saturday 7 April 1934, page 1; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 13 July 1935, page 12

⁵⁶⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁶¹ The Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Thursday 31 October 1895, page 3

⁵⁶² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 12 August 1897, page 4 - Rogers; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 20 January 1898, page 3; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 21 Jan 1898, page 7 - Dunbar

⁵⁶³ The Mail (Fremantle, WA : 1904 - 1905), Monday 26 September, 1904, page 3; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 26 September 1904, page 4

bodily harm, and remanded him for eight days. The charge was later reduced to alleged assault with intent.⁵⁶⁴

Rogers survived and later lived in Arundel Street, Fremantle. Husband to 'beloved' wife Sarah, she died aged 52 in 1912.⁵⁶⁵ In 1914 he moved to Woodman Point. Edward Rogers has not been fully researched.

Rooney, James

Owen's Anchorage/Smelters Camp 1903-1943 labourer

James Rooney is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage from 1903. He appears in every successive electoral roll until 1936. Rooney remained at the camp until some time before 1943, when he was absent.⁵⁶⁶ He was the longest serving resident of the camp with occupancy of up to 40 years; a modest and civic-minded gentleman who donated to poor appeals run by the United Irish League and lived in a makeshift cottage.⁵⁶⁷ In his small community, John Clarendon Horneman was the second longest resident of 34 years, then John Costello (27 years) and Joseph Cronin (25 years) – all neighbours who would have known each another. Rooney was a labourer and in the 1930s he worked for the Fremantle Slag and Paving Company.⁵⁶⁸

Prior to his moving to the Smelters, Rooney was working as a quarryman and camping at Rocky Bay, Mosman Park. In 1899, the mayor of North Fremantle, Mr J. Pearce, brought proceedings against Rooney, whose defence, Mr Barker, doggedly took exception to many technicalities of the proceedings in Fremantle Police Court. North Fremantle Municipal Council was resolved to remove non-rate paying tent dwellers who had occupied the riverside and it was determined Rooney could only stay with a license for the erection of the hessian dwelling in place.⁵⁶⁹

'Fremantle Blaze'

It was a hot summer afternoon in January 1930⁵⁷⁰ when James Rooney was aroused from slumber around 4.30pm by Patrick Monaghan, who was working at the Smelters. A grass fire at the northern end of the old abattoirs at Copley's Siding had sparked, and by the time Monaghan and Rooney left his cottage, dense smoke was

⁵⁶⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 26 September 1904, page 10

⁵⁶⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 7 March 1912, page 1; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board application #FB00004149

⁵⁶⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁶⁷ The WA Record (Perth, WA : 1888 - 1922), Saturday 25 November 1916, page 11

⁵⁶⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 6 January 1930, page 15

⁵⁶⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 5 October 1899, page 3; Mayor J. Pearce, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 4 August 1899, page 6. See also Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 24 November 1899, page 1

⁵⁷⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 6 January 1930, page 15. The Perth temperature forecast was 27C.

billowing from the fodder store roof. Two units from the fire brigade arrived within 9 minutes after Rooney's telephone alert, but the closest water main was all but dry, and another, 'emitted a feeble stream of water, which was useless against the flames rapidly growing in volume.'

One fireman narrowly avoided death from a falling beam as the brigade struggled against the fire for over four hours, the reporter noting, 'they acquitted themselves admirably.' Only a strong southerly wind, the men removing contents from the store and manually cutting away linking rafters saved the whole building from destruction. But the ramp, 200 feet of feed bins and the fodder store, once filled with three tonnes of hay and other equipment, burned for several hours and was 'reduced to a mass of charred sheet iron and heavy beams.'

The owner of the building, banker Mr S. W. Copley, had insured the contents but not the building. It had been occupied by the Department of Agriculture but luckily no stock occupied the yards, as they had been decommissioned in favour of new works at Robb's Jetty. Damaged was estimated at £2000.⁵⁷¹

James Rooney has not been fully researched.

Ryan, Dennis Leonard

1880-1959

Fremantle Smelters 1912-1914

assayer/metallurgist

Dennis Ryan was born in 1880 to father Patrick, and mother Elizabeth in Kingston, Victoria, Australia.⁵⁷² He was the husband of May Turner, and father of William Ryan (see entries below). From 1912 to 1914 he lived at the Smelters Camp, then moved to Mandurah Road, South Fremantle, and by 1922 had relocated to 67 South Street. From about 1931 the Ryan family were at 21 South Street.⁵⁷³

78 OUNCES TO TON

Dennis Ryan was working at the Fremantle Smelters as a licensed gold dealer in August 1941 when prospectors Charles Egan (55) and his son, Daniel Joseph Egan (33) brought to him a small parcel of concentrates to the sale value of £511/12/3, to be assayed, that he suspected had been obtained illegally.⁵⁷⁴

The Egans appeared before the Perth Police Court, separately charged. Daniel had bought gold from Ronald Hamilton Fox in Kalgoorlie, who did not own a licence to deal in the precious metal. The Egans then bought this matter to Dennis Ryan and due to the usually high concentrate of 78 ounces of gold to ton within, it was

⁵⁷¹ The West Australian (Perth : 1879 - 1954), Monday 6 January 1930, page 13

⁵⁷² BDM Vic Reference # 23474

⁵⁷³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁷⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 28 August 1941, page 8

thought the matter had not come, as claimed, from refractory tailings hand sorted by the Egans at the Big Four Lease at Canegrass, 71kms north-west of Kalgoorlie, in full view of another two men who were working there.

‘Egan told the Bench that he had bought the right to treat tailings from the Big Four mine and had picked them carefully, taking only those which looked promising.’

Agreements signed were shown to be genuine, witnesses presented, and the magistrate determined, ‘There was no evidence that the tailings Egan had picked were from illicit gold treatments.’ He dismissed the charges against both men, but Daniel Egan was issued with a £2 fine with £3/7/ costs for buying the gold matter from an unlicensed dealer.⁵⁷⁵

Dennis Leonard Ryan died in 1959, aged 79.⁵⁷⁶

Ryan, John
Smelter’s Camp 1928-1943
labourer

John Ryan was a labourer listed on Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls of 1928 (Supplementary) and 1943. Since the interim 1937 electoral roll is a Supplementary listing only, it is presumed John Ryan’s occupancy bridged this gap.

Ryan, May Gertrude
Fremantle Smelters 1912-1914
married

Ryan, William Denis
Fremantle Smelters 1912-1914
-

May Gertrude Turner was born in Odnit, Victoria, in 1879 to father William and mother Mary. In 1906 Turner married Dennis Ryan, who was an assayer then a metallurgist at the Fremantle Smelters (see details in his entry above). Ryan lived at the Smelters Camp from 1912 to 1914 with Dennis, and their small son William (Bill), who was born in 1908.⁵⁷⁷ They moved to 119 Mandurah Road, South Fremantle, and by 1922 had relocated to 67 South Street. Prior to 1931 she and husband Dennis were at 21 South Street.⁵⁷⁸ It was here their son William came of age, listing his occupation as Articled Law Clerk.⁵⁷⁹ After the customary two years, May and Dennis

⁵⁷⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 2 September 1941, page 21

⁵⁷⁶ BDM WA Registration #2535

⁵⁷⁷ BDM WA Registration #673

⁵⁷⁸ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁷⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 17 November 1932, page 1; Thursday 1 December 1932, page 1

must have been proud to see their son attain the position of Law Clerk, but unfortunately he was unanimously disbarred by the Supreme Court in 1942 for unprofessional conduct.⁵⁸⁰

Ryan enlisted for the Australian Army 4 March 1941 in Collie; he was a trooper in the 25 Australian Army Cavalry Commando Training Squadron.⁵⁸¹

He died from an illness as a result of his war service in Hollywood Hospital 23 January 1944.⁵⁸² He was the husband of Beryl (Lewin) and father to Kerry and Kay. They lived in Kalamunda, Western Australia. Ryan had siblings, Bec (Mrs Trobe) and John. He is buried in the Karrakatta War Cemetery.⁵⁸³ The last line of his family obituary addresses May as, 'Our darling'.

May died one year before her husband, in 1958, aged 78.⁵⁸⁴ The Ryan family has not been fully researched.

Scott, Violet
Smelter's Camp 1929-1943
home duties

Violet Scott is listed with an occupation of 'home duties' in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1929, 1931, 1934, 1936. 1937 is only a supplementary roll, and she is not listed in the 1943 roll.⁵⁸⁵ Violet Scott has not been fully researched.

Shearer, William John
c1874-1949
South Fremantle 1912
lumper

William Shearer was born in Campbell's Creek, Victoria, in about 1875; his father Alexander and mother Annie Auld.⁵⁸⁶ He was living at the Smelters Camp in 1912; he would have been 38 years of age.⁵⁸⁷ He was a labourer and lumper who rode a British Beardmore Precision motorcycle and seemed to find himself constantly involved in mischief with paramours – first for an incident with Violet Hyland (the daughter of

⁵⁸⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 25 April 1942, page 4

⁵⁸¹ <http://www.wv2roll.gov.au/Veteran.aspx?serviceId=A&veteranId=816125>;
<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/P10302642>; <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/R1699340>
accessed October 2018, Service # W41456; NAA: A8231, 32/Ryan William Denis, Barcode 21517940;
NAA: B884, W41456 Barcode 6497010

⁵⁸² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 24 January 1944, page 1

⁵⁸³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 24 January 1944, page 1

⁵⁸⁴ BDM WA Registration #3248

⁵⁸⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁵⁸⁶ BDM Victoria, Reference # 7590.

