



THE CEMETORIAN

ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2007

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CARLO CATANI

Civil Engineer & Civil Servant
(b. Florence 22/4/1852- d. Melbourne 20/7/1918)

By Sandra Lanteri

Carlo Giorgio Domenico Enrico Catani was the Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works of Victoria and an original member of the St. Kilda Foreshore Trust. His career spanned forty-one years of service to the State.

Catani was born in Florence, Italy, on 22nd April 1852, the son of Enrico, a wealthy merchant, and his wife Augusta, nee Geri. In the Spring of 1876 he arrived in Melbourne on the ship *Alhambra* with two friends, recent fellow Civil Engineering graduates, **Pietro Baracchi** and **Ettore Checchi**. They had originally gone to New Zealand but as there were no professional jobs available to them they sailed for Australia within a few weeks.

They were a remarkable trio. Pietro Baracchi became the President of the Royal Astronomical Society and completed the first map of the Australian skies. He established the Mt. Stromlo Observatory, and coined the phrase 'Garden State', once used on Victorian number plates. He was also Melbourne's official weather forecaster earning the reputation of always correctly forecasting the weather on Melbourne Cup day. Ettore Checchi became the Chief Engineer of the Victorian State River and Water Supply Commission. His research data formed the basis of the tripartite agreement between Victoria, N.S.W. and S.A. on the use of the Murray River waters. He created the Hume Weir, which took six years, and he is said to have taken only one day off each year. His irrigation schemes opened up northern Victoria for farming.



Carlo Catani

Carlo Catani is best remembered today for his last major project, the reclamation and design of the elegant St. Kilda foreshore and the St. Kilda Marina, which transformed the suburb into Melbourne's premier resort. His 'eye of genius' designed the landscaping of the gardens at the beach end of Fitzroy Street, later named the Catani Gardens, and was responsible for the foreshore works as far as Point Ormond. and he used his own.

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THE CEMETORIAN

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At one stage the funds required for the beautification of the area were not sufficient

Unfortunately he did not live to see its completion. A bronze bust of Catani at the foot of the clock tower, designed by Norman Schefferle in the tradition of an Italian Renaissance Campanile, stands on the St. Kilda Esplanade as a permanent memorial to him.

Catani was also responsible for the widening and improving of the River Yarra upstream from Princes Bridge. He planted the oaks, poplars, birches and elms along the banks of the river, designed the Alexandra Gardens and turned St. Kilda Road into the impressive road we enjoy today.

Other works associated with him are the roads to Arthur's Seat and to Mount Donna Buang, the draining of Elster Canal, the opening up of the Mount Buffalo Plateau, and the damming of Eurobin Creek to form the lake which bears his name.

He devised the system of draining the Koo-Wee-Rup swamp in West Gippsland and solved the problem of finding workers by engaging unemployed married men and promising them small farms on the newly drained land. A township in the area was established and named after him.



Carlo Catani C/E Y10

In 1886 he married Catherine Hanley, the daughter of a Port Fairy farmer. They had six children, three daughters and three sons. He suffered great emotional loss during his lifetime with three of his children predeceasing him. One son, Eric, was killed in action during World War One.

Described as a slim, perpetually courteous and gentle man, a visionary with a great aesthetic sense of beauty, 'who saw possibilities to which others were blind,' Catani contributed much to his adopted land. He was naturalised in 1892, and never returned to his birthplace.

Carlo Catani died intestate, of chronic nephritis, at his home *Wyndham*, 39 Blessington Street, St. Kilda, on 20th July, 1918 He was 66 years old

We are indebted to him, as indeed we are indebted to all those who contribute to making our environment a better and more beautiful place.

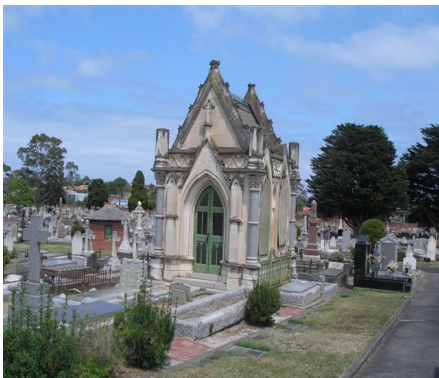
Carlo Catani is buried at Brighton General Cemetery C/E Y 10

Catherine Catani died August 1925 age 68 years and is buried with her husband Carlo.

