

Onen hag oll

The Cornish Association of Victoria Inc. Ballarat Branch

A.C.N. A0008 264A

August 2020 Newsletter

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COMING EVENTS

8th August 2020 at 3.00 pm - Zoom Meeting

Following the success of our recent Committee Meeting via Zoom, it was decided to have a Zoom Meeting for all our members.

The purpose of this meeting is to say hello to as many of our members as possible as well as confirming the Financial Statement for 2019-2020. These have already been circulated by Ian Jennings. Our Annual General Meeting where reports will be presented and for the election of office bearers will be held when restrictions are eased and it is more convenient.

Keith Lanyon

ZOOM

For those of you who haven't used Zoom don't be stressed. It is really quite easy.

The only thing you need to do is to download Zoom onto a computer or laptop which has a camera, or onto a mobile phone with a camera or onto an iPad or Tablet which has a camera.

For PC users download the software:

<https://zoom.us/download>

then install it.

It will be in the download folder on your computer – zoom installer—and then run it.

You do not need a password as you will not at this stage be organizing a meeting.

If you use Apple you can download from the Apple store and Android devices from Google play.

If you would like to be involved please send Robyn Coates an email and she will then send you the link to the meeting: robyncoates@hotmail.com

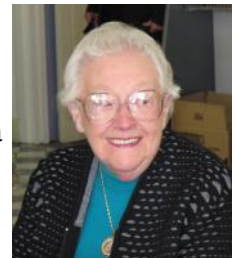
If you would like to have a trial run before hand, please contact Robyn also via email robyncoates@hotmail.com

We are most fortunate to be staying at our home in Ballarat and our current telephone number is 5339 1244 - if you need any help with the installation or more information please ring me.

VALE NITA BARTLE 1921-2020

It is with deep regret we report the death of our dear friend Nita Miriam Bartle.

Sadly, due to the restrictions of COVID 19, numbers were greatly limited at the Service of Celebration for Nita's life.



Les George has kindly put together the eulogies presented at the Service and these are included below.

Alison Briers (niece)

Jenny and I both have wonderful memories of growing up closely with Auntie Nita throughout our lives.

This closeness evolved into supporting and helping Nita as she transitioned from her home in Barkly Street to Kirralee Aged Care – a decision that Nita made on for herself on the realisation that living at home independently was no longer possible.

Mum also decided to go into Kirralee and with Mike and I heading away on holiday, the prospect of settling Nita and Mum in Kirralee, and selling and

Normally meetings are held on the even months at Skipton Street Uniting Church Hall,
cnr Darling and Skipton Streets, Ballarat.

Meetings begin at 2.00 pm and are followed by a shared high tea.



emptying 2 life-long homes began a whirlwind 6 weeks.

Nita's home, which had been her mother's home, was a treasure trove of papers and memories. Nita had kept every receipt and piece of mail from the year dot! Shredder bins were brought in and bags of photos and family memorabilia were loaded into Sally Bartle's car to go back to Melbourne for Graham to 'go through'.

Buy Swap and Sale sites were loaded and garage sales held. It was sad to see Nita's, and Grandma's live possessions being picked over and sold off – but it had to be done.

Jenny and I remember visiting Nita in Kirralee after her house had been sold and her asking for the box her 80th birthday cards were in – she told us that it was in the dresser in the back bedroom, second drawer on the left over the back (which is exactly where it had been). We had taken Nita back to the house a few times for to gather what she wanted to keep, or for us to keep somewhere – but she didn't seem to really understand that there was nothing there anymore and that we couldn't go and get anything.

One of the things that Nita did want to keep was her collection of postcards that she had saved over the years and which filled volumes of folders. Nita loved her travels and also enjoyed other people's travels and we were all under strict instructions to send postcards whenever we went on holiday anywhere – we always complied! Nita was still going back through these folders and adding new postcards up to only a few weeks ago.

