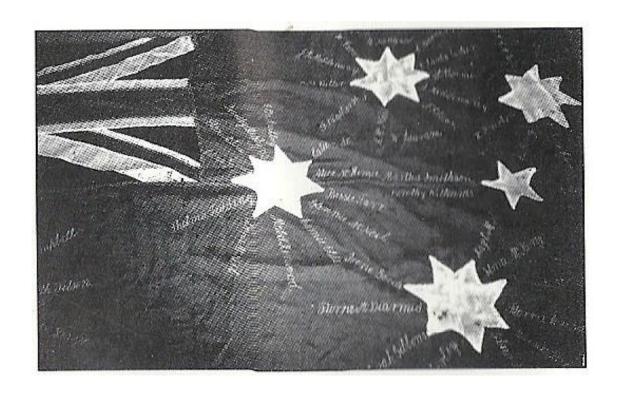
# They rallied to the flag!



# The people behind Bexley's patriotic flag.



#### **Background**

When I first read about Bexley's patriotic flag for the War Effort, my interest was piqued. Who were the people who paid one pound for the privilege to embroider their names onto a flag in order to raise funds to provide comforts for the men at the Front? There were various fund raisers held during the war years; some were dances, some were Comfort Fund rallies, people knitted socks, school children brought in a sixpence for the troops, or in this case, people paid a pound to have their names embroidered onto a flag. For some whose name is found, it was just a generous effort but for others it was a labour of love. World War One or The Great War as it was known, decimated the populations of villages and towns around the world, leaving a whole generation of women without their husbands, beaus, fathers and sons. The suburb of Bexley was one of thousands in Australia who contributed to bring aid and support to the lives of these men. This flag once was held at Lydham Hall, but as time has passed, its location now remains a mystery. Like the men who fought and died, it may just be dust, but as the hundredth anniversary of this terrible war eddies around us, they, the fifty nine people who signed the flag, the men they supported and their flag deserve to be remembered. What can we find about the people who rallied to the flag, their lives and the houses in which they lived?

#### **Esther Boesser**

The first name on the flag was that of Mrs. Esther Boesser. Esther had been born in 1862 to Joseph and Jane Carroll in Sydney (1). The next we hear of Esther is when she married Gustavus (Gus) E G Boesser, at Randwick in 1894. (2) The newlyweds moved to Bexley, with Sands listing the Boesser's to be living in Northbrooke Street Bexley from 1898-1921. The area they moved to was bounded by Forest Rd, Glenfarne, Lewis, Campbell, Lymington, Carrington and Northbrook Streets and was a sub division called Rhinelands Estate.(3) This estate had been promoted in 1885, opening up more housing in the area. There were special trains to take prospective purchasers to the land sale, where they could partake of refreshments and listen to a band as they looked at house plans. It was described as another Summer Hill at Kogarah Heights, judging by the way buildings were going up in the estate. This new estate would have encouraged German settlers by the very name of it, however,

by the Great War, being of Germanic descent was not a popular family connection to come from.

Gustavus was a tailor and had a business, G Boesser and Company, at 55 Elizabeth Street Sydney, with the business doing well in 1909, advertising for extra staff. (4). The building was owned by Carroll Musgrove Theatres Ltd; Carroll being Esther's maiden name, as stated in the 1921 Bourke Ward Master Spreadsheet. (5) The theatre management team consisted of Edward John Carroll and Daniel Joseph Carroll, who were theatrical and film entrepreneurs, and made films including "On Our Selection" (1920). (6)

The idea of Esther being one of the seamstresses involved in the making of the flag is an intriguing one. She had access to materials and machines through her husband's tailoring business and may have been handy with a needle. During the war period she would have been the matriarchal age of fifty-two to fifty-six years. There is no evidence of the Boesser's having children. However by 1926, there was a sale of equipment and materials, so there would be a question about what was happening, maybe a move was on the cards.

By the next year Esther had passed away and the couple had been living at "Talgai", 56 Woodland Street, Manly. (7) Gustavus stayed at the Manly home, listed as still living there by Sands in 1930, but the house was up for sale in 1936 for the princely sum of nearly one and a half thousand pounds. With the eventual passing of Gus in 1951, whilst still living at Manly, we lose possibly the architects of the actual flag.

# **Katherine Brierley**

Katherine Brierley was born in 1876 in Newtown, New South Wales and was the seventh of eight children born to John Knowles Brierley and (Eleanor) Helena Phillipina Hoffman. Katherine's mother had been born in Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany, so this was another family who had Germanic roots. Katherine would have been thirty eight when the war broke out and she never married, living at 3 Sackville Street with her sister Mary Ellen and her brother-in-law, William Orman, a grocer. Her mother died in 1909 and her father died in 1920, so as a woman of little financial means of support, she listed her occupation as home duties on the electoral roll, til her death in 1960 aged eighty four in Rockdale.(8)

Two of Katherine's brothers married the same woman, Sarah Ann Cook, as sometimes happened after the death of a spouse in that period. Sarah was married to Frank Brierley in 1893, with whom she had two daughters and after his death in 1902, she married his brother Harry in 1904 and had three daughters and one son. (9)

# Mary May (Masie) Brooke

Mary May, better known as Masie, Brooke's father was William J Brooke and her mother was Ida Kate Waters Sherlock and the family lived at "Leura", 17 Gladstone Street Bexley. (10). Masie was born in 1904 and lived there with her brothers, John S (b 1898), Robert Talbot (b 1899), Edward J (b 1906) and William Sherlock (b 1911). All the children were born at home, as it was in this period, but sadly in 1899, John passed away aged only one, with funeral leaving from the same house. (11).

Masie would have been in her early teens when she embroidered her name on the fundraising flag. The Brooke family obviously could afford to travel during the pre-World War Two days, after Masie married Walter K Sleigh in 1929, (12) with her parents taking cruises to Lord Howe, Norfolk, New Zealand, New Hebrides and New Guinea.

#### The Campbell Family, Eileen Katie Campbell and Nina Marie Campbell

The Campbell family lived at "Inverarie (Inverary)", 13 Herbert Street, Rockdale. The family consisted of parents Ewen Donald (1864-1924), Mary (1864-1963), and children Alexander Glasford "Jack" Campbell (1888-1924), Olive Grace "Grace" (1889-1967), Eileen Katie (1891-1957) and Nina Marie (1893-1919) (13). The girls would have been in their early twenties when they contributed to the flag and they and their sister Grace never married, part of the generation of young women who lost their beaus in the war. Sadly, Nina died young as well, on the 10 June 1919 (14), possibly due to the pneumonic influenza pandemic that was wreaking havoc at the time.



Left: Inverary, 13 Herbert Street, Rockdale

Source: Pentland, Karen, (2014).

#### **Richard Watson Churchill**

Richard Watson Churchill was born in 1869 in the Manning River region of New South Wales, receiving his early education at the Taree Public School, where his father was head-master. Later, he attended the old Sydney High School in Castlereagh Street, in 1884, the first year of its existence. His father had been a pioneer in education and was the Principal of Arncliffe School in 1889 (15). Richard served an apprenticeship as a printer in a newspaper office. In 1903 he married Emily Christina Justelius in Paddington after being appointed as Town Clerk of Bexley in 1902. (16) The married couple lived in "Roscrea", Robertson Street, Bexley. When Mr. Churchill was appointed in 1902 he carried out virtually all the duties, that of clerk, health and building inspector, pound keeper, and office boy.

In 1908 he spoke about the little risk of plague in Bexley, after an outbreak in Kogarah and the need to kerosene waterholes to reduce mosquitoes. He described Bexley as being a "more residential area with only a few shops and no stores". (17) In all, Churchill was in Bexley Council's employ for thirty seven years. Upon his retirement he was presented with:

"a wallet of notes, case of pipes, and a portable razor set on behalf of the local citizens. He was also presented with a letter of appreciation from the council, under seal." (18)



News.google.com. 2014. The Sydney

Left: R W Churchill upon his retirement

Morning Herald - Google News Archive Search. [online] Available at: http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid= 1301&dat=19371119&id=V1ZVAAAAIBAJ&s jid=m5UDAAAAIBAJ&pg=7492,3171908 [Accessed: 30 Mar 2014].

R. W. CHURCHILL.

During the war, as well as being Town Clerk, he was also the treasurer of the Bexley Volunteer workers.

The Churchill's had no children and would have been in their mid to late forties when the fundraising flag was established. Emily died in 1937 in Rockdale, New South Wales and Richard died on the 14 Jun 1952 and at the time of his death his home was listed as 127 Queen Victoria Street, Bexley. (19) Richard Watson Churchill was a Bexley man to the very end.

# **K Cumming**

The only mention found of a K Cumming was in 1910 at the annual Scotch concert of the Burns' Anniversary, on Saturday, 25th June, at 8 pm. Miss K Cumming was an artist engaged for the event to perform with the band. (20)

# **The Downes Family**

H.T (Henry Thomas) Downes and an Edith Downes both had their names on the fundraising flag. It cannot be certain whether it is Henry's wife Edith Emily or daughter Edith R listed, as both their first names were Edith. His daughter Edith would have been in her mid twenties and his other daughter Mary (Polly), born 1889 (21) is not listed, so it may be assumed it is his wife's name on the flag.

Henry Thomas Downes married Edith E Gibb in 1888 at Balmain (22) and he appears to have been a victim of assault in 1894, when James McKenzie, a cabman is fined thirty shillings in Central Police Court. (23). The couple had two daughters, Mary born in 1889 and Edith, born three years later. By 1904, a Mrs Edith Downes is listed living at King Street, Rockdale(24), one of the houses Henry was collecting for his burgeoning property portfolio.

Henry appears to be a man of wealth and influence, with Henry Thomas Downes of Godwin Street, Bexley being appointed as an honorary magistrate in 1913. (25). His wife Edith died nine years later, in 1922, with Henry passing away in eight years later in 1930, described as a gentleman. (26) When the disposal of his estate occurred nearly ten years later, when Henry's property portfolio was put up for estate auction on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1940, it included the following, no wonder he was listed as a gentleman.

"Two shops at 417, 419 Forest Road Bexley, "Soho" No 3 Godwin Street Bexley, "Maxwelton" 54 King Street Rockdale, No 142 Bay Street Rockdale (cnr Gibbes Street), No 144 Bay Street Rockdale" (27)

These properties still stand today, as seen below.



Left: 417-419 Forest Road Bexley

Next For Sale. 2014. 2/417 Forest Road, Bexley NSW 2207. [online] Available at:

http://nextforsale.com.au/realestate/nsw/sydneyregion/bexley/forest/2-417-forestroad-bexley-nsw-2207-1890799 [Accessed: 31 Mar 2014]. Right: ""Soho", 3 Godwin Street,

Bexley

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).





Left: No 142 and 144 Bay Street, Rockdale

Google.com.au. 2014. *Google*Maps. [online] Available at:
https://www.google.com.au/maps/
@-

33.955444,151.143544,3a,75y,23.9 h,90t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1s\_JMJ 5MaRKoa52t7Ytmmm4A!2e0 [Accessed: 31 Mar 2014].

