

# Mount Lawley Matters

## Mount Lawley Society

Volume 35#2 July 2012

WEBPAGE: [www.mountlawleysociety.org.au](http://www.mountlawleysociety.org.au)



### Secretary/ Newsletter

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*The MLS would like to hear from members who would be interested in contributing to the newsletter.*

**Views expressed by members are not necessarily those of others or of the committee.**

### MLS PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Bruce Wooldridge

Dear Members,

A very warm welcome to this Newsletter. This is my first newsletter as President, and as such on behalf of all members and the Committee of the Mount Lawley Society I would like to extend our grateful thanks to Paul Hurst for his efforts as President over the past four years. Paul continues to serve on the Committee. Thank you Paul.

For over 35 years the MLS has worked with the community to prevent the demolition of original character and heritage buildings and to create and maintain a Mount Lawley historical archive. In respect of demolitions, there have been many positive steps taken by Councils over recent years, particularly by the City of Stirling which established three Heritage Protection Areas (Inglewood, Mt Lawley and Menora). However, a walk around these beautiful suburbs reveals that much work is still to be done, particularly in the area of demolition by neglect. This is an area in which I would like to focus on during my presidency.

On a sombre note, we woke on Sunday 8th July to the tragic news of the fire at Mount Lawley Primary School. Celebrating its Centenary year, the original section of the school was completely gutted, resulting in the closure of the school. Whilst this event has been devastating to the community, one can only admire the strength of this community in the way in which it has come together in the face of this appalling event which destroyed part of Mount Lawley's heritage. It is more than bricks and mortar that have been lost, however I have no doubt that the school will be reborn anew stronger than before.

The MLS are mindful of the enormous effort that is being undertaken by the School's administration, Department of Education and School Council in order to have the temporary (high school) site ready for students at the commencement of term three on 23 July 2012. As a parent of children at the school I cannot speak highly enough of all those working towards this goal. For this reason we have not been too active to date in the rebuilding process. However, the MLS has a great interest in the results of the structural assessment of the original buildings. Once this assessment has been finalised we look forward to engaging with the relevant Committee to provide input on the built form and preservation where possible of the original building.

On a happier note, June saw the Society hold a dinner in the cellar at La Vigna. This was a popular event with members and an excellent evening with fine food and wine flowing throughout the night. La Vigna's Michael Tamburri improved our knowledge of the differences between French and Australian wines, while Barrie Baker, Patron of MLS, kept us entertained with a Mount Lawley historical quiz.

You will have recently received an invitation to the Society's next social event to be held at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club on Monday 6 August 2012. Over the past three years, the MLS has scanned, catalogued and archived over 1000 historical photographs. This event not only provides us with the opportunity to dust the cob webs off our archive material, it is also an excellent opportunity for new members to meet the Committee. Stay tuned for invitations to more MLS social events this year.

Committee members Roger Elmitt, Christina Gustavson, Beth McKechnie are continuing to work through organising our extensive archive material. The aim of this onerous project is to have the material catalogued in such a way as to provide easy access to members. We will continue to update you on the progress of this project.

We do **welcome** your feedback on MLS society matters so please feel free to contact us with your comments.

I trust that you will enjoy this newsletter and hope to see you at the Bowling Club on 6th August 2012.

**UPDATE** on the Traffic Proposal for Carrington St and Central Ave by **Ian Merker**.

The Mt Lawley Society has always been involved in improving safety by reducing commuter traffic travelling through Mt Lawley.

In late April around 180 people attended a public meeting in Clotilde Street called by MP Michael Sutherland. It was to voice strong opposition to the City of Stirling's suggestion that a long standing traffic block be removed, thus encouraging a flood of commuter traffic to avoid Beaufort Street by using quiet Mt Lawley residential streets. Traffic has been a problem in this area for a very long time; this is what's been happening:

**BACKGROUND:**

It all started over 30 years ago. The City of Stirling installed a traffic block across Carrington Street at Central Avenue as part of an Area-wide local traffic management study. The traffic block has been very successful in preventing a vast amount of commuter traffic flooding through our local residential streets.

A few months ago, CoS traffic engineers proposed a plan to remove the traffic block and replace it with a roundabout, thus providing an extremely inexpensive and efficient way of diverting commuter traffic away from the increasingly congested arterial roads (e.g. Beaufort Street) and through our quiet residential precinct of Mount Lawley.

This is totally against the City's Vision and published objectives for traffic on local streets and threatens to disrupt the nature of our community.

Our four ward (Lawley and Inglewood) councillors had already stated to us that they were opposed to removing the traffic block, so 'gentle' steps were taken by us to alert the council to the level of anger within the community. However, the traffic engineers stood firm, telling us we were a mere 'vocal minority' and 'they knew best'.

A few of us therefore decided to raise awareness of this issue in order to gauge the feelings amongst the wider community to the removal of the traffic block and the potential quadrupling of commuter traffic in our streets.

With support from our local MP and after some extra effort distributing letters to neighbours, we thought we might get 20 to 30 people to attend a Sunday morning meeting in Clotilde Street; it was, after all, scheduled in the middle of school holidays, when many people would be away.

Beyond expectations, about 180 people attended and we realised that excessive commuter traffic and errant parking are major issues to all of us living in this area.

With good media reporting, support from organisations like the Mount Lawley Society, the Menora Coolbinia Mount Lawley Ratepayers Assn, encouragement from the Principal of Perth College and a great deal of help from other residents experienced in pressuring their local council, we realised we were rapidly gaining a lot of 'traction'.



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**OUTCOMES:**

We set up a petition on the day of the meeting and so far have obtained around 250 signatures, by far the most being from residents who live in this part of Mount Lawley.

In early May Ian Merker delivered the petition to Ward Councillor Rod Willox and he formally presented it to the City at a council meeting.