Auntie Nita had a wry sense of humour, she enjoyed doing crosswords and puzzle books and loved a good quiz.

Nita always managed to remember birthdays, including those of her nieces and nephews, her great nieces and nephews; great, great nieces and nephews and more recently, her great, great, great nephew. Auntie Nita will be very missed.

Les George

I would firstly like to thank the Bartle family for inviting me to speak here today. It is a privilege to be able to do so.

Nita was held in the highest esteem and affection by all who knew her. On behalf of particularly the Mt Pleasant and Skipton St Churches where Nita worshipped, I would like to recognize and acknowledge Nita's faithful and active contribution over the years.

Since Nita joined the Skipton St congregation after the closure of Mt Pleasant 11 years ago, it was only for a short period prior to going into Kirralee when

Nita had trouble with her legs, that I can remember Nita missing a Sunday service.

It didn't matter whether it was 120 degrees or if it was snowing or there was hail and rain, at about a quarter to 10 in would come Nita to the vestry. With Bev Newey, the choir would go over the anthem for the day, and at 10am Nita would move in with the choir and take up her familiar place at the end of the choir front pew.

Nita often wrote the choir report for our annual report.

In 2017 she wrote -

Numbers are down, but our remaining choristers are very loyal, and we thank them for their regular attendance, in spite of age, bad backs, bad shoulders, bad feet, replaced hips, pacemakers(?), walking sticks etc.

This intrepid lot of loyal members file slowly into church on Sunday mornings –and she wrote in capital letter - BUT THEY CAN STILL SING. Some can't reach top "f" notes now and some can't sing to low "g" but as the Psalmist said- "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord..." I wonder what the congregation thinks of our presentation. We in the choir usually find out at the conclusion of our singing- Bev Newey's face says it all.

Nita always enjoyed attending choir practice and there weren't many hymns that Nita didn't know.

Choir mistress Bev Newey would bring suggested anthems to practice and say 'I am thinking of having these.' Bev would see Nita sometimes shake her head and Bev would say, 'do you have any suggestions Nita?' Nita would say 'what about?' and she would list off a number of hymns. Generally we would finish up singing some of Nita's suggestions. At the end of services that I led, I would go across to the choir to join hands for Jude's benediction. After the benediction Nita would squeeze my hand and say – well done. Sometimes she would say – very well done.

Trevor Peers also a choir member, would often say to me later, I hear you got the seal of approval from Nita. But I and others at Skipton St who lead worship, really appreciated the encouragement we received from Nita.

Nita was so appreciative of what everyone did. Nita said to me once, 'sometimes I think I should be doing more.' I said to Nita, 'with what you have done over the years, you deserve to be able to just come here without worrying about responsibilities and just enjoy being part of the service and church activities.' Nita said, 'well I must admit I do enjoy doing that.' After retiring from the Choir, Nita took her place in the congregation and when the choir was singing, if you looked across you could see Nita looking and listening intently as we sang. At morning tea Nita would complement us on our anthem

Nita was an active and loyal member of the choir and other church organizations. If there was a function on, Nita was there, especially if there was going to be food. Nita loved being involved and particularly with meeting up with her friends and other people. And often, when in season, Nita would bring her bag of walnuts.

Nita was a stalwart of the Mt Pleasant church. For Nita and her family, the church was, if not the centre, a large part of their lives. Often in our talks Nita would tell me things about what happened at Mountie in the past. And Nita so valued the friendships she made over the years.

At Mountie, Nita was involved in all facets of church life, often as Secretary: Choir, UCAF, Mountie Adults as well as for many years editing the Mountie Gazette. For many years Nita was Secretary of the Ballarat South Parish Council. Nita was Parish Secretary when I used to go to meetings.

At one meeting, as usual Nita was extremely well organised with the agenda and when we got to correspondence Nita said, 'well I've finally done it.' Robin Nuttall who was chairman looked a bit surprised and said, 'you've done what Nita?'