Right: "Maxwelton" 54 King Street

Rockdale

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).



# **Edna Duesbury**

Edna Frances Duesbury was born in 1905 to George Henry Duesbury and his wife Frances Mary Handel at Rockdale. (28) This would have had her age between nine and fourteen years of age when she added her name to the flag. Edna had two brothers, George Henry

(1902-1967), Richard Arthur (1907-1992) and two sisters, Linda Mary (1910-2002) and Phyllis Maud (1915-1995). (29)

Edna was educated in French and singing, as well as education, being listed as a teacher and professor of theology in the 1930 Census, whilst living at 36 Monomeeth Street, Bexley. (30) In 1935, at the age of thirty, she travelled to England, on the "Balranald" (31). As she was a Profession of Theology it might have been a conference or it may have been a pleasure trip. Upon her return she was reported, in 1949, as being a soloist with the North Shore Choral Society and in 1954 Edna married Reginald Frederick Waldron, who was born in Devon, England. There was very little heard of Edna until her death in 2001.

#### T Elder

Thomas William Elder was the son of John and Elizabeth (May) Elder, who at the time were established residents of Bexley. Thomas was born in Cowra in 1872 and would have been in his thirties at the time of the fundraising flag. (32)

His father John, worked as a postal and telegraph inspector and was a resident of "Clyde", 13 Albyn Street, Bexley, in the house he built for his family. Thomas lived in the house through the 1930's listed as a plumber, until his death in 1941.

"ELDER-January 29 1941 at St George District Hospital Thomas William (Tom) Elder late of 13 Albyn Street Bexley beloved brother of J S, H J, Mrs F Geeves and Miss (Mary Ann) Mina Elder aged 68 years" (33)



Left: The Elder family house in Albyn Street, Bexley, built by John Elder. [online] Available at: http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/roads\_al\_006.jpg [Accessed: 31 Mar 2014].

# The Farr Family

#### W Farr

A William Andrew Farr had arrived in Sydney on 2 March 1883, at the age of eighteen, from Plymouth on the "Roslin Castle" (34), and by 1895 there was a W Farr living in Bexley. (35). If these men were the W Farr listed on the flag, we are not sure. However, in 1902 William Andrew Farr married Annis Glinn Harman (36) with them having two children, William A Farr born in 1904 and Elizabeth A Farr born four years later. As both children had their births registered at Rockdale; this appears to be our man. He died in 1956 in Chatswood.

#### **Bessie Farr**

Elizabeth A Farr was born in 1908, so she would have been at least eight or nine years old when she had her name added to the flag. Bessie was obviously the pet name her family called her, a shortened form of Elizabeth. Elizabeth married architect/farmer Dudley Roland Ward in 1937. Dudley was an innovative Art Deco architect who designed public housing buildings in inner Sydney such as The Wroxton (1936, Roslyn Gardens), Gowrie Gate (1938, Macleay Street) (37) and the Minerva (Metro) Theatre (1939) in 28 Orwell Street, Potts Point. (38). It would be nice to think that Bessie continued her artistic efforts throughout her marriage.

The Wards had two children, a Carolyn Elizabeth and a son and were listed as living at Pymble in 1940 in Caroline's birth notice. (39) We will leave Bessie and Dudley as they celebrate at a function in their later years.



Above left: Dudley Roland Ward (Elizabeth's husband) Trees.ancestry.com.au. 2014. Dudley Roland Ward. [online] Available at:

http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/6581384/person/-1266538175/mediax/2?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pid%7CpgNum [Accessed: 14 Apr 2014].



Above right: Elizabeth Annis Ward (nee Farr) Trees.ancestry.com.au. 2014. Elizabeth Annis Ward (nee Farr). [online] Available at:

http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/6581384/person/-1266538174/mediax/1?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pid%7CpgNu m [Accessed: 14 Apr 2014].

# Thelma Fielding

The Fielding family appear to be in the building trade, with an R. Fielding listed as a builder in Newtown in 1889. (40) Thelma herself is a hard person to track down in research. There is a Miss Fielding listed in 1904 Social Items at the Governor General's garden at Federal Government House, Sydney,

"Miss Fielding was in white, with a heliotrope toque" (41)

Thelma would have been supportive of the fundraising as her male peers would have been enlisted men fighting the war overseas.

The first we know of regarding the Fielding family being in Bexley is in 1909, when Mr Fielding was elected vice president of the Bexley branch of the Political Labor League at the first annual meeting of that group. (42). The Fielding family were listed by Sands as living at "Ormskirk", 50 Gibbes Street Rockdale in 1919. The house still exists, having been brick veneered sometime in the later twentieth century.



Left: "Ormskirk" 50 Gibbes Street, Rockdale

Source: Pentland, Karen

(2014).

Thelma may have been related to Private Harry Fielding, a carpenter who lived with his wife at "Coondarra", Parliament Terrace, Arncliffe, who joined the Second Infantry Battalion on 12 April 1917.(43) The Fielding's had married in 1906 and had a son, Harry junior in 1907.

#### W R Fuller

William Robert Fuller was born in Redfern in 1877 and was originally a public school teacher, however his community involvement often brought him to the notice of the press. In 1916 Fuller defended the members of the local branch of the Voluntary Workers' Association rights to do work on the Sabbath. As the local secretary, he objected "to the insult offered his fellow workers". (44) Then, in 1918, Fuller was involved in an alleged newspaper libel action against him, in which Joseph Godwin of Bexley sued claiming £500 damages for a libel alleged to have been contained in a letter to "The Citizen", a newspaper published in Kogarah. Luckily, the jury returned a verdict in Fuller's favour. (45) Godwin had been an alderman on Bexley Council from 1901-1907

Flag fundraising was not the only thing that Mr Fuller was involved in, post war, in 1919, he was connected with the distribution of a home for a returned veteran.

#### "Soldier's Cottage Opened

Chaplain - Captain McKenzie opened a cottage at Bexley yesterday t afternoon for a returned soldier, Private' Morgan, who has a wife and two children. The Bexley V.W.A. built the home on land which was given by Mr. Preddy. After the opening ceremony, Mr. Fuller, secretary of the V.W.A., was given a presentation by his coworkers of the district." (46)

However, by 1936 William Robert Fuller of "Dundee" 5 Highworth Avenue Bexley was a storekeeper, with his wife Mary Helen working at home duties and two of his daughters still at home, with Jean Scott, a book keeper and Bessie Florence, a shop assistant. He continued with his civic duties until his death on the 28 July 1955 at the age of seventy eight years.



Left: "Dundee" William Robert Fuller's home at 5 Highworth Avenue, Bexley.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).

# The Gibbons Family

#### Florrie and Sarah Gibbons

The patriarch of the Gibbons family was Thomas Francis Gibbons, and it was his wife and daughter in law who paid their pound and signed the Bexley fundraising flag. Thomas was a Justice of the Peace, a member of the St George Bowling Club and a member of the Oddfellows. In 1903 he had resigned from the chair of the St George Cottage Hospital Committee. (47) He and his wife Sarah Lydia Gibbons lived at "Valetta", 1 Park Avenue, Bexley. It was Lydia's name on the flag, but who was the identity of the other Gibbon's female on the flag?

Thomas and Sarah had five children; sadly Sarah (1880-1880) and her twin brother Charles Arthur (1880-1880) had died at birth or in infancy. In the next years they had Harold Victor (1881-1971), Ernest Alfred (1884-1969) and his twin Clarence Francis (1884-1950). Thomas and Sarah were lucky to have not lost sons in the war but had the sorrow of a lost set of twins, Sarah and Charles. The twin element continued in the next generation of the Gibbons family, when Harold married his Florence Jessie Woods in 1906, the other Gibbons name on the flag. The wedding was described in some detail in the Sydney Morning Herald.

"The Fullerton Memorial Presbyterian Church was the scene of a wedding on October 10, when Mr. Harold Victor Gibbons, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Gibbons, of Valetta, Harrow-road, Bexley, was married to Miss Florence J. McCarlie Woods, older daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Woods, of Strawberry Hills. The Rev. David Fenwick performed tho ceremony, the church being beautifully decorated with palms and arum lilies. The bride, who was given away by her father, wore cream chiffon messaline, trimmed with lace, also a hand-worked tulle veil, the gift of the Misses Alsop and Shore, and carried a bouquet of flannel flower-which, with a cable bracelet set with turquoise, was a gift from the bridegroom. Miss Myra Woods (sister of the bride) acted as chief bridesmaid, and wore a pale heliotrope silk dress, with honey-coloured crinoline hat, trimmed with shaded clover and ribbon. Miss Amy Ainsworth (cousin of the bridegroom), as second bridesmaid, wore pale blue, and a white crinoline hut trimmed with white tulle. They carried bouquets of wild flowers, and wore cable bracelets, gifts of the bridegroom. Mr Ernest Gibbons (brother of the bridegroom) acted as best man and Mr. Harrie Woods (brother of the bride) as groomsman. At the conclusion of the ceremony a reception was held at Baumann's Cate, where about 70 guests were entertained." (48)

It was a lovely connection between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law, both united in the fundraising flag, saying a lot about their relationship. Harold and Florence went on to have their own set of twins, along with two other children, Eric Francis John (1908-1932), Mavis Lydia (1909-1986) and Frances(Frank) (1918-1959) and his twin Harold (Harry) (1918-1969)



Left: "Valetta", 1 Park Avenue, Bexley. The Gibbons' family home.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).

# The Goode Family

## Caleb Goode, Senior

The Goode family were listed at Farr Street Rockdale in 1903, after Caleb Goode Senior married Amelia Harriet Berry in 1900, when she was twenty years old. Caleb had been born in Rockdale in 1872 and he died in Queensland in 1941, with Amelia dying at Taree in 1948. Three years later after his marriage Caleb was listed as being The Illawarra Poultry Club Treasurer at their General Meeting. (49) This was also the year that his first child, Caleb James Frewe Goode was born; this young man was the Calie Goode listed on the flag.

## **Calie Goode**

Caleb James Frew Goode was born in 1903 in Rockdale and eventually became a doctor with a surgery at the corner of Park Street and Old Canterbury Road, Canterbury in 1929. (50) Caleb had married Catherine Cecilia Ruhl in 1926 and together they competed in motor boat racing and hydroplane regattas, with much success winning in their boat "Leisurlea", the Gray Engine Trophy in 1935. (51) However, this was a volatile marriage, despite the glamorous lifestyle and home at Vaucluse, with Dr Goode being fined for assaulting his wife

and tearing her clothes whilst she was in a car. Mrs Goode had instituted divorce proceedings against him, and had refused his offered £1,000 to drop the matter. This would have been an embarrassing situation, being spread over the press, as far as Broken Hill. (52). He was listed in the NSW Electoral rolls with a new wife Sheila Josephine, living at 56 Grand View Parade, Caringbah, having remarried in 1954. He died on the 22 June 1965 still in the Sutherland region, away from his childhood home in Rockdale.

