

WESTRIDGE. 1928

This name was given to the area of the Brickyards in 1917 by Walter Burley Griffin. Today the suburb is called, Yarralumla. The brickyards were built in 1913 and were operational from that time. The following year the main nursery was established at Yarralumla in Sheedy's Paddock (now Weston Park and the Royal Canberra Golf Club). The Forestry School was established at Westridge in 1926/27 and Yarralumla House refurbished for the Duke & Duchess of York in 1927 became the permanent residence of the Governor Generals.

The Hallowed High Adventure by Alexander J McGilvray is part of the story of the Catholic Church in Canberra. Father McGilvray wrote the following about Westridge:

They held a dance at Westridge in 1923 when that locality was an outpost of Queanbeyan parish and destined in a few years to be an important centre in Canberra's first parish. A scribe has written of the function with tremendous enthusiasm: and it should be of interest to learn how Catholics in Canberra's other days enjoyed themselves as they helped augment the Building Fund.

"...the dance proved to be an overwhelming success...and it easily constituted a record for the Federal Territory, and nothing like it has ever been put on in Queanbeyan..." It appears that two young ladies, Miss K Corkhill and Miss M Colquhoun were responsible for organizing the event, and as a result of their "indefatigable labours" the Bazaar Fund benefitted by more than 50 pounds...

The Westridge Hall on a hillock near the camps and cottages of construction workers was no mean structure. It had been built as a village hall in the neighbourhood. It had four walls, a stout floor of broad timbers, a roof, and not much else. It was a place to foregather and make merriment...It was small by any standards, and one wonders how it accommodated all the patrons on the night in question. The organizing committee on its own must have half-filled the building. The chief executive was Mr Jerry Dillon, and his recorded lieutenants were Messrs Gerald Hogan, Peter Murphy, Dan Gleeson, Tom Corkhill, George Grey, Hart, Newbold, Bert Stanley, Aub Anderson, D Lamond, C Holmes, C Smith, Ted Corey and FH Boland. The latter gentleman donated the decorations that splashed gaiety throughout the old structure, and Margaret (Maggie) Colquhoun assisted him in their arrangements. A two-piece orchestra kept the dancers on their rhythmic move as they waltzed and barn-danced and two-stepped and one-stepped a natural, easy grace possessed them...Miss Mollie Cullen and Mr A Edmunds comprised the orchestra...and Miss Cullen ...would not accept remuneration, and it was only after much persuasion that Mr Edmund was prevailed upon to accept a nominal fee.

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APPS, Thomas brickmaker

2/58 BARBER, Florence & Thomas hd & gardener
Florence Barber died on 8th April 1976 and is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery.

BTHELL, Alma & Leslie hd & fitter

14/48 BLUMENTHAL, Amy & Stanley hd & ranger

BOYD, Doris & William hd & carrier
On the next page is a photograph of Bill Boyd's truck used to convey bricks from brickyards to various sites. His wife Doris was the daughter of Mrs Townsend who ran the Mess at the Brickyards. Bill's sister Jean married the son of the manager of the Brickworks - Claude Oldfield. Bill and his sister lived at Westridge until their deaths. William Frederick Boyd died 15th January 1977 and is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery. Doris Boyd died on 8th April 1978 and is buried in the next grave. Donald Boyd, youngest brother of William died on 6th July 1974 and is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery. He is in the next grave to his brother Robert who was buried on 28th February 1955. He died on 25th February aged 82. his address then was 8 Triculo Place Queanbeyan and his grave was paid by William Frederick Boyd of 73 Novar Street. In the same grave as Donald is Mabel Josephine Boyd. She died on 5th January 1959 aged 77. Doris (Dorrie) Boyd was nee Townsend. Her mother ran the Mess for the Brickyards men.

BOYD, Mabel & Robert hd & labourer
(See William Boyd section for details of burial)

CARTER, Terence labourer

CONNELLY, Bertha & William hd & labourer
Bertha Adeline Connelly was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 19th August 1967. In the next grave is William Connelly who was buried on 9th January, 1960.

