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The next general meeting of the Granville Historical Society will be held at 2.00 pm on Saturday
23 May 2015

At our Research Centre
62 Railway Parade Granville

Guest Speaker Enid Turbit
“Men on the World War 1
Memorial in Prince Alfred
Square”

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Granville Historical Society

“A Place where heritage & culture are valued & celebrated.”

Thanks to our members for their work over the past five months; our working bees have been working very hard over this period, not only on the WW1 project, but we have been working with the local schools. Our society has always shared our knowledge, and building networks and working with other societies and community groups, schools, Granville Diggers, and the Granville RSL Sub-Branch as well as Parramatta City Council, has enriched Granville Historical Society. Networks have paid off for our society and the people we are working with. Our networks with Holroyd Local History Research, Friends of Mays Hill, Parramatta Historical Society, Blacktown Historical, Toongabbie Historical, Friends of Bartholomew's, Prospect Heritage Trust and the Friends of Linwood through Dorothy Warwick and Pat O'Brien, have created links with a large group of societies from the Sutherland Shire, to the Blue Mountains, Hills Shire and to Strathfield. This network is used to share information, resources, and historical items for the good of our communities. We would like to thank all the people within this network that allows us to increase the spread of history in our area.

Our work during the first few months has been frantic; our photographic display has turned into a travelling display, with Parramatta Historical Society borrowing part of the “Royal Gate” display about WW1 for Hambleton Cottage. We also appeared at Delaney College and East Granville Primary school to share our WW1 resources with Delany and the history of Granville with East Granville.

We worked with the Granville RSL Sub-branch and Granville Diggers who arranged an impressive display for the Anzac Day Breakfast, with at least three members of the

community discovering the name of a relative on the place mats or planters. We provided historical information to the Sub-Branch for the speeches at the Dawn Service; this resulted in two members of the public coming forward and saying that they were “talking about my relation”.

All in all, the work we spoke about last month was very rewarding for the members of the society who participated, including Susan Russell who visited Granville South High School where her father, Charles Abney Hopton, a World War 1 soldier, was adopted by the school (all three of Barry and Susans’ boys attended the school), and we also made a photo for the school to keep. Students and teachers expressed the pleasure of being able to adopt Charles and how inspirational it was to have someone who was related to a former pupil.

Delaney College interviewed Susan as part of their project. Four students had travelled to Gallipoli as part of the Anzac Celebrations, and were amazed at the experience, The society has assisted them with their school program by supplying them with photos and information on the Granville residents who went to serve in WW1.

At our next meeting on Saturday 23 May, Enid Turbit, who volunteered to assist the Granville Society in researching the men on the Memorial in Prince Alfred Square, will share her story with us. Thanks Enid.

Barry G Bullivant OAM
President

<p>THE NEWHOUSE BROTHERS</p>
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On 11 February 1915, two brothers from Granville embarked in Sydney on the troopship *Seang Bee* for the Middle East and World War 1. The older brother was 24-year-old Private George Newhouse, serving with C Company of 4th Battalion of the AIF. His younger sibling, Private Harry Newhouse, aged 19, was in the same battalion but with B Company. The 4th Battalion landed at Gallipoli between 6.45 am and 1.05 pm on 25 April 1915. Two days later, George “Snow” Newhouse was killed in action in Shrapnel Valley. Harry’s war service was cut short by health issues; first deafness, then influenza and finally malaria, before the Army sent him back to Australia in February 1916. This soldier, discharged medically unfit after 12 months in uniform, lived to celebrate a 100th birthday.¹

The Newhouse brothers were native-born Australians, but their father was born in Germany. He was a seaman who arrived in Australia from London on Christmas Day 1880, worked on local shipping as a seaman/cook, and changed his name from Ubbe

¹ National Archives of Australia (NAA): B2455, Newhouse George 1415, Newhouse Harry 1453; Australian War Memorial (AWM), Unit Diary, 4th Battalion, April 1915

Shetzberg to John Newhouse. He married a Sydney girl, Elizabeth Johnson, in 1889 and lived at Pyrmont before settling in Aston Street Granville. The couple had six children, but one of two girls died in infancy.²