⁵⁸⁷ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

John Francis Hyland, a past resident of the Smelters Camp who died in 1905). Guilty of indecent behaviour in Alma Street, he was fined £1.⁵⁸⁸

In 1911 Shearer married Margaret Norah Davidson in Fremantle.⁵⁸⁹ They lived mainly in the East Fremantle area, in Glyde Street (1917) and Point Walter Road (1922), and Tamar St (1931), but must have enjoyed a brief spell in Grey Street, South Fremantle in 1927, because they had returned there by 1943. Unsurprisingly, at most addresses Margaret was occupied with home duties (they produced children Florence, Muriel, Dorothy, William and Mena), but in 1943 she was also listed as a lumper!⁵⁹⁰

Apart from some minor pillaging of cargo in 1914 - items of clothing from a docked steamer - for which he was fined £25, Shearer kept out of trouble.⁵⁹¹ But an incident in 1928 could have had terrible consequences.

When Harold Hitchcock successfully gained a divorce from his wife Lucy Cleo Jean, it was because of her involvement with Shearer. The mother of five children, aged 14 months to 8 years, was crucified in the press as a woman who, from 1924, decided married life and children would be cast aside when she 'succumbed to the enticements of frivolity...' and became 'a wife allegedly run wild with liquor and the lads of the village.' It's even claimed Shearer and Mrs Hitchcock were living together at Arundel Street, Fremantle.⁵⁹²

But a bullet put an end to any possibility of preserving the Hitchcock family. Enraged by an apparent succession of dalliances at the family home, the mysterious presence of open beer bottles hidden behind the front door, wayward children and perhaps most infuriatingly, unattended housework, Mr and Mrs Hitchcock frequently quarrelled. A separation order temporarily cooled matters, but Mr Hitchcock returned home in November 1927 'for the sake of the children.' This only lasted a month and in March 1928, Mrs Hitchcock informed her estranged husband 'she was in a certain condition to a man named Shearer.'

'She dared him to come to the house that night at 8 o'clock, as Shearer would "clean him up." Ascertaining that Shearer was 6ft in height (Hitchcock) secured a revolver.'⁵⁹³

Hitchcock visited the house and showed the gun to his wife.

⁵⁸⁸ Beardmore Precision registration in Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954) Sunday 15 May 1927, page 31; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950) Monday 16 January 1905, page 11

⁵⁸⁹ BDM WA Registration #223, 1911

⁵⁹⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]. All residences except 1927: Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954) Sunday 15 May 1927, page 31

⁵⁹¹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954) Sunday 31 May 1914, page 15

⁵⁹² Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Sunday 16 September 1928, page 9; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 12 September 1928, page 10

⁵⁹³ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 12 September 1928, page 2

'He pulled it out of his pocket and the thing went off, the bullet grazing his wife's cheek. In true wifely haste she had him arrested for trying to shoot her.'⁵⁹⁴

Hitchcock was acquitted but their behaviour ruined their family – the State took their children, and the divorce was granted. Shearer was awarded court costs.

'Dearly beloved' William Shearer died on 6 June 1949 in Fremantle, aged 74. Listed are his wife, five children and their spouses, and eight grandchildren. Also listed is his brother Alexander (Curly) Shearer, who incidentally was a talented footballer in the Kalgoorlie-Boulder region.⁵⁹⁵

Siddons, Charles Harry

1889-1942

Smelters' Camp 1931-1942

labourer

Charles Siddons was a labourer living at the Smelters Camp from 1931. The 1937 Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll is Supplementary only, and a listing in the 1943 electoral roll suggests his name wasn't immediately removed after his death.

In 1933, Siddons had the sombre responsibility of identifying the body of Isaac Nilsen/Neilson (see earlier entry), a fellow pensioner living at the Smelters Camp who had died after been struck by a train. Siddons assured police when he had seen Neilson a few days before, he had been in good spirits, but that perhaps his deafness contributed to the accident.

Charles Siddons died 10 June 1942 at 53 years of age.⁵⁹⁶ Friends and family of Siddons are notified in the *Daily News* of the Church of England service to be held at the Crematorium Chapel in Karrakatta. It mentions that he is of 'Messrs. J. Gadsden Pty. Limited, North Fremantle and of 68 Palmerston Street, Mosman Park.'⁵⁹⁷

Gadsdens was a company started by Jabez Gadsden in Melbourne which by the 1930s had approximately one dozen nationwide factories producing tins, bags, sacks and fabrics, and later, canvas goods, in Australia and New Zealand.⁵⁹⁸ In 1941 the newly-relocated North Fremantle workshop had received a Defence contract for the manufacture of mattresses to the value of £153, and soon after an order for pillows to £187.⁵⁹⁹ The Gadsden staff, on the same day as Siddons' notice was published, had

⁵⁹⁴ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 12 September 1928, page 2

⁵⁹⁵ BDM WA Registration #173; Obituaries, *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 8 June 1949 page 1; Curly Shearer: *Truth* (Perth, WA ' 1903 - 1931) Saturday 16 June 1906, page 6; *The Sun* (Kalgoorlie, WA: 1899 - 1919) Sun 10 June 1906, page 3

⁵⁹⁶ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 11 June 1942, page 1

⁵⁹⁷ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 10 June 1942, page 9

⁵⁹⁸ <https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/186922728?q&versionId=203473150>

⁵⁹⁹ *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 22 August 1941, page 6; *The West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), today's value over \$11,000; Friday 11 September 1941, page 6, today's value over \$13,000 (<https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>)

inserted a notice for Sgt.-Observer Scott Macliver (RAAF), another fellow employee, who had been shot down and was missing in the Western Desert, Libya/Egypt since 19 November and was now presumed dead.⁶⁰⁰

On 24 June 1942, Mrs Charles Siddons published a message of thanks for the sympathy expressed and cards received from friends.⁶⁰¹ It appears Charles and Eva Siddons may have separated, but she had published his death notice with her own address at 68 Palmerston Street, (mentioned alternately as Cottesloe and Mosman Park), so it is possible she cared for him in his last days. There is no indication of him dying at the camp. He is also well-remembered by friends the Aberles, Mortons and Wrights.⁶⁰² Eva Siddons, an excellent cook who was fond of making fig pickle, died five months later, aged 52, and many tender remembrances were published by her close friends.⁶⁰³

Charles Siddons has not been fully researched.

Skinner, Lucille Hilda
c1879 - 1940
Robb's Jetty 1920-1921
-

Lucille Skinner appears to have lead a spirited and defiant, albeit fraught life. She wed William Smith in 1908 but the marriage did not last.⁶⁰⁴

But it was her union with Frank Every in particular that led to trouble, the handful of years that they were together were filled with misadventures. Every and his friend Alexander Winder were considered not only 'very queer fish indeed', but 'dangerous and dishonest',

'while the third Lucille Skinner, is, or has been an able aider and abettor of her male companions in crime.'⁶⁰⁵

When sought by the police in August 1920, Skinner, her partner Every and Winder were 'found occupying an old dilapidated camp near Robb's Jetty.' They were familiar to the police, and on this occasion pleaded guilty to the charge of 'being persons of ill-repute.' Skinner would shepherd drunken men away from hotels for her companions to fleece (see also entries for Every and Winder) and were seen to be 'nuisances' to such an extent that they would be given a choice between gaol time or a fine.⁶⁰⁶

⁶⁰⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 10 June 1942, page 1

⁶⁰¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 24 June 1942, page 1

⁶⁰² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 11 June 1942, page 1

⁶⁰³ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 14 September 1924, page 32 (pickle); The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 30 November 1942, page 1

⁶⁰⁴ BDM WA Registration #451

⁶⁰⁵ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3

⁶⁰⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 12 August 1920, page 10

But not without a fight - it was a particular pleasure for Every to cross-examine detectives; Skinner was a little more ambivalent, and often Every would inadvertently destroy her alibi. When accused in court in August 1920 of having Every for a 'bludger' - or pimp - she righteously stated, 'I have no man living with me. I never have.' When Every proceeded to tell the court they had been occupying the same humpy together, the reporter judges her unkindly.