COOPER, Edith & John hd & brickwork's manager

COREY, Kathleen & Edward hd & labourer
Edward Patrick Corey was buried on 23rd October 1950 in the Ex-Servicemen's Section of Woden Cemetery. His grave was paid by Kathleen Mabel Corey of Captains Flat. He died on 20th October 1950 aged 50 years. Kathleen Corey was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 8th July, 1953. She died on 8th July 1953 aged 65 and her grave was paid by Bert John Corey of Wollongong. Kathleen was nee Boyd and the sister of Don, Robert, William and Jean.

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Ted and Kathleen had four children, Margaret, Gordon (deceased aged 12 years), Ray and John.

Leura CORKHILL, Teresa & Phillip hd & nurseryman

Teresa Corkhill was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 10th May, 1962. Phillip Lawrence Corkhill was buried in the next grave on 15th July 1965.

CULLEY, Kathleen & Thomas hd & clerk

DILLON, Louisa & Jeremiah hd & foreman (Jeremiah Dillon was foreman of the Sewer Works. He died in 1929.)



Above: Photograph part of Mildenhall collection in Australian Archives. It shows work in the sewer tunnel. The man second from the right and the only dry person in the photograph is Jeremiah Dillon.

EASTWOOD, Cecil brickmaker

FISHER, John labourer

GREY, Edward horsedriver

GIBBS, Vera saleswoman

HAMMOND, Mary & William hd & labourer
William Patrick Hammond was buried in the Ex-Servicemen's Section of Woden Cemetery on 18th May, 1963. Mary Ellen Hammond died on 27th April 1978 and is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery.

HAMMOND, Catherine & William hd & labourer

Catherine Hammond was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery on 4th May 1948. She died on 3rd May 1948 aged 77. Her address was Doonkuna Street Reid. Her grave was paid by William Patrick Hammond of 59 Leichhardt Street Kingston. William Pitt Hammond was buried in Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 8th February 1947. He died on 7th February 1947 aged 76. His address then was 36 Doonkuna Street Reid. His grave was paid by William Patrick Hammond of 59 Leichhardt Street Kingston.

HERRING, Sydney & William hd & bricksetter

HOBDAY, Elsie & John hd & civil servant (Nursery)

John Peace Hobday died on 4th July, 1945 aged 65 and Elsie Jane on 20th July 1964 aged 71. Both are buried at Woden Cemetery in the Presbyterian Section in graves next to each other.

HOWES, William brickmaker (Brickyards)

JOHNSON, May & Michael hd & brickyards' employee

A Michael Johnson was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 28th July, 1962.

JONES, Albert labourer

Albert Ernest Jones was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 19th September, 1950.

KILBY, Elsie & Sidney hd & gardener

LANE-POOLE, Ruth & Charles hd & civil servant Principal of Forestry School.

His wife, Ruth was the person in charge of refurbishing work carried out on Yarralumla House in preparation for the arrival of the Duke and Duchess of York in May 1927. She lived in Melbourne and travelled to Canberra regularly to oversee the work. *The Foresters* by Athol Meyers has a chapter devoted to Charles Edward Lane-Poole. *Curriculum Vitae* LANE POOLE Charles Edward, Born Sussex England August 16, 1885, Educated at St Columbia's College, Dublin; Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts, Nancy, France; 1906-07 - South African Forest School; 1908-10 - District Forest Officer, Transvaal; 1911 - Married Ruth Pollexfen; 1911-16 - Conservator of Forests, Sierra Leone, member of Legislative Council; 1916-21 - Conservator of Forests, Western Australia; 1922-24 - Compiled report for Commonwealth Government on forest resources of Papua and New Guinea; 1925-27 - Forest advisor to Commonwealth Government, resulting in the establishment of Australian Forestry School; 1927-44 - Acting Principal of Australian Forestry School; 45 - Inspector-General of Forests, Commonwealth Forestry Bureau; Died Sydney November 22, 1970.

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LIPSETT, Hamilton brickmaker

McKAY, Elsie & Francis hd & labourer
Elsie Lillian McKay died 30th March, 1980 and is buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. In the next grave is Francis John McKay who was buried on 27th February, 1958. He died on 26th February and his grave was paid by Mrs Elsie Lilian McKay of 49 Mueller Street Westridge. Reg Newcombe in his story *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton* said that the McKay family consisted of five girls - Helen, Frances, Patsy, Judith and Dorothy. All girls attended St Christopher's Convent School in Forrest.