Nita always listed the correspondence from a to e or a to m etc. Nita said, 'well I've finally got the correspondence from a-z.' Nita finally had her 26 items of correspondence.

Ruth said she could remember that she was at a South Parish meeting years ago. When it got to about 9pm Nita said, 'now do you know what time this meeting will be finishing as I need to get home. My mother is waiting for me. It doesn't matter how old you are – your mother still worries about you.' Nita was always open to new hymns. I said to her once about having some new hymns. Nita said, 'we need new hymns, we can't keep on singing the old ones all the time.'

At one of our Christmas services I had a new Christmas hymn that had a couple of humorous lines in one of the verses and I thought I wonder how this will go. As we sang the verse I looked across at Nita and Elsie who sat next to each other in the choir, and they both looked at each other with a smile and a laugh. Both of them said afterward, 'where did you get that hymn? You'll have to have that again next year.'

Nita was always appreciative and supportive. There wasn't much that Nita didn't know.

You always knew where you stood with Nita.

When Nita came to Skipton St, I said to her, 'Nita I value your advice, I mightn't always agree with it, but I like to get your view on things.' And I greatly valued Nita's advice.

I used to visit Nita at Kirralee and we would often talk for an hour. And again there wasn't much that

Nita wasn't aware of. With the virus shut down, Skipton St have a newsletter with a quiz. Nita loved doing quizzes. A month ago Nita rang me up and said Les, 'I can't get a couple of answers but I'm not going to let this beat me. Can you give me a clue?' When Nita moved to Kirralee she asked me if I would like to take a box of Mountie information. I said I would be pleased to. In the box were included old copies of the Mountie Gazette which Nita used to edit, going back many years. In one of our last newsletters and in previous services, I have looked back over the gazettes and thought that article or poem would be suitable here. So Nita your work at Mountie lives on.

Just before Christmas each year, Nita would give me a typed copy of her Christmas report to her family members and friends and ask me if I would mind photocopying off some copies for her, What amazed me that it was extremely rare that she made a typing mistake and you could only pick that by some white tippex. And those of you who received Nita's Christmas newsletter, you could hear Nita speaking to you as you read the letter. Nita, thank you so much for your contribution to the Mt Pleasant and Skipton St Congregations,, Ballarat South Parish and the Methodist and Uniting church . You have touched all of us with your faith, your enthusiasm, your loyalty and your friendship. Thank you Nita

Graham Bartle - Nita's brother

Bill Garner is a member of the Ballarat Historical Society who has recently written a series of articles about the history of the Mount Pleasant district. When he heard that Nita had passed away he wrote in his tribute: 'Nita Bartle, a giant of Mount Pleasant has died – Nita Bartle was one of the most significant figures in the suburb'. He continued on to outline some of the most salient features of her contribution to the life of the suburb in which she spent her whole life – her schooling at Mount Pleasant State School, Ballarat High School, the School of Mines, later her work in the shop at the corner of Cobden and Barkly Streets, and following our father's death, doing secretarial work in Morshead's and Messer and Opie's stores in Bridge Street.

Next he briefly summarised her work in the Methodist Church in Morton Street where she was a choir member for over 60 years, a Sunday School teacher, a keeper of church records, founder of the church newsletter the Mountie Gazette – secretary of the parish committee, and also secretary of the Mount Pleasant State School Centenary Committee.

In short, as Bill Garner reported 'she was everywhere'.

Now I would like to share some of the lesser publicised activities of this remarkable lady.

Firstly, to set the scene. Nita was born in 1921, then came Verna 1923 and me in 1928.

Both of our parents (Reg and Lexie) had many siblings, nearly all of whom produced large numbers of children, so as a rough estimate we had close to 45 cousins taking in both sides of the family.

Due to sickness, accidents and old age, over the course of the 20th century the number of cousins gradually dwindled until, last year only three remained of the original 45 and they were the three of us!