#### Irene Goode

Irene Gertrude Goode was Caleb James Frewe Goode's big sister, having been born in 1901 in Rockdale. Irene married Albert Edward Walder in 1921 (53) and by 1933 they were living at 196 Oxford Street, Woollahra. In 1936 they were back in the St George area at 28 Clarke Street, Earlwood, where Albert was listed as a butcher by occupation. Sadly, Albert was dead by 1938, (54) leaving Irene to be a widow til her death on the 27 July, 1953 and sole parent to their only daughter Alrene.

#### T Goode

Thomas George Goode was the youngest of the Goode family to have had their name embroidered on the fundraising flag, being born on the 24 January 1906. He married Irene Edith Cavill in 1927 and in 1931 he received a bronze medal for gallant deeds at the Shipwreck Relief and Humane Society of New South Wales annual meeting. (55) At the time of his death, on the 16 February 1961, he was living at 33 Bay Parade, Malabar. (56)

#### **G** Hannam

There were two people named George Hannam who could have signed the flag at this time, One George Frederick Hannam was born in 1876 (died 1965) and his wife was Annie Elizabeth Hemmings who was born in 1879 (died 1947). They were married in St Peters in 1905 and their family grew with May Rosamund Hannam (1907-1995), Marjorie L G Hannam (1909-1910) and young George Frederick Hannam (1915 -1929). Annie had been previously married to Albert Victor Shead in 1898 and had two sons Kenneth Albert Shead (1901-1985) and Jack Shead (1903-1961) (57)

In loving memory of my HANNAM. wife, mother, grandmoth grandmother. near life Elizabeth. husband. Inserted by her 1947. lldren, grandchildren, HANNAM.—In loving Sadiy missed of our memory In loving mother, April 30 who Elizabeth. Always 1947 passed dear mother. Inserted by her children, Jack, Rita, May, Cec, and Holly. andchildren. Annie Elizabeth, who fell 30, 1947, beloved mother HANNAM. April 30. and Holly, gran grandmother (Auckland). David. en and Shirley HANNAN. Lov (Wellington, NZ) ng memories fell asleep of Loving April mum. who Sadly missed and forever loved May. husband. her only daughter Cecil and grandchildren

Left: The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW: 1842 - 1954), Friday 30 April 1948, page 12 Memorial Notice

Trees.ancestry.com.au, (2014).
Annie Elizabeth Hannam Memorial
Notice. [online] Available at:
http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/5
2996751/person/26016656277/med
iax/2?pgnum=1&pg=0&pgpl=pid%7
CpgNum [Accessed 24 Apr. 2014].

As often was the case in the time before immunisation, the Hannam family lost two children at an early age; the first, young Marjorie only lived to the age of one, and the family named their home at Earlwood after her. Shortly after this the family suffered the loss of another child, fourteen year old George Frederick, who passed away on the 21 March 1929 at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown. His parents were listed as Mr and Mrs George Hannam of "Marjorie", Hamilton Ave Earlwood.

HANNAM,—The Relatives and Friends of Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE HANNAM are invited to attend the Puneral of their dearly loved SON, George Frederick; to leave their residence, Marjorie, Hamilton-svenue, Earlwood, THIS THURSDAY, at 2.30 p.m., for independent Cemetery, Rockwood, by road, Motor Funeral, Priends travelling by 1.55 p.m. funeral train alight at No. 1 Mortuary in Cemetery, WOOD COFFILI, LIMITED, Motor Funeral Directors,

Left: George Frederick Hannam Junior Funeral Notice

Trees.ancestry.com.au, (2014). George Frederick Hannam Junior Funeral Notice. [online] Available at: http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/609 9001/person/6005144681/photox/6a0 bc38c-95f3-448b-bd33-2f57897e737a?src=search [Accessed 24 Apr. 2014].

Whether or not it was this George who signed the flag, his name was there for prosperity. In 1947, at the time of Annes' funeral, The Hannam family were living at "Betbel", 8 Flinders Road Cronulla, which is also where May Rosamund was living when she passed away forty eight years later.

As mentioned earlier, the other possible George Hannam worked at the Rockdale Branch of the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales. In 1921 there was a George Hannam listed being at the Government Savings Bank of NSW, at Rocky Point Road, Rockdale. As a bank staff member, he would have thought it appropriate and seemly to donate to the war effort. (58) This George was married to an Edith and he worked with his son, eighteen year old bank clerk William George Hannam, who enlisted on 17 February 1917 as a gunner in the 1st Field Artillery Brigade. He returned to Australia from the war on the 20 June 1919. (59)

#### **Eva Hardie**

The first we hear of a Miss Eva Hardie is in 1888 as teacher with her sister, Molly and her mother, Mrs Walter Hardie, as the principals in a Strathfield school. The private Ladies school, "Wavertree" at 103 The Boulevarde, specialized in the education of young women, with subjects such as music, French, drawing and painting. (60)

The next that she is heard of is in 1924 in a series of fundraising dances and events for the social set, one on the decks of the "A.M.S. Sierra" (60), at a party at the Ambassador's (62) and a dance on the deck of the "Marella"...

"A successful dance In aid of the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital was held last night on the Marella. The decks were brilliantly lighted with coloured electric globes, and flags and streamers added their brightness to the scene. There was a large attendance of dancers, and the music from the Jazz band was broadcasted to the other end of the ship by means of a magnavox lent by Mr. H. Wiles., Supper was served In the saloon, which was gaily decorated with coloured streamers and bunting" and "Miss Eva Hardie in mauve and silver tissue" (63)

Eva belonged to the Young Women's Christian Association (Y.W.C.A), a female led organisation that had its roots in industrial revolution and the Crimean War in England. It provides a world-wide platform for advocacy, programs and services for women, families and communities. It started in Australia in 1872 and continues today as a human rights-based organization. Eva was the General Secretary and was involved in their annual conventions, promoting coeducational work as well as speaking about her experiences at the 1925 Y.W.C.A Garden Party, where she spoke about her recent trip to the Far East and the places in China she had visited. (64)

In 1926 Eva was at the first annual debut Ball of St. Joseph's, Burwood Heights at the Ashfield Town Hall (65) and in 1928 she was reported at the Wyalong District Hospital Ball, wearing another gorgeous dress of rose georgette and silver lame. (66) Four years later she was listed as sailing to Papua and New Guinea, possibly for more social work. Nothing else is found about Miss Eva Hardie after this date.

# **A Hopkins**

For some families, this flag was a very personal fundraising effort, as they had sons serving overseas in the war; the Hopkins family was one such family. The Sands Index showed them living at "Leytonstone", 48 Connemarra Street Bexley in 1915, around the time of the making of the flag. Arthur had married his wife Maria(Mary) Jean Stokehill in 1892 They went on to have six children Lancelot Arthur (1889-1953), Harold Bernard (1891-1972), Clarence Stanley (1893-1961), Mabel Dorothy (1895-1979), Raymond Basil (1898-1978) and Helen (1900-?) Maria had been married and divorced and brought a daughter into the family Elsie Maria Burrow (1886-1972) (67).

In 1916, Clarence was a batsman playing A Grade cricket for Bexley with his one of his brothers and by the 7<sup>th</sup> December of that year he had enlisted with the Field Artillery Brigade Monthly Reinforcements as a Gunner. He embarked on the HMAT Miltiades on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1917. (68). He was joined at the war when his older brother Lancelot Arthur enlisted on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 1917. So, like many other parents in the area, Marie and Arthur had two sons fighting overseas.

Clarence was with the First Field Artillery Brigade and was gassed in France on the Western Front and was admitted to hospital 5<sup>th</sup> October 1918 (69). His brother Lancelot was also in France during his service overseas.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.  Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.	
Questions to be put to the Pers	armi prima per un remana montante mante de la
1. What is your Name?	Melanere Stanley Jeophins
Simple of Manual Office	2. In the Parish of Gas hinearlie in or
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Who is your next of kin? (Address to be stated)     (The answer to this question shall not be constructed as in the nature of a will.)	Berley AN SIM.
). Have you ever been convicted by the Civil Power ?	4. No. Syartey
<ol> <li>Have you ever been discharged from any part of His Majesty's Forces, with Ignomian, or as Incorrigible, and Worthless, or on account of Conviction of Felony, or of a Sentence of Penal Servitude, or have you been dismissed with Disgrace from the Navy?</li> </ol>	10. No.
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Have you ever been rejected as unfit for His Majesty's Service? If so, on what grounds?	43 Me:
Do you understand that no Separation Allowance will be issued in respect of your service beyond an amount which together with Pay would reach eight shillings per day	helps war and
Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small- pox and enterio fever?	18. Cyc.
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by me to the above questions are true, and I am willing and if the Commonwealth of Australia within or beyond the limi	the do solemnly declare that the above answers made hereby voluntarily agree to serve in the Military Forces its of the Commonwealth.
	f the pay payable to me from time to time during my
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Date 7- 17 16.	Signature of person enlisted.
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Above: Clarence Stanley Hopkins Enlistment Papers

The National Archives, (2014). Clarence Stanley Hopkins Enlistment. [online] Available at:

http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Ima gine.asp?B=5834210 [Accessed 5 May. 2014].

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.		
Attestation Paper of Persons Enlisted for Service Abroad.		
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Reserve, the Territorial Force, Royal Navy, or Colonial Forces† If so, state which, and if not now serving.	10.	
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together with pay would reach ten shillings per day?  14. Are you prepared to undergo inoculation against small pox and enterje fever !	14. Ks	
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And I further agree to allot not less than two-fifths or the support of my wife. * †	of the pay payable to me from time to time during my service	
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* This clowe should be struck out in the case of unmarried  † Two Afthe must be allotted to the wife, and if there are ch	07 4 4 5 6 4 1	

Above right: Lancelot Arthur Hopkins Enlistment Papers

The National Archives, (2014). Lancelot Arthur Hopkins Enlistment. [online] Available at:

http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Im agine.asp?B=5834222 [Accessed 5 May. 2014].

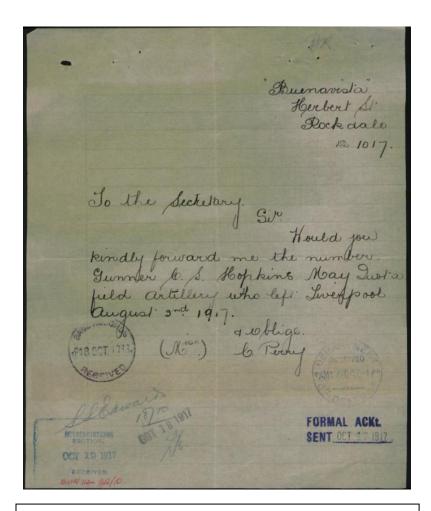
In 1919, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hopkins, of Connemarra Street, Bexley, received advice from England that their son, Gunner C. S. Hopkins (now Corporal) has been awarded the Military Medal for service in France. Clarence returned to Australia on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1919.