NEWCOMBE, James brickburner

Reg Newcombe wrote his family's story in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton*. Part of the story is as follows: *Reginald Newcombe's parents were Edith Dorothy (nee Owers) and Reginald Alfred Newcombe. They married in Sydney on 27th October, 1928. At the time Reginald was already living in Canberra. He and his father and brother (Jim) moved to Canberra in 1921 to work at the newly reopened brickyards...Reginald Arthur was born in 51 Mueller Street Yarralumla on 6th June, 1929. The witnesses to the birth were Doctor Robert Alcorn and Nurse Dunn...A second child Harold Snowden Newcombe, was born two years later. Harold (Toby) married Marg Solway on 20th December 1952 at St John the Baptist Church. They have three children, Sue Reggie and Harold...Reginald (born 1929) married Kath Devlin. Her parents were Joseph and Bessie (nee Martin). They had two children, Kathleen born 1935 and Robert born in 1937. Kath and Reg were married in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in 1956 and have two children, Mark and Garry. Robert Devlin married Lorraine Hawkins and has two children - Deborah and Amanda.*

NOBLE, Jessie & Henry hd & labourer

Jessie Abbott Noble was buried in the Methodist Section of Woden Cemetery on 5th April 1947. Shedied on 3rd April 1947 aged 55. Her grave was paid by Henry Leslie Noble of 11 Hooker Street Westridge.

OLDFIELD, Catherine & Sydney hd & brickmaker

Catherine Margaret Oldfield was buried in Woden Cemetery in the Anglican Section on 29th August 1945. She died on 27th August aged 59 years. Her grave was paid by Sydney Joseph Oldfield of the Brickworks. In the next grave is Sidney Joseph Oldfield who was buried on 22nd February 1958. He died on 20th February aged 71 years. His address then was 70 Novar Street. Their son Claude Alexander is buried in another section of the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery. He was buried on 17th September, 1968. His wife Jean (nee Boyd) died in the late 1990s. Jean's nickname was *Bubba*. Moya Oldfield,

eldest daughter of Jean and Claude Oldfield wrote her story in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton*. She mentions that her mother was a Boyd and father an Oldfield. Her grandparents on her father's side were Sydney Oldfield and Margaret nee McDonald. On her mother's side they were Robert and Mabel Boyd. Claude Oldfield and Jean Boyd married in 1928 and their first child, Moya was born on 5th December 1928. Her sister Audrey was born on 19th September 1933. Moya married Neil Campbell and has two sons, Neil and Paul. Audrey married Rob Thew and has two sons, Peter and Kevin (deceased - died aged 15 years).

O'CONNOR, Frank labourer

QUIGG, Roy labourer

The Quigg family is one of the old families in the Westridge District. Roy Walter Quigg married Ethel Sharp and both are buried in Woden Cemetery in the Anglican Section in graves next to each other. Roy died on 24th August 1976 and Ethel Hazel died on 6th April 1996. Ethel and Jean Oldfield were friends from childhood. Other Quiggs buried in Woden Cemetery are Morris Edward Quigg buried on 16th May, 1960 and in the next grave Mary Marjorie buried on 5th December 1995 - RC Section. Kenneth Quigg was buried on 25th January 1962 in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery.

RADCLIFFE, Jessie & John hd & brick

Jessie Louisa Radcliffe died on 2nd December 1971 and is buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery. John Radcliffe was buried in the Ex-Servicemen's Section of Woden on 25th January, 1963.

REIDY, Maude & Harold hd & labourer

Harold Leslie Reidy died on 5th November 1974 in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. In the next grave is Maude Ella Reidy who was buried on 10th April 1986. Reg Newcombe in his story in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton* mentioned that the Reidy Family who lived next door to his family in Mueller Street, had four daughters - Gean, Joyce, Gloria and Leila.

