

# ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

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## NEWSLETTER

No. 93 NOVEMBER, 2012

### MARLO CEMETERY MYSTERY - Harry Boyd's grave

Prior to the official gazettal of the Marlo Cemetery in 1971 and the establishment of a Cemetery Trust, there were no official records of the locations of burials at the Marlo Cemetery. While some older grave sites can be clearly identified by their gravestones and fences, others have lost these markers and these graves cannot be accurately located.

Lois Crisp went searching for the grave of Harry Lascelles Boyd. In the process, she has dispelled some myths, dug up a lot of new information and ended up with some unanswered questions.

In the book "*Marlo The Township: The Plains, The Cape*", 1984. pp. 69, 70 the author O S Green states, "Next to that of the Stirlings is the grave of Henry Boyd, an Englishman, who was said to be a close friend of the Stirlings and Sam Stewart. A small wooden fence encloses that plot. His stone bears no date."

However, visitors to Marlo Cemetery in 2012 will not find any marked grave for Harry Lascelles Boyd.

Furthermore, it appears that the wooden fence had been burnt in a bushfire sometime before the Marlo book was written. OS Green must have gained his information from someone else, and the stone, if there had been one, had disappeared through neglect of the cemetery. [This information is from the memory of Margaret Adams].

#### PRESENT DAY RULES

Cemetery Trusts are now encouraging the marking of known graves. So it seemed like a good idea to find some details of Henry Boyd and organize a new grave marker.

His **death certificate** was obtained and showed his name as Harry Lascelles Boyd, occupation Retired Gentleman, died on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 1917 aged 48 years, from a stroke, and he was buried in the Marlo Cemetery. It also stated that he was born in New Zealand and that his parents were John Theodore Boyd and Lucy Charlotte, nee Martin.

Because no Certificate of Interment had been issued, **permission from a next-of-kin** is required by the Cemetery Trust before the grave can be marked. If a **family tree** could be drawn up perhaps a next-of-kin could be located. This was my next search.

I then discovered that Harry's parents were also the parents of Arthur Merric Boyd (and others), so decided to contact the Bundanon Trust set up by the Arthur Boyd Family to see if a living relative could be found.

This led me to Polly Boyd, whose father, now deceased, had been a great nephew of Harry Boyd. Also, another great nephew known to Polly was living in N.S.W., so I decided to contact them.

## BOYD FAMILY HISTORY

Thus I was able to make contact with Andrew Read and his wife Barbara. The Reads are very much interested in their **Boyd Family History** and would be happy to help. They sent me a copy of **Harry's Will** made in 1913 with Rupert James Mosley [Solicitor] of Orbost who was also named as Executor. They also sent me details from his **Probate Papers**.

His Will showed that he had left *"the whole of his property, both real and personal to Lucy May Stewart of Marlo aforesaid Spinster"*. The probate document listed his assets. His Estate included three lots of land and a four-roomed weatherboard house, value £128, and monetary assets included £90 owed by his sister Mrs. Lucy (also known as Lily) Gurner. Total Estate valued at £338. Also, these documents confirmed that he was born in New Zealand, and that he had never married.

The Reads also said, *"His father, who was born in Ireland, came to Australia in 1845 as an army man, a member of the Eleventh Foot, on the "Marion", escorting convicts to Tasmania. His full name was John Theodore Thomas Boyd. Later he moved to Melbourne, where he married Lucy Martin in 1857. He resigned from his regiment the same year, before it returned to England. Theo and Lucy's first child, a son, Robert ("Bertie") was born in Melbourne and then in 1859 the family moved to New Zealand, staying there until late 1875 when they returned to Melbourne. They had sent their older sons to school in Melbourne, where they had their Grandfather, Dr. Robert Martin to look after them."*

The only other mentions of Harry that the Reads had found were:

1. on the **1914 Electoral Roll** for Marlo, and
2. in a book titled **"The Boyd Family"** by Brenda Niall, 2002. In this book, *"Harry appears in Emma A'Beckett's diary with specimens of gold brought back from Mallacoota, but nothing more"*.

## HARRY BOYD, GOLD PROSPECTOR?

Information on goldmining collated by Ron Jones for **"Mallacoota Reflections"**, published by Mallacoota Historical Society, quotes on p 81 from **The Australian Mining Standard** 16<sup>th</sup> June 1894, *"A party comprising the Honourable Williams, Mr. H. Foster M.L.A., the Carpenter brothers, D. Clark, Director Bairnsdale School of Mines, a party of Melbourne Gentlemen, and several prospectors visited an area at the head of Bottom Lake at Mallacoota for the purpose of investigating and assaying a new gold discovery"*.

