



CRAIG FAMILY



Family History

Basil's grandparents, Samuel and Mary Craig, arrived in Western Australia in 1850 and, in 1852, were granted a Publican's Spirits' Licence for the Agricultural and Commercial Hotel in York. The Craig family were the first to be granted a publican's licence in York.

Samuel opened the Castle Hotel on Avon Terrace in 1854, adding an additional wing in 1857.

Both Samuel and Mary were extremely successful people, setting up future generations of their family for successful lives through running hotels and breeding racehorses.



The Castle Hotel

Courtesy York Residency Museum P2008.85

Samuel and Mary had six children. James Thompson Craig was the third son of Samuel and Mary Craig. He married Emily May Trigg in Perth in 1885, and they had eight children: Morton Trigg (1886-1889), James Stirling (1888), Florence Eveline (1889), Irene Ethel (1891-1891), Basil Morton (1892), Gypsy Madge (1894), Dorothy Annie (1897) and Norman Stephen (1900).

James, father of Basil and Norman, continued the family business of running racehorses and hotels. He died at sea returning from a trip to South Africa when Basil was only ten years of age. Emily May, Basil's mother, maintained ownership of the Castle Hotel, but leased it out to various tenants until she transferred the license to Basil in 1920 and returned to live at her farm in Quindanning, where she remained until her death in 1924.

CRAIG

Basil Morton

Service No:1316



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Basil Morton Craig

Service Number: 1316

Date of Enlistment: 14/7/ 1915

Age at Enlistment: 23 years

Service Rank: Trooper

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: 1914/15
Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal
and Military Medal

Height: 5 feet 9 inches (175.26 cm)

Weight: 138 pounds (62.5 kg)

Chest Measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: James Thompson

Mother: Emily May Trigg

Siblings: Morton Trigg, James Stirling,
Ethel May, Gipsy Madge, Dorothy Annie, Norman Stephen

Married: 1921 May Elizabeth Marwick

Children: Warren Ashley, Jeffrey William, John Basil Morton



Photograph courtesy
National Archives of Australia

Life Story

Basil was born in 1892, the fourth child of James Thompson and Emily May Craig. Coming from a wealthy family, Basil was educated at Prince Alfred College in Adelaide from the age of twelve, where he became a celebrated gymnast.

Basil had been a cadet for two years whilst at Prince Alfred College and, on his return to Western Australia, he joined the Civilian Military Forces as a member of the 25th Light Horse. This made Basil an ideal candidate for the 10th Light Horse Brigade, and he enlisted on the 14th July 1915 in York.

Basil served in the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the Middle East, where he suffered from malaria. Frank Wiseman wrote home, telling his family that he had met up with Basil in the Malaria Hospital.

Basil was awarded the Military Medal for conspicuous service. Whilst under fire he, with another soldier, rescued an injured Charles Foulkes-Taylor, another York soldier, from under his fallen horse.

Basil was discharged from the Australian Imperial Forces on the 29th of September 1919.

In April 1920, Basil's mother, Emily, transferred the publican's license to his name. Basil ran the Castle Hotel from 1920 until his retirement in the 1960s. He and his wife, May Elizabeth (nee Marwick) lived and raised their three children at the Hotel.

Basil's love of horseracing continued throughout his life. He was heavily involved with the York Jockey Club, the York Trotting Club and the Eastern Districts Racing Association.



Morning tea at the opening of the Trotting Club in
1922

Courtesy York Residency Museum P2008.418

Basil could be described as a pillar of the community in York: not only was he committed to horseracing in the Avon Valley through the 1920s and 1930s, he was involved with a number of other local clubs, serving as a committee member, vice president or as a patron for clubs where he did not hold a formal seat.

Basil remained in the Army Reserves after the War and was promoted to Lieutenant, commanding the York Troop of the 10th Light Horse.

During World War Two, he was promoted to Captain of the 10th Light Horse Reinforcements, 5th Military District and then to Major.

In 1943, Basil returned to full-time duty on the Horse Valuation Board.

Two of his sons, Warren and Jeffrey, joined the R.A.A.F. during World War Two and his third son, John, joined the Royal Australian Navy.

Basil was finally placed on the retired list on the 4th August 1949.

He died in 1986 at Applecross, and May, his wife, died there in 1990.



