

October 2014

NEWSLETTER

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FORTHCOMING EVENT IN HISTORY WEEK

Sunday 26 October, 2014, 10.30am.

Fitzroy 1853 - remaining houses and vanished streets

Using the re-discovered Hodgkinson map of 1853, (see article on page 3) we will walk to see some of the original houses and the location of long-gone Thomson Street, Albert Street and French Street.

Meet in Napier Street, corner of Victoria Parade, at 10.30 am. The walk will finish at the corner of Gore Street and Greeves Street.

ANTI-POVERTY WEEK WALK

As part of Anti-Poverty Week, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and FHS are organizing a walk that will look at the history of social justice campaigns in Fitzroy. Led by FHS members Brian Stagoll and Barry Pullen, it will be on the morning of Friday 17 October, 10.00 am–11.30am. Meet outside the Coolibah Centre, 67 Brunswick Street Fitzroy .



ANNUAL DINNER

Haskins Restaurant

North Fitzroy Arms Hotel, corner of Rae and Reid Streets, North Fitzroy

Friday 5 December at 7.00 pm

A la Carte Menu

We welcome all members

RSVP by 21 November to fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au

FITZROY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Fitzroy History Society has recently been successful in receiving Sponsorship from the Clifroy Bank for \$3000 to conduct an Oral History Project. Members of the Fitzroy History Society have begun planning the conduct of the project and are most interested to know if you would like to contribute either by assisting with the project or by being available to be interviewed. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please contact the Society at fitzroyhistorysociety@yahoo.com.au

FUTURE EVENT

Celebrating 25 years of Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb

We are hoping to get many of the authors together to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the publication of our excellent local history reference. We, the current generation of readers and users, owe a great thanks to the 30 authors who wrote and produced this great publication back in 1989. It has not been possible to fix a mutually suitable date before December, so the event will happen early in the New Year. Check the website nearer the time for later information.

NEWS FROM YARRA LIBRARIES

Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb has been reprinted.

The City of Yarra has reprinted 200 copies of the book, *Fitzroy, Melbourne's First Suburb*. The book is available for purchase through the Fitzroy library.

ROBERT SHOWERS SNADDEN and FITZROY



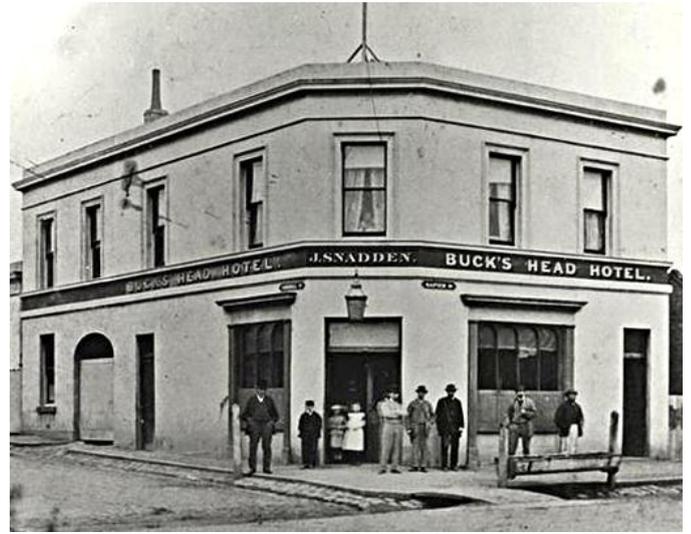
Robert Showers Snadden died of "sickness"¹ on 30 May, 1917 and is buried in the Australian Military Cemetery in Harefield Parish Churchyard, just west of London. About 120 Australian soldiers who died during treatment in the Australian Auxiliary Hospital No. 1 at Harefield Park during and after the First World War are buried in this cemetery

I visited the cemetery in August, 2014, taken there by a friend who lives in the area. The gravestones seem to be quite different to those I have seen in "official" Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemeteries in continental Europe and Australia. Many were paid for and erected by their mates, presumably those still patients in Harefield Hospital and many others, like this one, were erected by his parents. I was drawn to this grave because of the Fitzroy connection. I was also intrigued by the printed card and a small flag shown on the photo opposite, recently left at the grave suggesting that they were left by the Melbourne High School Old Boys Association (MHSOBA). I found out eventually that the card and flag had been left by Bill Latham, a Melbourne High School Old Boy who in June and July, 2014, travelled in Europe planning to photograph and leave messages on all of the 74 graves of former Melbourne High School pupils killed during WWI.