Getting 250 signatures represents a massive protest and the council will certainly take note of it. We await their response.

However, we'll only be totally reassured if and when the City fully addresses safety issues on Central Avenue and conclude for themselves that the traffic block across Carrington Street is an independent issue and should be permanently retained.

## NEXT STEPS:

Now that we have community support and significant numbers on our side, we should be able to get our concerns heard and look forward to some positive action by the CoS.

It's the City of Stirling's responsibility to solve this problem – it's our responsibility, as residents, to continuously remind the City of their obligation.

It's rewarding to be part of the binding together of our ever friendly neighbourhood and experience the massive community cohesion that's become evident from all our neighbours.

We'd all like to thank you sincerely for supporting us – it's so gratifying to know we're not alone.

To achieve success, it's very much about getting the numbers – please let's all keep working together to protect this part of Mount Lawley.

At the moment, the council have put on hold their plans to remove the traffic block.

That temporary hold can be removed at any time so we're not achieving anything until Stirling, in conjunction with residents, come up with an acceptable solution to the intersection that retains the block, improves safety and reduces commuter traffic through Mt Lawley.

## 40 years of books collected by the MLS

The MLS has now catalogued all of the books in its possession and the list of these which will soon be put on to the website.

Materials can be photocopied for members at the cost of the photocopying and postage( copyright permitting)

If you are interested in viewing the list of books /articles etc please let us know .

At the CoS Council meeting of 15th May Council Resolution 0512/054 Moved Councillor Re, seconded Councillor Willox that pursuant to Clause 10.3.1 of Local Planning Scheme No.3, the application for demolition of the commercial building at Lot 25, House Number 760, Beaufort Street, Mount Lawley be REFUSED as demolition of this building would be contrary to the requirements of the Heritage Protection Area Special Control Area and the City's Character Guidelines (Mt Lawley, Menora and Inglewood) of Local Planning Scheme No.3. The motion was put and declared CARRIED (13/1).

*A comparison between recent aerial photography and the relevant Metropolitan Sewerage Plan (Map Sheet 232), dating from 1934, identifies that the single commercial building was formerly four individual shops. This is evidenced by the level differences internally, however the majority of the walls that previously divided the shops have been demolished, and any former entrances or windows to each of the shops from Beaufort Street have since been filled in. The building now reads as a single shop externally. Additionally, a residence was formerly located in the car park area.*

*A historic Certificate of Title indicates that William Womac Riley purchased the site (Lot 111) in 1904. A search of the Wise Post Office Directories indicated that Mr Riley resided in Second Avenue (presumably to the rear of the site) in 1905. It can therefore be presumed that the portion of the building at the corner of Beaufort Street and Second Avenue was built around this time.*

"POLE'S STORE", 760 BEAUFORT ST (Built 1906)

Photo taken 1912. Now Dunstons Liquor Store



*The three shops built abutting the south-western side of the original corner shop are nearly identical in size and layout (as seen in the Metropolitan Sewerage Plan, 1934) and can therefore be assumed to have been built at the same time. It is likely that these were built between 1905 and the time that the lot was subdivided, in 1911.*

*The existing commercial building at the subject property has been found to contribute to the character of the Mount Lawley (East) Heritage Protection Area, and therefore the proposed demolition will impact adversely on the heritage significance of the area.*

Taken from the Councils heritage report from TPG

## **GWEN WILBERFORCE - nee *Bandy, Gwendoline Constance* ( continued pt 3)**

*b20 JUL 1913 Perth .Oral history taken in 1999, courtesy of Peter Bandy, son of Lawrence Henry Bandy.*

Dad (**Robert Bandy 1879-1971**) was virtually the head of the house but never tyrannical, never. I never heard a cross word ever. I think he gave Mum her housekeeping allowance to do what she liked with. She always bought whatever clothes she wanted. She always had her hair done when she wanted it done. I can remember her first ever permanent wave. I used to stay with the Bowyan family, or Grandma Hartland's side of the family. Her relatives lived in North Cottesloe - that was Ayden and May Bryan and I used to go down there and spend my Christmas holidays there for about 4 or 5 weeks. I remember mother coming down by bus over to Aunt May's and the 2 of them went down to Fremantle by bus and had their hair permed. When mother came home I saw this lady with all curly hair. I got such a surprise, but she was always quite nice looking and had a very slim figure. There was nothing of her really, she was quite slight, but always looked very nice in her clothes - carried herself beautifully. Dad was always immaculately dressed and with his job in Perth, he was always very busy. We had a wonderful upbringing - a normal childhood. We were chastised if we were naughty or did anything wrong, but that was par for the course in those days. I remember my brothers ,Laurence (**Laurence Bandy 1911-1984**) and Bill (**Colin George Bandy "Bill" 1916 - 1985**), getting the razor strop around their legs once. When our Glenroyd St house was being built we spent 12 months living in Subiaco with a first cousin of Mum's who we always used to call "Aunty" Ethel McQueen. She had a very big house so we lived in that house with her, and for 12 months went to the Subiaco Primary School. It was on the edge of the railway line and there was quite a slope from their back fence down to the railway line. The boys were forbidden to go near the railway track. One day after school, Laurence enticed Bill to go down the slope and when Dad came home they really got chastised, which was quite right because it was a very shocking thing to do. They could have easily rolled down the bank onto the railway line. The razor strop was administered to the back of the legs.

Dad had a wonderful relationship with his parents (**George Bandy 181-1924**) He was a wonderful son to them. They always looked to him for advice and he got on extremely well with both his parents and his sisters.