CRAIG

Norman Stephen

Service No: 3637



Basic Summary

Name: Norman Stephen Craig

Service Number: 3637

Date of Enlistment: 12/3/ 1917

Age at Enlistment: 18 years 5 months

Civil Occupation: Farmer

Medals, Honours, Awards: British War Medal, Victory Medal,

World War Two Medals: War Medal. Australia Service Medal

Height: 5 feet 11 ½ inches

Weight: 140 pounds

Chest Measurement: 35 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Hazel

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: James Thompson

Mother: Emily May Trigg

Siblings: Morton Trigg, James Stirling, Ethel May, Gipsy Madge, Dorothy Annie, Basil Morton

Married: Olive Hope Wright

Children: James/Jim

Life Story

Norman, born in 1900, was the youngest child of James Thompson and Emily May Craig. He attended Quindanning State School and received prizes for his efforts in 1908, 1909 and 1910, before going to Guildford Grammar School, where he is listed on the Honour Roll.

Norman enlisted at Blackboy Hill on the 12th March 1917. He stated his age as eighteen years and five months rather than his true age of seventeen and three months, and the consent form signed by his mother was worded in such a way that there was no mention of his birth date or his true age. Even with his mother's written consent, Norman was actually too young to enlist because he was under eighteen.

Norman embarked HMAT A30 *Fremantle* on the 29th June 1917 and disembarked in England on the 25th August. After basic training, he proceeded overseas to France on the 16th January 1918 and was Taken on Strength with the 51st Battalion.

On the 24th April, Norman suffered a gunshot wound to his right foot and was transferred to Reading War Hospital in England, where the second toe on his right foot was amputated on the 12th May. He was transferred to the 1st Auxiliary Hospital on the 10th June before returning to Australia on the 23rd July 1918.

Finally discharged from the Armed Forces on the 21st February 1919, Norman was fined, three months' later, for riding a motorcycle without lights. His interest in motorcycles continued and, in December 1919, he placed a notice requesting people to contact him if they were interested in forming a motorcycling club in York. There was a motorcycle run in January 1920 and newspaper reports mention the York Motor Cycle Club in 1923, 1925 and 1927. It is probable that Norman remained involved as, in 1925, he was fined for having a motor cycle in the wrong position in Avon Terrace.

In October 1924, Basil requested Norman Craig's War medals on his brother's behalf, claiming Power of Attorney, as Norman was in the Northern Territory at the time. Norman was probably unaware of Basil's actions, as he wrote to A.I.F. Base Records in Canberra in 1944, requesting his medals be sent to him.

By 1925, Norman was recorded on the electoral roll as living at Quindanning, where he was farming sheep. This enterprise did not last long as, in January 1926, Norman arrived in Brisbane aboard the *Bombola*.

Later that year, he was fined three pounds for driving without a licence and, six months' later, another three pounds for driving a car on the off side of a tram. Norman was not driving his truck when it was involved in an accident on the 23rd June 1927 but forfeited his bail of twenty pounds, when he was convicted of being drunk while in charge of a truck while working as a carrier.

Norman married Olive Hope Wright in 1928, and the couple set up house in Toowoomba. He continued to work as a Motor Driver but seemed to have little regard for regulations. A son, James (Jim), was born around 1932.

In 1935, Norman was fined thirty-five pounds for driving a motor vehicle without a certificate of registration and, in 1936, he was fined for running a truck for the carriage of goods, on two separate occasions, without holding a Board of Transport certificate. Norman's reply was that they would not give him a license and he was prepared to pay the fees. The two fines totalled sixty-five pounds with four pounds and sixteen shillings in costs.

During World War Two, Norman enlisted in the Citizens' Military Forces in Queensland but, by 1949, he was working as a cabinetmaker and, from 1958 until the time of his death, in 1978, he described himself as a dealer.



CRAIG

Frank Colin

Royal Flying Corps

Life Story

Frank Colin Craig, known as Colin, was the son of Francis Taylor and Hannah Elford Taylor. He was born at York in 1889 and was a cousin to Norman and Basil Craig.

His father, Francis, was the son of Samuel Craig, and had been educated at Bishop Hale's School in Perth. He was running the Castle Hotel in 1884 and was elected the first mayor of York, a position he held from 1887 to 1890. As well as running hotels, Francis invested in the pearling industry and formed a syndicate for exploration and mining in the Goldfields. He later owned several pastoral stations in the north-west of the State which were eventually run by his sons.