On page 82 of this Mallacoota book, in referring to the period 1895 to 1898, *"The names of those hard working miners just to mention a few, include Rupert Boyd"* etc.

Barbara Read confirmed that Rupert Boyd, a younger brother of Harry Boyd was a mining-engineer, and it is possible that both Harry and Rupert were, indeed, at Mallacoota in the late 1800's.

Exactly when Harry first came to Marlo has not yet been determined.

## THE MARLO HOTEL CONNECTION

Back to O S Green's **"Marlo"** book page 12. Referring to Marlo Hotel, he writes, *"Gluth's name was above the door in 1906. Two years later Samuel Parr Stewart took control. Tragically, in 1914 he cut his hand while preparing bait on board his boat and died of tetanus. His wife, Lucy, continued to manage the business till 1918, with the assistance of Henry Boyd"*. So who was Lucy May Stewart (the person to whom Harry had left the whole of his property)? Was she perhaps a daughter of the Stewarts who ran the Marlo Hotel?

A search of the death indexes revealed that Samuel Parr Stewart's death was registered in 1918 at Bairnsdale, and the Bairnsdale Cemetery index shows he was buried on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 1918. It gives his Usual Residence, as Marloo [sic] and Occupation, Hotelkeeper. His obituary was found in the **Snowy River Mail**, 20<sup>th</sup> September 1918, and is transcribed as follows:

### DEATH OF MR. S. P. STEWART

Many local residents learned with some surprise on Monday morning of the sudden death of Mr. S. P. Stewart of Marlo.

About a fortnight ago Mr. Stewart and his son-in-law, Mr. Dawson, were cleaning out the bilge of a motorboat. Both knocked pieces of skin off their hands, but neither felt very much the worse until Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> inst., when Mr. Stewart complained of illness and remained in bed, having apparently an attack of influenza. Getting worse on Wednesday, he received (?) medical attention. On Thursday, the 12<sup>th</sup> inst., he was worse still, and Dr. Alsop came up from Bairnsdale on consultation, arriving at Marlo that evening. Mr. Stewart, who was suffering blood poisoning, was then in an extremely critical condition, and he was removed on Friday to Orbost, and on Saturday to a private hospital in Bairnsdale. Drs. Alsop and Hagenauer then met in consultation, and the patient under-went an operation. This, however, proved to no avail, and he passed peacefully away on Sunday afternoon at the age of 56 years.

The funeral took place on Monday, when the remains were interred in the Bairnsdale cemetery. Mr. Stewart leaves a widow, one son, and a married daughter. His eldest son, Mr. J. McD. Stewart, was killed at the front not long ago.

This is a vaguely similar scenario to the story recorded by O S Green - just the details were a bit awry! Mrs. Stewart left the hotel the same year her husband died. Harry Boyd had died in 1917, so he would not have been much help to Mrs Stewart after the death of her husband in 1918.

Lucy May Stewart's marriage to Harry Dawson was registered in 1917. At the time that Harry Boyd made his Will in 1913, she was therefore unmarried and a spinster. To date, no other Lucy May Stewart, spinster, has been found, so we can say that, most likely, Samuel and Lucy Stewart's daughter was the Beneficiary "Lucy May Stewart" who is mentioned in Harry Boyd's Will.

**We have the necessary information to gain permission from the Boyd to put a grave marker on Harry's grave, but do we know exactly where his is buried in Marlo Cemetery?**

Marlo resident, Margaret Adams remembers seeing a wooden surround on the southern side of the Stirling plot. Her father told her it was the grave of an Englishman who was an "ostler" at the Marlo Hotel. She did not recall his name.

Harry Boyd is referred to as an "Englishman" by O S Green and as a "Retired Gentleman" on his death certificate. As a "retired gentleman" he possibly passed some of his time "poking about" and helping at the Hotel.

Just recently Margaret again looked at the plot which she and her sister Mary McKeown felt sure was the grave of Harry Boyd. A plaque to John Stirling (d. 1937 aged 74 yrs) is in the area, erected in 1984. This has led Margaret and her sister to feel confused about the site. If Harry's grave site cannot be positively identified, a marker cannot be placed there.

Perhaps sometime in the not too distant future, an appropriate plaque can be placed noting that Harry Lascelles Boyd was "laid to rest" in Marlo Cemetery in 1917 aged 48 years.