Also buried with her parents is 19 year old daughter Eugenia who died in August 1915

Sources: Australian Dictionary of Biography, The History of St. Kilda by John B. Cooper, and Pino Bosi, *Italians were there too!* Brighton General Cemetery Burial Registers.

Reproduced for The Brighton Cemeterians with the permission of Sandra Lanteri.



Have you ever wondered who is buried in this vault and what inspired such a grand memorial ?

Open Day at the Cemetery on 14th October

11am - 3pm

At selected times on this day you can view inside the Vault of Septimus Miller

Gold coin donation appreciated



THOMAS CRISP 1829 - 1889 Solicitor, Land and Mining Speculator

Marvellous Melbourne it may have been, in particular for those individuals who grew wealthy in the booming years of land, bank and mining speculation of early Melbourne. But by the late 1880's there were signs of a depression that would eventually lead to the bank crash of April- May 1893.

Thomas Crisp, a fifty nine year old father of ten children was a successful Solicitor with an impressive home 'Waverley' in Wellington Street Brighton, numerous land holdings and mining shares. On the 18th of September 1889 shot himself dead.

Thomas Crisp was born in Hobart Tasmania the son of Samuel Crisp and Elizabeth Sams. He married Jessie King in Melbourne in 1857. They were to have eight daughters before two sons were born, all at Brighton. Crisp was a well known face at the Brighton Court House from the late 1860's through to the 1880's.

In 1855 Thomas Crisp joined the firm of his friend Kenric Brodridd, and articled clerk Robert Lewis. The partnership of Brodridd Crisp & Lewis was established 1858 and continued till 1867 when Brodridd left the firm to Crisp & Lewis to continue. In 1876 Solicitor Henry Hedderwick and articled clerk William Fookes both joined Crisp and Lewis and so began the partnership of Crisp Lewis & Hedderwick. Fookes was made a partner in 1883.

The firm of Crisp Lewis Hedderwick & Fookes was dissolved in 1906.

The charlady found Crisp dead in his office, sitting in his chair with a revolver on the floor near his right hand. His brother James Crisp, a clergyman, identified the body. Brother in law Samuel Ring, a draper, told the Coroner that Crisp was depressed and afraid he would become insolvent.

Family and colleagues reported to the Coroner at his Inquest that Crisp had been very depressed in the previous six months as he witnessed the collapse of the land market, in particular the many speculative syndicates in which he held shares including the Thomas Bent Land Company. At the time of his death Crisp had amassed shares in more than 18 different companies including mining companies in the lead rich Creswick area .

Thomas Crisp left all of his Estate to his 18 year old daughter Rosina Mabel Crisp and appointed his wife Jessie the Executor.

Notes prepared by Jan. Rigby for the Brighton Cemeterians.

Sources : PROV , VPRS 24/P0552/1257 VPRS 7591/P2/157/4/223 , Allens Arthur & Robinson 'our history',

A warm welcome to the incoming committee for the 2007-8 year

Spring has Sprung and the Brighton Cemeterians committee for the coming year certainly has a spring in its step with a number a exciting projects under way. Buoyed on by our first year of success and the wonderful support from our members and supporters and not least, the newly amalgamated cemetery trust.

- In consultation with Dr Malcolm Fredman we will assist in the restoration of the Metahar House.
- In partnership with the Cheltenham and Regional Cemeteries Trust we will have an Open Day on the 14th October and for Senior Citizens Week we will have our popular Artists Walk on 7th October .
- We will continue with our usual services: providing research, assistance to help find a gravesite, information regarding restoration and promoting our history by conducting cemetery walks, speaking to groups, and collecting family histories.
- Most importantly raising money for restoration work will continue.

2007-2008 Committee: President Elizabeth Paine, **Treasurer** Lois Comeadow, **Secretary** Roxanne Dennis, Lorraine Rogers, Linela Clime, Jan Rigby. Thanks to retiring committee member Jane Nigro who has resigned due to her commitments at Malvern Historical Society.



