



PENNY FAMILY

Family History

Henry Penny was born in Salisbury, England, in 1833. He married Matilda Hawkins and, in 1854, the couple boarded the *Berkshire* to travel to the Swan River Colony. Unable to find work in the Perth area, Henry walked to York and found employment with Samuel Burges at “Tipperary” farm.

By 1859, Henry was living with his young family on a small acreage leased from Mr. Burges. He supplemented his income by cutting sandalwood and selling it in Perth.

After about ten years at “Tipperary,” Henry selected land in the Greenhills area, where he built a substantial farming enterprise which employed up to twelve Ticket of Leave men on different occasions.

Henry and Matilda went on to have a family of eight children and their descendants have married into many West Australian families.

Henry died in 1915, a year after the death of his wife, Matilda.

Charles Penny was the second son of Henry and Matilda. Born in 1861, he married Rachel Jane Nelson in 1887 at the Greenhills Church. Like his father, Charles was a farmer and worked properties at Greenhills, Yotting and Cowering (Kauring).

Charles and Rachel had a large family: Henry William (b.1888) Hubert (b.1890) Victor Charles (b.1892) John Cecil (b.1894) Ethel May (b.1896) Edwin Vernon (b.1899) Theo Maurice (b.1901) Dorothy (b.1904) Isabella Mary (b.1906) Gwendolyn (b.1909) and an unnamed child (b.1910).

Three of Charles’ sons were to enlist in the A.I.F during World War One.



PENNY

Victor Charles

Service No: 2225

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Victor Charles Penny

Service number: 2225

Date of enlistment: 27/3/1916

Age at Enlistment: 23 years 6 months

Civil Occupation: Farmhand

Medals, Honours, Awards: None

Height: 5 feet 8 ½ inches

Weight: 144 pounds

Chest measurement: 36 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Grey

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Charles Penny

Mother: Rachel Jane Nelson

Life Story:

Victor Charles was born at York in 1892, the third son of Charles and Rachel Penny. He grew up at Greenhills and attended the local school, where he received a school prize at the end of 1897.

Victor enlisted on the 27th March 1916 at Blackboy Hill, naming his father as Next of Kin. He had been working as a farmhand, probably on the family property, before he signed up.

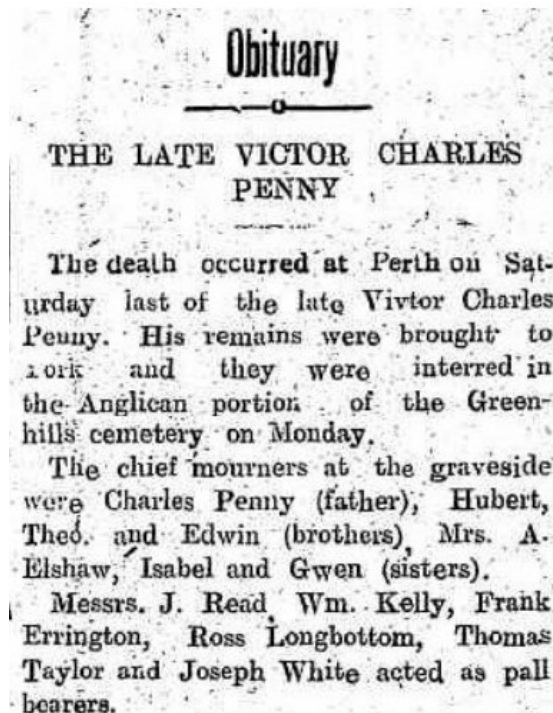
Victor travelled to Bunbury on the 11th April for training with the 4th Battalion, 51st Reinforcements. While undergoing training, he was hospitalised, on the 27th June, for a minor surgical procedure.

On the 1st July, Victor suddenly became unconscious and suffered a “violent epileptic fit.” As a result of this, a Medical Board was convened and, on the 3rd August, he was discharged from the Army as medically unfit.

Victor returned to York and continued to work for his father, Charles, as a farm labourer. He remained engaged in the local community and, in 1918, attended a fundraising event to assist with raising money for the Trench Comfort Fund.

Victor died in Claremont in 1927. It is possible that he was a patient at the Claremont Hospital as a result of his epilepsy.

Victor’s body was returned to Greenhills and interred in the Anglican Section of the cemetery.