As mentioned earlier, Nita worked in our general corner store for over 20 years until our dad died in 1957, and the store was sold in 1958 after which Nita went into secretarial work. Now she had some freedom from responsibilities so she sought new interests – she joined the Horticultural Society and spent much time looking after our large backyard and enjoyed planting flowers and vegies and reaping the produce.

She bought a car and was able to travel all over the place, inviting companions – sometimes mum and sometimes other friends – to go on visits to places around Victoria and even interstate that were previously impossible to get to.

Being well aware of our family's Cornish heritage she became an enthusiastic member of the Ballarat branch of the Cornish Society, regularly attending its meetings and participating in its various functions and events. It is a request from Nita that at her funeral the hymn 'O God our help in ages past' should be sung, using the tune known as Ephesus – a traditional Cornish tune that had been sung for the first 100 years of the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church's existence. While we're unable to sing it now, we will be able to listen and sing in our hearts as it is sung to the elegant tune that perfectly fits the majestic words of the great hymn writer, Isaac Watts. And we will be doing it while she is still here with us – because she will want to hear it!

All these new-found activities did not remove the responsibility she felt as companion and willing carer to our mother who gradually became less able to participate in the outings of earlier times and needed more intensive care and assistance to remain at home. Nita undertook this as her duty of care up till mum died in 1989 at the age of 93.

Having never married, she regarded all of her six nieces and nephews as her own 'family' and kept in close contact with each – sending cards and presents for their birthdays and Christmas and

enjoying their visits. Verna and Alan's children Alison and Jenny and Ruth and our four – Sally, Peter, Rachel and Emily – remembered receiving their cards with little hand-written messages telling them what she and grandma Bartle had been planting in the garden, who had visited them and what the weather was like, and wishing them well for the future. Of course that was 40 or 50 years ago, and those six had now produced a total of 11 grand-nieces and grand-nephews which in turn Nita now regarded as part of her total family – and still on everyone's birthday each received a greeting card from 'Auntie Nita' with her local news. I don't think she received too many replies, but she loved to keep in touch. Now, travel. She loved it and took several overseas trips with various companions – her particular friend May Lepp and on one occasion with one of her cousins May McLellan. Itineraries took them to New Zealand, South-East Asia, the west coast of USA, with several trips to Europe and UK. Ruth and I have vivid memories of car travel experiences around Europe with Nita and her travel companion, and in particular to Cornwall to visit the church where our grand-parents were married. So strong was her love of exotic places, whenever anyone she knew was going overseas she always told them firmly that she expected a post-card from every place they were visiting. Over the years the picture post cards came from dozens of exotic places from all continents around the world with little snippets of news. She took great delight in keeping these and spent much time mounting them in scrap books with the name of the sender and the date and place of the visit. The dozen or so of bulging albums that represent a record of where her 'family' had been are still awaiting our investigation.

The family feels honoured to know that the Mount Pleasant Historical Society has set up a series of plaques to commemorate significant sites in and around the suburb, and that the plaque on a wall at the corner of Cobden and Barkly Streets features an image of the Bartles' corner store and a striking image of Nita.

So – we're here to pay a tribute to a remarkable lady – a devoted daughter, an awesome sister and a beloved 'Auntie Nita' to an ever-growing flock of the younger generation – a lady of great poise, industry and empathy – a thoroughly enjoyable person it has been a privilege to have known – we are all the richer for it.

THE DISTINCTIVE VOICE OF A FORGOTTEN BALLARAT BORN NURSE & POET

“Ah, little flower I loved of old,
Dear little downy heads of gold.” [2]

Grace Elizabeth Jennings Carmichael was born in Ballarat on Sunday February 24 1867 to a miner Archibald Carmichael from Scotland and English woman Margaret Clark. In 1879 her family moved to Gippsland and there she continued to grow her love of the “magically beautiful” Australian bush that was to feature in so many of her poems.