There never seemed to be any trouble at home with Laurence and my parents. Dad was very thrilled when he did so well at cricket. Laurence was very good at school but he couldn't pass exams. He failed his Junior which was ridiculous because he was very good at Maths and yet he failed Maths. Then he applied for a job at the AMP which he got straight away and he stayed there from when he was 16. Then hockey and cricket became his life and Dad used to go to every cricket match. Dad wasn't so much wrapped up in the hockey but mother was - because Bob's mother **Alice Barr 1886 (Bob is Gwen's husband Robert Wilberforce 1910 -1987)** always used to come to the hockey. We girls used to go to every match at the Showgrounds - we'd never miss. Then Bob and Jack got involved in baseball and they played that down on the Esplanade. We'd always watch that as well.

My relationship with my brothers was good. We didn't do a lot together. Laurence and I used to go to Cottesloe Beach a lot when we were teenagers with my friend Beryl Gilmour (my bridesmaid and I was her matron of honour). We were like sisters and they just lived up in Lawley Cres near us. We'd catch the train to Cottesloe because we'd have 3 or 4 groups of friends who lived there. We'd go to North Cottesloe Beach all day on Sunday - that was before he'd play cricket on Sunday's. Apart from that, he went his way with cricket and I with tennis because I joined a tennis club with Beryl over at South Perth. We used to go across on the ferry to Mill Point Rd. It was a private home with 2 tennis courts and we formed a little group and made it into a club - no fancy names or anything, but we had competitions on long weekends with singles, doubles and mixed doubles. We'd play tennis all weekend and Laurence would play cricket and hockey. We didn't mix in sport but we had a lot of combined parties. All the cricket boys would come to our place to a party and at 21<sup>st</sup> birthdays there was always a mixture of sporting friends and other friends. Every Friday night we went down to the pictures when we were young to the Lyceum (now the Astor). Laurence would sit with his mates and I with my girlfriends.

Bill was the quiet one of the family always, but he used to do his own thing. He was very friendly with cousin Bert Colley (Shiny). Bill was never very good at school; he had a bit of a problem caused through birth. Some little cell was damaged. Unfortunately, Dad used to get a bit impatient with Bill. He wasn't quite as tolerant as he should have been in my opinion. Nevertheless, Bill was a happy boy. He was a very gentle person. Bert Colley had quite an influence on his life - he enticed Bill to join the CMF. They were trained and went to camps etc and he enjoyed that immensely. When war broke out he was one of the first to enlist in the AIF and spent the whole war away from home up north in Darwin and Bougainville Islands. He was intelligent enough to help man a machine gun. It really made a man of him. When he came out of the army he joined the Mt Lawley Tennis Club and was a member there until he died. He played tennis all weekend - Saturday afternoons and Sundays. Dad didn't help him much getting work. I think if he had pushed him more especially when Dad was Chairman of the Perth Roads Board, he could have got him a job as a gardener or something because Bill loved the garden. Then he took up private gardening - friends of the family etc. He earned enough money to keep him. When he came out of the army he was eligible for a pension. I was instrumental in getting that for him - the family didn't know anything about it - this pension for returned soldiers. That plus his gardening work kept him quite comfortably. When Dad died, Bill and mother lived on at Glenroyd St and they were the only house left as the Spastic Centre had bought every other home in the street. When mother died we had to sell it as we couldn't keep it going, but we got enough from that to buy Bill the unit in Mt Yokine where he stayed until he died. Mum was very well until about 8 months before she died and unfortunately at the time I was laid low with Asian flu and the doctor forbade me to go near mother. But Aunty Maddie **Madeline Hartland 1899 -1996** lived around the corner in Rookwood St. She'd lost her husband.



**Connie**

She came around and it was a long weekend and she stayed with mother and Bill and she had to get the doctor mother was so sick. He put mother into St Anne's Hospital. She never went back to Glenroyd St. From there I had to put her straight into a nursing home in Leighton near Beatty Park. Nana Wilb ( Bobs mother) was at Hardy Lodge and I got mother transferred there and she was only there 5 months and passed away. She used to love going out to the gate and talk to the children from the Spastic Centre She was a very gentle person, but wouldn't hesitate to discipline us. We had to put Dad into a nursing home as well. He started having these falls about 12 or 18 months before he died. We put him into Hadassa.

Bob started at Economic in a very minor position and then was put into a section which sold material. And there was a building opposite which - there was a hardware store downstairs and the upstairs was a silk merchant's warehouse named McCower & McBeaf - they were an offshoot of an English firm. Mr Bayliss was the manager of it and the head man under the manager had to call on this department in Economic selling their materials and he must have noticed a bit of flair in Bob - selling personality or something, and he went back and said to the manager: "I think there's a young chap back there who would be good to have in the firm." Incidentally, from Perth Boys, Bob was offered a scholarship at Christian Brothers College because of his sport. His father wouldn't let him take it. "You go and work." And that's when he started at Economic. Anyway, this Mr Burgess, the manager of McCower & McBeaf, said to this man: "OK, get