Robert's connection to Fitzroy was much stronger than I could have imagined at the time.

Robert Showers Snadden was born in about January, 1893 in Fitzroy, the son of Joseph Lauder Snadden and Jane (Jennie) Price Showers, daughter of an ex-councillor of Fitzroy.² Their wedding had been held at St Luke's Church, North Fitzroy on 23 May, 1889.³ His

parents lived at the time of WWI at 365 Brunswick Street, now in the middle of the Fitzroy restaurant strip, Joseph operating as a watchmaker and jeweller. Robert's father was a JP, a councillor of Fitzroy Council from 1901 to 1916 and Mayor in 1907.⁴ Robert's grandfather, Joseph Snadden, who died in 1878, owned the Buck's Head Hotel on the corner of Napier and Condell Streets, diagonally opposite the original Fitzroy Library.⁵



Robert Showers Snadden's funeral, held on 2 June 1917, was attended by his cousin, F. W. Showers employed by the Great Western Railway who described the full military event very clearly in a letter to his "cousin", Jane Price Snadden, nee Showers which is quoted on page 2 of the *Fitzroy City Press* on 15 September 1917:

I am very sorry that the cause of my writing to you should be such a sad one. Long before you receive this you will know that poor Rob passed away on Wednesday, 30th May, at Harefield Hospital, and was buried on Saturday, the 2nd inst., in the churchyard at Harefield. I was proud and glad to be able to attend the funeral as next of kin in England, and I only wish I could convey to you something of the impressiveness of the splendid last rites they gave him. It was a full military funeral; the coffin which was carried on a gun carriage, was wrapped in a Union Jack and covered with wreaths, one of which was from the High Commissioner and Mrs. Fisher,⁶ and another from the owner of Harefield Hall (the hospital), Mr. Billyan Leake,⁷ who is, I understand, an Australian. The church must be nearly a mile from the hospital, and the procession was headed by an English firing party, followed by an Australian band, which played the Dead March in Saul. Next came the Chaplain, Capt. Gregor McGregor, D.S.C., then the coffin on a gun carriage, with the bearers, Australian sergeants on either side. The head quarters' representative walked with me, and a detachment of Australian soldiers brought up the rear. There was a short service at the church, including an address by the Chaplain, which included appropriate references to Rob. I wish you could have heard them. The organ at church was played by an Australian soldier, and it was good to hear the fine singing of the hymn by your soldiers. The committal service at the grave was followed by three volleys and the Last Post played by an Austr-

alian bugler. This is a very bald (?) description, but nothing less than the actual scene could impress one with the full force of the words we now so often hear, 'In glad and loving memory'.

¹ The sickness was severe tuberculosis. Robert had joined up on 26 July, 1915 and embarked from Melbourne a year later on 28 July, 1916. He never reached the fighting in Europe and had been sick and in various hospitals since September 1916.

² I am quite surprised that there are no Snadden or Showers Streets in North Fitzroy. Just about all the other Fitzroy councillors of the time had streets named after themselves.

³ Fitzroy City Press, Friday 17 May 1889, page 2 & Friday 31 May 1889, page 9. St Luke's Church is now the Hungarian Reformed Church.

⁴ According to the Sands & McDougall Directories, Joseph Lauder Snadden was at 365 Brunswick Street, operating as a watchmaker and jeweller until about 1926, when his address changed to 14 Maude Street, Kew. He died at his house in Kew on 12 November

1929. His wife, Jane died in Red Cliffs, Victoria on 5 June 1950. Their only other child, also called Joseph Lauder Snadden was born in 1890.

⁵ Image held by the Fitzroy Library. Joseph Snadden held the licence for the Buck's Head Hotel from before 1857 to his death in 1878 when it passed to his son, William. The building, which replaced an earlier hotel, was constructed by Joseph in 1871, still exists and is now a private house.