'Lucille made no attempt to disprove the charge. How could she? She didn't know what it was all about. Anyone can be pinched under the "evil fame," and once they have "got you snouted" they'll say anything. What was the good of her saying anything. She wouldn't demean herself-not her, indeed!'⁶⁰⁷

In a litany of charges demonstrative of Skinners tempestuous relationship with Every, in February 1921 Skinner and Every were fined again, for the use of obscene language in High Street, Fremantle.⁶⁰⁸ She would not be limited to robbery in company either, and freelanced to the point of being considered 'a dangerous character, and her presence in Fremantle... a menace to the Port,'⁶⁰⁹ and she sometimes solicited solo or as a mentor.⁶¹⁰

But aspects of Skinner's risky lifestyle deserve sympathy. She had charges of being a 'rogue and vagabond', sometimes under the tutelage of older men, as early as 1907, and spent time institutionalised.⁶¹¹ Caught fiercely in the grip of alcohol, this addiction seems to have prompted many of the arrests, as it perpetuated violence, even among friends and companions.⁶¹² This profile led to a mention in a court proceeding in 1924 as being her 25th appearance in court (she was then about 45 years old), and on that occasion she was charged with being, 'an idle and disorderly person, having no visible means of support.' Unfortunately the court's standard solution for socio-economic inequality was imprisonment for three months.⁶¹³ Her vulnerability was exacerbated by gender - she was often counter-robbed by men, sometimes with violence. Once this happened twice in a month.⁶¹⁴

Even in her older years, when society should have been taking more care of Skinner, she was a vagrant sleeping rough, drinking and begging for food.⁶¹⁵ She is described

⁶⁰⁷ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 11 August 1920, page 7

⁶⁰⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 21 February 1921, page 7

⁶⁰⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 21 February 1924, page 13; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 17 August 1922, page 10

⁶¹⁰ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 30 May 1908, page 8; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 4 December 1911, page 2

⁶¹¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 23 July 1907, page 3

⁶¹² Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 28 June 1913, page 10; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 16 July 1907, page 6; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 9 May 1933, page 10

⁶¹³ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 21 February 1924, page 4; see also Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 18 November 1934, page 16

⁶¹⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 8 February 1907, page 4; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 22 February 1907, page 2

⁶¹⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 6 December 1935, page 13

in a 1932 article, when arrested with two companions, as 'metho madams' and 'three aged sisters of sorrow...' witnessing in court that, 'they hobbled forward, just pieces of feminine flotsam on the tide of life...' ⁶¹⁶

Skinner died in 14 June 1940 in Perth at age 61. She is buried in the Anglican section of Fremantle Cemetery. ⁶¹⁷ Lucille Skinner has not been fully researched.

Stewart, Amelia Mildred Mary
Smelters' Camp, Fremantle 1954
domestic

On Wednesday, 3 November 1954, Amelia Stewart (35), a domestic, who resided at the Smelters Camp, was gaoled for 21 days 'for having been disorderly in Russell Square.' Also gaoled for one month was Andrew Walton (46), a labourer who was a fellow resident of the Smelters Camp. ⁶¹⁸

Amelia Stewart has not been fully researched.

Stewart, John George William
Sandhills near Robb Jetty 1944
naval deserter WWII

'STOLEN GOODS. Deserter's Hide-out Found.

A naval deserter since January, 1943, John George William Stewart (22), admitted in Fremantle Police Court yesterday before Messrs A. Orloff and J. Gustafson, JP's, four charges of having stolen a quantity of timber, iron, tools and surveyor's instruments, the property of the Public Works Department. Accused was sentenced to four months' imprisonment. Inspector G. Findlay prosecuted. Det. W. Nielsen, in evidence, said that, accompanied by Det. C. Cresswell, he found a quantity of timber and iron in the sandhills that had been missing from a job near Robb's Jetty. He watched the spot and on, Tuesday at 4 am accused was seen carrying a sheet of iron, which he deposited with the timber. When he attempted to apprehend accused he ran away. A search was made, of the premises which accused frequented and a quantity of tools, 'valued at £29, were found, also a quantity of surveyor's instruments, valued at £70, which had been removed from a lock-up shed. The loss of the tools and the surveyor's instruments, said witness, had meant that vital work had been held up for some days. Witness said that accused removed the material and hid it in the sand hills, and during the night again, removed the goods to a camp which he had built with the stolen timber: and iron. Accused then covered the camping site over with sand.' ⁶¹⁹

⁶¹⁶ New Call (Perth, WA : 1930 - 1934), Thursday 1 December 1932, page 5

⁶¹⁷ BDM WA, Registration #176; Metropolitan Cemeteries Board FB00013767

⁶¹⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 3 November 1954, page 20

⁶¹⁹ West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 22 December 1944, page 3

Sutton, Ada
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

Sutton, Anthony Francis
South Beach 1903-1906
labourer

Ada and Anthony Sutton appear on the 1903 through 1906 Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Rolls.⁶²⁰ They were married and had a son, Ernest Leslie, who died at age 16 in 1921; and a daughter, Vera Ellen, who became engaged to George William Green in 1927,⁶²¹ when the Suttons had moved to Collie. Ada and Anthony Sutton have not been fully researched.

Tapper, John Arthur
North of magazine 1926-1954
fisherman

John Arthur Tapper is listed on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Rolls of 1926, 1929, 1931, 1934, 1936, 1943, 1949 and 1954. His occupation is fisherman, and the precise location listed is North of magazine, which would not have been far from the Smelters Camp. John Tapper has not been fully researched.

Taylor, John (Jack)
c1878-1948
Owen's Anchorage/Smelter's Camp, Robb's Jetty 1903-1909, 1948
labourer/ganger

John (Jack) Taylor is listed on the Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Rolls from 1903-1909 as a labourer and ganger. There is no evidence available yet of his residence location between 1909 and 1948, it is possible he had a very long-term occupancy at the camp.⁶²²

'DEAD IN HUMPY. An old man was found dead in a humpy at the Smelter's Camp, Robbs Jetty, about 9 a.m. today. The body has not been positively identified but is believed to be that of John Taylor (about 70). An autopsy will be held.'⁶²³

Robert Charles Boswell, a fellow camp resident (see earlier entry) had raised the

⁶²⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁶²¹ Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), Thursday 1 December 1921, page 27 (Ernest Leslie); The West Australian (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), Friday 7 January 1927, page 7 (Vera Ellen)

⁶²² Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁶²³ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 22 December 1948, page 7; also BDM WA Registration # 378

alarm for his neighbour on the 22 December 1948. Taylor had not been seen since nine days prior. Constable W. J. McFadyen was tasked with breaking into the four-roomed shack and found Taylor's body, which had been 'dead for some time.'⁶²⁴ Six days later, a report entitled DEATH SHACK BURNT DOWN went to press describing Taylor's shack burning down at 8.26 pm. The fire was fierce and the lack of water made it impossible for the Fremantle Fire Brigade to fight it effectively. The cause was unclear.⁶²⁵

Since the hut was unoccupied, it seems unlikely the fire was accidental. Speculation suggests a land-resumption or quarantine operation was instigated, or perhaps a Norse-styled tribute, for those of the camp to respectfully send off John Taylor's spirit to his chosen Valhalla.

Forty One Years Earlier

The *Daily News* notes that on the first weekend of September 1907, 'Outside Fremantle a tremendous sea was running, and just about 5 o'clock in the evening the severest squall of the day came up, and the wind blew at the rate of 75 miles per hr.'

John Taylor, after enduring a stormy night in his hut at the camp, was 'strolling' along South Beach on 9 September afternoon when he came across an 'ordinary' beer bottle in the sand. 'His attention was riveted on the object owing to the fact that the top was sealed and what appeared to be a slip of paper was inside.' Evidently the reporter did not believe Taylor, 'who describes himself as a labourer working at the Fremantle Post-office', and his discovery of a 'message from the sea'. On the note was written,

'3-8-07. Drifting about. Five of us in a boat close to Fremantle. William Wells, Liverpool; Bill Bates, Liverpool; H. Saunders, Birmingham; apprentice boy, Kelly, Dublin; John Olsen, Norway. My fingers are numbed.'

The determination was made it was a hoax, without a boat named, nor reported missing, the scribbling of children on the back of the penny note book page in the same kind of pencil, and the scientific estimation that castaway bottles generally took many months to reach the shore, despite the recent heavy weather - but it was surmised by all concerned, 'At present, the message must certainly be regarded as very mysterious.'⁶²⁶

Grizzled and weather-beaten

'His name is Taylor, and he is a grizzled weather-beaten man, courteous and contented.'⁶²⁷

Taylor had been living at the camp for twenty years when he was interviewed in 1928 by the reporter from the *Daily News*, who described his one-room hut as

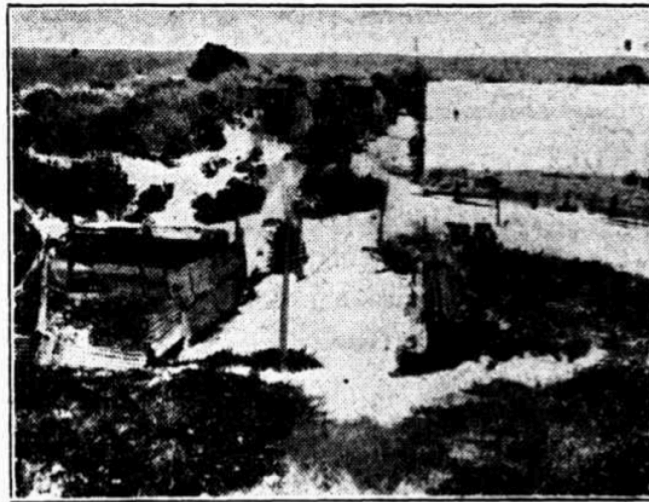
⁶²⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 23 December 1948, page 5

⁶²⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 29 December 1948, page 1

⁶²⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 9 September 1907, page 1

⁶²⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

‘smothered with gay flowers of the ivy Geranium...’ and ‘enclosed within a quaint fence built of odd bits of fencing material, and the gate of ordinary pattern has obviously seen service some day at the entrance to a much more pretentious home.’



A TYPICAL SAND DUNES HOME

Daily News 13 Nov 1928 p6

But the reporter notes the honest Taylor was quick to correct him that his residency was intermittent,

‘When the smelters were working he found employment there; since they have shut down he has gone afield, as far as Albany, in search of work. But he always ‘homes’ back to the sand dunes of South Fremantle,’

with Taylor’s simplicity, resourcefulness and pride best described in, ‘A boarded floor has been laid with timbers retrieved from the sea, and these indicate that the twenty-years’ resident is not unacquainted with the use of a housebroom.’⁶²⁸

John Taylor has not been fully researched.