PENNY

John Cecil

Service No: 4503

BASIC INFORMATION

Name: John Cecil Penny

Service number: 4503

Date of enlistment: 28/2/1916

Age at Enlistment: 21 years 7 months

Civil Occupation: Farmhand

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

Height: 5 feet 4 inches

Weight: 141 pounds

Chest measurement: 34 inches

Complexion: Fair

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Black

Father: Charles Penny

Mother: Rachel Jane Nelson

Life Story

John Cecil Penny, the fourth son of Charles and Rachel Penny, was born at York in 1894. Like his brothers, he attended Greenhills School and returned to work as a farmhand on the family properties after leaving school.

John Cecil enlisted at York on the 28th February 1916. He embarked, on the 31st March, for three months' training in Egypt before sailing to the United Kingdom.

On the 9th September 1916, John left Rolleston Camp in the U.K. and proceeded overseas to France. On the 19th September, he transferred to the 28th Battalion and, on the 24th, was Taken on Strength in the Field, in Belgium.

Conditions in the Field were poor and illness was rife. On the 22nd November, John was sent to hospital suffering so severely from trench feet, that he was transferred back to England for treatment.

John was sick again in January 1917. He was again returned to England and spent ten days in hospital before taking a period of furlough until the middle of January.

On the 25th March 1917, John transferred to the 70th Battalion and then, on the 19th September, he moved to the 69th Draft Battalion before proceeding back overseas to France on the 14th October.

On the 20th October, John was Taken on Strength with the 28th Battalion but, in November 1917, he was again unwell and spent nine days in hospital before returning to his unit.

On the 26th June 1918, John taken to hospital suffering from influenza and was unable to re-join his unit until the 12th July.

During July and September, John was charged with being Absent Without Leave on two occasions. He was reprimanded and awarded twenty-eight days Field Punishment No. 2. This meant heavy labour, possibly restrained by handcuffs or fetters. It also meant the loss of thirty-eight days' pay.

On the 1st October 1918, John was Wounded in Action. Treated initially at the Casualty Clearing Station, he was transferred to hospital in Rouen with a severe gunshot wound to his shoulder before being returned to England for treatment at the 5th Southern General Hospital at Portsmouth.

John did not return to the Front. He was in hospital for six weeks and, on the 24th December 1918, he was repatriated to Australia on the *Takada*.

On the 1st February 1919, John was found to be permanently unfit for service, and he was discharged from the Army on the 3rd April 1919.

John returned to York and resumed farming at Greenhills.

No record of a marriage has been found, and few details have been found of his life after the War.

John Penny died at Shenton Park in 1960.



PENNY

Edwin Vernon

Service No: 3905



BASIC INFORMATION

Name: Edwin Vernon Penny

Service number: 3905

Date of enlistment: 18/6/1917

Age at Enlistment: 18 years 3 months

Civil Occupation: Farmhand

Medals, Honours, Awards: None

Height: 5 feet 3 inches

Weight: 110 pounds

Chest measurement: 38 inches

Complexion: Dark

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: Charles Penny

Mother: Rachel Jane Nelson

Life story

Edwin Vernon Penny was born at York in 1899, the sixth child of Charles and Rachel Penny. Like his siblings, he attended Greenhills School and worked on the family properties after he left school.

At the age of eighteen, Edwin got permission from his father to enlist in the A.I.F. He signed up as a Private with the 16th Battalion, 26th Reinforcements, on the 18th June 1917 and was sent for basic training.

However, at some point, concerns must have been raised and, on the 5th September 1917, a Medical Board at the No. 8 Australian General Hospital at Fremantle reported that Edwin had a deformity of the right upper eyelid and defective vision caused by subacute trachoma. Six days' later, Edwin was discharged from the Army as unfit for service, and he returned home to Greenhills.

Edwin's feelings at his point can only be guessed at, but, over the next couple of years, he had several encounters with the Justice system and, in January 1918, was placed in remand for eight days after being charged with theft. In December 1920, Edwin forged a cheque to pay for a ride to Perth with a female friend (who he refused to name) and, despite pleading guilty, was sentenced to three months in prison.

After this, Edwin seems to have been more settled. He was a member of the Greenhills football team in 1921 and won a prize for his fancy dress costume (the village clown) at a Greenhills function.

In 1925 and 1926, Edwin's name was listed on the electoral roll as a farmhand at Greenhills but, by 1943, he was living and working at Sandstone, in the Murchison region, as a station hand.

In 1946, Edwin died at Shenton Park, in Perth. He was forty-seven years of age.

Acknowledgements

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