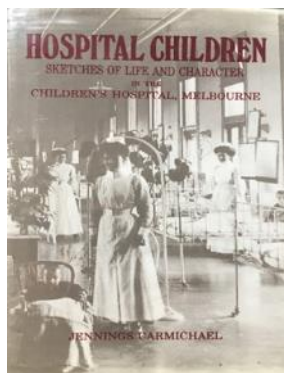


In November 1885, her poem, ‘The Old Maid’, appeared in the Australasian newspaper under her pen name Jennings Carmichael.

Her poetry and writing is a distinctive voice of the time and while her verse is not ‘sweet’ it is accurate and loving in her descriptions of the Australian bush, children’s feelings, experiences and aspirations and our struggles with grief and loss.

In 1890, Grace qualified as a nurse and worked briefly at the Melbourne Hospital for Sick Children (now Royal Children’s Hospital) and while there, she wrote a poignant account of the tragedies and miracles of the suffering children in her care. It is an important book in our early social history.

In the book *Hospital Children* she says that she hopes that the truthful pictures she draws will “bring the reader a little closer to the realities of child-suffering, and woman’s sometimes trying duty”. *Hospital Children* was first published in 1891.



Did this book motivate young women and girls to follow in her footsteps?

Hospital Children, Sketches of Life and Character in the Children’s Hospital Melbourne is surely still inspirational to our current caring and compassionate nurses.

Publications of Grace’s poems are difficult to find but over 200 of her poems can be read, printed or downloaded at TROVE [3] for free and these will

include the date and in which newspaper they were printed.

Hospital Children is still available from used bookstores but the only reprint, *Hospital Children* 1991 Edition, is becoming harder to find.

She wrote ‘the child’s sob in the silence is after all the most pitiful of any.’

The Grace Jennings Carmichael tragedy is that her own ‘sob in the silence’ remains unheard. [4]

Bob Sleeman (June 2020)

2. These lines are on Grace’s grave in Wood Grange Park Cemetery, London, together with ‘A Wattle Day Tribute’. The Wattle was one of her favourite subjects.

3. Internet search ‘Jennings Carmichael List’

4. Ian F McClaren. Grace Jennings Carmichael: From Croajalingalong To London. (University of Melbourne Library 1986)

Contributed by Jenny Burrell

Some further information

When Jenny Burrell sent me the article concerning ‘Grace Jennings Carmichael’ I had to admit that I had never heard of her.

If I had been more diligent in my observations at the Ballarat Library, I should have noticed the etching of her displayed on one of the pillars. (photo –Jenny B)



So began my search for information about her family and the tragic ending to her life.

Her mother, Margaret Jennings Clark was born in 1840/41 in the district of Truro in Cornwall to Henry Jennings Clark (1811-1891) and his wife Grace (nee Broad) (1804-1884).

Margaret was their fourth child.

*Harriet 1834 -

*Henry 1836-1910 (married Edith Manuell in Truro in 1854)

*Jane 1838-1844

*Margaret 1840– 1898

*Sarah/Clara 1845-1936 (married Thomas Coggins 1867 in Victoria and died in NSW - Thomas Coggins was an accountant according to the Will of her sister Margaret’s husband Archibald Carmichael)

*William 1853 - (married Emily Fairbrother in England)

In the census of 1851, Margaret is ten years old and living with her parents and family members in High Street Falmouth.

Her father Henry Clark is listed as a journeyman cabinet maker whilst her sister Harriet is listed as a dressmaker and her brother Henry is an apprentice cabinetmaker. Margaret and her younger sister are both listed as scholars.

Margaret was baptised in Truro on 19th March 1858 and travelled to Australia aboard the Ship *Conway* which departed Liverpool 10th June 1858 and arrived in Melbourne 15th September 1858.

According to the Ship's Register, she could read and write; was aged 18 years; and supposedly went to Geelong after arriving in Melbourne.

Margaret Jennings Clark married Archibald Carmichael, from Scotland, in 1861 in Melbourne.