⁶²⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 13 November 1928, page 6

CURIOSITY LEADS TO CAPTIVITY

THIS SEAL which came ashore at South Fremantle early today, had its curiosity aroused by a racehorse being trained on the beach. While its attention was distracted Mr. Harold O'Brien lassoed it and now it is in the seal pool at the Zoo.

Coming ashore, evidently for a sun bathe, at South Beach in the vicinity of the Fremantle smelters about 9 a.m. today, a young seal was captured by a camper, Mr. Harold W. O'Brien, of Park-street, Subiaco. For the past two or three days Mr. O'Brien had noticed two seals swimming in the vicinity and today he saw one coming towards the shore. He watched it flop on to the beach and stalked it for a quarter of a mile.



Daily News 12 March 1937 pg 1

While the seal's attention was focused on a racehorse, which was being exercised along the beach Mr. O'Brien succeeded in lassoing the seal. 'It nearly got away,' the captor said later, 'for it slipped through my fingers and also bit me slightly on the wrist.' The seal, although secured by a rope, seemed quite contented as long as it remained in the water. Once it was taken on to the beach, however, it showed its disapproval. The Zoo authorities were communicated with and arrangements were made for the seal's transfer to the South Perth Zoo.⁶²⁹

⁶²⁹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 12 March 1937, page 1

Thompson, Colin
Smelters' Camp, South Fremantle 1953, 1948
labourer

When Colin Thompson, a 23 year-old labourer whipped fellow camp resident Andrew McCallum with the buckle end of a belt, little thought was given to Callum's condition as a 54-year-old pensioner. Appearing in court in December 1953, Thompson pleads guilty, but notes the action was a counter-attack to avoid 'getting the knife between my ribs,' drawn by McCallum in the heat of the disagreement.⁶³⁰

Thompson appeared in court again in 1954, for the theft of five fowls from Leslie Richard Whiteford on the evening of Tuesday 18 May. Thompson was ordered by Mr. R. P. Roderiguez, magistrate to 'make restitution of the fowls' value' - £6/5/0.⁶³¹

Colin Thompson was from the Rockhampton, Queensland area and was of Afghan – Aboriginal heritage and later the partner of Maxine Herdigan.⁶³² See entry for Herdigan.

Colin Thompson has not been fully researched.

Tremellen, Charles Thomas
Owen's Anchorage/Robb's Jetty (1909) 1903-1913
labourer/smelter (1909)

Between 1903 to 1906 Charles Tremellen is listed on Fremantle, Chesterfield Electoral Roll at Owen's Anchorage as a labourer; then between 1910 on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll at Robbs Jetty as a smelter; and between 1912 and 1913 at the Smelters Camp as a labourer.

In 1927 he was employed by WA Government Railways casually at Northampton, 300 miles north east of Geraldton. He was a corroborating witness in a truck accident trial in Geraldton in 1935.⁶³³ He died at Northampton in 1948.⁶³⁴

Charles Tremellen has not been fully researched.

⁶³⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 15 December 1953, page 16

⁶³¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 20 May 1954, page 21

⁶³² William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁶³³ The Geraldton Guardian and Express (WA : 1929 - 1947) Thursday 30 May 1935, page 3

⁶³⁴ BDM WA Registration #3

Trinidad, RE
Smelter's Camp, South Beach 1949

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In the *West Australian* on 18 May 1949, R. E. Trinidad is listed as a resident of the Smelters Camp, South Beach, and is amongst other successful applicants for home allocation in the Western Australian metropolitan and countries areas by the State Housing Commission. Trinidad was granted occupation of a converted army hut in Naval Base.⁶³⁵ R. E. Trinidad has not been fully researched.

Tully, William Charles
Smelters 1938
miner

William Charles Tully (45), a miner, is mentioned in connection with James Graham (52), ship's fireman, in the *West Australian* 6 August 1938 as a result of an appearance in Fremantle Court charged with theft. Up to that point, Tully did not have a criminal record.

The two men stole seven lengths of belting, an endless chain, an emery wheel and a hammer belonging to the Fremantle Road and Pavement Company, stored at the nearby smelter in South Fremantle, sometime between the dates of 30 July and 3 August. They appeared before the court on the 5 August, where the goods were valued at £20, with Graham charged with stealing an additional four lengths of belting (£4). Detective J. Johnson explained that the belting had been cut directly from machinery and the lock broken on the storeroom to steal the other items, and then sold to a second hand dealer, 'under fictitious names'⁶³⁶ where the items were later recovered by police. When arrested, Tully admitted the theft but stated the storeroom had not been locked. Graham deferred blame to Tully.

Tully told Magistrate Craig 'that he had been jumping trains for some time past looking for work in the country.' He only held 5/ when arrested. The bench sentenced both men to three months in Fremantle Prison.

Turner, Archibald
Robb Jetty 1903
drover, stockman, labourer

Archibald Turner was a drover and labourer working on the construction of the Meat Freezing Works at Copley's Siding and camping at Robb Jetty when he was an unfortunate witness to the magazine explosion that killed caretaker Thomas Whelan. See separate entry regarding Whelan under Francis Duff.

⁶³⁵ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 18 May, 1949, page 10

⁶³⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 6 August 1938, page 9

'Archibald Turner, a stockman, said he lived at the stockyard at Robb's Jetty, with a man named Frank Duff.'⁶³⁷

Archibald Turner has not been fully researched.

Vaggs, 'Deafy'
Smelters Camp c1952
wanderer

William Herdigan recalls that Deafy Vaggs was known as a 'wanderer' – people who would come and go as they pleased among several of the camps. Deafy Vaggs, who kept to himself, was, naturally, very hard of hearing. He apparently came from a well-off family, 'but was a bit of a reject'. As easily as he arrived, he would leave, with a hessian bag slung over his shoulder. Deafy Vaggs has not been fully researched.⁶³⁸

Vasseur, Amelia AKA Mignonne
Camp near Smelting Works 1903
-

Amelia Vasseur AKA Mignonne died as she lived, amongst violent men. An indirect association with the murder and dismembering of an unknown man whose bones were found in a mine shaft and the suicide of Ernest Salvator in Mt Magnet, which was suspected as a murder committed by the bludger Peter Fontan, commences the tone.

Vasseur was interviewed at her hut at the Smelters Camp in early June 1903; she had seen events and heard news from several sources to assist Constable Joseph Creeper, then of Geraldton Police, but later the Sergeant at North Fremantle.⁶³⁹

But her intermittent occupancy of the camp may have begun earlier in 1901, when a number of fowls were allegedly stolen from Vasseur by Philip Hyland. Philip Hyland was the son of John Hyland, a confirmed resident of the camp in 1905. Hyland was dismissed due to insufficient evidence, but he had a track record for petty thieving.⁶⁴⁰

⁶³⁷ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Saturday 18 July, page 7 and Monday, 20 July 1903, page 5

⁶³⁸ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁶³⁹ State Records Office of Western Australia; Western Australian Police Department; Crown Law – remains found, Mount Magnet; Reference: AU WA S76 - cons430 1902/5032; Menzies Miner (WA : 1896 - 1901), Saturday 7 October 1899, page 16; Menzies Miner (WA : 1896 - 1901), Saturday 7 October 1899, page 4; (with additional thanks to Jessica Barrett and The Dusty Box website, <https://thedustybox.com>)

⁶⁴⁰ The Inquirer and Commercial News (Perth, WA : 1855 - 1901), Friday 21 June 1901, page 2; Thomas, The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 6 February 1896, page 3; Northam Advertiser (WA : 1895 - 1918; 1948 - 1955), Saturday 17 August 1907, page 3; The Northam Advertiser (WA : 1895 - 1955), Wednesday 29 June 1904, page 3

A Woman of Low Character

'Frenchwoman' Vasseur appeared in Boulder Police Court in October 1903 to answer the charges of occupying a premises and conducting business for an 'unlawful purpose' - a polite description for prostitution. Whilst much discussion was about the illegal, uncontracted blind agreement pertaining to the home she occupied and claimed was hers; the focus was actually Vasseur using the real estate agreement to avoid being removed from the property. Her lawyer Mr. Jones noted the court's preference she pack up and move on from the town, and this was reiterated by the captain of the barracks of the nearby Salvation Army, who was annoyed by 'women of the kind' in the neighbourhood.⁶⁴¹

The Castagnan Murder

The residents of Richardson Street must have thanked their lucky stars when a fight between 28-year-old Italian, Guiseppe Piazzola and Louis Castagnan broke out in Amelia Vasseur's new Brookman Street house of ill-fame 6 November 1903, one month later. Coming to blows and fighting for possession of an axe, Piazzola drew a knife and stabbed Castagnan seven times, but no one saw the fatal blow. There was no clear evidence linking the Italian to the crime, or if so, whether it was self defense. There were also initial court and attending police concerns that witnesses Vasseur and another French woman named Marie Josef Pauline Guelet were concealing evidence. Guelet had arrived with Castagnan from France, to Kalgoorlie at the end of October. There were several witnesses from the street, who saw a scuffle and the flourishing of a knife, but could recount very little detail. Castagnan, an ex-convict, died from 'heart failure due to the wounds on the chest'. It was eventually revealed that 22-year old Guelet, formerly a waitress in Lyons, had been brought to the brothel by Castagnan, coerced to work for him, and Vasseur and Piazzola attempted to procure her for their own economic devices. When Castagnan realised the plan, he objected and was done in. The jury returned a verdict of manslaughter, and Piazzola was taken to the lock-up.⁶⁴²