THE CEMETORIAN

SIR FREDERICK McCOY FRS [1817-1899]

Sir Frederick McCoy was born in Dublin in 1817 he was the second son of Doctor Simon McCoy . He married Anna Marie Harrison in 1843, there were two children, a son and a daughter.

McCoy studied Medicine at Dublin and Cambridge Universities but before taking his degree his energies and interests were diverted to natural history and palaeontology.

In 1841 his catalogues of the museum of the Dublin Geological Society and of the shells and organic remains of the *Sirr Collections* in the Dublin Rotunda were published. In the following fourteen years his large and important contributions to the study of British and Irish fossils were published. McCoy's prodigious number of articles in learned journals was read and admired by scientists across the whole globe. In August 1854 he was appointed the Professor of Natural Science, becoming one of the first four Professors at University of Melbourne which opened in April 1855 .

At the time of his appointment he was Professor of Geology and Mineralogy and Curator of the Museum at Queen's College, Belfast. He arrived in Melbourne in December 1854 and from this point in time he cemented his Australian reputation becoming Director of the National Museum, State Palaeontologist and President of the Royal Society of Victoria, amongst a host of other responsibilities .



A young dapper Fredrick



He received many national and international awards for his efforts and he must be regarded as an important figure amongst both Australian and world scientists. He became the first professor of an Australian University to be knighted.

Sir Frederick built a house in South Road Brighton and named it Maritama, the Latin word for *house on the coast*. In 1936 the house became the property of Xavier College. The house still retains its name today.

McCoy was fiery, impulsive, resilient man unsuited to collective enterprises, proud of his robustness and smart in dress.

McCoy was of medium height with wavy reddish hair, side whiskers and a determined chin. He retained in old age his verve, his jaunty step and his capacity for geniality.

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From 1886 he suffered periods of protracted bronchial illness and he fell ill and died on 13th. May 1899. and was buried at Brighton General Cemetery in the Church of England section.

Sir Fredrick's grave has fallen into disrepair,. A Scientist on a recent visit from overseas contacted The Brighton Cemeterians saddened by the poor state of McCoy's gravesite.

Sir Fredrick McCoy's grave today

The Brighton Cemeterians are launching an appeal in September to raise funds for the restoration including a plaque with the Donor's names. The amount we need to raise is \$ 10,000.

all donations may be sent

The Brighton Cemeterians
PO Box 8054
North Road LPO East Brighton
Vic. Australia 3187

References Australian Dictionary of Biography, Fendley G.C., Online Edition

The Victorian Naturalist: McCoy Special Issue 2001. Museums Victoria Australia 2006 The University of Melbourne 150 Anniversary. Notes prepared by Elizabeth Paine for The Brighton Cemeterians.



Dr JOHN CHRISTIE

To relieve the symptoms of Asthma a young surgeon recently arrived from Scotland constantly inhaled Chloroform.

Dr John Christie, a ship's surgeon, was found dead in his lodgings at The Coffee Palace in Collins Street East on the 24 January 1886, lying on his bed in one hand a bottle of Chloroform and a towel in the other hand .

The Coroner found that he had accidentally poisoned himself.

James Merry had been a passenger on the ship that bought both himself and Christie to Melbourne. He was also staying at the Coffee Palace. Merry said Christie was in bad health and had Asthma. He did not drink but was in the habit of inhaling Chloroform to relieve his pain. Another friend Gilbert Walker a merchant from Brighton said the 24 year old Christie had called on them bringing letters to his wife from mutual friends. He said John Christie was unmarried and his father is a Professor in the University of Aberdeen. (*Possibly James Christie an ordained minister who had turned to medicine when a throat weakness made him unsuited for the pulpit.*)

John Christie was buried at Brighton General Cemetery Presbyterian Sec. 79 E on the 2nd January 1886 .Reverend Ballantyne officiated.

Sources: PROV , VPRS 24/P0000/ 493 unit 125 Inquest

The University of Aberdeen and The Brighton General Cemetery Burial Index



HAVE YOU FOUND IT HARD TO RESEARCH OUR BURIAL INDEX ?