"Work at Estress on 28-29 August 1918.Recommendation date: 3 September 1918 For gallantry and devotion to duty at Estrees on 28th/29th August1918. As linesmen attached to forward observation Officer Gunners Hopkins and [30708 Gunner Herman Oscar] Jungfer maintained communications both between Field Observation Officer and Battalion Headquarters and between Battalion and Artillery Brigade Headquarters. By their disregard of danger and untiring efforts they enabled the F.O.O. to keep Artillery Brigade Headquarters informed of the

situation and permitted opportunities to be taken advantage of. Their line was the only one available for the transmission of information regarding the situation." (70)

As linesmen, they would have been dashing up and down the cable, repairing it whilst under fire. The cable would have run from the Forward Observer Position to the Battalion Brigade Headquarters. This communication line would have been broken by the shelling and machine gun fire and the linesmen would have to run back and forward repairing it, totally exposed and targets for any enemy snipers.

Clarence was not only missed by his family; his future wife Lily Perry, who he eventually married in 1921, had asked for a contact address so she could write to him whilst away. In this case, true love did prevail as the Hopkins family did their duty both in France and at home.



Above: National Archives, (2014). Letter from Lily Perry. [online] Available at:

http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/scripts/Imagine.asp [Accessed 5 May. 2014].

#### **Edna James**

Edna Frances James was born in 1904 in Rockdale, to father Edward James and mother Elsie Florence James. Edward was a clerk and Elsie was concerned with home duties as was the norm in that period. (71) The 1930 Electoral Roll shows the family living at 122 Harrow Road Bexley, with her older brother, Eric John Quayle James, who was born in 1902. Later Eric was listed as a soldier during the Second World War. Edna worked as a stenographer, whilst her brother was a clerk, like his father.

We do not know much about Edna at the time of the fundraising flag, but you can imagine an enthusiastic young girl wanting to be involved. Later, in 1932 between the two wars, Edna was involved in a waltz competition at the Tattersall's Club. (72) In 1950, when she was forty five and after the death of her parents, Edna sailed to London and returned four years later. (73). By 1963, Edna is the only one left at the house, after the death of her parents and the marriage of her brother, working by then as a secretary.

Right: The James' family home, with later renovations at 122 Harrow

Road, Bexley.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).



# **Kenwood Family**

#### William Kenwood

Thomas and Mabel's father William Layton Holmes Kenwood had been born in Hastings, England and came to Australia in 1878. He joined in business with Harry W Kerle, in an architect and consulting engineer firm, gaining success as Thomas Saywell's main architects. Kenwood designed many of the prominent houses in Bexley and Rockdale, such as "Bodiam", "Pevensey", "Arundel" and "St Elmo" between Monomeeth and Gladestone Streets on the western side of Harrow Road as well as the "New Brighton Hotel" and swimming baths. (74). William was a prominent member of the nearby St George Bowling Club during his lifetime; he died in 1931 aged 74. His wife was Adelaide Bonner Bond and they had five children;

Adelaide Isabel Mary (1887-1982), William Bond Hastings (1889-1918), Sydney Hastings (1891-1974), Mabel Irene (1892-1977) and Thomas Layton (1897-1970) (75)



Above: Villa Harrow Road 203.20.148.68, (2014). Villa Harrow Road. [online] Available at: http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/roads har 032.jpg

The houses built by Kenwood can still be found standing in the area.



Left: St Elmo

Wikipedia, (2006). BexleyHouse.jpg. [online] Available at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Be xleyHouse.jpg [Accessed 8 May. 2014].

Right: House designed by Kenwood

203.20.148.68, (2014). House built by Kenwood. [online] Available at: http://203.20.148.68/LocaHis/Jpeg/004/roads\_har\_042.jpg [Accessed 8 May. 2014].



The Kenwood family home was number 7 "Wadhurst" on the corner of Harrow Road and Monomeeth Street.



Left: Wadhurst", 7 Harrow Road,

Bexley.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).

It was his children Mabel and Thomas who embroidered their names on the flag for the one pound cost. Their big brother and his eldest son, William Bond Hastings Kenwood, was serving overseas but he sadly died just two months before the war finished, killed in action in Somme, France in 1918. (76) Ironically, he was killed on the same day and at the same place that his English cousin, George Kenwood Wellsman, died.

#### **Mabel Kenwood**

Mabel Irene Kenwood was born in 1892 in Hurstville, which would make her in her midtwenties when the war was occurring. She was ten years old when she attended a fund raiser Children's Dance at the Parramatta Hospital Ball in 1902.

"Miss Kenwood (of Rockdale) looked extremely well in a soft pink voile, trimmed with cream ribbon and cream sash." (77)

Mabel was next heard of for receiving a first grade in art for model drawing, after sitting for her examination at Sydney Technical College, four years later. She also grew award winning roses, winning an award for her collection of roses, at the Windsor Presbyterian Church School of Arts show in 1920. (78) In 1930 Mabel and her mother organised a dance at the Bexley Centre for St Luke's Hospital, raising £69 with their endeavours. Mabel never married; one wonders if she had lost her beau in the war. A lifetime of good works came to an end with her death in 1977.

#### T Kenwood

Thomas Layton Kenwood was Mabel's youngest sibling, born in Hurstville in 1897; he would have been seventeen when war broke out. (79). In 1930, he was living at home at 7 Harrow road, Bexley, but seven years later he and Mabel were living at 21 Harrow Road, where they still were listed on the electoral roll in 1963.

Thomas grew up to be a clever individual, where he out-maneuvered a thief and made the press around the State:

1934 TRICKED THIEF Went for More Money SYDNEY, Thursday.

When Thomas Kenwood was held up by Frank Stanton (33) and robbed while alighting from a motor car outside Kenwood's home on November 30 he resorted to a ruse to enable Stanton to be arrested. After money had been extracted from his pockets Kenwood told Stanton that he would go inside and get more money, but instead he promptly telephoned the police, who arrived and arrested Stanton while he was waiting for Kenwood to return. Stanton was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment at Kogarah police court to-day for robbery. (80)

Thomas died in 1970, living still at Kogarah.

# The Larbalastier/Larbalestier Family

Mr John W Larbalestier was the Mayor of Bexley from 1900-1902; he was a well-known boot merchant in Sydney and Sands shows that the family was living at 45 Harrow Road in 1915. The house was across the road from the Bexley Bowling Club and has since been replaced by a block of units. John William Larbalestier had been born in Chippendale in 1860 and was married at age twenty four to Jane Wilson in 1884 at Waterloo, NSW. (81)

In 1930, the family were advertising for a young staff member for the shoe store:

"smart girl, about fifteen for shoe store. Apply 9 am JW LARBALESTIER, CircularQuay" (82)

1930 NSW Electoral Roll listed the members of the family: (Raymond) James William was a salesman, (Edward) William Hopetoun was a motor mechanic, (Bert) John died in 1976 and George (William) was born 1887 and died 1953 and was boot clicker. The only daughter, another E Larbalestier, Edith C F was born 1885, married Arthur Charles Marshall in 1923 at Rockdale and died in 1977. Which E Larbalestier, Edward or Edith, that is the question? From what is seen in the other people listed on the flag, a single initial was usually that of a male person, the females had their full names listed.

John's wife and the children's mother, Jane, passed away in 1940, the beloved mother of Edith, William, Bert, Raymond, and Edward. Edith's brothers had been lucky and survived the war. Their cousin Percy William Labalestier was twenty three when he left Australia for war on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1915. Sadly he came back from war, but like many of his comrades, succumbed to war injuries when he died in 1922, at Mosman. (83)

#### W Lawrance

The question of who was W Lawrance is quite puzzling, as it could be J.J.F Lawrance, as the two J's would look like a W. The man who may have signed the flag, was of some importance in the community, being a bank teller amongst other occupations. Job John Frederick Lawrance was an alderman of Bexley Council from 1908 until 1913 and Mayor from 1912-1913. (84)

Lawrance was married to Agnes Horsfall, living at 31 Beaconsfield Street Bexley and with whom he had nine children; Violet A (1888), Euphemia D (1891) Olive L (1892), Ivy M (1895), Effie M (1897), Sylvia H (1899), John H (1901), Frederick H (1903) and Alice V (1908). (85) Lawrance's sons were too young to enlist in the war, but he must have wanted to do his bit for the cause.

In 1908 Alderman Lawrance discussed the erratic train services at Bexley Council, with long waits for the passengers at Moorefield and badly lit train carriages (86) and in 1912 was part of a visit by the Governor, his Excellency Lord Chelmsford to Kogarah, in his role as Mayor of

Bexley. (87). Job Lawrance lived up to his name, getting the small jobs done, even sorting out the stray cattle dumped at the local Pound.

Therefore, evidence has shown that Job John Frederick Lawrance was the W Lawrance whose name was on Bexley's patriotic flag. Job died in August 1941, after a long career working for his local government.

Right: The Lawrance family home at 31 Beaconsfield Street, Bexley.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).



## **D** Lofberg

The D. Lofberg next listed on the flag was in all probability Valdemar Daniel Edwards Lofberg, son of Swedish painter and decorator, Gustav Edward Lofberg and Elizabeth J. Edwards Lofberg of "Blairgowrie", Albyn Street, Bexley. He was one of nine children; Hedwig Elizabeth (1877-1970), Oscar Henry (1878-1952), Lilian Mathilde May (1880-1881), Lilly May (1882-1882), Alice Jane (1883-1969), Valdemar Daniel Edwards (1885-1968), Hilda Ethel (1888-1892), Eva Hilda (1892-1979) and Charles Gustave Pearman (1895-1965). (88)

As can be seen above, the Lofberg family had lost three daughters by 1892, so the enlistment of two sons would have brought about a mixture of pride and anguish for Gustav and Elizabeth. Charles Gustav Pearman Lofberg embarked on HMAT "Beltana" on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 1916 (89) and his brother Valdemar Daniel Edwards Lofberg had embarked nine days earlier on the HMAT "Marathon". (90); There was a V.D. Lofberg was listed as sick in September 1917. Needless to say, their brother Oscar, a chemist, took great exception to a

letter published in the "Mirror of Australia", describing "Hun chemists in Rockdale" and received an apology from the newspaper. (91) This would have been typical of the anti-German feeling at the time, fuelled by the war, despite the fact the Lofberg's were Swedish and not of German descent and that their father was heavily involved in the local Bexley Masonic Lodge.

Luckily, Valdemar D. E. Lofberg returned from the war and married Elizabeth Bulling at Rockdale in 1920 and his brother Charles married Evelyn Greer at Scone in 1922.

# Florrie McDiarmid (MacDiarmid)

The McDiarmid (MacDiarmid) family lived at "Breckin", 164 Frederick Street, Rockdale, the family home for decades. Florrie's father, John Robert MacDiarmid, was a Scottish immigrant who had arrived in Australia between 1889 and 1890, with his wife Isabella Fleming Thomson and new baby daughter, Agnes Fleming MacDiarmid (1889-1979). Their second child, a son, Douglas R (1890-1893) was born in Wooloomooloo but died in his infancy. The family were in Marrickville for the births of Margaret Winnifred (1893-1944) and Isabella Thomson "Ettie" (1894-1977) and three years later they were living in Rockdale. John Elliot (1897-?), Gordon Keith (1899-1967), Robert T (1903-?), Florence May Douglas (1904-1989) and finally Frederick Hector (1907-?) were born into the new house. (92)

Young Florrie was still living at the Frederick Street address in 1930 with her parents, her sister Ettie and brother, Frederick, until she married Charles H Millington the next year. Her father was listed as a traveller, probably due to the economic situation of the Depression. The men of this generation of the MacDiarmid family survived the Great War, however, Florrie's nephew Pte Frederick William Finney, son of her sister Margaret, was eventually killed in another war, at the Japanese bombing of Darwin on the 15<sup>th</sup> June 1942.