Meanwhile, the xenophobia harboured amongst some residents was inflamed,

'National policy of Australia for the Australians gets a fine advertisement from the Kalgoorlie tragedy. Consider the principals, Louis Castagnan, Guiseppe Piazzola, Marie Joseph Pauline Guelet, and Amelia Vasseur. Also the three outsiders, a French youth, a fruit hawker and Michael O'Dea!' actually ignoring the fact that there were also Anglo Saxon witnesses.⁶⁴³

⁶⁴¹ Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Thursday 29 October 1903, page 4; Evening Star (Boulder, WA : 1898 - 1921), Wednesday 28 October 1903, page 3; Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA : 1896 - 1916), Tuesday 3 November 1903, page 16

⁶⁴² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 25 November 1903, page 7; Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 28 November 1903, page 36; Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA : 1896 - 1916), Tuesday 24 November 1903, page 18; Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA : 1896 - 1916), Tuesday 17 November 1903, page 28; Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA : 1896 - 1916), Tuesday 1 December 1903, page 13; Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1898 - 1919), Sunday 8 November 1903, page 1; Evening Star (Boulder, WA : 1898 - 1921), Saturday 7 November 1903, page 3

⁶⁴³ Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 21 November 1903, page 1

Mademoiselle Mignonne

Vasseur ('Mignonne') was brought before court in February to answer the charge of keeping a 'disorderly house', in relation to the Castagnan murder case. Counsel assured the bench that 'Mignonne' would leave town. 'Mignonne' was named by prosecution as 'undoubtedly one of the worst characters in the state,' and her involvement in Guillet's trafficking noted:

'She had... been fined for her disorderly conduct during her residence in Fremantle. She had a fat banking account, and there was reason to believe that she had been instrumental in importing from France the young woman Marie Pauline Guillet, whose acquaintance with Louis Castagnan led up to the murder of the bludger by the Italian Piazzola, now in Fremantle Gaol.'

Vasseur's continued residence in the town was tolerated during the course of the trial, and while it was reported in October that she had left, when she simply moved next door following the trial and then began plying her trade outside on the street, all tolerance from the authorities, and polite restraint from the reporter, was lost.

'She is a known brandy fiend, a dirty vicious - tempered harlot when soddened with her favorite spirits, and has figured in numerous rows since re-opening business in the Run. On one occasion she caused a free fight among Dagos (for whom she evidences an extra-extraordinary passion) in a hotel in Hannan-street.'⁶⁴⁴

A Fire in France

BLAZES IN BOULEVARDE BROOKMAN. MDLLE. MIGNONNE'S MAISON GUTTED.

On the evening of Wednesday 6 April 1904, flames behind the shutters of the Brookman Street brothel were sighted; Vasseur had earlier been taken to hospital 'suffering from paralysis.'

'The fire must have been smouldering for some time prior to its actual discovery at about 7.45 p.m. by some passers by, one of whom 'phoned the alarm to the Fire Station, and promptly the female French occupants of the neighboring houses of ill-fame became excited almost to the verge of hysterics...'

The 'Sun' took great delight in describing the street's (as many brothels lined its length) 'soiled doves' taking shelter on the street in the darkness, when electric lights had failed, with chattels of furniture and household goods. Some of the ladies were infamous in the town, and seeing them lined up all together sent the reporter into a dizzy fit.

'It was well on to 9 o'clock before the brazen minxes domiciled next to Mignonne's house, which was completely gutted, made a start to remove their effects inside again and Resume Business. Mignonne lost all her furniture and personal belongings, the others suffered nothing.'

⁶⁴⁴ Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1898 - 1919), Sunday 14 February 1904, page 1; Kalgoorlie Miner (WA : 1895 - 1950), Friday 30 October 1903, page 4

The unpopularity of the women plying their trade in the street set the reporter's glib tone, who, despite the human impact of the dangerous event, continued, 'Upon the real owner of the premises, and all other such houses that may meet with a like fate, no atom of sympathy for monetary loss sustained need be wasted,'

and did not question any origin or possible motivation for the fire.⁶⁴⁵

Who Threw the Lamp?

Superstition would call the fire an omen, as Vasseur would soon meet her end.

'Mignonne Vasseur... succumbed in the Fremantle Hospital last Thursday to injuries caused by burning, the Fremantle police are yet unable to elucidate the causes of her death, although they have some pretty strong clues. They are satisfied to this extent that the deceased's clothing was set on fire by the explosion of a lamp, and that the lamp was thrown by a late male visitor to the home of Vasseur.'⁶⁴⁶

Vasseur had been living in a house of ill-repute in Norfolk Street, Fremantle. Via the court case following her death, an additional alias for Vasseur - 'Adele D'Montigney' is revealed. This is the name she kept her Savings Bank in, when fish hawker Scurri Alessandro withdrew money and pawned jewelry and a clock. The pawnbroker recognised him and the items, and was a witness for the prosecution.⁶⁴⁷

Alessandro was described as, 'a handsome young Frenchman, being but 19 years of age, and has the olive complexion and the dark brown eyes of the inhabitant of Southern Europe. A slight stoop and a careless gait greatly detract from his otherwise smart and goodly appearance.'

Constable Richardson also identified the young man, he had been surveilling the brothels as a plain-clothed officer and had ascertained that Alessandro was a bludger with no means of support.

Questioned around his movements the previous days and evening – Alessandro claimed to have been at the Norfolk Street house between 3 and 4 o'clock on the 30 May, but did not return until 10pm in the evening.

That evening, neighbour Mrs. Collins sighted a young man not being able to enter the locked front door of the home, and as he went to the rear to enter, she heard a woman's screams; Alessandro then broke down the back door, discovered Vasseur with her skirts smouldering, tipped a bucket of water on her and ran to Mrs. Collin's house; he was urged to seek a doctor.

⁶⁴⁵ Sun (Kalgoorlie, WA : 1898 - 1919), Sunday 10 April 1904, page 9

⁶⁴⁶ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 1 June 1910, page 3

⁶⁴⁷ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Monday 13 June 1910, page 4; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 8 June 1910, page 3; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 9 June 1910, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 9 June 1910, page 6; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 1 June 1910, page 3

But apparently the youth made a detour. Sergeant Smythe, via an interpreter, asked Alessandro why he had gone to the wine shop instead of the doctors after he found Vasseur, and concluded,



Daily News 8 June 1910 p3

‘If you find him guilty, I hope you make an example of him. He had been living on the woman for months, and yet the callous wretch left the woman burning to death, while he repaired to a wine shop.’

Vasseur was taken to hospital suffering shock, with severe burns on the lower half of her body and legs. She was weak and confused, and could not offer any clues, except that an Englishman, not a Frenchman, had thrown the lamp. She died the following day.

Alessandro was not charged with murder, only for living on the proceeds of Vasseur. He shouted (presumably in French), ‘They are all liars!’ as he was taken from the witness box to serve three months in Fremantle Prison.

The identity of Vasseur’s murderer was never solved.

Wallis, Ernest Edward Smelters Camp 1943 labourer

Ernest Wallis is listed on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1943 as a labourer living at the Smelters Camp. Ernest Wallis has not been fully researched.

Walsh, P and family Near the Smelting Works 1906

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An article in the *West Australian* in May 1906 describes the destruction by fire of a seven-room galvanised iron home near the Fremantle Smelters, occupied by Mrs. P. Walsh and family. Luckily the family were not at home on the Saturday evening at the time of the fire. A more substantial structure than others at the camp, the Fremantle Fire Brigade was unable to save it due to low water pressure, but it was insured, with a policy by owner Mr. J. W. Thompson on the building to £250 and Mrs Walsh’s furniture to £50.⁶⁴⁸ P. Walsh and family have not been fully researched.

⁶⁴⁸ The *West Australian* (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 21 May 1906, page 4
The *Pilbara Goldfields News* (Marble Bar, WA : 1897 - 1923), Saturday 26 May 1906, page 3

'At Robb's Jetty a nine-pounder schnapper and a couple of dozen large garfish fell to the rod of Chris Johnson, who also hooked a big shark, which straightened the hook after a ten minutes' fight, and silently stole away.'⁶⁴⁹

Walton, Andrew Joseph
c1908 -
Smelter's Camp 1954
labourer

Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall was losing patience with the residents of the Smelter's Camp appearing before him in Fremantle Police Court in 1954, warning Andrew Walter (46), a labourer, and Andrew McCallum, an invalid pensioner, "Things are getting serious. Any more assaults from Smelter's Camp dealt with here will be treated severely." Each received a 6-month personal bond of £20 to ensure good behaviour, after admitting assaulting each other.⁶⁵⁰

Walton appeared before the court again for punching Elizabeth Bryce, a resident of the Smelters Camp, over the right eye. The assault occurred only seven days after the earlier warning from Magistrate Mr K. J. Dougall. He received one month's imprisonment.⁶⁵¹

Two months later, almost to the day, on 3 November 1954, Andrew Walton was gaoled for one month for disorderly conduct in Russell Square, along with Amelia Stewart (35), a domestic and fellow Smelters Camp resident who was gaoled for 21 days.⁶⁵² Andrew Walton has not been fully researched.