The Star (Ballarat, Vic. : 1855 - 1864), Saturday 11 May 1861, on page 2 records her marriage. *On the 4th inst., at Melbourne, by the Rev. Mr Ramsay, U.P., Archibald Carmichael, of Ballarat, to Margaret Clarke, second daughter of Mr Henry Jennings Clarke, of Truro, Cornwall.*

According to Victorian BDMs Margaret and Archibald had the following children:

*Elizabeth Margaret 1864-1866

*Grace Betsy 1867 – 1904 – I am not sure when her named changed to Grace Elizabeth Jennings Carmichael - maybe at her baptism

*Margaret Janet 1869-1869

*Janet 1870 – 1897 - she was born after the death of her father on 15th May 1897 at 9 Webster Street Ballarat.

Archibald Carmichael died 13th March 1870 and according to his Probate record at PROV he was a Sharebroker and lived in Ballarat.

Ballarat Star (Vic. : 1865 - 1924), Monday 14 March 1870,

We have to record the death, from cancer in the stomach of Mr Archibald Carmichael, on Sunday 13th instant. The deceased was one of our oldest residents and had taken a prominent part in the mining history of Ballarat from the early days. He was one of the leading men in the agitations of the Eureka hotel and Eureka Stockade days, and ever since then had been among the most enterprising of mining speculators. Some months or two since the deceased went to New South Wales in connection with a mining venture in that colony, and while in Sydney he was taken ill. He returned to Ballarat and had lain by with varying symptoms until his death on

Sunday. We believe that some of the deceased gentleman's ventures lately had been very profitable, and that his widow and family are thus not left unprovided for. The funeral will take place to-morrow.

In 1875, Margaret Jennings CARMICHAEL married Charles Naylor HENDERSON (Charles Naylor b 1835 Helensburgh, Scotland)

According to an article in the Weekly Times Saturday 4 May 1929 we read that *Charles Naylor Henderson J.P. arrived from Scotland in 1854 and took charge of a station on the Richardson River until 1859; and after a year or two gold mining in 1861 managed the Gelantipy station on the Snowy River. This he relinquished for a similar occupation at Rosedale. where he remained for nine years. and travelled about the world, including India. In 1879 he was appointed manager of Sir William J. H Fluke's Orbost station, originally taken up by the McLeods in 1840, after its abandonment by the Imlays.*

Margaret and Charles Henderson had four children.
Charles Henry 1875-1953
Rupert Sheridan 1882-1904
Margaret Elizabeth Grace 1883-1963
Laura Marcia 1884-1965

Margaret died on 23rd October 1898 at 15 Charles Street Prahran and Charles died on 23rd August 1901 at the Austin Hospital in Heidelberg from cancer

Now getting back to Grace Elizabeth Jennings Carmichael.

Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957), Thursday 25 July 1895, page 1

MULLIS—CARMICHAEL

On the 11th April at Melbourne, by special license, Francis Henry Mullis, architect, only surviving son of Thomas Mullis, Esq., Raleigh-house, Northampton, England, to Grace Elizabeth Jennings, eldest surviving daughter of the late Archibald Carmichael Esq., of Ballarat, Victoria, and stepdaughter of Mr. C. N. Henderson Orbost, Gippsland.

Grace and Francis went to South Australia where their son Francis Geoffrey was born in 1896 and by 1898, they are in England where their next son Thomas Clive was born.

Francis Geoffrey and Thomas Clive are baptised in Duston, Northampton on 10th April 1898 – their address is given as Raleigh House, St James, Northampton.

This would appear to be where the family of Francis Mullis lived.

In the 1901 Census the Mullis family is living at 311 Norwood Road, Lambeth.

Henry F Mullis aged 41 is listed as a Merchant in Steel goods and an employer. He was born in Northampton. Grace E J Mullis is aged 34 and born in Australia. Their eldest son Francis G Mullis is 4 having been born in Australia and Thomas C Mullis aged 3 and Archibald K aged 1 are both born in England. Living with the family is Violet Meadows, a Nurse and Mary Finch, a servant.