# **McKenzie Family**

# Alice

Alice Maude Mary McKenzie (nee Clayton) was born in 1863 one of twelve children of Joseph Richard Clayton and Mary Ann Martha Hayes. (93) She married her husband clerk,

David Clayton McKenzie in 1885. They had three daughters: Alma (b. 1895), Nina (b. 1886) and Linda (b. 1889), but sadly Nina only lived for a year. It is Linda and Alma whose name, mistakenly transcribed as Ilma, on the flag with their mother's. Alice died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1937 aged seventy four years and was cremated two days later; at the time of her death the family were living at "Weemala", 34 Monomeeth Street, Bexley . (94) The family home no longer stands, having been replaced by a block of units. David died a month after Alice on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1937 aged eighty four years old.

# Alma (Ilma)

As mentioned above Alma M McKenzie was born in 1895 and married James C Robinson in 1926 and not much is known after this date. (95)

#### Linda

Linda B McKenzie was born in 1889 and married Eric Sydney Astridge in 1924. Linda placing her name on the flag was a very personal issue as accountant Eric was a twenty two year old Corporal when he had left Australia with the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Brigade, Ammunition Reserve on the "Vestalia" on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1915. (96)

#### **McLeod Family**

Much more is known about the McLeod family, who had lived in the Rockdale area and were stake holders in the high profile building firm, McLeod Brothers, prior to the Great Depression. Hector P McLeod and his family were living at the house he was given as a wedding present, "Cluny Brae", 496 Forest Road Bexley. (97) The firm, under the leadership of patriarch, John William McLeod, were responsible for the Sydney Town Hall, the Fort on Bare Island and parts of the Queen Victoria Building. Sadly, Hector had an untimely death on a building site at the early age of thirty one years. His wife and four daughters remained at the Bexley Estate known as "Cluny Brae" until it was sold in 1912.







Above left: "Dunvegan" 28 Harrow Road Bexley, home of John McLeod. Above centre: Hector McLeod 1862-1901. Above right: "Cluny Brae" now known as Victoria House

Rathbone, R. (2006). *Cameos of Bexley*. 1st ed. [Bexley, N.S.W.]: R. W. Rathbone. pp. 23, 33

Hector and Sarah had lost a baby son, Hector Junior in 1895, however the girls lived well into adulthood. Jessie Irene (1889-1971), Flora McDonald (1891-1938), Jean Isabel (1893-1974) and Margaret Christina (Madge) (1897-1969) (98)

#### Flora McDonald McLeod

Flora, like some of the other young women listed on the flag, had her beau fighting overseas in the war. Her accountant boyfriend, Private Arthur Bruce Ferguson, sailed from Australia with the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion reinforcements on the HMAT Euripides on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 1916. (99). Flora married Arthur upon his return from overseas in 1919, with her two younger sisters as bridesmaids.

FERGUSON — McLEOD.— On September 6, the marriage was celebrated by the Rev. F. A. Darling, at Bexley Presbyterian Church, of Miss Flora McDonald McLeod, of Cluny Brae, Bexley, and Mr. Arthur Bruce Ferguson (late 19th battalion, A.I.F.). The bride's gown of silk tulle was relieved with silver tissue and French Flowers. She carried a shower bouquet of white hyacinths and stock. Her tulle veil was worn cap fashion with a wreath of orange blossoms. The bridesmaids, the Misses Jean and Madge McLeod, wore frocks of mauve and maize silk net, and caps to match. Each carried a shower bouquet of daffodils and sweet pea. The duties -if best man were carried out by Mr. F. B. Little, Mr. Hubert Ekin (late 12th Field Ambulance. A.I.F.) acting as groomsman. As the bride and bridegroom passed down the aisle, the Bexley V.A.D., of which the bride, before her marriage, was a member, formed a guard of honour."(100)

#### Madge McLeod

Margaret Christina (Madge) McLeod's birth was announced on April 16 1897, as at "Cluny Brae", Bexley, Rockdale, to the wife of Hector P. McLeod, of a daughter, in the Australian Town and Country. (101). Like her sister Flora, her young man also went to war; Kogarah resident Hubert Ekin was a clerk before enlisting as a Private with the 8<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 1916. (102). Like her sister, Madge married her Hubert upon his return in 1922.

Therefore, we could estimate that from these two women's situations that the flag was created after their boyfriends' enlistment, sometime after late 1916.

#### **EWRMcMillan**

Edmund William Reynolds McMillan was born in 1874 at Bathurst towards the end of the gold rush that was being experienced there. His parents William and Rebecca had four children, with Edmund being the sole son and by the birth of their last daughter in 1881, the family were living in Canterbury. (103)

In 1898 Edmund married Newcastle girl, Louisa E Russell in Balmain (104) and by soon had their first daughter Edna (b.1899). By 1905 he was heavily involved in the setting up of the NSW Combined Cricket Association, being the honorary treasurer. At this period he and Louisa were living at Frederick Street, Rockdale and had their second and third children, a daughter Doris (b 1902) and a son Langer Edmund (b. 1907). During the period 1908-1910 Edmund was an Alderman with the Rockdale Council. During this time they also had their last child, a daughter Olive (b. 1909).

In 1916, around the time of his name being added to the fundraising flag, Edmund was listed as a Real Estate Agent and Auctioneer, at Rockdale with his private residence being "Wangarra", Dunmore Street Bexley. Four years later, the family had moved to a new home, also called "Wangarra", at Primrose Avenue, Sandringham. (105)

By 1925 Edmund McMillan, whilst working at the St George Starr-Bowkett Societies at Station Street, Rockdale, was the victim of a theft from the offices in 1926. (106) Four years

later Edmund passed away at the early age of fifty five on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1929 and at the time of his death he was living at 15 Ashton Street, Rockdale.

# McNeil Family

The McNeil family all signed the Bexley fundraising flag and like some of the other families listed, they had a personal interest. Seven pounds would have been a considerable amount of money to pledge; being 1,458 pounds sterling or \$A2,653 in today's money.

# Alick (Alex)McNeil

Alick McNeil's early life is difficult to track down as no birth certificate can be traced. The first thing known of him is a series of stolen bikes reported whilst he was working at Austral Cycle Agency in Lismore and Austral Cycle and Motor Depot in Market Street Sydney, between 1904 and 1916. (107)

By 1915 the family were living at the corner of Dunmore and Caledonian Streets, Bexley, having moved from 20 Juliette Street, Enmore, with Alick having become the manager of Garrett's Motor Car importer in Castlereagh Street, Sydney and becoming a Justice of the Peace.

Alick and his wife Ada had five children: Glenada B. (1898-1987), Hazel Joan (1900-2002), Norma Gwendoline (1932-1988), Raymond Murray (1905-1971) and Dorothy Melbourne (1906-1986) and life would have been quite comfortable at 39 Dunmore Street. (107) The house still stands and is regarded as something of a stately home today. However, whilst living here in 1921, the residence was robbed of a substantial amount of goods and jewellery total value 200 pounds.



Left: The McNeil family home at 39 Dunmore Street, Bexley.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).

Rockdale.—Stolen, between 2.30 and 5.30 p.m. the loth instant, from the residence of Alick McNeil, Dunmore-street, Bexley,—A gent.'s single-stone diamond ring, claw platinum setting; a lady's gold ring, set with three diamonds, claw platinum setting; a lady's gold ring, stambock pattern, diamond set in each leaf; a lady's gold ring, set with three small integrates in crowl, small piece broken off; a very old-fashioned gold ring, originally set with five stones, one missing; a heavy gold chased-band bangle, catch broken; a gold necklet, set with fifteen mounstones; two nairs gold steeve-links, one shamrock the other shield pattern; a gold miniature motor wheel, "R.A.C.," and "Won by Alick McNeil," on it; an oval-shaped gold medal. "Alick McNeil," and "Melbourne to Sydney Reliability" engraved on it; a boy's grey smit; a plain silver ten and coffee service, consisting of a ten-pot, coffee-pot, milk jug, and a sugar basin, all with hids: a pair of Zeas field-classes, with a stop-watch in frame, and "Alick McNeil, Sydney," engraved

on them; a lady's leather suit-case, lined with green silk, size 24 x 18 inches, a 25-inch kit-bag; fourteen sheets, single and double; and two linen table-cloths, "429" on each; three white honeycomb quilts; six towels; a pair of tan boots, size 7; and a sovereign; Left: Details of the robbery at 39 Dunmore Street, Bexley.

Interactive.ancestry.com.au, (2014). New South Wales, Australia, Police Gazettes, 1854-1930 for Alick McNeil. [online] Available at:

http://interactive.ancestry.com.au/1942/31842\_2 16755-

00223/1144587?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.Ancestry.com.au%2fcgi-

bin%2fsse.dll%3frank%3d1%26new%3d1%26MSA V%3d1%26msT%3d1%26gss%3dangs-

c%26gsfn%3dalick%26gsfn\_x%3dXO%26gsln%3dm cneil%26gsln\_x%3dXO%26cpxt%3d1%26catBucket %3drstp%26uidh%3dhh2%26cp%3d2%26pcat%3d NP\_PERIODICALS%26h%3d1144587%26recoff%3d 12%2b13%26db%3dNSWGazettes%26indiv%3d1% 26ml\_rpos%3d13&ssrc=&backlabel=ReturnRecord [Accessed 25 May. 2014].

Alick McNeil was also involved in the All for Australia League, which was one of many citizens' movements that sprang up during the Great Depression as a challenge to the established conservative parties. The party was started in early 1931, with membership growth during the last days of the Scullin government. The Party only lasted a year then it merged with the Nationalists to form the New South Wales branch of the United Australia Party (UAP).

Future Prime Minister, Joseph Lyons was a key figure in the formation of the All for Australia League and was elected unopposed as the leader of the UAP and went on to win an absolute majority in the December 1931 election. Alick attended a March 1931 meeting at Brett's Hall in Kogarah and spoke to the assembled crowd:

Mr. Alex. McNeil, of Bexley, stated that the birth of the league had been mainly brought about by the extravagance of the Government. No less than 48 per cent, of the revenue was paid in salaries to civil servants. If any business house allowed administrative expenses to amount to 10 per cent, drastic alterations would be made. (108)

Alick McNeil passed away on April 22 1947 at his residence 39 Dunmore Street Bexley beloved father of Glen (Mrs I Mardardy) Hazel (Mrs L Rowbotham) Norma (Mrs L Sedgwick) Raymond and Dorothy (Mrs G Aldrich). His occupation at the time of his death was described as; gentleman.