⁶ Andrew Fisher was Labor Prime Minister several times before WWI. It was Fisher's responsibility to dispatch the first Australian troops overseas in WWI. He resigned on 27 October, 1915 and became high commissioner in London. In a nice parallel to Harefield House, before leaving for England, he made his "mansion", Oakleigh Hall in East St Kilda, available as a convalescent home for soldiers.

⁷ Should read Mr [Charles] Billyard-Leake, an Australian resident of the UK at the time, who died in 1932. A very detailed description of the hospital and its operation during WWI is to be found on www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/harefield/AWM338_8.pdf

Gil Langfield

We welcome further accounts from the WW1 period over the next few years that have connections to Fitzroy.

HODGKINSON MAP OF 1853

At the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) there is a collection of Historic Plans (VPRS 8168) with approx 10,000 maps.

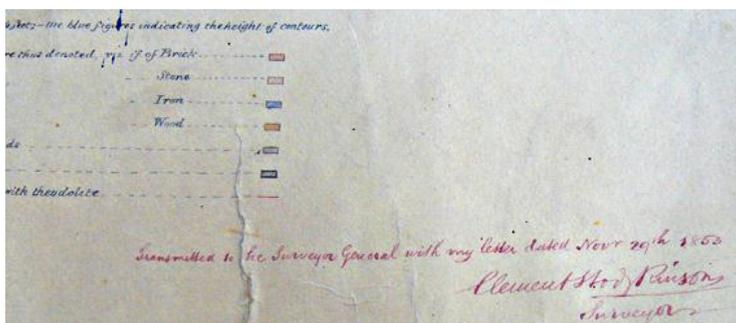
Louise Elliott discovered VPRS8168/P0002/3484 which is titled "Contoured Plan of Collingwood and East Melbourne". The map is approximately 120 x 180 cm in size. It had been prepared by surveyor Clement Hodgkinson, and submitted to the Surveyor General on Nov 29, 1853.



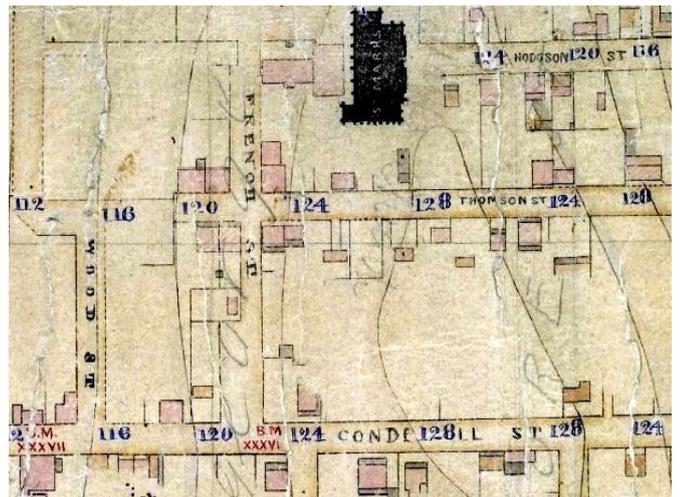
Mire Moore, Lina Favrin and Louise Elliot inspecting the Hodgkinson plan at the Public Record Office.

The plan covers the area from Nicholson Street to Hoddle Street, and from Wellington Parade, East Melbourne to Reilly Street (now Alexandra Parade). It includes individual buildings, colour coded to indicate construction material of Brick, Stone, Iron or Wood. It shows the early street network, before the Fitzroy Ward Improvement Act 1854 extended Moor St to Smith St, and Gore, George, Napier Sts northwards from Webb St.

There was a microfiche copy of the plan, but it was in disjointed sections and in black and white (therefore construction material of buildings could not be differentiated) and it was of low resolution. A digital copy of the complete 1853 map has been acquired and is held at the Fitzroy Library.



Clement Hodgkinson's signature under his notation at the bottom of the plan, Submitted to the Surveyor General with my letter dated Nov-ber 29th 1853. Also shown is part of the plan key, showing the colour coding used for buildings according to construction material.



Portion of Hodgkinson's plan of 1853, showing individual buildings.