Wandi
Smelters' Camp (Late 1800s)
boxer, stockman

Please be warned this biography contains offensive language relating to race

Wandi was an Aboriginal welter-weight boxer, stockman and much-loved identity in the Fremantle area, who worked for local families the Dixons and the Atkinsons and the Robb Jetty abattoirs. He was one of the earliest recorded residents of the Smelters Camp, and had an enduring friendship with 'Black Paddy,' another famous boxer whom he fought in competition, and entertaining exhibition matches for over 20 years, and was the first 'cobber' to greet him when a charity effort brought Black Paddy home after his Eastern States boxing commitments came to an end and he was languishing on Palm Island.⁶⁵³

⁶⁴⁹ West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 10 February 1912, page 14

⁶⁵⁰ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 4 September 1954, page 11

⁶⁵¹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 23 September 1954, page 14

⁶⁵² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 3 November 1954, page 20

⁶⁵³ R. O'Connor, C. Bodney and L. Little, Preliminary report on the survey of Aboriginal areas of significance in the Perth Metropolitan and Murray River regions (1985); Permit, Daily News (Perth,

In his athletic career, Wandi was a cheeky showman in exhibition matches, and a fighter ranging from average to inspired in competition, with Wandi's fight against an opponent named the 'Robb's Jetty Man-Eater' proving a spectacle - 'At the end of less than five minutes the aboriginal sprang into the air with a howl of delight. In the process of wading into the 'man-eater' the smoke-colored gladiator managed to hit the other fellow on the chin and it was a limp pug they dolefully carried from the 'magic square.'⁶⁵⁴

Wandi's employer George Atkinson, received a rap over the knuckles in 1916 for employing without a permit, 'an aboriginal native of Australia without the permission of the Protector of Aborigines.' Apart from a few alcohol and betting infringements, Wandi was a hard worker in the community for over 35 years.⁶⁵⁵

William Herdigan, who lived in the camp in 1952, recalled a story of Wandi and his good friend 'Collie' Paddy, which shows the sense of humour the men shared. When they would meet up in town, the plan Wandi always suggested was, 'I'll meet you Friday at the town hall. If I get there first, I'll leave a stone (*as a sign he was there*) – if you get there first, you take it away.'⁶⁵⁶

Wandi, who took the surname Dixon after his employer, died in 1955 in Moore River, aged 76, but is well-remembered throughout the Fremantle region.⁶⁵⁷

Wandi Dixon has not been fully researched.

Watson, Roderick Smelters' Camp 1943

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Roderick Watson appears on the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1943, and whilst missing on the next roll in 1949, longer residence at the Smelters Camp is possible. There is a death listing for Roderick Watson, a male of unknown age, in Fremantle in 1944.⁶⁵⁸ Watson does not have an occupation listed and has not been fully researched.

WA : 1882 – 1950), Friday 8 September 1916, page 8; Palm Island, The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 – 1950), Tuesday 26 Feb 1924, page 8; Westralian Worker (Perth, WA : 1900 – 1951), Friday 29 February 1924, page 16

⁶⁵⁴ Cheeky, WA Sportsman (Perth, WA : 1914 – 1918), Friday 26 March 1915, page 2; Average, The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 -1950), Wednesday 12 September 1917, page 6; Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 – 1954), Sunday 7 January 1912, page 19; Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 – 1931), Saturday 16 September 1916, page 5

⁶⁵⁵ Two up, The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 – 1950), Friday 17 July 1925, page 6,

⁶⁵⁶ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁶⁵⁷ BDMWA registration #15

⁶⁵⁸ BDMWA registration #177

Wellington, Herbert Leslie
c1882 - 1925
Near SF Smelting Works 1922-1925
war veteran

Herbert Wellington lived at the Smelters Camp between 1922 and 1925. In September 1925 at 3.30 pm, a fisherman found a deceased man on a camp bed in a tent near the South Fremantle Smelting Works. The police pieced together the jigsaw of Wellington's identity, finding in his clothing three medals, one bearing the inscription, 'H. L. Wellington. Number 725, 28th Battalion, A.I.F.' According to information from another pensioner in the camp, Wellington had been living there the past three years, 'and suffered from shortness of breath due to his having been gassed at the war.'⁶⁵⁹

Whilst echoing the stories of so many returned veterans from the Great War, Wellington's demise is particularly tragic when his whole history is known.

Herbert Wellington enlisted at Boulder, Western Australia on 11 March 1915. It was the same day Britain announced a blockade of German ports but the ANZACs had not yet landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula.⁶⁶⁰ Wellington was single, just over 33 years of age, compact at 5'4" with a 34 1/2 cm chest, a dark complexion with grey eyes and dark hair, and a scar on his left palm. He had excellent teeth. He declared himself Church of England and a miner; his mother Elizabeth is his next of kin, living in Beaconsfield, Tasmania. He was born in Moonta, South Australia.

Initially a Private in D Company of the 28th Battalion (7th Brigade), he trained at Blackboy Hill at the base of the Darling Ranges, Western Australia, and embarked from Australia onboard the HMAT 'Ascanius', 9 June 1915. Within six months he was marked to be promoted to Corporal. But he was often ill, being admitted to hospital in Malta, straight from the hospital ship Dunluce Castle in August 1915, with enteritis. In August 1916 his influenza was so serious he was embarked from Rouen, France for admittance to London General Hospital, and again in June 1917, he was returned to England with tuberculosis. Just before Christmas he was accidentally wounded in a training accident by a grenade, barely recovering before contracting trench fever. In a slight black mark to his record, he was deemed AWOL on 21 August 1918 but then rejoined his company.

And then in February 1919, Wellington walked into a peaceful, wooded area near the A.I.F. Depot in Fovant-Hurdcott, and cut his own throat. A lightly penciled note in his file dated 14 March 1919 reads, 'I do not know what happened or how it was done until I found myself in the Fovant Hospital.' He signed the note. The self-inflicted laceration of his trachea is documented somberly. The signing officer places the blame squarely on Wellington and recommends disciplinary action as soon as he

⁶⁵⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 16 September 1925, page 8; BDM WA Registration #257

⁶⁶⁰ <https://www.firstworldwar.com/timeline/1915.htm> accessed Oct 2018

is well. After the family 'anxiously' requests information by letter, they are advised that he is on his way home aboard HMAT 'Borda', 'as a mental case.'

Papers from the proceedings of the board of enquiry into Wellington's injury include witness accounts of searching for and finding the emaciated Wellington injured in the Compton Park Copse, with a bloodstained razor in his pocket and a piece of paper with his name written on it. When asked by Captain Penruddocke what had happened, he said, 'I am rotting away with syphilis'(sic). The determination of the enquiry was that Wellington's identity should be fully confirmed, and that he undergo a Wasserman test for syphilis as soon as well.

A medical officer's report made on the 28 January 1920 acknowledged suicide attributed to 'melancholia', but that he was 'markedly improved, quiet and sensible. Now apparently recovered. Considered fit for discharge.' This occurred on 28 March 1920.

Wellington was issued with his 1914/15 Star, his Victor medal and British War Medal – the medals later found with his body in a tent among the dunes at the Smelters Camp.⁶⁶¹

Westicott, Maud
1889 - 1965
Smelters Camp 1946-1953
home duties

Maud and William Westicott, who married in 1922,⁶⁶² are listed in the South Fremantle Electoral Rolls⁶⁶³ between 1949 and 1953, but in a 1953 newspaper feature in the *Sunday Times* Maud Westicott is interviewed and states that her and her husband had been residents for seven years.⁶⁶⁴ At the time she was surviving on an invalid pension.⁶⁶⁵

The same newspaper article, part of a self-declared, targeted campaign of the *Sunday Times*⁶⁶⁶ with the objective of having the camp removed, quotes Maud Westicott. She is pragmatic about the living conditions

"We've GOT to be satisfied with the conditions. We haven't the money to go elsewhere." Maud Westicott is described as 'a half-deaf but still cheerful old lady,

⁶⁶¹ NAA: B2455 Barcode 8380628. Herbert Leslie Wellington

⁶⁶² BDMWA registration #88, maiden name Maud Tozer

⁶⁶³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁶⁶⁴ *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁶⁶⁵ *Daily News* (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 12 November 1947, page 8

⁶⁶⁶ The *Sunday Times* campaign: *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 16 January 1955, page 4; *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3; *Sunday Times* (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 24 October 1954, page 5

showing signs of the suffering she has endured over the past few years', and notes that she was once the 'Queen of Coogee'.⁶⁶⁷

Maud Westicott experienced some of her husband William's behavioural issues after a separation in 1947, when she sought refuge with Alexander George Winter and his wife in Attfield Street, Fremantle. Describing William Westicott, the article reads,

'A man dragged his wife out of bed and around the floor by the hair at Fremantle today, abusing her in filthy language.'⁶⁶⁸

William Westicott (then 49 years of age) also threatened Winter and was given a warning by police, which he disobeyed, and was arrested later in a nearby park.

Maud Westicott died in 1965, aged 76.⁶⁶⁹ Maud Westicott has not been fully researched.