him over and we'll have an interview." He interviewed Bob and employed him as a traveller all over the state selling materials. He went from here down to Albany by train - all towns in between - stayed a weekend in Albany. They knew a bit about his sporting prowess so they got him to umpire cricket matches and all sorts of things down in Albany. He went from there and up as far as Kalgoorlie, Geraldton and all those places. He travelled all around the state until we were married really because he left that job a couple of days before our wedding. But you see I knew him just as Jack's older brother all those years and he used to ride a bike into work and he'd come down the hill from where they lived in Nanhob St (which is just off Lawley Cres) down past our house in Glenroyd St, riding into town to go to work. Of course I was still at school and Jack was still at school (he went on to Perth Boys) and then of course we all got into a group of young people through the sport - through the cricket and everything - because they used to have dances and parties and things. They used to come to our place at Glenroyd St and we'd have sing/songs around the piano and do all sorts of funny things - play card games etc. And then we got into this group going to Cottesloe Beach and that's when we were asked to be bridesmaid and groomsman at this wedding. Up until then I saw quite a bit of Bob and Jack, but there was no romance at all. I mean Bob didn't have any girlfriends - his mother used to make him take out girls that she knew from families - if they wanted a partner for a dance. He hated every minute of it, but he did it to oblige his mother. The wedding couple went up to live in Kalgoorlie and they came down for the Christmas holidays. My friend Beryl (bridesmaid) worked at Good Durrant & Murray and was a ledger machine operator in those days and she was very, very friendly with the chap who was the sub accountant at Good Durrant & Murray. But when they amalgamated, the 2 sub accountants were put off and the 2 accountants were kept and he was out of a job. So he had to go back to his parents' in Kalgoorlie and he went off the rails a bit. He was a lovely chap - qualified accountant. Anyway, they were still together then and we decided to arrange a picnic for this Kalgoorlie couple. We went out to Yanchep where they had the big swimming pool in those days, and Bob took us in his car. We talked about it and Beryl and this Gordon Murray she was with said to me: (they were going to the open-air theatre at Mt Lawley on the Saturday night before we went to the picnic on Sunday) "Why don't you ask Bob to come to the pictures with you and we'll talk about the picnic?" So he came that night and then he drove Beryl, myself and Gordon Murray out to Yanchep in the family car. Jack didn't come - he was playing cricket. There was a crowd of us out there and then he brought us home because we took food etc, and I left a case in his car inadvertently. I'd come home from work on the following Wednesday and he came in with this case. When I went out he said: "I've just brought the case back you left in the car." After a bit of talking he said: "Would you like to come to the pictures on Friday night?" We went to the Prince of Wales Theatre and from then on we went out quite regularly and we were partners at different Balls. Eric McKenzie worked for Penfolds Wines and they had a big Ball and there was also the Bankers' Ball. We also used to go down to the Embassy, which was down the bottom of William St. They had all the



**Bob**



**Bob and Constance Bandy (Gwen) in Sydney**

Balls there too. *To be continued*

PHOTOS FROM LA VIGNA DINNER  
members and committee



*Past and present committee; Lee, Bruce, Beth, John and Barrie,*



*John Baas Ratepayers Assoc*



*Andy (Committee middle)*

*Christina (Committee)*



## **Crossing Line: early policing around Mount Lawley #13 by *Peter Conole, Police Historian***

As mentioned in a couple of earlier issues, Mount Lawley became known as a quiet and very respectable residential suburb from its earliest years. Its reputation as a desirable 'white collar' suburb lasted for decades, in fact unto this day.

One tell-tale sign of the suburb's desirability as living space perhaps lay in patterns of law enforcement problems – or rather, in the lack of such patterns. A good guide book to local realities is the large two-volume compilation by Brian Purdue (JP) called 'An index to violent indictable crime in WA where a conviction was recorded'. The work can be found in the Batty Library. Suburbs which were or later became popular and fashionable residential areas all had their sensational murders and well publicised trials. During the years relevant for this piece - from 1909 to 1949 - Perth itself, Subiaco, Dalkeith, Leederville, Claremont and others all attracted press attention. But not Mount Lawley.

As a generally law-abiding community, it caught the eye of senior police officers, especially those who had to remain in easy reach of the city centre. John McKenna, Michael O'Halloran and Thomas Tetterington were all Chief Inspectors (seconds-in-command) of the WA Police in that period and lived in Mount Lawley because it was a nice place to be and had other advantages. A lack of drunken hooliganism was one, possibly related to Lady Lawley's agreement to name the suburb after her family on condition that no licensed hotels would be built in the area. In addition, a fine road system and a supporting rail connection allowed fast travel to police headquarters in the Northbridge police complex.

More research is needed on another factor, for by the late 1940s there are indications that some senior officers were choosing Mount Lawley as a permanent place of retirement. One example was the colourful and almost legendary Inspector John Joseph Cooney (born 1883). He was an Irishman and may have been a professional boxer for a brief spell after arriving in Australia. John Cooney joined the WA Police in 1911. He was a good horseman and developed bush skills in the course of long years of service all over the State: the city, wheat belt towns and the wild north. He was promoted to sergeant in 1932 and placed in charge of the Wiluna police at a time when gold mining was yielding good profits. The place tended to be volatile and rough and Cooney is said to have remarked after his arrival there: "I will either clean this town up or end up in the cemetery".



Sergeant Cooney got the job done. When angry mobs of miners began to fight it out at one time, Cooney arrived, drew a line in the sand between the two groups, planted himself dead centre between them and dared anyone to try something. There were no challengers. He then arranged three arrests and the rioters dispersed. John Cooney was commissioned as an inspector in November 1940, spent two years in Perth and then went north again to take charge of the Geraldton District. Police veterans remember him as a good leader, with a strong Irish regional accent. His voice sounded melodious and tended to rise to a higher pitch in the course of a long conversation.

Inspector Cooney was the senior regional officer during interesting times – the war was a traumatising national experience and law enforcement issues became more than usually complex at Geraldton. Allied servicemen visiting the town by land or sea attracted police attention on some occasions. The police were also responsible for preparing air raid shelters and for coastal surveillance.

Inspector John Cooney retired from the Police Force in September, 1948. He and his wife Mary returned to Perth and lived in Mount Lawley for many years. This notable former police officer passed away on September 5, 1966.

*Inspector John Cooney*

**DID YOU KNOW** In Maylands, Mephram Street and Ferguson Streets are named after Mephram Ferguson, construction engineer for the Coolgardie pipeline and a co-founder of Massey Ferguson Ltd, makers of tractors and other heavy vehicles. He was born in Falkirk, Scotland, and that area of Maylands between Old Guildford road and the railway was originally known as Falkirk. May street was named after Ferguson's daughter. Fairley Street and Caledonian Avenue are names also associated with the Ferguson family.