#### Ada Elizabeth McNeil

Ada Elizabeth McNeil's name was the first of her family's to be listed on the flag and as the matriarch of five children, it was apt to be so. However, as many women of her day, there is not much information available regarding her life, only listings for her birth, marriage and death. She was born Ada Elizabeth Walker, to parents John William and Elizabeth Walker about 1867. She married Alick McNeil in 1897 in Victoria and came to Sydney to live, via Lismore. (109)

She is listed as being occupied with house duties in census and electoral roll information during her time at Bexley. Her death in 1943 has no notice attached in the local press, only that with the NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

#### **Dorothy (Doris) Melbourne McNeil**

Dorothy Melbourne (Doris) McNeil (1906-1986), was the youngest of the McNeil children, but the first child listed on the flag, listed alphabetically. (110) In 1936 Doris married Geoffrey Ward Aldrich (1904-1981) and they went on to have a daughter, Gail. The same year, Mr. and Mrs. G. Aldrich attended the Combined Cricket Club's Welcome Home Ball for the South African test team players. The ball was in aid of the Royal Hospital for Women at Paddington, where there were two beds endowed by the cricket clubs. (111) The Aldrichs

moved away from Bexley and Doris died fifteen years after her husband, Geoffrey, in 1986 in Brisbane.

#### Glenada (Glennie) McNeil

The eldest McNeil child, Glenada (Glennie) McNeil (1898-1987), was the next name listed, for the fundraising flag. Glennie married marine engineer Ian Howell Mardardy (1893-1971) in 1924 and lived in Oatley until their deaths.

#### Hazel McNeil

Hazel Jean McNeil's (1900-2002) birth was registered at Paddington, making her around sixteen when she added her name to the flag. In 1916, her future husband Frederick Lees Rowbotham (1893-1976), enlisted on the 7<sup>th</sup> October with the 30 Infantry Battalion. So this flag was very personal to young Hazel. (112) Happily, Frederick returned to marry his love in 1926 at Hurstville. Hazel died on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2002, aged a hundred and two years at Milton, down the South Coast of NSW and was held in such esteem by locals the council named the Hazel Rowbotham Reserve in her honour. (113)

#### Norma Gwendoline McNeil

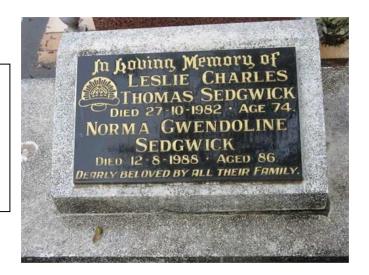
The second last McNeil child to add her name to the flag was Norma Gwendoline, born 1902 at St Peters. She would have been in her early teens when she contributed to the social cause. This philanthropic attitude continued into her adulthood, as seen in her attendance at a fundraising dance for the Sydney Hospital in 1930.

STAFF DANCES. PARK, DAVIS, AND CO.

The proceeds of the dance arranged by the staff of Park, Davis, and Co., and held last night at the Oriental Cafe, will be given to the Sydney Hospital. Miss Maxwell had in her party Misses E. Kelly, Sadie and Jessie Maxwell, M. Macpherson, and Norma McNeil. (114)

In 1936, at the age of thirty four, Norma married Hurstville resident Leslie Charles Thomas Sedgewick (1908-1982) (115). Three years later the family grew with the birth of a daughter, Sandra McNeil Sedgewick, whilst the family were living in Casino. Norma died in 1988 in Casino and her ashes were buried next to her husband, Leslie.

Right: Austcemindex.com, (2014). Inscription for Leslie Charles Thomas Sedgwick. [online] Available at: http://austcemindex.com/inscriptio n.php?id=7943350 [Accessed 26 May. 2014].



# Raymond Murray(R) McNeil

The last McNeil to sign the flag was the only son, Raymond Murray McNeil, who was born at St Peters in 1905. (116) Raymond was living at the Dunmore Street home until 1943, then from 1954-1968 Raymond he rsided at Hotel Mallanganee at Bonalbo, working as an omnibus operator. Raymond died in 1971 at the age of sixty six Newtown.



Left: The Hotel Mallanganee

Mallanganee.com, (2014).
Mallanganee - Northern Rivers NSW -Australia. [online] Available
at:

http://www.mallanganee.com/defa ult2.asp?active\_page\_id=173 [Accessed 26 May. 2014].

# **Middenway Family**

Another local family who were keen to donate to the war effort were the Middenway family. The family consisted of father, John Saunders Middenway (1855-1931), mother, Sarah Elizabeth Venteman (1854-1932), and the children: Francis (1876-1954), Arthur (1878-1940), Gerritt Hendrick "Dick" (1879-1967), Ada Olive. (1881-1974), Albert (1883–1883), Fred (1885–1888), Grace (1886–1974), and John Reginald (1893–1940). (117)



Left: John Saunders and Sarah Elizabeth Middenway [picture]. Trove.nla.gov.au, (2014). John Saunders Middenway [picture]. - Version details - Trove. [online] Available at: http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/17015 5377?q&versionId=185511549 [Accessed 27 May. 2014].

# John Saunders Middenway

The patriarch of the Middenway family was born in Sydney in 1855 and became a student teacher with the Education Department in 1869. After starting his career at Paddington Public School, he was promoted to a Headmaster position in Clarence Town, then Greta (Cessnock) and Wagga Wagga. John transferred to Bexley in 1895 and remained there, in charge, until his retirement in 1917.

Being in the position of Headmaster, Middenway would have been held in great respect by the students of his school, and therefore, it would be possible that some of the younger participants on the fund raising flag could have been the pupils of Bexley School. Other philanthropic concerns in which John Middenway was involved in included being a life member of the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind Institute.

Middenway was a renaissance man, being an enthusiastic amateur photographer, winning awards in State competitions. He was considered an authority on the native flora of New South Wales and composed a number of school songs, the best known being "Flag of Britain" and "Wattle Day" song. (118)

After his retirement John S Middenway moved to "Dianella", 29 Parsley Road, Vaclause where he and Sarah lived until their deaths; John in 1931 and Sarah the next year. (119)

# Sarah E Middenway

Sarah was born in 1854 and married John in 1875 in Sydney. As all good wives of the day, Sarah Elizabeth Middenway supported her husband at his career and would have been an unofficial staff member of the schools of which he was headmaster. At the close of the final Christmas concert her importance was illustrated, when she and her husband received a fond farewell.

A very interesting event took place, in appreciation of the high esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Middenway are held by the children of the school. An address was presented to them accompanied by two handsome vases on silver pedestals and also two beautifully decorated cards, containing expressions suitable to this festive season of the year. Mr. Middenway, who was quite taken by surprise at the unexpected gifts, feelingly responded, end assured those present that he had only done his duty in the past, and would strive to do the same in the future. (120)

When they moved to Bexley, the family must have originally lived at the school, as when Sarah's mother died, the funeral left from the school itself for Rookwood cemetery. Sarah died in 1932 at her residence at 29 Parsley Road, Vaucluse.

# A (Arthur) Middenway

The A Middenway on the flag was probably John and Sarah's eldest son, Arthur, who may have had his name added in absentia as during the Great War, 1914-18, Arthur had been born on the 26th Feb 1880 and he served in the 6th Dragoon Guards, and 2nd Monmouthshire Regiment, B.E.F., in England, France and Mesopotamia. The 2nd Monmouthshire Regiment was a part of the famous 29th Division which started their campaign in Gallipoli in 1915. The Regiment was further involved in the Battles of the Somme, 1916; The Arras Offensive and the Third Battles of the Ypres, 1917; and the Battles of Lys and the final advance in Flanders (1918). After the Armistice, the Division was part of those selected to March into Germany to occupy the Rhine region. (121)

Prior to the war Arthur had worked for Colonial Sugar Refinery (C.S.R.) and worked as a Government official in Fiji. After the war finished he went on to be the Secretary to the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Government, and later served as District Administrative Officer. After serving on several stations, he retired from the Imperial Service in 1935.

However, retirement was not a quiet occasion for Arthur; he regularly wrote articles for the "Pacific Islands Monthly" magazine, was a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society and researched for a book on the islands. During the Second World War he was involved with the National Emergency Scheme at North Sydney. Later he served in a military capacity at Victoria Barracks and the Home Service Battalion. He was also President of the Old Comrades' Association, 29th Division, in New South Wales and was keenly interested in the Scouts' movement and was secretary of the Middle Harbor District Scouts. A collection of his photography and some native artefacts that he had collected during his time in Fiji and the Solomon Islands were donated by his family to the exhibition "Varilaku: Pacific arts from the Solomon Islands", which was on display in early 2011 at the National Gallery in Canberra. (122).

In 1937 Arthur was living at Bingara, Rowlinson Parade, Camaray with his wife Florence Gertrude (nee Jennings). Arthur Middenway passed away from an undisclosed illness on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 1940 at the age of sixty, leaving his widow and a son, John Saunders Middenway.

### **S Moodie**

Some people who pledged their one pound for the fundraising flag are well known, even after these years. For others, the flag is one of the few marks on history that they left behind. The only S Moodie to be found in the area at the time of the flag signing is that of Stewart Moodie, who lived in Oswell Strett Bexley from 1915 to 1918. (123)

# Esme(e) Olds

Esme Olds was the daughter of George Gilbert Olds who was an alderman in Rockdale during the years from 1914-1917. George was born in 1859 in Cornwell and he went to New Zealand in 1881, and came to Australia two years later. He married Margaret Annie Richardson in 1883. He was engaged in business in George Street, Sydney, as a picture frame manufacturer and art dealer from 1894 to 1920. The Olds had eight children: Mary Elizabeth (1884-1927), Alice M (1886-1888), Gilbert Richardson (1888-1947), Mabel Jane

(1889-1954), Vera Margaret (1893), George Norman (1895-1917), Clara I (1899) and Esme(e) Florence (1905-1968).(124)

By 1913, the Olds had moved to Frederick Street, Rockdale, as seen in the Sands Directory of 1913, and remained there for the next four years. As well as being an alderman of the Rockdale Council, Mr. George Gilbert Olds was a director of the St. George District Hospital, a trustee of the Methodist Church at Arncliffe and Bexley, superintendent of the Kogarah Methodist Sunday school and a member of the Bexley Masonic Lodge. (125) As seen by his community involvement, he would have been keen for young Esme to add her name to the flag. George died suddenly at his residence, Linden, Besborough Avenue, Bexley in 1931.

Right: Trees.ancestry.com.au, (2014). Sands
Directories: Sydney and New South Wales,
Australia, 1858-1933 about G. G. Olds. [online]
Available at:
http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tree/54343247/per

son/13682716219/mediax/b378ba90-fcf8-46af-810b-8fb97499bf1d?pg=32769&pgpl=pid [Accessed 2 Jun. 2014].



Esme was one of three girls and a boy still alive when her father died. Her brother George Norman Olds was born in 1895 in Glebe, New South Wales, Australia and died on the 27 Mar 1917 in France at the young age of 22 years. Norman was a Lance Corporal with the 20<sup>th</sup> Battalion and was killed in action and was buried in Bapaume Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais. He had been awarded the Military Medal on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1916 for valour. (126) This personal tragedy would have been enough of a reason for Esme to be involved in the fund effort. Esme eventually married William J Wilson in 1929 at Rockdale and passed away in 1968.

