



THIELEMANN FAMILY



Family Story

Charles Henry Thielemann arrived in Western Australia from Adelaide in 1886, having come to South Australia from Germany around 1879. He was a baker by trade.

On the 26th February 1887, Charles married Jeanie Brown, the eldest daughter of Francis Harley of Glasgow, Scotland, in the Wesleyan Church in York. Jane/Jeanie Brown Harley had arrived in Australia with her mother, Isabella, step-father Richard Scott, and siblings in 1879.

The family were living in South Australia in the 1880s and 1890s, so it is possible that Jeanie met Henry in South Australia and followed him to W.A. to be married in York in 1887. Her family also moved to Western Australia, and Richard obtained work as a boilermaker in Fremantle with the Western Australian Government Railways in 1902.

Henry Thielemann took over Baker & Hewitt's bakery and grocery business in Avon Terrace in 1887 then applied for a boarding house licence for the premises which were next door to the police station.

The family appeared to be successful. The boarding house operated alongside the bakery and grocery store for many years and was still run by the family in 1896. Henry also bought Duckham's Brickyard in 1894 and leased it out. In 1889, Henry acted as the Municipal Council's pound keeper and, in 1898, Jeanie applied for the title of land abutting Osnaburg, Eleventh and Bland Roads.

However, in 1889 Henry was summoned, along with several other men, for disorderly conduct in a public street on the night of 22nd January and, later that year, he was seen by a police constable gambling with dice at the bar of the Castle Hotel with William Craig.

Over the next few years, Henry was both involved in many cases of disorderly behaviour, assault, and public nuisance, and he regularly took people to court to obtain monies owed.

In December 1905, Henry was sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment, with hard labour, after being convicted of using threatening and abusive language calculated to lead to a breach of the peace. Shortly after his release from gaol, Henry was badly injured when he was found unconscious with serious injuries, apparently after the horse he was riding had fallen. Henry later gave evidence that he was incapacitated for two years, and that he became worse, suffering "illusions and hallucinations," until he was committed to the Claremont Hospital for the Insane in 1909.

On his release in 1911, Henry initiated legal proceedings against Jeanie for the return of certain goods and chattels, claiming he had no memory of signing a Deed of Gift in 1901 for the business and properties. He also claimed that, during the time he was ill and later incapacitated by drink, she closed his bank account and ran the business through an account in her name only. Henry also claimed Jeanie had not kept in contact with him or paid for his upkeep at the Asylum while he was detained, forcing the Trustees of the Asylum to sell his property in South Australia to cover his maintenance.

In the judgement handed down in November 1911, Justice MacMillan found he was satisfied Henry had known what he was doing when he had a Deed of Gift and Letters of Authority drawn up and signed in 1901, assigning all his property to his wife to protect his Estate. He awarded Henry some small personal items, twelve pounds (the value of two cows) and thirty-five pounds from the Druids. Justice MacMillan also commented that, on the evidence of the medical men and on his appearance, it was clear that Thielemann's present position was a precarious one, and that the length of time he remained out of the asylum depended upon his ability to keep from drink. By this time, Henry had left York and was working as a baker in Waroona.

Jeanie continued to run, and expand, the family business. She auctioned several York properties in 1907 to fund the construction of two new shops and residences on the opposite side of Avon Terrace and, by 1922, she was living in Perth. It is believed Charles Henry Thielemann moved to New Zealand in 1914, where he died in 1942.



THIELEMAN

Charles Henry

Service No: 7061



Basic Information

Name: Charles Henry Thieleman

Service Number: 7061

Date of Enlistment: 28/9/1916

Age at Enlistment: 24 years 11 months

Civil Occupation: Postal Assistant

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

Height: 5 Ft 5 inches

Weight: 121 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 30 inches

Complexion: Pale

Eye Colour: Blue

Hair Colour: Brown

Father: Charles Henry Thielemann

Mother: Jane Brown Harley (known as Jeanie/Jane)

Siblings: Isabella Henrietta (1888) Ludwig/Louis James (1894), Sophie/Sophy (1897), James George McIntyre (1894), (1899), Muriel (1903)

Married: Eleanor/Nellie Lander

Children: Eleanor Jean (1925)

Life Story

Charles Henry Thielemann was born in York in 1891 and attended York State School, where he was a member of the School Cadets.

In 1898, Charles was injured while watching other children play football when a rafter fell from the rotunda at the old Show Grounds. The gash on his head needed six stitches.

In 1914, Charles was appointed an assistant within the Postmaster General's Department and sent to Kalgoorlie where he remained until his enlistment.

Charles enlisted at Kalgoorlie on the 26th September 1916 spelling his name Thieleman. He embarked from Fremantle in December, aboard the *Berrima*, and arrived in England in February 1917, after a short stay in Durban, South Africa. For the duration of the voyage, he was appointed Acting Lance Corporal.