Crawford Road was named after Robert Crawford, from Melbourne who owned land in Inglewood. India Street is named through some connection between the Gold Estates of Australia, who owned all of Swan Location Y ( bounded by 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Dundas Road, East Street and Hamer Parade). Buller Street is named after Sir Redvers Henry Buller, a British general, commander of the British forces in the Boer war.

**Continued: Western Australia's Founder and first Governor – pieces of the graveyard jigsaw**  
**By Researcher Sid Breeden**

I've described the City of Stirling plaque and next we'll look at the tantalising jigsaw surrounding the gravesites of Admiral Sir James Stirling and his wife Ellen at St John's Stoke-next-Guildford, Surrey, England. It is noteworthy that Ellen's parents (Mangles) were prominent locals in the area.



**Rev John Skinner**  
**St Saviour's and St John's Stoke**  
**1968-1984**

Nearly 1000 years old, St John the Evangelist, known as the mother church, is located on Stoke Road. In 1976, like others of the era, it was in danger of being made redundant due to falling attendances. The nearby relatively young 120 years old St Saviour's parish took St John's under its wing. Under the guidance of Reverend John Skinner (keep note of this name) and his dedicated team including charismatic Curates, they brought the mother church back from the brink and in 1989, St John's again became a stand-alone now vibrant Parish.

Effectively there were three graveyards. The centuries old ancient graveyard around the church building consisted of two areas, one south and another north. Third is the large extension graveyard located over the road.

Many graves in the ancient southern graveyard collapsed making the area unsafe. Probably mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, headstones were lined against the church stone fence and the area made level. Stirling's is not there.

Approaching burial capacity the church purchased land in 1855 over the other side of Stoke Road for an extension graveyard. Burials commenced there when consecrated in 1869.

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BURIALS in the Parish of *Stoke next Guildford*  
in the County of *Surrey* in the Year 1865

Name	Abode	When buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was performed
<i>Annexa M. Linn</i> No. 1417	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 13<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>70</i> <i>77</i>	<i>H. Clark</i> <i>Edw. Curate</i>
<i>Jane Ellen Rowlett</i> No. 1418	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 15<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>76</i> <i>74</i>	<i>Edw. Curate</i> <i>H. Clark</i>
<i>Mary Jane Skoner</i> No. 1420	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 16<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>71</i> <i>70</i>	<i>Edw. Curate</i> <i>H. Clark</i>
<i>George Jolly</i> No. 1421	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 17<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>3</i> <i>2</i>	<i>W. C. Curate</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>John Martin</i> No. 1422	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 19<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>75</i> <i>73</i>	<i>H. Clark</i> <i>Edw. Curate</i>
<i>Edward Giff</i> No. 1423	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 20<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>34</i> <i>34</i>	<i>W. C. Curate</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>Elizabeth Day</i> No. 1424	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 21<sup>st</sup></i>	<i>32</i> <i>33</i>	<i>W. C. Curate</i> <i>Curate</i>
<i>Admiral James Stirling</i> No. 1425	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>April 22<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>74</i> <i>74</i>	<i>W. C. Curate</i> <i>Curate</i>

James Stirling died in 1865, four years before the extension graveyard opened, so he would have been buried in the ancient graveyard. No plan of graves exists for back then but to signify burial location, James' burial "ledger" records show the reference "side of hill". Frustratingly there are two potential "side of hill" sites, one the graveyard southeast corner and another the opposite northwest side of the church. The southeast corner used to slope up to "Stoke Park Mansion", a grand house at the very top of Stoke Park hill. Old maps show the mansion and as to be expected over time, these areas have been redeveloped. The other potential "side of hill" is in an old drawing of the church, depicted as a pronounced slope against the Stoke Road fence northwest of the church. The problem is this slope may be artistic licence. Today all areas around the church are close to level so neither "hill" can be verified.

Despite extensive enquiries, certain records cannot be located. Over time they may have been lost forever or may one day turn up somewhere. Some people from the 1970s who may have known answers are no longer with us so we have to base probabilities on available records, anecdotal evidence, logic and Church of England procedures. Why for example, was the Stirling gravestone found over the road in 1977?

*Admiral James Stirling burial record*



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BURIALS in the Parish of *St John's Stoke*  
in the County of *Leicester* in the Year 1874

Name	Abode	When buried	Age	By whom the Ceremony was performed
<i>William Jenner</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>May 26<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>45</i>	<i>H. Lawson</i>
<i>Annetta Ashford</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>May 27<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>68</i>	<i>F. Rogers</i>
<i>George Edward Bottom</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>May 28<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>58</i>	<i>F. Rogers</i>
<i>William Stole</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>June 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>41</i>	<i>F. Rogers</i>
<i>William Cayson</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>June 6<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>20</i>	<i>James Anderson</i>
<i>Abel Stole</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>June 7<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>25</i>	<i>H. Lawson</i>
<i>Ellen Stirling</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>June 8<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>66</i>	<i>F. Rogers</i>
<i>William Stirling</i>	<i>Stoke</i>	<i>June 20<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>17</i>	<i>H. Lawson</i>

*Ellen Stirling's burial record*

Using available archival records and material I gathered together with the help of generous people, some here but mainly in England, the now retired Rev John Skinner reviewed my file. Using his immense knowledge and familiarity with church procedures, he deduced the following remarkable probability.

Ellen Stirling died in 1874, nine years after James. It is known her wish was to be buried with her husband. Indications are the ancient graveyard, where James was buried, was closed and likely had insufficient space in James' grave to inter Ellen. Ellen's burial "ledger" record is clearly notated "with her husband" which can only mean they were buried together. By 1874 the 1869 extension graveyard over the road had been in use for 5 years. John Skinner deduced that James was reinterred to the new extension graveyard so he and Ellen were together.

A detailed hand written "Grid Plan of Plots" exists for the northern half of the extension graveyard. This shows location, name and dates of each burial. Despite extensive enquiries, the southern half plan cannot be located.