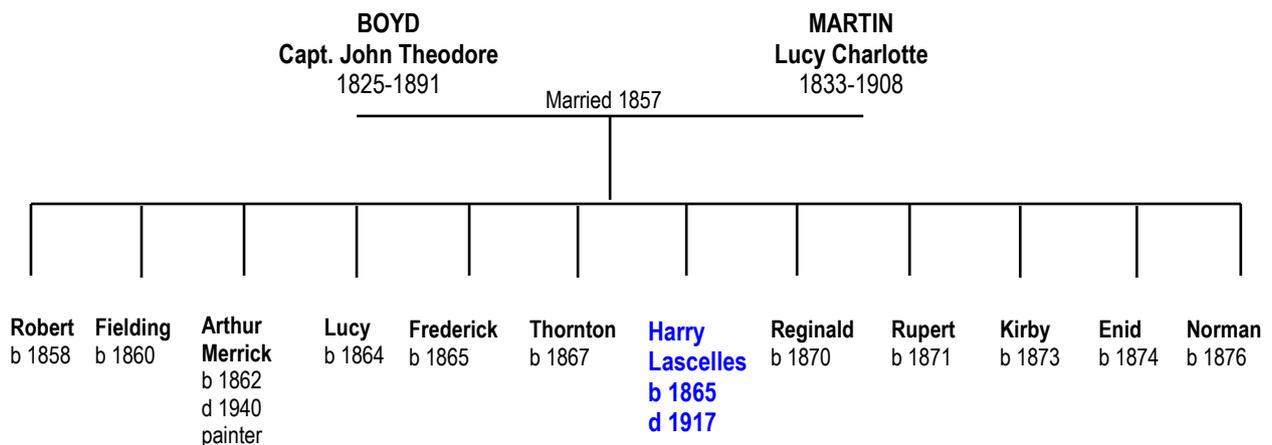
**FURTHER READING:**

1. **The Boyds**, 2002, Brenda Niall.
2. **Marlo, The Township: The Plains, The Cape**, 1984, O S Green.

These books are in East Gippsland Shire Libraries.

**BELOW:** Graves of the pioneering Stirling family who came to Marlo in the early 1870s and later developed a guest house and hotel. The Stirling name is synonymous with the early European history of Marlo. Harry Boyd's grave is thought to be just to the right of the fenced Stirling graves. The memorial plaque to the right of these graves commemorates the death of John Stirling who died in 1934. This plaque was installed in 1984 and may not accurately identify his grave.





The Boyd family have made an enormous contribution to the cultural life of Australia, particularly in the areas of painting and sculpture, architecture and philanthropy. In the family tree it is **Arthur Merrick Boyd**, painter and older brother of Harry who is the first generation of the many members of the Boyd family who were to become well-known in many fields of art, sculpture, writing and architecture. Harry Lascelles Boyd, buried in Marlo Cemetery in 1917, is a less-well-known member of this family.

In 1992, Arthur Boyd (grandson of Arthur Merrick) and his wife Yvonne presented their Shoalhaven River properties near Nowra NSW (Bundanon and Riversdale) to the people of Australia. Since then, the Bundanon Trust has developed these properties into arts and educational venues.

## MARLO CEMETERY

The first recorded burial at Marlo was in 1878 (William Stirling aged 20) who was buried on the Stirling property. There is a memorial to William Stirling in the Marlo Cemetery although his grave is thought to be at another site in Marlo.

Marlo was surveyed in 1889 and declared a township in 1890.

Land for the Marlo Cemetery was reserved in 1907 and in the following year, Marlo pioneer James Stirling Snr. died and was the first person to be buried here. His wife Ann died in 1914 and is also buried in the Stirling plot along with their son, James who died in 1917. In the following years, burials continued to be made although the cemetery was not formally gazetted. Further attempts were made in the 1950s to have it gazetted and a larger area was reserved. It was not until the early 1970s when the road to Conran and Bemm River was moved from the rear of the cemetery reserve to its present location on the ocean side that the cemetery was officially gazetted and a permanent Cemetery Trust was formed.

No official cemetery records were kept prior to 1971, hence those burials before this date which have lost their headstones and fences are now almost impossible to locate accurately.

The cemetery now has a memorial section, and a section for lawn graves. A new rose memorial garden for the interment of ashes has been established in recent times.

Only a few of the pioneer families are buried here - many were taken to the Orbost cemetery for burial. The cemetery averages about two burials per year.

*- compiled from information supplied by Tristi Woerz, Marlo Cemetery Trust*