REYNOLDS, Kathleen & Reuben hd & caretaker

RETTER, Beatrice hd

RIDDLE, Louisa, Albert, Joseph & Joseph hd, labourer, --& brickburner

Joseph William Riddle was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 4th June, 1948. He died on 3rd June 1948 aged 73. His grave was paid by Joseph Henry Riddle of 5 Hooker Street Westridge. In the next grave is Louisa Riddle who was buried on 13th August, 1996. Another Riddle buried at Woden

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in the Ex-Servicemen's Section on 28th June, 1996 is Sydney George Riddle.

SHARP, Edith, Vera, Joseph & Thomas hd, hd, nurseryman & labourer

SHEPHERD, Minnie & Robert hd & fitter & turner

SMITH, Daniel labourer

TAYLOR, Mary, Elizabeth, Norman & Charles hd, hd, blacksmith & foreman
Charles John Taylor was buried in Woden Cemetery on 30th June, 1939. he died on 29th June 1939 aged 67 years and his grave was paid by Charles T Taylor of Bankstown Sydney. Elizabeth Taylor was buried in the same grave on 21st July, 1959. She died on 20th July 1959 aged 93 and her grave was paid by NC Taylor of 33 Lockyer Street Griffith. Mary Taylor was buried in the Presbyterian Section of Woden Cemetery on 2nd December 1964 and Norman Frederick Taylor was buried in the RC Section of Woden Cemetery. He died on 13th February 1979.

TOWNSEND, Alice hd

(Mess Caterer at Brickyards and earlier at the Cotter Camps. She died 21st September 1935 aged 50 years and is buried at St John the Baptist Church Cemetery, Reid. Ref Jean Salisbury *St John's Churchyard*. Her husband's name was Harry.)

TONKIN, Mena & Francis hd & plumber
Francis William Tonkin was buried in the Methodist Section of Woden Cemetery on 18th May, 1961.

TURBIT, Ellen, Florence, Richard & Sidney hd, postmistress, brickmaker & brickmaker Esma Shirley Turbit died on 22nd March, 1928 aged two days. She is buried in St John the Baptist Church Cemetery. Ref Jean Salisbury *St John's Churchyard*.

WARE, Lilian, Ivy, John & Michael hd, hd, labourer & labourer
Lilian Julia Ware was buried in the Anglican Section of the Woden Cemetery on 15th June, 1976.

WRIGHT, Charles labourer

BANKS STREET, WESTRIDGE

BATCHELOR, Margaret & William hd & nurseryman
Margaret Anne Batchelor was buried in the RC Section of the Woden Cemetery on 7th March 1980. William Arthur Batchelor was buried in the next grave. He died on 9th August 1970.

COTTER ROAD, WESTRIDGE

HORAN, Marguerite & Michael hd & ranger
Marguerite Winnifred Mary Horan was buried in the Anglican Section of Woden Cemetery on 10th September 1955. She died on 9th September aged 64. Her grave was paid by Michael J Horan of Hooker Street. Buried in the same grave on 19th September, 1942 is Michael Horan. He died on 18th September aged 60 and his grave was also paid by Michael J Horan of Westridge. Michael Horan (senior) married in Camberwell England to Marguerite Gammon. On 17th March 1910 Michael left England for Australia. His wife followed later. The Horan children are, Michael 1905, John 1909, Dora Constance 1911 - she married Joe Riddle, Leslie Darcy 1916, Eileen Maud 1920 - she married a Lee, Terry 1928 and David 1932. Dora and Joe Riddle lived for awhile at 17 Westlake before moving back to Westridge. Dora was Mess Caterer for the Forestry School Students.

HUTCHINS STREET, WESTRIDGE

QUIGG, Emily & Edward hd & pit labourer
Edward James Quigg, son of Neil Walter and Fanny Quigg was born in 1876. He married Emily Sims and the couple were in Bombala when their son Roy was born in 1907. By 1922 they were at Westridge in Hutchins Street. Edward died 23rd April, 1935 aged 58. His widow later moved to Queensland where she remarried. Ref Jean Salisbury *St John's Churchyard*.

NOVAR STREET, originally called Mountain Way

COTTERILL, Annie, Maurice & William hd, labourer & labourer

7 LAWRENCE, Gwendoline & Arthur hd & overseer

STREATFIELD, Ethel & Herbert hd & brick worker

WILKES, Mary & David hd & caretaker
Forestry School

FORESTRY SCHOOL

The students lived in lined cubicles in the area of Solander Place (constructed later). Three shells of cottages served as Recreation Room, Ablutions Block and Mess Room.