Colin was educated, like his father, at Bishop Hale's School, then Melbourne Grammar School.

The family moved in high social circles. In 1899, Colin attended a fancy dress ball in Perth to celebrate the birthday of Sylvia Forrest, daughter of Alexander Forrest in Perth. Newspaper reports also noted his attendance at fancy dress balls at Government House and St George's Hall in 1902, both in the presence of the Governor and Lady Lawley.

By 1903, the family were living in Adelaide Terrace, Perth but, by 1912, Colin was working with his brother, John, as a pastoralist at "Yalbalgo" station. He still found time to visit the city, and there are reports of him riding in the first meet of the West Australian Hunt Club and attending a ball for the S.P.C.A. in 1912.

Colin left for England on the 23rd April 1916 to enlist in the Royal Flying Corps. He was appointed 2nd Lieutenant (on probation) on the 2nd June and posted to No. 15 Squadron R.F.C. in France on the 6th January 1917.

Colin carried out artillery observation work before being transferred to No. 23 Squadron R.F.C. in March 1917, where he was promoted to Lieutenant.

On the 23rd April 1917, Colin was shot down by enemy planes near Le Cateau and became a Prisoner of War. In a letter published in the Northern Times on the 6th October, he stated:

"We were out on an offensive patrol, flying at 16,000 feet, and I was about three miles to the right of the rest of the formation ...a long way inside the German lines, when I ran into three enemy scouts. My gun jammed after the first shot, and there was nothing to do but take the first opportunity of disengaging and making for our lines. I outdistanced my pursuers and was pulling up to try and correct the jamb, when at least one of the enemy, whom I had failed to see, opened fire on me from behind, and his first shot went through my petrol tank, and the following ones came over my left shoulder, smashing my instrument board to pieces, going through the top petrol tank and radiator. So I just had to dive at full speed and land about ten miles on the German side of the lines. Four bullets grazed my coat, but I was absolutely untouched"

Colin was interned in Prisoner of War camps in Germany for the duration of the War. In July 1917, while in Freiburg Camp, he escaped but was recaptured a week later.



Colin Craig (centre) at Freiburg Prisoner of War camp, May 1917, Courtesy Australian War memorial

Colin was repatriated to England in December 1918. On the 3rd March 1919, he married Constance Jean Gonville Birdwood at Brompton Parish Church. The couple walked out of the church under a guard of honour with raised swords. Constance, who was known as Nancy, was the daughter of General Birdwood who later became Field Marshall Baron Birdwood. The couple met while Colin was in the United Kingdom for training.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

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Colin returned to Australia on the 8th August 1919. The couple had purchased a station in the Riverina district of New South Wales, but they remained in Western Australia, as General Birdwood and his wife were to visit late that year, and Nancy was pregnant with their first child.

After the birth of his son, in January 1920, Colin travelled to the Eastern States to oversee his business interests, leaving his wife and baby son in Perth. Nancy followed him in late March that year but, by 1921, they were back in W.A. working “Wandina” station, near Mullewa.

In 1926, Colin sold “Wandina” for about 31 500 pounds and, the following year, purchased “Boraning,” a 9 000-acre property near Williams.

Nancy and Colin continued to maintain a high social status within the W.A. community, and there were numerous newspaper reports of the family's travel and social activities. Colin taught himself to play polo and played for the Perth Polo Club and various country teams throughout the 1930s. He also became Patron of the newly-formed Toodyay Polo Club in 1950.

Colin was involved with the R.S.L. and, in 1933, he was part of a deputation from the land sub-committee of the R.S.L. which requested that the repayment of principal and interest on soldier settlers' holdings be suspended for five years. Unfortunately, the proposal was rejected by the Minister for Lands.

In 1934, Colin was elected to the Williams Roads Board and, in 1938, he represented the Williams District at a meeting of several branches of the Primary Producers' Association as they pushed for the introduction of myxomatosis to control the rabbit plague.

During this time, Nancy was becoming more involved with the Country Women's Association, both at a local, and State, level and was elected President of the Williams Branch in 1934 and 1939. She was also an honorary member of the War Nurses Club, at ANZAC House.

By 1946, the family were dividing their time between homes in Perth and "Boraning." Their son, Robert (known as Robin) was a Major in the Indian Army, and a daughter, Judith, had travelled to England to study drama. She later worked in the U.K. under the stage name of Harriet Craig.