### H. Robertson

Not much could be found regarding H. Robertson, who had signed the fundraising flag. There was a H. W. Robertson residing in Webber's Road, Bexley, listed in the Sands Directories of 1907 and 1908. In 1911, on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, there was a Mr. H. Robertson involved in the wedding ceremony of Mr. Albert C. Gibson and Miss May Isobel Robertson, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Robertson. Mr H. Robertson was groomsman, with Mr. George Bell as best man. (127)On the 28<sup>th</sup> September 1915, there was a Private H W Robertson of the 17<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Sydney reported as missing. (128)This person may have been our H Robertson but it cannot be proven.

### **Aenid Shirley**

There is a little more to be found about the next signatory, Aenid Shirley. Aenid May Shirley was born in 1905 to Edward John Shirley and his Kent born wife, Mary Anne M. Luck. Her younger brother, Edward John Shirley Junior was born eight years later. (129) The next we hear of Miss Shirley is when she passed her London College of Music intermediate piano examination in 1918. She sat her exam in Sydney and the results were published both in Sydney and London. Aenid married Wallace Watson, who had been born in Boggabri in 1907, at Rockdale in 1927 and settled down to married life.

However, just three years later, Wallace was involved in a very serious motor vehicle accident when his car collided with a motor cycle in Alison Road, Randwick. The financial implications of being sued for £1500 as damages for personal injuries and expenses incurred as the result of a collision. This left in family in dire straits, with Wallace not even being able to afford to travel from the country for the court case and was being defended as a legal aid case. (130) The case was still being heard in the Supreme Court in the May and June of 1935.

Wallace died in 1947 at Hornsby and Aenid died on 12 September 1955 at Rockdale and was buried at Woronora Cemetery

### **Ella Smalley**

Ella Florence Smalley was born in 1888 to John M Smalley and Sarah Ann Burney, in Hurstville, New South Wales. The Smalley's already had one daughter, Rita, born a year earlier. (131) The family lived at Forest Road Bexley and Ella attended St Vincent's College and studied piano there with her older sister Rita. Rita achieved a pass in pianoforte (Higher Division) with Ella receiving a distinction. (132) Sadly, the girls' father died in 1903 at the relatively young age of forty four, leaving a widow and two daughters.

However, the next year, the girls were involved in a much happier occasion, the society wedding of Mr Walter E. Burney of Oaklands, Bexley and Miss Ida Beatrice Greenwell of Windsor. There was a big write up in both The Sydney Morning Herald and the Windsor and Richmond Gazette.

The bridesmaids were Miss Emma Clarke and Miss Rita Smalley (niece of the bridegroom). They were dressed in white silk elaborately tucked and trimmed with Valenciennes lace and insertion, white picture lace hats, with white ostrich feathers. They carried shower bouquets of pink roses and autumn leaves, tied with pink streamers, which, with' their gold Nellie Stewart bangles, were the gifts of the bridegroom. ...The guests included Mrs Smalley.... and Miss Ella Smalley. (133)

In 1910 Ella was involved as a pupil in Mr George Grimm's vocal concert in the Y.M.C.A. Hall, Bathurst Street, Sydney where she was described as having a voice that gave promise of future success. So, the Smalley girls were educated as befitting young ladies of a certain social standing, with music being a much appreciated talent.

After the war, Ella also attended soirees for her friends, to farewell them on their trips abroad, as in the bon voyage afternoon tea at the Allora Café in Pitt Street for Miss Elsie Elkin in April 1921. There were also afternoon tea parties to celebrate the approaching marriages of her friends at the same venue the next year.

However, during the war years Ella Smalley was involved in other fundraising efforts as seen by her listing as one of the chief mourners at the funeral of Miss Annis Evans M.B.E. a well-known war worker, in 1937. Miss Evans had set up the Mosman V.A.D in 1914, hosting the Anzac Buffet at the Domain where thousands of returning Australian soldiers had been welcomed home.

The chief mourners were: Mr. R. S. Evans (brother), Mr. J. Burnett (brother-in-law), Miss C. Smith, Miss Ella Smalley. Mr. S. H. Smith, Mr. D. E. Walker (cousins), Mr. J. Dyneley Fell. Mr. Keith Morris, and Mr. S. H. Ravenscroft. (134)

The reasons why Ella signed the flag could be manyfold. There had also been a thirty six year old Private Smalley from the Third Battalion killed in action in 1915 at Gallipoli and buried at the Lone Pine Cemetery, who had lived at Mortdale prior to enlistment; however, there cannot be found a definite link to the Ella herself. It may have been a cousin or a more distant relative. Ella Florence Smalley died in 1966 at Newtown, having never married, another of her generation of lost beaus.

# J E Smithson (James Edward Smithson)

There were two men named James Edward Smithson who could have signed the flag; they were father and son. The elder man had been born in 1844 in Leeds, Yorkshire and by 1867 he was living in Australia, when he married Martha Jane Craven in Sydney, at the age of twenty three.

James and Martha proceeded to have eight children: Josephine Maude (1867?-1971), Charles Miles (1868-1929), Mary C (1870-1983), James Edward Jnr (1872?-1944), Henry (1877-1936), Amy Martha (1880-1880), Ethel May (1881-1965) and Herbert Craven (1884-1970). (135)The family were living at Broadarrow Road, Hurstville during this time, with James working as a builder and carpenter, and remained there until 1889. In 1885 James was fined for non-attendance as a juror at the Metropolitan Quarter Sessions Court, where he was listed as a farmer of Kingsgrove. (136)

Whilst working as a carpenter at Prospect in 1898, James Edward Smithson Senior, was taken to the Parramatta District Hospital on Thursday night suffering from a badly cut ankle. He had been chopping wood and the axe slipped and cut his ankle. He also had a horse stolen in late 1902and recovered in January 1903.

In 1921 James Senior applied for over two acres of land in Stony Creek Road at Bexley at the age of seventy seven, having moved to the area from Hurstville some years earlier. James died in May 1926, at the age of eighty two, still living at Stony Creek Road, Bexley.

It could have been either James Edward Smithson Senior or Junior who had a Hurstville Electorate License awarded in a special court before Judge Backhouse for the retainment of his wine license at Bexley in 1914. However, we can assume, mainly by the age of James Senior by this time, it was his son James Junior who gave evidence at the Timber Trade Commission in 1918:

"Mr James Edward Smithson, of Hurstville, contractor for fencing and hardwood timber, said he had had to turn down thousands of pounds worth of work within the last two or three years through being unable to get his timber. He had applied for membership in the Timber Merchants' Association, but was told he was not eligible. The object, the witness said, was to prevent him from obtaining supplies at wholesale rates. He could not buy from any mills in the associated saw millers, but he had no difficulty about getting timber from the outside mills." (137)

James Junior was named executor in the will of fellow Bexley resident, Alfred Job Partridge, in 1918 in the Supreme Court of New South Wales. A few years later James was again named as executor of the will of his older brother Charles Miles Smithson, a carpenter, late of Bexley, along with his youngest brother, Herbert Craven Smithson in November 1929. From 1930-1937 James Junior was living at Merriman Street, Kyle Bay and was listed as a contractor and 124 Belmore Road, Hurstville, as a fencer. James Edward Smithson Junior was a Penshurst pensioner at the time of his death in 1944.

# **Dorothy Stephen**

Dorothy Mary Stephen was born in 1893 in Balmain, to father Daniel Stephen and mother Mary Marshall six years after their marriage. Her elder brother William John Stephen had been born in 1887, as often happened in this period, the same year as his parent's marriage. She was followed two years later by her brother Cecil Murray Stephen. (138)

Dorothy's father, Daniel Stephen badge number 4215, had been appointed an ordinary Constable on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1882, promoted to Sergeant in 1900 and quickly promoted again to Inspector in 1912. (139). He was stationed at Redfern Police Station, with the family living at 60 Great Buckingham Street, Redfern. He retired Inspector 2<sup>nd</sup> class on a pension of £331 and 10 shillings per year to take effect from 3 August 1918

The question must be asked as to why Dorothy would sign the flag; she was a pretty young thing who enjoyed a social life but she, like others here, had loved ones overseas at the war. Her brothers William and Cecil embarked in 1915 on the same ship to war. Their address at the time of their embarkation was the Water Police Station, Phillip Street, Circular Quay, where their father was stationed.

Sadly, like so many thousands others, William John Stephen was killed in action at the age of twenty eight, in France whilst serving with the 55<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Battalion on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 1916. He is buried in the VC Corner Australian Cemetery and Memorial, Fromelles, Lille, Nord Pas de Calais, France. (140) The family were devastated and wanted proof that it was indeed William who had been killed. The following documents are from the Australian Red Cross Society Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau Files, 1914-1918 files, 1DRL/0428 regarding the death of William John Stephen of 55<sup>th</sup> Battalion. (141)Sadly, these documents confirmed the sad truth; Dorothy's brother was indeed dead.

# 2724 Pto R. J. 2772

FR RCS

19th at Fleurbaix when he sas whot through the head on he stood by my nide. I took him you book from his jocket and have it with me (Book produced. Add) I felt for his identification dies but could not find it. We retired next morning from this aget and his body had to be left. No doubt he will be listed as missing.

Reference: Sta. J.F. O'Brien, 2745. 5 Coy 5th A.B.B.D. Staples. 4.3.16.

After I had exemined the pay book submitted I returned it to bto. Parish and adviced him to hand it to the d.C. 5th A.D.B.D.

SA.

15 12 mais 2.

# 4. I. F. 55.

# STEPHEN, W. J. 2772.

# K/20th. July 1916.

He was killed by a shell in Homansland, and buried just behind the lines at Fleurbaix, between the firing line and the supports. Our pioneers buried him. Ptc. Hussett was one and he told me about it. I believe they put up a small cross to mark the grave.

Reference: Byerlee, C.A., 2895, A.H.O.Detnils, Australian General Base.

write

Etaples. 13.11.16. EBA.

Written Per Stephan 28.11.16

Dorothy had married Leonard Jenkins Beavan in 1915 and he had left with his brother in laws on the 2<sup>nd</sup> November of that year on the HMAT Euripides A14 at the age of twenty three. (142) Therefore, young Dorothy had three of the men she loved actively involved in the war.

The Sands Directory shows Dorothy and Leonard living at 20 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood from 1930 to 1963. Leonard had returned to his job at the railways and they finally achieved a quiet life. Dorothy died in 1973 in Burwood, Leonard having passed away three years previously.

# **Florrie Unsworth**

Florence C. Unsworth was born in 1890 at Newtown, to James and Mary Unsworth. At the age of twenty four she married Alfred L. Morris at St Peters in 1914. (143) Florence died 31 May 1972 at Sutherland. Her signature on the flag remains her mark on time.

### **F** Weatherstone

Francis (Frank) Weatherstone was born in 1906 to Benjamin Francis Weatherstone and Lucy Caroline Weatherstone (nee Crane) six years after his sister Dorothy May had arrived. Frank's cousin Walter Frank Weatherstone had embarked from Sydney on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 1915 with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Brigade of the 6<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment (6<sup>th</sup> Reinforcements). (144) The Regiment's performance in the battles of Lone Pine and Beersheba would have stimulated young Frank's interest in the war and encouraged him to pledge his pound for the fundraising purpose.