BEALE, Lance student

BENELLACK, Andrew student

BYLES, Baldur student

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CAMERON, Tweedie & McRae hd & student

GREGSON, Frederick student

HASSEY, Robert student

JACOBS, Maxwell forester

LINDSAY, Alexander forest assistant

MENADUE, Samuel forest officer

MITCHELL, James student

MUIR, William student

PIGOTT, Hugh forester

ROGERS, Lewis student

STEWART, Donald student

TORBET, Cecilia & Reginald hd & student

WALLACE, William student

WEBBER, Howard student

RIVERVIEW, WESTRIDGE

CORKHILL, Catherine, Catherine, Eileen, John, Thomas & Robert hd, hd, hd, farmer, farmer & farmer

Margaret Sullivan a Corkhill descendent wrote a story published in *True Tales From Canberra's Vanished Suburbs of Westlake, Westridge and Acton*. Part of this story is as follows: *Robert Corkhill was born 31 May, 1863 at the family home of Ballemaugh in the parish of Lonan, Island of Man. When he came to Australia as a young man of eighteen years in 1881 he was employed as a groom for the Campbell Estate of Duntroon where he remained for many years. Robert was offered a small parcel of land near the National Library of Australia that was called Canberry. At that time Robert was still employed at Duntroon...On 6th February 1893 Robert married Catherine Rolfe daughter of Edmund and Margaret Rolfe (nee Logue). Catherine's mother died when she was a few weeks old and she was reared by her maternal grandmother, Granny Crinigan nee Logue. The Corkhills remained at Canberry for many years where their family of ten children were all born. In 1913 the family leased Riverview from Frederick Campbell...[The family remained in the two storey brick cottage built by Fred Young*

for Campbell in the early 1890s until the land was required by the Commonwealth and the lake began to fill - in 1962.] *Catherine Corkhill died in 1952 and her obituary in the "Cathedral Chimes" dated October 19 1952 in part reads, "She was a distinct feature of Catholic life in Canberra, as she was born a few hundred yards from where Parliament House now stands...Her husband survives her and he is now in his 90th year. Also surviving are her six sons: John Thomas, Phillip and Patrick all of Canberra and Edward (Goulburn) and Brendan (Boorowa), Mrs J Maloney of Queanbeyan is a daughter. Three daughters predeceased her: Margaret, Eileen (Mrs E Morrison) and Phyllis (Mrs M McKee). There are 24 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren left to mourn the great old lady..." Catherine's grandparents on her mother's side were Bryan and Margaret Logue who arrived in Sydney on 28th March, 1841 from County Tyrone, Ireland...*



Painting of Riverview.

OAKLEY HILL WESTRIDGE

MAGUIRE, Jack grazier

EGAN, Bessie & Thomas hd & groom

YARRALUMLA HOUSE (Government House)

The newer house built on the site of Murray's old cottage was constructed in the 1890s for Frederick Campbell the last owner of the property. Section was built by a local man named Young.

GRANGES, James gardener

SCOTT, Violet & Alexander hd & gardener
Alexander Campbell Scott was buried in Woden Cemetery on 2nd June, 1949. Buried in the next grave

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in the Presbyterian Section is Violet Mary Scott who was buried on 23rd June 1955.

STEPHENS, Flora & Thomas housekeeper & caretaker

Thomas Stephens was buried in Woden Cemetery in the Anglican Section on 23rd August 1941. He died on 22nd August 1941 aged 55. His grave was paid by Mrs Flora Stephens of Government House. She was buried in the same grave on 16th April, 1964.

Below: Photograph of the Nursery at Yarralumla around 1914. The Nursery Cottage is in the background. The nursery was established in *Sheedy's Paddock*. Today part of the nursery is used by the Royal Canberra Golf Club. The Club Course was originally either side of the Molonglo River between Acton and Westlake at the rear of the Hotel Canberra. Prior to the filling of Lake Burley Griffin in 1963 the club moved to its present grounds.



Above: Eileen Corkhill, Queen of Canberra c1927