During the period when St John's came under St Saviour's parish, Harold Colyer, secretary of St Saviour's Parochial Church Council, in the 1980s meticulously cross-checked and transcribed the northern half plan into a typed alphabetical list with coded gravesites, making it simple to check burials in this area. The Stirling name does not appear on this northern list because from other indications it is highly probable their grave was located in the southern half extension graveyard on the western side. What is the significance, you may ask?



*Photo of the grid plan of plots*

The next instalment will reveal more answers to the mystery of "The Forgotten Grave"

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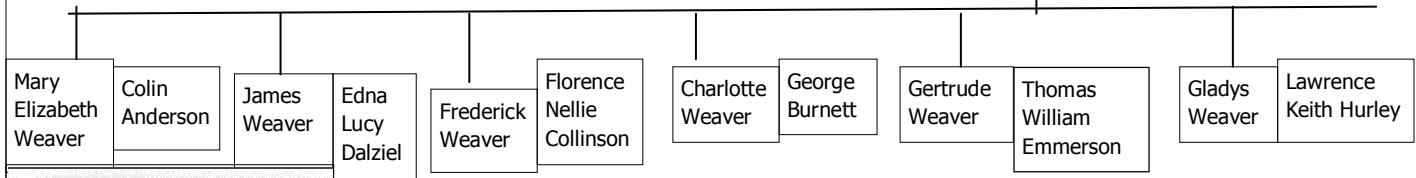
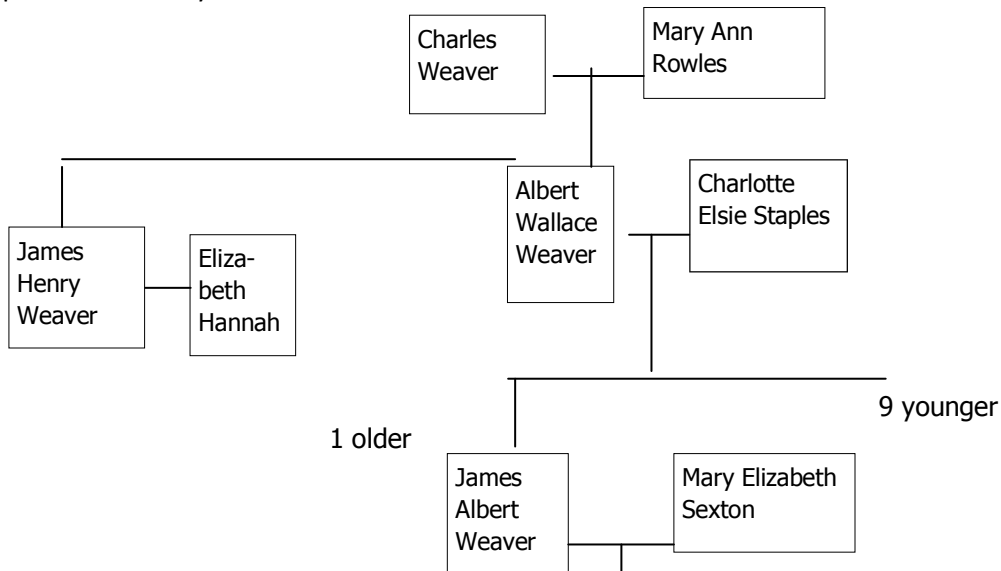
*St John's Stoke viewed from extension graveyard*

# THE WEAVER FAMILY AND MOUNT LAWLEY by Barrie Baker

Here is part of the family tree of Charles Weaver



Mary Ann Rowles



Charlotte Elsie Staples

**Charles Weaver** was a shoemaker in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire in England. His wife was Mary Ann Rowles.

**James Henry Weaver** was born in Chipping Norton in 1861. In approximately 1880 he was recruited by Western Australian pastoralist, Walter Padbury to sail from England and, on arrival on the ship 'Charlotte Padbury' in 1881, work as an indentured servant in a tannery he owned. Some time later he joined the WA Government Railways and rose to become the stationmaster, firstly at Preston in the Ferguson Valley from 1895 to 1898, and then Donnybrook from 1898 to 1907. He spent the rest of his working life in the administrative section of the WA Government Railways in Perth.

From 1911 to 1927 he and his wife lived at 10 Ruth Street, Perth (house demolished) and from 1927 to 1930 at 14 Monmouth Street, Mount Lawley (also now demolished). James finally lived in Corrylynn Road, Claremont in a house belonging to the Methodist Ladies' College. He may possibly have been in some kind of employment with the College. He died in March 1934.

His wife, Hannah was born in 1862 and died in December 1943. They had no children.

**Albert Wallace Weaver** was born in Chipping Norton in January 1863, and also came out with his brother James to Western Australia to work in Walter Padbury's tannery. He later worked in the shoemaker business of Brown and Allen in Hay Street. In 1895 he opened a boot manufacturing business at 195 William Street Perth. He and his family lived at that address until 1903, when they moved to 108 Smith Street, Highgate Hill.

In 1925, he went into partnership with Benjamin Dubberlin, and they continued the business in William Street until 1929. He moved from Smith Street in 1922 and lived at his son James' house at 85 Alma road, Mount Lawley. He was a foundation member of the Perth Fire Brigade

He died, probably at the home of his son, James, at 44 Walcott Street in November 1938.



Albert Wallace Weaver, circa 1890, whilst working at Brown and Allens, Shoemakers in Hay Street, Perth.

His wife, Charlotte was born in 1867 and died in 1914. They had 11 Children,

**James Albert Weaver** was born in Perth in June 1887. He was apprenticed to his father and continued to work with him until the latter retired in 1925. On the 9 November 1909 he came in second place in the first WA professional marathon run from East Perth to Fremantle and back. His trainer was Fred Carter, a relative by marriage, who also trained James for boxing.