There has been a German presence in Australia since the arrival of the First Fleet. Captain Arthur Phillip's father was German, and the man who laid out the first settlements of Sydney Cove and Parramatta, surveyor-general Augustus Alt, also came from a German family. German settlers played a big part in the development of South Australia and south-east Queensland, and were particularly targeted by immigration officers because of their agricultural expertise. They were recognised as hard-working members of local communities, but retained links with their German language by establishing churches, schools, newspapers and clubs. Their numbers grew until they became the third largest non-British-or-Irish ethnic group in Australia. Their positive relationship with the colonial population started to change around the turn of the century, and German Australians came under scrutiny, suspicion and persecution as war clouds hovered over Europe prior to World War 1. When war was declared in 1914, the government ordered all German citizens to register at the nearest police station. Later in the war, seven thousand people, including enemy aliens, British nationals of German ancestry, and Australian-born descendants of migrants born in enemy countries, were placed in internment camps.³

With his wife Elizabeth in hospital, John Newhouse was worried about his family's future, having been told by police that he was likely to be interned, despite having been naturalised in 1910. The sinking of the German raider *Emden* on 9 November 1914 by *HMAS Sydney* brought the war closer to Australia and set off fears of a possible German naval attack. When the eldest son George enlisted on 20 November 1914, his father became deeply concerned by thoughts of his sons fighting German cousins who had been called up in Germany. The combined worries affected his health and he collapsed and died on 5 December 1914 at Rookwood State Hospital, Lidcombe.⁴

Leaving his 21-year-old brother John to look after the younger children, 14-year-old David and 13-year-old Alma, Harry joined up a month after his father's death, and was assigned to his brother's 4th Battalion, due to embark for Egypt on 11 February 1915. The Army's decision to send him abroad as soon as possible was no doubt due to the military training he had received over the previous five years with the citizens forces. It appears from his service record that on his arrival in Egypt he was sent to have his defective hearing assessed, and re-joined his battalion on 2 May 1915. His brother George landed at Gallipoli during the morning of 25 April. Late in the day the battalion was ordered to move forward, and by dusk all companies were in position at the firing line. They held on despite losing about 60 casualties. Part of the next day was spent consolidating their position despite harassing sniper fire from the Turkish defenders, before the battalion went back into action at Johnston's Jolly. This section of the battlefield along a ridge north of Lone Pine had been reached by Australian troops on the morning of the landing, but the enemy counter-attacked the following day and

² NAA/Series A63: Application for Naturalisation Certificate, 1910/523; NSW BDM Index

³ N. Helmi, *The Enemy at Home*, UNNSW Press, 2011, www.migrationheritage.nsw.gov.au, accessed 13 May 2015;

⁴ Address by Dennis Overton at Commemorative Service 2 May 2015

forced the Australians to retreat. The 4th Battalion suffered about 150 casualties in the fighting, and it is here that Private George Newhouse is believed to have been killed.⁵

Harry Newhouse arrived back in Australia on 9 February 1916, his army career over. He went back to Gallipoli in 1990 with the Australian contingent for the 75th anniversary of the landing, and visited his brother's memorial at Lone Pine. He died on 24 November 1996, aged 101.⁶

On Saturday 2 May 2015, descendants of many of the 140 Granville soldiers whose names are inscribed in a stained glass World War 1 memorial window in St Mark's Church of England attended a memorial service at St Mark's. The commemoration was organised by Dennis Overton, a great nephew of George and Harry Newhouse. The window was created by Alfred Charles Handel who, in a career of nearly 50 years, designed and crafted hundreds of windows in churches around Australia. He had trained with Lyon and Cottier, one of Australia's leading glass manufacturing firms in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and became its principal artist after the death of its founder, John Lamb Lyon, in 1916. When Lyon Cottier closed in 1923, Handel bought its equipment and established his own studio. The St Mark's window was completed in 1928 on the western wall of the church. It is a four lancet-light window depicting the four apostles, with the Honour Roll inscribed in the glass in four panels below.⁷

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<p>BERTIE CLYDE WILLICK A TRIBUTE TO MY GREAT UNCLE By Heather McGregor</p>
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Bertie Clyde Willick was born in 1889, the ninth child of George Brunner Willick and Rebecca, nee Carr. Shortly before Bertie was born, his father George obtained work with *Clyde Engineering* and the family moved nearby to a cottage provided by the company. Bertie's second name acknowledged the family's new residence.