Frank was an athlete of some note as a teenager, being heavily involved with success in various sports events. In 1922, he was part of the trophy winning Rockdale Boy Scout team at Sydney Sports Ground, coming second in the 120 yards hurdles and running broad jump and first place in the running high jump. The next year found him in Melbourne competing and winning the 220 and 601 yards races as an under seventeen year-old. In 1924, Frank was rowing in the fours for Sydney High School at the G.P.S. Regatta. (145)

The Weatherstone family lived in Oswell Street, Rockdale in 1915 to 1920 with Frank's father being listed in Sands directories for that time. In 1930 Frank married Dorothy Elizabeth Jane Rowlands in Sydney and they lived in Roseville for their married life. Frank was a regular letter writer to the editors of newspapers, usually of the topic of export and trade. Frank died in 1978, with he, and Dorothy, having had no children.

# The Wilson Family

# **Edith Wilson**

There are two Edith Wilsons who could have signed the flag and both had valid reasons to do so. The first Edith Wilson was born Edith Rebecca Wardrop in 1882 in Bathurst, one of eleven children born to William John Wardrop and Clementina Ann Garment. Edith Rebecca was their eldest child (1882-1938), William John (1885-1946), Audley Thomas (1887-1932), Florence Emily (1890-1972), Valerie Elizabeth (1893-1973), Harold Francis (Richard) (1894-1975), Norman Charles (1896-1965), Leonard James (1899-1968), Edward Robert Raymond (1903-1975), Allen Frank (1906-1972), Una Margery (1909-1965) (146)

Edith's brother Audley Thomas Wardrop had embarked on the 9 November 1915 on the HMAT Beltana. (147) and this event would have led to her signing the flag as a sign of support. The family were listed as living in Bay Street Rockdale at the time of his enlistment and his trade was that of a tailor. Luckily for Rebecca her brother returned from the war, but sadly died at the relatively young age of forty five.



Left: Audley Thomas Wardrop, Edith Rebecca Wilson's brother.

Trees.ancestry.com.au, (2014). Audley Thomas Wardrop. [online] Available at: http://trees.ancestry.com.au/tre e/29210924/person/135839743 90 [Accessed 22 Jun. 2014].

Edith married Archibald Coutts Wilson in 1908 in Sydney and they were living at 103 Forest Road, Kinsgrove with Archibald working as a manufacturer in 1930. However, in 1929 in the Metropolitan Licensing Court, Archibald Coutts Wilson was granted a new publican's license for premises erected at the corner of Forest, Stoney Creek and Kingsland Roads, that became known as the Bexley Hotel with Archibald being listed as a furniture dealer. (148)



Left: The Bexley Hotel, now the Forest Inn.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014). Edith Rebecca Wilson died at the age of fifty five on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 1938, leaving no children. She was living at 14 Albyn Street Bexley at the time of her death and for the previous two years Archibald had been unemployed, possibly caring for his wife.



Left: 14 Albyn Street Bexley; the

Wilson family home.

Source: Pentland, Karen (2014).

Archibald remarried to Elizabeth Baxter in 1940 and in 1943 he was living at 24 Wellington Street Hurstville and was listed as an auctioneer. They had two daughters, Margaret Bell who died in 1939, probably at birth and Annie who died in 1973. Archibald lived on for nearly four decades, dying on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1970.

The other possible Edith Wilson may have been H.A. Wilson's first wife Edith May Wilson (nee Perry). This may be a logical option, considering they both signed the flag, however, the first Edith Wilson (nee Wardrop) cannot be discounted due to the personal link with her brother to World War One.

### **H.A Wilson**

Henry Augustus Wilson was born in 1874, the second son to Augustus Henry and Margaret Wilson (nee Veitch). He was one of four children along with Robert Edmund (1870-1952), Alice Jane (1872-1951) and Clarissa Maude (1887-1910). (149) His youngest sister Clarissa Maude passed away in 1910 at the age of twenty three, with notices placed in the memoriam pages three years later, by which time the remaining siblings had married:

WILSON -In loving memory of our dear daughter and sister, Clarissa (Maud) who departed this life September 2, 1910. Inserted by her loving parents Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Wilson; also her brothers and sisters-in-law Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Wilson and Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wilson.

WILSON-In loving memory of our dear sister, Maude, who departed this life September 2, 1910. Inserted by her loving sister and brother-in-law Allie and Charles Snell. (150)

Henry married twenty seven year old Edith May Perry in 1902 and quickly had four children; Kenneth Veitch (1902-1994), Eric Douglas (1904-1980), Allan Veitch (1906-1955) and Jean Margaret (1913-2011). Edith died six years after the birth of her last child, at Rockdale in 1919. She may have been the Edith Wilson who paid her pound to sign the flag, as she was alive and in the area at the time of signing.

In 1925 Henry remarried to forty seven year old Elizabeth J Morris, who already had a son, John Morris Wilson (1908-1980?) (151)In 1931, there was a court case where Henry Augustus Wilson, 56, a clerk, pleaded guilty to having conspired to cheat and defraud the Producers' Co-operative Distributing Society, Ltd of nearly eight hundred pounds. His defence was that he had a wife and six children, and was in bad circumstances through sickness. However, he also stated that the money was spent on drink and horseracing. He was lucky to be only placed on a good behaviour bond of £50 for three years. He had faced bankruptcy proceedings in the Federal Court in August 1930 and this may have been a factor in his case. The next Henry is heard from is a letter to the Editor of the Sydney Morning Herald in 1937 in support of subsidised schools, where he was still living in Rockdale.

Sir.-I have been very interested in reading the different letters appearing for some time now in the "Herald" on subsidised schools, especially the one by "A. S. Castleden," who has had a similar experience to my own. In 1900 I was situated four hundred miles out west on a selection, and with a family of four growing up it was a struggle, and our only hope was the little subsidised' school for our children between two or more selectors, who could not afford to keep a governess. Thousands of children got no other education than the subsidised school. This was over 30 years ago, and those scholars are mostly well-to-do land-holders to-day. The practical lessons they got in their youth at home are standing to them now. For rural occupations the man must grow up with his job. I do hope for-the sake of land settlement and rural production that these subsidised schools are never abolished.. The cost of education is already a heavy burden on taxpayers.

I am, etc..Rockdale, Jan. 13. H. A. WILSON. (152)

Henry died on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1954 in Sydney, at the age of seventy nine years.

#### E Wood

Ernest Oswald Wood was born in 1895 to Henry Wood and Margaret "Maggie" Ah Kin, followed by his sister Doris in 1896 and brother, Wilfred in 1904. (153) Not much is known of his childhood, but he did become a military cadet. In October 1913 there was a warrant for eighteen year old Ernest's arrest, when as a senior cadet he was charged with a breach of the Commonwealth Defence Act. He was described as:

18 years, 5 feet 9inches, medium build, dark eyes and complexion, dressed in dark clothes, felt hat and black lace boots. His mother is said to reside at Peak Hill. (154)

He was eventually arrested and handed over to the military authorities on the 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1913.

So what happened to Ernest to cause him to go from a cadet deserter to a flag supporter and soldier? By the age of twenty, working as a driver, listed as living at Forest Road Bexley and being a Roman Catholic, he embarked on the HMAT Suevic on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 1915. He was with the 12<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment and at the conclusion of the war returned to Australia on the 8<sup>th</sup> August 1919. (155)

Two years later Ernest married Beryl Mary Manners in Kogarah and by 1923 Ernest had a butchery business at 88 Stony Creek Road, Bexley and during the period of 1925 to 1929, the family was listed as living next door at 90 Stony Creek Road, Bexley. A son, Anthony John Wood, was born 17 August 1926 and they also had a daughter, Teresa Shirley.

However, Ernest like all cheeky butchers was a bit of a lad still, despite being a married man. In 1924 he was amongst a group of men who faced court for being found without lawful excuse in an illegal gaming house. You could just imagine the conversations at their homes after this event!

### WOMEN APPEAL TO POLICE.

Yesterday morning, before Mr. M. J. McMahon, S.M., at Kogarah Police Court, James Suick, aged 27 years, was charged with conducting a gaming house in Forest-road, Bexley. Thomas Brown, Richard Helmsley, Ernest Wood, James Jones, John Henry Forrest, William Seymour, James Pendlebury, James McBride, Jack Murphy, George Tighe, William McDonald, Henry Williams, Alick Johnson, Richard White, Edward Mitchell, Phillip Clarkson, Thomas Stephen, Leslie Wildman, John Rose, Henry Pollack, Archie Walker, Henry Humphrys, George A. Holmes, and John Yule

were charged with being found, without lawful excuse, in a gaming house. Suick was defended by Mr. Collins (instructed by Mr. Beehag). The other defendants were represented by Mr. R. Harris (Messrs. Harris and Seabrook). The whole of the defendants pleaded guilty.

Constable Hardy said that at 10.45 pm May 2, he, in company with other members of the police force, entered the promises, which was a billiard saloon in Forest-road, Bexley, licensed to one named Johnson, and managed by the defendant, James Suick. The others charged were playing a game of chance known as "Two-up." The premises had been under watch for six months. As far as he knew the gambling took place on Fridays and Saturdays.

Inspector Maze said that the police had received letters from women, apparently wives of the defendants, stating that money had been diverted from their homes. The magistrate said that women and children must be protected from suffering. He fined Suick £15 and 2/6 costs, and each of the other defendants £2, with 2/6 costs. (156)

Sadly, in 1925 Ernest was involved in a fatal motor vehicle accident in Marrickville, where one man was killed and he and another man were injured whilst travelling in a friend's car. They had swerved to avoid a stopped bus but unfortunately the car crashed sideways into the rear of the bus, killing Charles Robertson Sneddon of Bexley and severely injuring fellow Bexley man, Phillip Clarkson. Luckily, Ernest was only slightly injured but the accident would have slowed down his behaviour.

Ernest had a happier experience in 1945 when his only daughter, Shirley, married Tom Girdler, with his son LAC (Leading Aircraftman) Tony Wood and the groom's brother Flight Sergeant Max Girdler officiating as groomsman and best man. The military was followed in this family to the next generation. By 1949 the electoral roll had Anthony John (student), Beryl Mary (HDs) and Ernest Oswald (butcher) living at 21 Robertson Street Kogarah. Ernest Oswald Wood died in 1961.

# Conclusion

So, there they are; the fifty nine men, women and children who paid a pound to sign a fundraising flag in Bexley. The community was a close knit one; some such as the Lofberg's, the Wilson's and the Elder's lived in the same street; whilst the McKenzie's and the Duesbury's were next door neighbours. They came from all walks of life, religions, reasons and social standings, all united to help bring comfort to the soldiers fighting in the Great

War. It was the support of the families left behind that enabled the soldiers to achieve their military endeavours in the war. Therefore, as the centenary of World War One is commemorated, we will not forget those who fought and died... those who signed the Bexley flag and supported them...we will remember them! Lest we forget......

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