Two further children are born – Rupert Wyatt in 1902 and Audrey Grace in 1903

Their Children were:

*Francis Geoffrey b Adelaide 1896 – 1978 (he dies in Heidelberg, Victoria s/n Carmichael – married Dorothy Lewis 1929)

*Thomas Clive 1898-1906 - death registered in the district of Woolwich, London

*Archibald Kenneth 1900-1958 – (He dies in Mooropna, Victoria s/n Carmichael (Keith Arnold) married Dorothy McMahon in 1926)

*Rupert Wyatt 1902-1980 – (he dies in South Australia s/n Carmichael)

*Audrey Grace 1903-1904 - death registered in the district of Stepney, London

Grace Elizabeth J Mullis died in 1904 in the District of West Ham aged 36 years.

Her death is recorded in Australasian (Melbourne, Vic. : 1864 - 1946), Saturday 19 March 1904, page 36

DEATH OF JENNINGS CARMICHAEL.

Our readers will join with us in deeply regretting the death, reported by our London correspondent, of Mrs. Mullis, well known as a contributor to- "The Australasian" under her maiden name Jennings Carmichael.

She died of pneumonia on February 9, at Leyton, near London, at the age of 36 years, leaving a husband and five children.

Miss Carmichael's stepfather was manager of a station near Orbost, in Gippsland and it was from there that she began sending us verses, which from the first were marked by deep feeling and much power of poetical expression.

She afterwards came to Melbourne, went through a course of training as a nurse in a private hospital, and was for some time in the Children's Hospital.

She wrote for "The Australasian" a series of sketches of this institution, which were re-issued in book form.

Miss Carmichael married Mr. Mullis, and went with him to Western Australia, and then to Northampton, England, where his family resided.

Mrs. Mullis continued her contributions to our columns until recently. She wrote stories, as well as verse, but her talent was most conspicuous in her poems, which showed not only a complete command of rhythm, metre, and language, but thought and feeling that stamped her as something more than a writer of graceful verse.

Personally, Mrs Mullis was held in high esteem by a large circle of friends, who will receive the news of her premature death with much sorrow.

On 23rd April 1905, Archibald Keith and Rupert Wyatt are baptised at Duston, Northampton – one wonders if it was to allow them to be accepted into the Poor Union as the next record I have found of them is in September 1907 the three boys are with their father in the Greenwich Workhouse, Woolwich Road – during the year they seem to have periods in the infirmary.

Register (Adelaide, SA : 1901 - 1929), Tuesday 11 May 1909, page 7

IN MEMORY OF JENNINGS CARMICHAEL.

From Mrs. May Vivienne: —

The beautiful lines in *The Register* of Saturday May 8, in memory of Jennings Carmichael brought to my mind some sad statements reprinted in *The Register* a few months since from notes of C. Hay Thomson in *Cassell's Magazine*.

It was mentioned that Grace Jennings Carmichael's (Mrs. Mullis) poems came out in book form in London in 1895 and were very favourably received. Her poem "The old bush road" has passed into currency. A very beautiful girl, with her great dark eyes and pale clear skin she needed only a chaplet of wattle blossom to be a personification of the 'Spirit of the bush.'

Miss Carmichael was understood to be a Gippslander, like Ada Crossley.

She married and sailed for England in 1897, and from then her harp was silent.

She died in 1904.

A recent endeavour, to obtain a photograph of her brought to light the facts that she died in extreme poverty, and that her three children (boys), the eldest born in Adelaide, are inmates of an English workhouse. Now is this not truly a pathetic case, and cannot the Australian women do something to better the condition of the dear ones of our poet sister?

I will write next mail and obtain, if possible, more definite news of them, and if Mrs. Weston, who wrote the memoriam lines mentioned, will communicate with me we may co-operate and strive to help as much as we possibly can.