Westicott, William
1898 - 1954
Smelters Camp 1946-1953
labourer

William Westicott was born 13 December 1898 in Fremantle.⁶⁷⁰

Maud Westicott describes her husband William as 'a war pensioner suffering with a lung complaint'.⁶⁷¹ William Westicott enlisted at Claremont in 1939,⁶⁷² and was discharged 17 December 1940. At the time of discharge he was posted at 5 Garrison Battalion and held the rank of Private.⁶⁷³ He enlisted again at the close of 1942 as a Driver, and was discharged on 29 September 1944.⁶⁷⁴

Five years later, labourer Westicott (49) is living in the Smelters Camp and fighting a court charge of being a 'vagrant', claiming that he was expecting money from an inheritance, despite spending another £264 over a three-month time period from money left to him in May from the same source. Westicott was gaoled for a month.

⁶⁶⁷ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁶⁶⁸ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 9 January 1948, page 5; see also The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 10 January 1948, page 9

⁶⁶⁹ BDMWA, registration #3918

⁶⁷⁰ Department of Veterans' Affairs World War Two Service – Veteran Details Westicott, William <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=811381&c=WW2> accessed October 2018

⁶⁷¹ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 29 March 1953, page 3

⁶⁷² NAA B884, W90954 Westicott, William Military Service Record 1939 - 1948

⁶⁷³ Department of Veterans' Affairs World War Two Service – Veteran Details Westicott, William [service number W26277] <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=811381&c=WW2> accessed October 2018

⁶⁷⁴ Department of Veterans' Affairs World War Two Service – Veteran Details Westicott, William [service number W90954] <http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au/veteran?id=823617&c=WW2> accessed October 2018

‘Constable L. Watts said that during the past three months Westicott had done no work apart from “a bit of fishing”’ and claimed Westicott, ‘was almost continually under the influence of liquor’⁶⁷⁵ and was living on a small military pension.

The following year Westicott was hit by Edward Warner’s car whilst walking along Mandurah Road at 8.45 p.m. in March – luckily the hospital declared his injuries were not serious.⁶⁷⁶

But whether through coincidence or recklessness, his dilemmas continued. Westicott, in the spirit of improving conditions using their own initiative, decided to do so with Ted McCaskie, a neighbour and shearer in the Smelters Camp in 1951, by digging a makeshift well in the dunes. The article in the *West Australian* on 18 May 1951⁶⁷⁷ described McCaskie suddenly sounding the alarm when the well walls collapsed and trapped Westicott, almost smothering him. It was a terrifying ordeal for Westicott.

‘Mr. McCaskie had his foot on the bottom rung of the ladder preparing to climb out of the hole when the sand surrounding them caved in. Both men were buried to their waists, but Mr. McCaskie was able to maintain his hold on the ladder and climb free. Mr. McCaskie worked hard to free his friend but, as he said, “the more I dug, the more sand came in.” He placed the piece of hose in his friend’s mouth and summoned assistance. Shortly afterwards another fall of sand covered Mr. Westicott completely.’

The rescue bid took over four hours, the St. John ambulance, a mobile crane and lamps borrowed from the Fremantle Fire Station; until Westicott was lifted from the sand, ‘...pulled free by the brute strength of 15 men giving a desperate heave on a rope fastened round his body.’

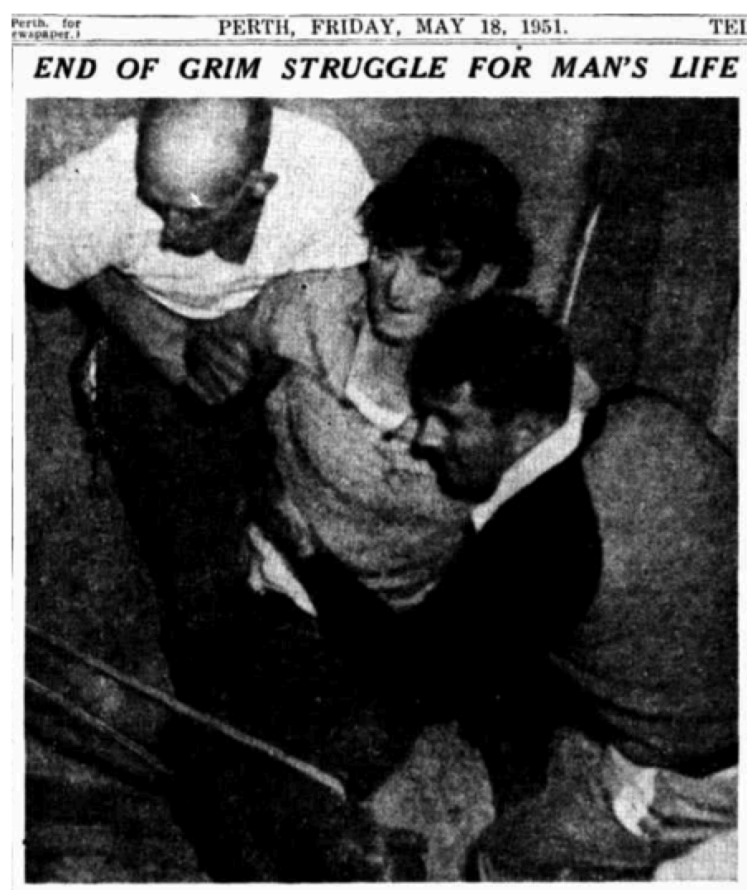
‘Cheers greeted his release.’⁶⁷⁸

⁶⁷⁵ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Wednesday 12 November 1947, page 8

⁶⁷⁶ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 11 March 1949, page 14

⁶⁷⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1

⁶⁷⁸ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Friday 18 May 1951, page 1



West Australian 18 May 1951 p1

William Westicott was discharged from the Fremantle Hospital the following day. He considered himself lucky to still be alive. "I was nearly drowned some years ago when working on the shark-proof net at South Beach," he said. "However, that was nothing compared with being buried by sand."⁶⁷⁹

William Westicott died in 1954, aged 55.⁶⁸⁰ William Westicott has not been fully researched.

White, Tom
Near Smelting Works 1928-1931
butcher

Tom White was living 'near smelting works' in the Fremantle, South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1928, and he subsequently appears in the 1929 and 1931 rolls. His occupation remains 'butcher'. Tom White has not been fully researched.

⁶⁷⁹ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Saturday 19 May 1951, page 2

⁶⁸⁰ BDMWA, registration # 296

Whybrow, June Ellen
Robb's Jetty 1949
home duties

June Whybrow appears on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll in 1949.⁶⁸¹ She does not appear on the following roll in 1954.

At 27 years of age in 1944, Whybrow was charged in the Fremantle Police Court with 'having attempted to kill herself', for which she was placed on a six-month good behaviour bond.⁶⁸² Whybrow, who was estranged from her husband, had been arrested on the Friday night previously for creating a disturbance. She had attacked arresting police with a knife and a piece of wood, upset furniture and injured her mother in a home in Josephine street, Fremantle. The suicide attempt occurred later in prison, but 'a doctor had since certified that her mental condition was satisfactory.' Whybrow herself blamed the events upon alcohol. It was reported that, 'At this stage, a woman relative arrived, breathless, in court, said that she had reared Mrs Whybrow but the mother had gained custody. "She was a sweet child and I am prepared to give her a home," the woman said.'⁶⁸³ June Whybrow has not been fully researched.

'Girls required.

Robb's Jetty. Girls of up to 20 years of age are required by the Western Australian Egg Marketing Board at its Robb's Jetty Egg Grading Floor, to be trained in grading and packing eggs. Forty-hour week, worked in five days, morning and afternoon tea breaks.'⁶⁸⁴

Williams, Sarah
South Beach 1903-1906
home duties

Sarah Williams is listed in the 1903-1906 Chesterfield Electoral Rolls at South Beach.⁶⁸⁵ Her exact location is unknown, her occupation is noted as 'home duties'. Sarah Williams has not been fully researched.

⁶⁸¹ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁶⁸² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Tuesday 4 April 1944, page 5

⁶⁸³ The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950) Monday 3 April 1944, page 5

⁶⁸⁴ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 28 August 1950, page 26

⁶⁸⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

Wilson, Wilfred Theodore James
Smelters Camp 1949

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Wilfred Wilson is listed in the South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1949.⁶⁸⁶ He is absent in the 1954 roll. An occupation is not listed and Wilfred Wilson has not been fully researched.

Winder, Alexander George
Robb's Jetty 1920-1921

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That Alexander Winder occasionally fell on the wrong side of the law may have caused wrinkles of consternation in the forehead of his grandfather, Jackson Winder, who was a proud Western Australian Pensioner Guard.

Sergeant Jackson Winder, of the HEIC Bombay Fusiliers and the 103rd Foot Regiment was born in Preston, Lancashire, England in about 1826. Married to Eliza Ann Jacobs in Bombay, Maharashtra whilst serving,⁶⁸⁷ they travelled with two-year-old daughter Elinor as cabin passengers aboard the convict ship *Vimiera* to Australia in 1865. The *Vimiera* left Portland, England on 30 September and brought 99 passengers and 279 convicts to Fremantle. Until his death on 7 June 1881, Winder and wife Eliza Jane happily welcomed more children in to the world, including Alexander Winder's father James.⁶⁸⁸

Alexander was born to mother Charlotte and father James in 1896.⁶⁸⁹ His misadventures with his mate Frank Every began early, he was only 20 when in 1916 he was brought before the Fremantle Court on a serious charge of stealing the sum of £1 18s in company with violence, with Every and a third man, David Joslin.