In December 1912 he married Mary Elizabeth Sexton in Wesley Church, Perth. They settled at 85 Alma road, Mount Lawley and lived He and his family also lived at 619 Beaufort Street between 1925 and 1929, prior to moving to 44 Walcott Street in 1929. After 1929, the business used both premises at 619 and 621 Beaufort . here until 1925.

After his father retired in 1925, he established the business, J.A.Weaver, Boot and Shoe Manufacturer, at 621 Beaufort street, Mount Lawley.



*Marathon place getter, James Weaver in 1909 with his trainer Fred Carter*



*85 Alma Road, as today, greatly altered*



621 Beaufort Street as it is today



*Wedding of James Albert Weaver and Mary Elizabeth Sexton at Wesley Church, Perth, Dec 1912*



44 Walcott Street

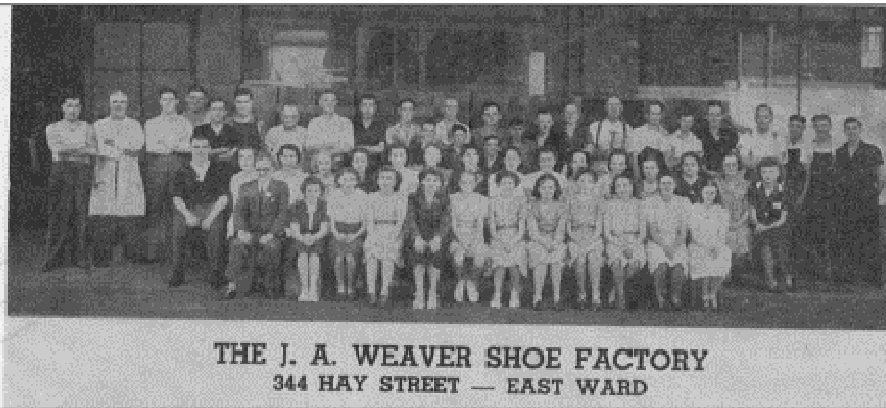


Photo taken 1942 of current staff. Rear left are Fred, James (Sr) and James (Jr)

In 1942, the business moved to the larger premises at 344 Hay street, Perth, previously occupied, from 1927, by the WA Slipper Factory. The main reason for the move was that the business gained a substantial contract with the army, then engaged in World War II. The staff increased substantially to well over 60 people. James' sons, James (Jr) and Frederick worked in the firm.

Around 1952, as trades were moving out of the central business district, the business moved to a new premises at 22 Belgrave Street, Maylands. James handed more and more control to his two sons, who took over when James died in August 1962. The two sons then continued the business until 1978, when it closed. James was elected as a Councillor for the East Ward of the City of Perth on 5 July 1944, where he served on the Health and Finance Committee. He was defeated in the November 1946 election by W H Deal. James was also prominent in the Freemason Society.

James's wife, Mary, was noted for her kind heart and hospitality. She was born in 1886 and died in July 1984 in Subiaco. She reared six children:

- 1) Mary Elizabeth (1914—2002), who married Colin Anderson (1908—1973).
- 2) James (1915—1997) who married Edna Lucy (1917—2011).
- 3) Frederick (1917—1998) who married Florence Nellie (1920—1982).
- 4) Charlotte (1919—1976) who married George Burnett (1916—2000).
- 5) Gertrude (1926—1948) who married Thomas William Emmerson (1926—)
- 6) Gladys (1928—) who married Lawrence Keith Hurley (1925—2011)

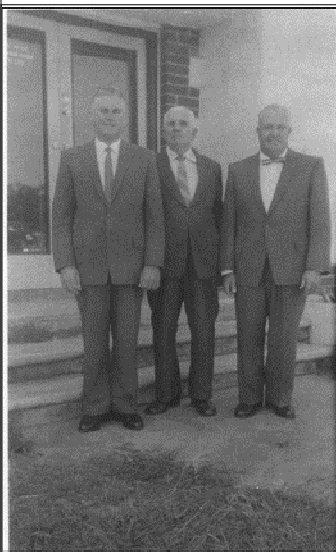


Photo taken in 1960 at the new Belgrave Street premises. James (Jr), James (SR) and Fred



Photo taken in 1935 in the garden of 44 Walcott Street  
Rear: Fred, Charlotte, Mary (Jr), James (Jr)  
Front: Gertrude, James (Sr) Mary (Sr), Gladys

Acknowledgements: Joan (daughter of Mary (Jr)) and Terry Barritt. Brian Burnett (son of Charlotte) Gladys Hurley Doreen Ahrens (Granddaughter of Albert Wallace Weaver)

## A FASCINATING HERITAGE IN MAYLANDS By Admin Assistant **Jordan Nix** , **West Australian Ballet Centre**



The new West Australian Ballet Centre is located on the historic site of the former blind institute in Maylands. The history of the site dates back to 1897 when the Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind was developed as part of celebrations for the 60th year of Queen Victoria's reign. It is quite fitting that West Australian Ballet should move in during our 60th year also. The Institute originally consisted of a complex of buildings that were slowly developed throughout the site such as a factory, workshop and residential facilities. The Institute was officially opened in 1900 and was the only purpose designed and built centre of its kind in the State .

Several surrounding allotments were purchased for new buildings as the Institute expanded. The blind workers were originally taught trades such as mat and brush making, caning of chairs and upholstery, and were given wages only when they became efficient at these tasks. The products were sold to the

public on site and became a popular business for the Institute. In 1913, junior workshops were added so children could also be trained.

Although the mat and brush making programs were financially successful, the Institute also relied on donations from the public and grants from government. The Lotteries commission was a regular supporter of the Institute, as is Lotterywest's support for West Australian Ballet today. During World War One production began to fall as donors chose to put their money into war-time charities and materials became harder to source. The institute ran several public appeals for funds which were supported by such luminaries as Dame Nellie Melba and Prime Minister Billy Hughes .