In 1947 Colin and Nancy retired to Cottesloe and, by 1949, their youngest daughter, Jane, who worked as a journalist, was living with them.

Colin died at his home, 51 Mount St Perth, on the 22nd September 1951. His estate, valued at 24 525 pounds, was left to his three children.

Nancy died on the 19th October 1975 in Perth and is buried with Colin at Karrakatta Cemetery.

CRAIG Leslie Captain



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL P08414.002

Courtesy Australian War Memorial

Life Story

Leslie Craig was the youngest son of Francis Taylor and Hannah Elford Taylor. He was born at York in 1893 and was a cousin to Norman and Basil Craig. Like his father, Leslie was educated at Bishop Hale's School, then Melbourne Grammar School. Along with his brothers, he is mentioned in newspaper reports as having attended several social events, such as fancy dress balls, which were mostly fundraisers for various children's charities

After leaving school, Leslie worked on his father's property, "Golden Valley," at Balingup before applying for a commission, in September 1914, as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 10th Light Horse. He stated he had spent three years in Senior Cadets and two years in the 25th Light Horse as a 2nd Lieutenant.

On the 17th February 1915, Leslie left Australia aboard the *Mashobra*, bound for training in Egypt.

Leslie finally arrived at Gallipoli in May 1915. He took part in actions at Quinn's Post, Walker's Ridge and Russell's Top. During the Battle of the Nek, on the 7th August 1915, Leslie was Wounded in Action, suffering severe gunshot wounds to both legs and his right elbow. He was transferred to hospital in Alexandria, where his left leg, which had sustained a compound fracture, was amputated.

In October, Leslie was sent to the 3rd London General Hospital in the U.K. to recover and be fitted with a prosthetic leg. It was while recovering in hospital that Leslie met his future bride. Frances Boyd was a young Irish woman who was working as a nursing orderly in the same hospital.



Frances Boyd aged about seventeen
Courtesy Australian War Memorial

On the 10th February 1917, shortly before his discharge from hospital, Leslie was promoted to Captain and transferred to the Permanent Supernumerary List.

Leslie and Frances were married in her home town of Donegal in September 1917 and, on the 18th October, they embarked, at their own expense, for Australia.

After his discharge from the A.I.F., Leslie studied accountancy and soon became a partner in the firm, James Paterson. He also became a member of the State Government's Land Purchase Board, which classified and evaluated areas for soldier settlement.

In 1923, Leslie bought "Princep Park," a property near Dardanup which became home to Frances and their four children.

The family were active in society. In 1924, Leslie was an agricultural representative at the British Empire Exhibition in London and, between 1937 and 1938, he was the President of the Royal Agricultural Society of Western Australia.

Leslie served on the Dardanup Road Board for twenty-three years and sat in the Legislative Council of Parliament as a representative of the South-West between 1934 and 1956. He also played competitive cricket, using a runner between wickets.

Frances was also busy. In 1928, she became actively involved in the Western Australian branch of the Country Women's Association and was president of the southern division from 1936 to 1939. Frances served as the State President of the C.W.A. between 1939 and 1944 and, in 1938, was awarded an M.B.E. for her work. In 1947, inspired by the C.W.A.'s sponsorship of refugee children, she supported the introduction of the Save the Children Fund to Western Australia and was elected its State chairman from 1953 to 1957, and national president in 1968 and 1969.

In 1951, the Craig family moved to Perth and their son, Frank, took over the property at Dardanup. But this was no retirement: known for his fairness and ability to work with a range of people, Leslie became the chairman of several prominent companies, served on the board of Hale School and was also involved in Fairbridge Farm School and the Chandler Farm Boys' Settlement. Leslie also found time to belong to several exclusive clubs, including the Weld Club.

Frances also continued her life of public service. She served on many community bodies, such as the Travellers' Aid Society, the Friends of Royal Perth Hospital, the State advisory committee of the Australian Broadcasting Commission and the board of St Mary's Anglican Girls School. Frances was a member of the Karrakatta Club (and served as its president for nine years). She also played bridge and golf.

In 1966, Leslie was awarded the Order of St Michael and St George (C.M.G) for his public service. He died the same year, on the 9th February, at St John of God Hospital, in Subiaco. Frances lived on until October 1974.

Acknowledgements

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