

Casterton and District
Historical Society Inc
Newsletter

April 2013

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Tombstones in the Casterton New Cemetery

by Jim Kent

Casterton is unusual in having both an older and a newer cemetery, the Old Cemetery ceasing use in the 1960s and, strangely, the New Cemetery commencing use in 1870. Both contain some beautifully made tombstones, some from marble, some granite, concrete and various other long lasting materials. Most of us will end here, in an elongated box or in a smaller box of ashes. Ashes are placed in specially constructed niche walls or sometimes placed with relatives in an ordinary grave with details recorded on a grave slab or headstone. In rare cases both methods are bypassed by family members who have their own particular ideas on how they determine the final resting place of their loved one.

Generally speaking, cemetery sections are divided and allotted to the various Christian denominations such as in the Casterton New Cemetery. Entering the gate and taking the Rotunda as a starting point, the area to the north west is the Church of England section. It is surrounded by roadways and contains some very beautiful headstones by master stonemasons. On the south west side of the Rotunda is the Roman Catholic section, containing some outstanding headstones. To the northeast and enclosed within roads is the Methodist section, to the far corner, which is an area set aside for followers of the Salvation Army and the Wesleyan Church.

On the south east side of the Rotunda is the Presbyterian section where you see some massive examples of tombstones and a particular headstone of which I will outline my limited knowledge of the family identified by this outstanding monument. This is reached by turning left at the Rotunda and takes the form of an angel made of marble. The story starts back in Peebleshire in Scotland when a son was born to Thomas and Alice Hope in 1844. The name of the family property was *Kailzie* (Kaylee) and the son was named Richard Armstrong Hope. Richmond emigrated and settled down to work with his uncle Adam Smith at Hynam near the SA-Victoria border, north of Apsley. It was here in 1877 he met and married Isabelle Edgar, who was born into a wealthy Harrow family.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be an excursion to Warrock station to be held on **Wednesday, 24th April**. Members to meet at the Railway station at 10am. BYO picnic lunch.

CDHS NEWS

It is with regret that Jan Watt has resigned as President of the Casterton and District Historical Society, as of this month.

The members and executive thank Jan very much for her tremendous leadership and hard work over the past eight years. Jan will still remain a member and we will elect a new president at the AGM in August. We have one meeting in May before then, no meeting in June/July. Dawn Black will in the meantime be Acting President

Casterton New Cemetery



KENTS CORNER

Due to the great interest in Jim Kent's book published November 2011, copies sold out immediately. A new printing is available at the Visitor Information Centre – we will publish a new edition of articles late in 2013.

Casterton New Cemetery



Sacred Heart Pupils c 1911



Henty Street



After their marriage Richard and Isabella moved to the Riverina district of New South Wales, later returning to south western Victoria, though it is difficult to trace more of their movements at this early stage of their married life.

Richmond also had brothers in this part of Victoria but their movements are also difficult to trace. At this stage however the Hope brothers lived near Apsley at Powers Creek and also at Bogalara. After Richmond's mother, Alice, died in 1890 he and Isabella moved closer to Casterton to live on a property they called *Kyluma* situated on the Casterton-Bahgallah road. The old house is still there at the turn-off, up Kellys Road, and the late Bill Kinmonth lived in it for some time. The *Kyluma* house was very small and Richmond's large family was accommodated in tents at the back of the house. Legend has it that when living at *Kyluma* their children used to walk diagonally across the paddocks to Bahgallah school until the cattle frightened them too much and they then walked in to the McPherson street primary school.

Richmond Hope died in 1924 and Isabella died in 1936. Of this marriage of forty seven years ten children were born, seven girls and three boys. It is one of the girls who is partly the subject of this article – Isabella Edgar Hope. She was to marry Julian Harris of Murray Bridge, South Australia. She died at the early age of forty years and as her relatives were buried in the Presbyterian section of the New Cemetery of Casterton, her husband brought her back for burial alongside her family.