The family attended Granville Baptist Church, which was formed in 1888. In 1906 the family transferred their membership to Auburn Baptist Church.⁸

For six years Bertie was apprenticed as a carriage builder to Ritchie Brothers at Auburn. He then joined the NSW Government Railways, where he worked for nearly two years, resigning from the Railways in November, 1913.⁹

⁵ NAA: Service record; AWM:Unit Diary 4th Battalion, April 1915; C.E.W. Bean, *Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918*, vol 1, pp. 482-498

⁶ NAA: Service record; Dennis Overton

⁷ Philip Handel - Handel Family History

⁸ Granville Baptist Church Members' Records held at Baptist Church Archives

⁹ Bertie's NSW Railways record card, held at the NSW State Archives

Bertie had been engaged to his childhood sweetheart, Sadie Robinson. When the engagement broke up he moved to Adelaide. When war broke out, he enlisted from Adelaide on 1 February 1915 and was allocated to the 17th Battalion of the AIF.

His enlistment form gives us his physical description: Dark complexion, brown eyes, dark brown hair, 5' 5 ¾" tall, 120lb in weight, aged 25 years and 11 months, a carriage builder and of the Baptist denomination.

The 17th Battalion embarked from Sydney on 12 May that same year. Bertie sent a postcard to his young niece Madge Willick, who had been sick. On it he wrote: *I will see you in the sweet bye and bye*. The battalion served first in Egypt, then Turkey. Bertie was killed in action on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 28 August 1915. He was aged 26.¹⁰

The minister of the Auburn Baptist Church, Rev. Stephen Sharp, came to break the news to the family. His niece Hazel remembered arriving home from school and being told the news by her sister Mona, then finding her mother Lou Robertson, Bertie's sister, sitting at the kitchen table, her head in her hands.

At the time of his death, Bertie's brother Charles was Deputy Mayor of Auburn, and his brother-in-law Joe Robertson was an alderman. The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 October 1915 contain the following report:

Condolence With Deputy Mayor and Family

*Alderman Ritchie referred to the death of the Deputy Mayor's brother at the Dardanelles, and moved that this Council deeply sympathises with the Deputy Mayor and his family in their sad loss and that a letter conveying the council's sympathy be sent to his father and mother. Seconded by Alderman Shelton and carried by the Aldermen rising in their places.*¹¹

Bertie had no known grave, but his name is included on the Lone Pine *Memorial to the Missing*, Panel 59 in Gallipoli. The official report of him being missing in action indicated that his personal effects were 'Lock and key, Testament, watch cover, coloured glasses, letters and photo'.

Bertie's name was placed on the Honour Roll at Auburn Baptist Church. This contained the names of church members, adherents, and sons of members, who had 'served King and country' in the Great War. The Honour Roll contained the names of nearly 40 young men, 12 of whom were killed in action.¹²

On the evening of Mother's Day in 1918, the church held a 'Great Navy and Military Memorial Service' at Auburn Town Hall for these 12 young men. The preacher was Rev. F.J.Wyles, whose subject was '*Greater Love hath no Man*', a reference to the words of Jesus in John, chapter 15, verse 13: '*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*'. The church secretary noted that the town hall was full to overflowing and that people were turned away.¹³

¹⁰ Information on Bertie's war service from his Australian World War I service record

¹¹ Minute book of Auburn Council

¹² Auburn Baptist Church minute books, records held at Baptist Church Archives

¹³ Pamphlet held with Auburn Baptist Church records at Baptist Church Archives

Some weeks after Bertie's death, his mother, whom he had named as his next of kin, received the following letter:

Gallipoli Peninsular
3rd October, 1915

Dear Madam, Probably long before this you will have heard the sad news regarding your son, Private B. C. Willick. He was a member of my platoon and had been my orderly since May last, and on that account I feel sure none knew him better than I. He was a very popular young man, probably one of the most popular in the company, on account of his genial disposition and cheerful acceptance of all hardships. We were engaged in the hazardous work of connecting trenches under fire, when he was shot down by a Turkish sniper. It will be consoling to know that his death was instantaneous, the bullet entering the forehead. A life such as that led by your son, followed by such a self-sacrificing end, can only have one great reward, which the brave lad certainly merited. Should it be the will of God that I return I will call upon you.

*I am,
yours faithfully,
J. R. Nunn.*

The thoughtfulness of this gentleman in taking time to write this letter provided comfort to Bertie and his family.¹⁴

Now, a century after his death, we honour the memory of Bertie Clyde Willick, one of the many servicemen who gave their lives for their country.

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¹⁴ The *Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 13th November 1915