We have begun the full indexing of the Cemetery registers and they will be computerised to make researching the burials easier.

Currently Lois is working hard on the registers but requires another computer.

Do you have one you no longer need ? Contact Lois on 9558 4248



THE CEMETORIAN

Walter Burley Griffin and the Ballantyne Tomb

Melbourne has the good fortune to be graced by famous buildings designed by Walter Burley Griffin and/or his equally talented wife Marion Mahony Griffin. Of note in Brighton is the Ballantyne Tomb at Brighton Cemetery, designed by Walter Burley Griffin.

This is a three tiered monument in cast concrete and black pegmatite (a coarse grained granite), occupying plots 13 & 14 in the Baptist compartment.

The design is a square, with three slabs of pegmatite stacked above. Each one is smaller than the one below it, creating a stepped pyramid effect. The slabs are separated by layers of concrete, cast with a repetitive pattern of five incised pyramids. The inscription is incised on the uppermost granite slab facing the sky.

There is a fascinating but tragic story behind this monument. Arriving in Melbourne in 1864, Scottish immigrant James Ballantyne (1839-1920) worked as a building contractor. Eventually he rose to the position of chairman of directors in the Melbourne Builders' Lime and Cement Company. His son, George Frederick Ballantyne (1871-1922), carried on the tradition, working as an architect, builder and land subdivider. George's son, James Frederick Wilson Ballantyne (1900-1988) carried on not only the family names but also a career in the building industry. Whilst at university, young James known as *Fred* Ballantyne met Edward Billson who was working in Griffin's office. Fred needed an architect to whom he could become articled and Billson introduced him to Griffin.



The two men, who were of similar age became firm friends, and Fred entered Griffin's office on 27 March 1919.

In early 1922, soon after Fred had graduated, his father George died of cancer, and he was buried at Brighton. Only one week after the funeral, George and Bessie's daughter, Euphemia Jean was injured in a freak accident when a minor earthquake struck Melbourne in the early hours of 1st March. Although very slight, it was enough to make a chimney fall from the roof of the Ballantyne home in Glenferrie Road. Jean was seriously injured and died two weeks later.

News of the double tragedy reached the Griffin Office

She was buried alongside her father at Brighton Cemetery, only a few weeks before her eleventh birthday.

News of the double tragedy soon reached the Griffin office, and Walter Burley Griffin designed the grave as a compassionate gesture to the family. Fred and his two younger brothers took their mother on a trip to America to take her mind off her sorrows. Annie Elizabeth but known as *Bessie* died on 1st June 1927, and her remains were interred with those of her husband and daughter in the Griffin designed grave.

In the years that followed, the grave was seldom visited by the family, and it fell into disrepair. It was Fred's own wish to be buried with his parents, but after his death in 1988, his children found that this was not possible. While the plot itself contained enough space, two cranes would have been needed to lift the granite slabs. His remains were finally interred in the memorial garden of the Anglican Church near his home in Mitcham.

Source:-
"The Griffins in Australia & India", (The Miegunyah Press (MUP) 1988)



IF YOU DRINK DONT DRIVE

William Kent was accidentally killed after falling from his dray, the wheel passing over him. he was at the time intoxicated. Police Constable Patrick Downing told the coroner that on March the 18th, 1856 Kent was found dead on Brighton Road. He had known him for some time, he was a drunkard and was frequently seen passing down the road drunk.

Some people travelling in a dog dray saw Kent's body and informed the Constable. He found Kent's dray on the side of the road near Keys Public House and Kent's mother in law Jane Smith asleep in the dray.' *I woke her and she appeared stupefied as though she had been drinking* '. Their bullocks were lying down on the road.

(William Kent had been married to Mary Smith in 1840). Kent was buried the next day at Brighton General Cemetery in the Church of England Section

Death by a fall from a dray was a common occurrence in early Melbourne. Market gardeners from Brighton and the outskirts would leave their homes about 3 or 4 o'clock am, having loaded their drays the previous evening, for a 2 to 3 hour drive to the city markets. Hail, rain or shine they travelled along rough tracks avoiding stumps and pot holes, their horses travelling a familiar route allowing the driver to doze on the way. The return home after several calls at the hotels on the way meant many a driver was tired and drunk. A common practice was for the driver to attach the reins in his foot and fall asleep. If he were to fall from the dray he would be tangled and dragged under the wheels causing death or serious injury. The horses with home in sight continued on, until stopped.