I feel that many Australians in the other States will assist

if asked. As the eldest boy was born in Adelaide it is, I think, fitting that the movement should be started here. Will the Editor of The Register take charge of any donations sent in?

I will write to Madame Ada Crossley and ask her to assist us to perpetuate the memory of the dead Gippsland girl, not in marble or stone, but in practical help to the three living monuments she has left behind in the great cold city of London, so far, far away from the sunny Austral skies of their mother's native land. I shall leave Adelaide early next week for the eastern States, and will do all I can in Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane to start what may result in a substantial fund for the benefit of the poor little boys of our Australian woman poet, Jennings Carmichael. and it will be a lasting shame to us if they are left to grow up in an English workhouse.

(Any subscriptions which may be sent to The Register Office will be duly acknowledged - Ed.)

Obviously enough money was raised as the three boys left London aboard the Norseman on 26th October 1910 for Melbourne - Jeffrey is 14, Archibald Keith is 11 and Rupert Wyatt is 8

Observer (Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931), Saturday 10 December 1910, page 38

JENNINGS CARMICHAEL CHILDREN.

Mrs. May Vivienne has received a letter from the Clerk of the Northampton Union, England (Mr. W. Fawkes, stating that Francis, Archibald, and Rupert Mullis (children of Jennings Carmichael), aged 14, 11, and 8 respectively, had been placed on October 26 on the steamer Norseman

"I beg to congratulate you. Miss Thomson, and all who have supported you in your successful efforts on behalf of these children. The day before leaving here they appeared before the Poor Law authorities, who have had the care of them during the past three years. Their appearance gave a most favourable impression, and on one member expressing regret that they were being sent out of the country, another reminded him they were remaining in the Empire. We sincerely hope they will be successful, and in a measure repay you all for your efforts. The boys have been exceedingly well behaved, but their three years' association with our institution has probably not improved their natural refined manners. They were well received on the vessel.

Sir John Taverner (the Agent-General for Victoria) was there to put them in the care of the officers of the ship, and several lady passengers promised to have an oversight of them. Altogether they looked like having a high time on the way. I received a letter from Sir John Taverner, thanking all here for what we had done to help the case forward, and I replied that, while appreciating the thanks, we felt they (yourselves, your

Government, and the officials) were far more deserving of thanks.

I enclose you a copy of a letter received from the grandmother of the boys.

This old lady I knew years ago when in affluent circumstances, but she is unfortunately now in receipt of Poor Law relief, her condition mainly the result of her son's conduct!

The whole matter is one of the tragedies of life, but we will hope that for these children it will work out right in the end. The ability to assist in any way to this end will have been a sufficient recompense for any trouble taken here."

The following is a copy of the letter from Mrs. Mullis:
"Ladies and Gentlemen

Please allow me to express my deepest gratitude shown by each and all concerned in the welfare of my three dear grandchildren - Jeffrey, Keith, and Wyatt Mullis—who are now, I understand, on their way to foreign lands.

I feel the loss; still, they have life's drama to face, and as my life is fast drawing to a close, now in my seventy-eighth year, my hope is they may never lose sight of past kindness shown them, or their duty and indebtedness to those kind friends over the seas.

If they only tread in the steps of their dear mother they will not go far wrong.

In the 1911, Census, their father Francis Henry, is living at the Registered Common Lodging House Salvation Army, 41A Quaker Street, Spitalfields – he is listed as a widower and his occupation is given as an Architect.

On 21st June 1913, Francis Henry Mullis married Edith Annie Searson – he is aged 48 and she 35 – at St James's Church, Muswell Hill – he is listed as a Civil Engineer and living at 26 Curzon Road, Muswell Hill.

He died in the district of Southwark, London in 1935.

I have been unable to discover when the boys changed their surname to Carmichael or who acted as their foster parents.

One wonders what their father did with the family fortunes to be living in such poverty.

Someone may know the answers.

Robyn Coates