After the war the economy improved and production began to increase. The centre proved to be a significant place of assistance for servicemen who had lost their sight during the war. In 1923 chair caning, basket-making and sea-grass furniture production were established and soon became some of the more popular products made by the workers.

In 1932, the building was re-named The West Australian Institute and Industrial School for the Blind. By 1936 the factory had become severely cramped and some workers refused to work there. The Lotteries Commission and the Government contributed more funds and the biggest building development of the sites history began in 1937. This development comprised the L-shaped building currently occupied by WAB, and comprises three previous buildings joined together.

The style of the building is described as Inter-War Stripped Classical and is identified through elements such as porticos, piers and defined plinth. The style and scale of the building is unusual for its location. The wing along Sixth Avenue is Federation Warehouse style, characterised by its hipped galvanized iron roof, protruding brick piers and plinth.

The Institute was affected again during World War 2 and to support the war effort, workers would work 10 days for nine days pay! The factory produced equipment for the military such as nets and baskets. In 1948, the internationally renowned Helen Keller visited the Institute and was shocked to discover children were still educated in an industrial environment. She threw her support behind a proposal by the government to take control of educating blind children. By the 1960s there were approximately 140 blind workers employed by the Institute. A development of new residential buildings was started and included a large showroom on the ground level for the public. The centre was granted a Royal Charter in 1967 and became The Royal W.A Institute for the Blind .

The mat-shop and retail store, known as Cane City, was still a popular and thriving business until 1989 when it was closed because it could no longer compete with cheap imported products. In 2001 the Institute amalgamated with the W.A Deaf blind Association and formed the Senses Foundation.

The Institute finally closed its doors in 2004 and a decision was made to sell the premises to property developer (and WAB sponsor) Finbar. The building remained unoccupied for several years until West Australian Ballet made their 'discovery', and as they say in the classics...the rest is history!

*The history of Senses, Maylands in its current setting, falls into four main timeframes: -*

**1897-1918:** *Development of the Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind and construction of initial buildings .*

**Inter-War period:** *additions to workshops (1920s), and major expansion, with major alterations and additions to develop main building in the 1930s .*

**World War II period to 1950s:** *wartime activities; major expansion in the post-war period, with additions to main building and new workshops .*

**1960-present:** *Development of new residential buildings, hall and showrooms; decline and closure of workshops, and eventual decision to re-locate .*

**Detailed history follows**

In January 1898, the First Annual Report of The Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind listed donations received in 1894-97, including Government grants of £1,200 and £150. In 1897, there was considerable fund raising by individuals and various organisations, together with personal donations. By January 1898, a fence had been erected to surround the site at Maylands. The estimated cost of erecting 'the first section of the building', to accommodate 50 people on completion, was 'about £3,000'. At this date, there were 'upwards of 100 blind in the colony', and at the proposed Institute 'as many as prove themselves capable' were to be 'taught various trades, such as mat-making, upholstering, brush-manufacture, caning of chairs and couches, piano-tuning, etc.' Workers would 'receive wages as soon as they attain efficiency', with older people, who were to be taught 'netting, knitting, halter-making, etc., either at the depot or their own homes', working at their own homes or, if that were 'unsuitable', at the Institute. During their education and training, children and adults were to be accommodated as boarders, but it was 'not an asylum for the houseless, nor for those unfitted to become self-supporting, from either mental or physical cause, nor is it a hospital for the sick or infirm.'

Through 1898, fund raising continued towards building the proposed Victoria Blind Institute and Industrial School, for which there was strong public support. In September, a motion was passed that every school child be asked to contribute a penny, with their teachers responsible for collection and forwarding of such funds.

On 17 December 1898, the Governor, Sir Gerard Smith, K.C.M.G., laid the foundation stone for the Victoria Institute and Industrial School for the Blind. The foundation stone is all that remains of this building. It recorded 'THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED TO COMMEMORATE THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GLORIOUS REIGN OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA', with Wilkinson & Smith as the Architects, and Chapman and Firth as the Contractors. sick or infirm .There had been little care available for the blind in Western Australia prior to 1894, when F. S. Davies began to advocate establishment of some permanent facility, and the lapse in momentum after his death through until January 1897, when Sydney C. Kent took over. In March 1899, the Institute's Annual Report reported that the Council had purchased two blocks of land adjoining the site donated by Deeley, and therefore the new building was on 'almost level ground'. As per Wilkinson & Smith's plans, the first stage of the building (the central portion) was to accommodate 18 men and seven women, with quarters for the manager, matron and staff, with a rear kitchen wing. As planned, the main building was constructed of Cottesloe limestone with brick quoins, and featured a Doric porch over the entrance. Outbuildings had been erected also, including the kitchen and pantry, an isolation hospital, and fowl houses, and vines had been planted. Water supply was from a well, with a windmill. *To be continued*

***Report on the building kindly donated to the MLS by the WA Ballet Centre . History INTERPRETATION PLAN MAY 2011 Philip Griffiths Architects and again donated to the MLS by the WA Ballet Centre.***

RENOVATIONS 18 ALMONDBURY RD by Darryl Ryan to be continued next newsletter

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Laura Mannino

Carol Colgrave

Ferlyn and Michelle Geiles

**MLS Committee 2012**

**Bruce Wooldridge : President**

**Beth McKechnie : Secretary**

**John Wreford ; Treasurer**

**Ian Merker**

**Barrie Baker : Historian/ reports on City of Stirling/ Town of Vincent matters**

**John Baas :Represents Ratepayers Assoc**

**Andy Ross**

**Roger Elmitt**

**Christina Gustavson**

**Paul Hurst**

Committee meetings are held 1st Monday of the month at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club at 8.00pm.

All members are welcome to attend.