Source : PROV , VPRS 24/P000032/193

Guaranteed to find treasure.

Do you enjoy the delight of opening a file and finding old photos or newspaper cuttings, information about local activities and personalities. ?

Why not join the happy group cataloguing the hundreds of files of The Glen Eira Historical Society at their rooms in East Bentleigh.

These files are being included on a database at the Royal Historical Society thereby making available information for researchers.

Contact The Glen Eira Historical Society

JOHN O'CALLAHAN 9568 5727

Hot off the Press 2008 Calendar

Don't miss out on our limited edition calendar now available. \$15.00 from Lois 03 9558 4248

locow@elite.net.au

includes
Theodore
Penleigh Boyd
Artist and
landscape
Painter
1890-1923



*The Innkeeper's
wives*

The unmarked C/E grave number 45 A, holds the two wives of Jesse Morley the owner of The Plough and Harrow Hotel.

Hannah Courtanage born in Sussex 1814 married Jesse Morley in 1835 and three children were born, the fourth in a Sussex workhouse. The family arrived at Port Phillip on the *Sea Queen* April 1844. Jessie purchased ten acres in 1848 at East Brighton before purchasing thirty acres on the corner of South and Nepean Roads where he established his Hotel. Hannah had three more children before she died in April 1856. Jesse married Ann Noland from Co Carlow in 1858 and two daughters were born. When Ann died in 1864 aged forty, their two girls were placed in The Industrial School by the Brighton Court and Jessie disappeared.

14th October 2007

OPEN DAY

At Brighton General
Cemetery
11am - 3pm



THE CEMETORIAN



Open Day at the Cemetery

14th October 11am 3pm

- * Help to find an ancestor
- * Locate a gravesite
- * View the Office and Boardroom
- * Learn about the history of The Lodge and the history of The Cemetery
- * View historic registers
- * View the Septimus Miller vault and Metahar House (Jewish Chapel) at selected times between 11-3pm

- * Meet the new office manager Jenny Cumming who will be happy to answer your queries regarding present day burials, available sites and futures plans for the cemetery. Jenny says, ‘ *don’t be shy no question is too big, small or naïve* ’
- * Meet The Brighton Cemeterians and ask us how you to can support or participate in our activities. Details on our website www.brightoncemeterians.org info@brightoncemeterians.org

Senior Citizens Week
7th October 2007
2pm

ARTIST WALK
free

Booking absolutely essential
Ring Lois 9558 4248

WILLIAM HENRY BORTFLOWER CARDIN
1838—1855

The Cardin monument believed to be the oldest surviving headstone in the Brighton General Cemetery, is currently awaiting a grant from City of Glen Eira for restoration work.

The sandstone like monument is rare throughout the Brighton General Cemetery, being one of only a dozen or so. It is an example of the work by John Simmonds and is located in an area used before the Cemetery had been laid out.

Seventeen year old Cardin was accidentally drowned when his boat was upset in Hobson's Bay off Picnic Point in November 1855 (C/E S grave 65)

Warm welcome to our new members
Renata Climie Hampton East
Stan Harris South Melbourne
Margaret Hatton Richmond
Bev Crawford Coolum
Southern Peninsula Family History Soc Inc
Stuart Lechte Paterson Lakes



Thank you to our members who renewed their membership for another year.

The Brighton Cemeterians wish to thank all the supporters who participate in our regular walks and enthusiastically donate money or their time .

METAHAR HOUSE
Jewish Mortuary Chapel

Land was granted by the Trustees for the Chapel in February 1909 and the building opened in 1910. The Brighton Cemeterians in our role preserving the historical significance of this important building is assisting Dr Malcolm Fredman to raise funds for badly needed repairs to the roof and leadlight windows.

Metahar House can be viewed on Open Day
14th October at selected times from
11.00—3.00