At the rear of the magnificent marble angel guarding her grave site are the grave sites of the Laidlaws, Thomas Francis and Euphemia Grace, who in 1887 selected land off the Casterton-Dergholm road, located on the top of Sheepskin Hill just before the turn-off to Devon. The Laidlaws called their place *Prospect* and Euphemia Grace was one of the daughters of Richmond and Isabella Hope. The Hope family consisted of Alice Burgess, Holbert Edgar, Maggie Armstrong, Thomas, Euphemia Grace, Richmond Armstrong, Isabella Edgar, Jessie Euphemia, Mary Christian and Edgar William Hope. Without doubt Julian Harris, bereaved husband of Isabella Edgar Harris, must have held his wife in very high regard to have such a beautiful, no doubt expensive, monument erected over her grave. The name of W T Dale indicates that this Casterton monumental mason constructed this outstanding memorial.

Mrs Frank Roper, late of *Morning Side*, Dergholm, was daughter of Richmond and Isabella Hope, as was Mrs Munn of Apsley. Tom Hope lived at Koonongwootong near Coleraine and Richmond junior lived at Hamilton. Tom Denton, late of Casterton, was a son of Elsie Hope. The only member of the Hope family that I knew was Edna who worked as an usherette at the Casterton theatre and who married Alf Baron.



February BBQ

As is usual practice, to kick off another year our Society gathered at the Visitor Information Centre on Wednesday 20th of February for a BBQ cooked by our very able Treasurer, David, and Secretary, Ros. It was a very pleasant summer evening and those members present enjoyed reacquainting after the Christmas break. Some discussion was had on how our year would proceed. Many thanks to Ros and David for again organizing a really enjoyable evening.

Dawn Black

We're on the Web - visit us at:

<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>

CDHS is located at the Casterton Visitor Information Centre
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To visit the Casterton Community Museum:
call David Coventry on 5581 2475 or email at
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To contribute to this newsletter, please contact Ros at the Visitor Information Centre on 5581 2070 or e-mail at roscov48@bigpond.com H tel 5581 2875



How is it that I have an article each month in our Historical Happenings? I don't find writing articles difficult - it is just a transfer of thoughts to the written word. For twenty four years now I have written a column for our local Vintage Car Club monthly newsletters, written under the title of *Around the Traps*, and the nom de plume at the finish is *The Leprechaun*. For this journal I write up to twenty four pages of foolscap, transcribed to five to six pages of printed page, mainly about vintage vehicles movements and events, with a bit of technology allied to these.

When I want to write an article for our newsletter I dream up a subject, force my memory to recall relevant facts and away I go. Without doubt sometimes I could be a bit off as to dates and names, but provided it is not slanderous nor an invasion of privacy, it matters not. I have now for most of my life written articles for newspapers, magazines, journals and so on. Years ago in the late nineteen thirties and forties there was a very interesting magazine by the title The Australian Journal containing Australian short stories to which I used to contribute.

In my working life I was a member of the Australian Workers Union or AWU, its members being mainly shearers, miners, cane cutters and labouring workers, and to this Union's paper I wrote articles of a political nature. I am a supporter of the Salvation Army, in my opinion the only true Christian body representing Christianity, and I wrote articles of a theological nature for their publication, The War Cry. As I did my trade of motor mechanic in my dad's garage in 1940-45, I wrote articles on mechanics for motoring magazines.

Currently I am attempting to write an autobiography of the wonderful life I have led since 1927. Life is made up of small and large incidents and to do an autobiography justice you must play down the small incidents and highlight the larger important ones. This epic story commences on my third birthday when I very distinctly remember having Mother take a photo of me with my beloved Father, and in the following eighty three years plenty has happened and it is retained in my memory box. It has just now taken five minutes or so to write three pages which will type up to one page. I hope you enjoy my prattle.

Jim Kent

CDHS WEBSITE: we are the Web - visit us at

<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>

Forgotten Australians remembered - National Library of Australia: the Library is releasing a commemorative booklet to mark the third anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. In 2006, the Library launched a national oral history project to record the stories of these remarkable Australians. Over 200 interviews have been recorded to date, with many already available [online](#).