It was Winder who approached an unwitting Charles Thomas Anning, a baker, stumbling home in the dark along the South Fremantle foreshore after a night at the pictures and a few beers. He simply wanted a match, Anning recounted to the court. He was shocked when 'two others rushed up and pinioned him,' and Winder rifled through his trouser pockets, before they threw him to the ground, pinned him down with their knees and completed the search. When he attempted to cry for help, they threatened to strangle him. Sergeant Pilmer had earlier seen the men sitting on the

⁶⁸⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁶⁸⁷ *India, Marriages, 1792 - 1948*. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013. (Marriage 23 Sept 1859)

⁶⁸⁸ <https://enrolledpensionerforcewa.org.au/epf-profiles/w/winder-winter-jackson-heic-1st-bombay-fusiliers-and-103rd-regiment/>; see also

<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~garter1/history/jackson%20winder.htm>;

http://cms.slwa.wa.gov.au/dead_reckoning/government_archival_records/n-s/pensioner_guards ;

also The Herald (Fremantle, WA : 1867 - 1886), Saturday 11 June 1881, page 2; also BDM WA

Registration #321 (Death James)

⁶⁸⁹ BDM WA Registration #307

sea wall, and now approached the scene on his bicycle, unsuccessfully giving chase when they ran. They were remanded for eight days and paid bail; in the hearing, all denied the charge.⁶⁹⁰

Winder, later a labourer, applied to enlist in 1918 aged 21, but he did not serve.⁶⁹¹ Whilst not publically listed as a resident of the Smelters Camp, he was tightly bound with companions Every, and Every's partner Lucille Skinner, who were living there – inevitably they were all using the camp as a safe house to retreat from the numerous robberies they committed in 1920, and it was from there they were all arrested in August.

Half-shickered

In the *Truth* newspaper they were described as 'dangerous and dishonest' and they were so well-known to police that there was no resistance before the Fremantle Police Court on 12 August; all three pleaded guilty to being 'persons of ill-repute'. Winder and Every were the ringleaders and Lucille Skinner the honey-trap, robbing 'half shickered' bar patrons into the shadows where they are 'eased of whatever portable wealth they may have in possession.' Winder exerted his right to cross-examine witness detectives, telling them in response to their comment that he had just left gaol; that he was much-wronged, 'He was never idle if he wasn't working; he was always looking for work.'

It was decided the trio were a 'nuisance to the community' and each pleaded for an opportunity to leave the town. The magistrate balanced the option of two very expensive sureties each against imprisonment; the choice was theirs.⁶⁹²

After the sudden death of his mother Charlotte in 1922, Alexander, his father James and sister Florence lived at 5 Yilgarn Street in Beaconsfield,⁶⁹³ but his infractions continued and the following year he spent time in Fremantle Prison in February and June.⁶⁹⁴

Alexander Winder married Margaret E. Lewington in Fremantle in 1934.⁶⁹⁵ He managed to keep himself in order except for, at age 46, an unexpected and painful meeting between his head and a fence post whilst avoiding 'a west bound train at the Spearwood level crossing'. At the time he and Margaret were living in Yangebup Road, Coogee, and later, in 1943, they were at Attfield Street and he was working as

⁶⁹⁰ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Tuesday 11 January 1916, page 8; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Friday 10 March 1916, page 8; Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Thursday 9 March 1916, page 6; Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 22 January 1916, page 3

⁶⁹¹ NAA: MT 1486/1 Winder, Alexander, barcode 60233166

⁶⁹² The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Thursday 12 August 1920, page 10; Truth (Perth, WA : 1903 - 1931), Saturday 14 August 1920, page 3

⁶⁹³ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wednesday 15 March 1922, page 1; Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁶⁹⁴ Fremantle Prison Entry Registers, SRO Western Australia - (9584) discharge 11/12 Feb 1923; (9584) on Rottnest – discharge 28 June 1923

⁶⁹⁵ BDM WA Registration #172

a freezer hand. It was there in 1948 he was arrested and fined for using obscene language to the annoyance of his neighbours.⁶⁹⁶

Alexander Winder died in Perth on 20 June 1952, aged 56 years. His wife Margaret, brothers James, Charles and Florence are all mentioned in his death notice.⁶⁹⁷

First Class Investment

'To those on the lookout for an hotel a chance is offered them by the owner of the Newmarket, Fremantle. Tenders are invited for a seven years' lease. The house is just nearing completion, and is in every way an up to-date building. It is situated on the Rockingham road, and adjoins the smelters. Robb's Jetty, and abattoirs, and should be a first-class investment.'⁶⁹⁸

Windi, Charlie Smelters Camp c1950

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William Herdigan remembers Charlie Windi living at the Smelters Camp not far from his mother Maxine's shack, in the early 1950s. Windi was a stockman originally from Darwin, who would round up cattle when they were transporting them from the paddocks into the slaughteryards.⁶⁹⁹

Wise, Emily Smelters' Camp, Fremantle 1913-1914 widow

Emily Wise was a resident of the Smelters Camp on the South Fremantle Electoral Roll 1913 – 1914.⁷⁰⁰ She is listed as a widow. Emily Wise has not been fully researched, but there is some indication that her husband was Robert Wise of Fremantle's Central Emporium, who experienced bankruptcy in 1892⁷⁰¹ and died in 1903.⁷⁰²

⁶⁹⁶ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*]; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Wednesday 24 December 1941, page 2; The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Tuesday 13 April 1948, page 17

⁶⁹⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Monday 23 June 1952, page 20; BDM WA Registration #1460

⁶⁹⁸ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 30 April 1905, page 1

⁶⁹⁹ William Herdigan interviewed by Julie Raffaele, 23 June 2019

⁷⁰⁰ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁷⁰¹ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950) Saturday 19 Nov 1892, page 4

⁷⁰² MCB listing Robert Wise, at Mon A, gravesite 0977 Fremantle Cemetery; also probate published in Kalgoorlie Western Argus (WA : 1896 - 1916), Tuesday 27 January 1903, page 44

Wood, Arthur James
Robb's Jetty 1912-1926
labourer

Arthur Wood, in addition to being a labourer, was the caretaker at Robb's Jetty. He was a resident at the Smelters Camp for at least 14 years; from 1912 to 1926 he is documented in the South Fremantle Electoral Rolls.⁷⁰³ In 1903 Wood appeared as a witness in a court case against William Price, a foreman at Robb's Jetty for Messrs Forrest, Emanuel and Company, charged with 'having ordered the removal of a load of fodder from the quarantine area without a certificate from the stock inspector.'⁷⁰⁴ Michael McInerney, the collaborating witness and a slaughterman at the company, was also a Smelters Camp resident. Wood confirmed the removal of the fodder happened at night. Prosecutor Moss was on form, using such phrases as 'cattle found to be a seething mass of tuberculosis'⁷⁰⁵ to discredit the company, and the defendant was fined £25 with costs.

Wood died in April 1928 at Fremantle Hospital.⁷⁰⁶ Arthur E. Davies and Co, the undertakers, published an advertisement in the *West Australian* on the 11 April, inviting his friends to follow his remains to the Church of England Cemetery in Fremantle.⁷⁰⁷ No family is mentioned. Arthur Wood has not been fully researched.

⁷⁰³ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁷⁰⁴ Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), Saturday 28 March 1903, page 1

⁷⁰⁵ Ancestry.com. *Australia, Electoral Rolls, 1903 - 1980* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Australian Electoral Commission. [*Electoral Roll*].

⁷⁰⁶ Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), Sunday 22 April 1928, page 5; BDMWA Registration #92

⁷⁰⁷ The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954) Wed 11 April 1928, page 1



Western Mail 5 August 1911 p26

WINTER WALKS. SEASIDE EXCURSIONS by Emily H. Pelloe, 1929

'A tram may be taken from Fremantle to South Beach, and a fine walk begun from there. A cursory inspection of the smelters can be made, and the quaint camps of the old men pensioners beyond its lofty, rusting smoke-stack in the lee of the sand hummocks, are worth seeing. Then if possible damage of sea water stains to footwear is not feared, the firm sand at the water's edge will prove delightful going. Robb's Jetty, a rusty wreck, piles of buildings more picturesque than architecturally beautiful, sometimes unsavourily scenting the atmosphere in their immediate vicinity, will be passed. Approaching Woodman's Point, wire fences and warning notices at the explosives' reserve, just past the Coogee jetty, suggest a detour inland. A short passage across low, scrub-covered sand hills brings one out on to the coast road leading to the quarantine station, the naval base, and Rockingham. Extensive lime-burning kilns might perhaps be inspected before turning back towards Fremantle. Refreshments may be obtained at Coogee, and the homeward way continued along the white road — at first with coast scrub bordering it on the ocean side. All along these are desolate, stony, paddocks, where patient-eyed sheep and cattle await the happy despatch at the slaughtering and boiling-down works now between the walker and the sea. A native stockman usually may be noticed rounding-up, watering or shifting stock from one arid paddock to another, with the assistance of several intelligent, silent working kelpies.⁷⁰⁸

⁷⁰⁸ West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), Monday 29 July 1929, page 20

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Cockburn Libraries
Fremantle City Library History Centre
Fremantle Prison
State Library of Western Australia
Battye Library
State Records Office Western Australia
Western Australian Museum
Murdoch University
Parliament of Western Australia
Western Australian Police Department
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City of Fremantle
Army Museum of Western Australia
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Births, Deaths and Marriages, South Australia
NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages
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Ballarat Cemeteries
BillionGraves
Find a Grave
The Ryerson Index
Enrolled Pensioner Force W.A.
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Department of Veterans' Affairs
Australian Electoral Commission
Australian Bureau of Statistics
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