Charles marched in to the 3rd Training Battalion on the 18th February 1917 but was admitted to Fargo Military Hospital three months later, suffering from influenza. It was not until the 4th June 1917 that he finally proceeded overseas to France, joining his unit, the 11th Battalion, on the 27th June 1917.

On the 16th December, 1918, Charles was admitted to the 3rd Field Ambulance suffering from gastroenteritis. He was transferred to the 47th Casualty Clearing Station before returning to his unit on the 20th December.

Charles returned to Australia on the *Somali*, arriving in Fremantle on the 15th August 1919. He was finally discharged from the army that same day.

Charles returned to his employment with the Postmaster General's Department, working as a letter carrier in the Perth area. However, he was given approval to take six months' unpaid leave in early 1920.

By 1922, he was living in York with his mother and, in November, he married Nellie Lander. The couple moved to Victoria Park where Nellie gave birth to a premature, stillborn daughter in 1923. Another daughter, Eleanor Jean, was born on the 12th December 1925.

In 1926, Charles passed the examination for advancement of mail officers beyond 224 pounds per annum but, in 1934, he was dismissed from the Postmaster General's Department. He began working for the Western Australian Government Railways as a labourer in Perth but was paid off in 1935 after he failed the medical exam. Charles reapplied and passed the medical exam in 1937 and, in 1938, was appointed C.E.L. Examiner at Perth. He retired in 1956.

Charles was a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters - a friendly society which fundraised for various philanthropic causes and provided members with savings and insurance bonds. He was also a member of the Victoria Park sub-branch of the R.S.L., while Nellie was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Victoria Park R.S.L.

Charles and his family continued to live in Victoria Park until around 1940. By 1942, they were living in South Perth where they remained until their deaths. Charles died in 1964, Nellie in 1983.



THIELEMANN

Ludwig/Louis James

Service No: 16366



Basic Information

Name: Ludwig James /Louis Thielemann

Service Number: 16366

Date of Enlistment: 3/12/17

Age at Enlistment: 23 years 8 months

Civil Occupation: Saddler

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

Height: 5 Ft 5 inches

Weight: 140 Lbs.

Chest Measurement: 32 inches

Complexion: Fresh

Eye Colour: Brown

Hair Colour: Dark Brown

Father: Charles Henry Thielemann

Mother: Jane Brown Harley (known as Jeanie/Jane)

Siblings: Isabella Henrietta (1888) Charles Henry (1891), Sophie/Sophy (1897), James George McIntyre (1894), (1899), Muriel (1903)

Children: Joyce Louise (1930), Marlene Mary (1931), Neil (1933)
Bevan John (c. 1934), Leslie James (c. 1936)

Life Story

Ludwig Louis Thieleman/Thielemann, known as Louie, or Lou, was born at York in 1894 and, like his brother, probably attended York School. After leaving school, he trained as a saddler and, by 1914, was living and working in Moora. That same year, Louis became engaged to Jane Murray, a waitress at a local boarding house, but the wedding did not take place and, by 1916, he had moved to the Metropolitan area.

In August 1916, Louis commenced employment with the Western Australian Government Railways. He was appointed a conductor at Perth in December, but lost his job in January 1917 due to missing fares and frequently arriving late for work.

An endorsement (probably paid) for a drink called Clements Tonic, written by Louis in 1916 and published frequently in local newspapers, stated that he had suffered a breakdown while living at York which caused him to retire from active life "for a while." He claimed his family had taken the tonic for nervous breakdowns, insomnia and indigestion and it had always cured these ailments.

While living in the Metropolitan area, Louis was involved in motorcycle racing. In 1917 he won the Three-Mile Handicap Race for novices at a motor cycle carnival held at Subiaco.

Louis enlisted on the 3rd December 1917 at Perth, listing his mother as Next of Kin and stating he had two years' prior military service as a Cadet (probably at York State School). Louis was appointed to the Army Service Corps as a saddler and, on the 8th May 1918, he embarked HMAT *Port Darwin* at Albany, bound for Suez where he was Taken on Strength at the Australian Camp.

Louis left Egypt for England on the 3rd July 1918 and, after further training at Boyton and Parkhouse, he finally proceeded to France on the 18th November 1918.

In France, Louis spent time at the Australian General Base Depot in Havre, France, before proceeding to the 24th Company of the Australian Army Service Corps on the 20th April 1919.

On the 19th May, Louis transferred back to England and embarked aboard the *Main* on the 22nd July to return to Australia.

After his discharge, Louis returned to York. His brother was also in town in early 1920, having taken six months' unpaid leave from the Postmaster General's Department. The two brothers, along with L. Trotter and Reuben Collins, won a prize for their display – Old Bill's Gun Team – in the procession along Avon Terrace and South Street to Forrest Oval which was part of the 1920 ANZAC Day celebrations at York.

At some point, Louis started a taxi company in town. He registered a Dodge vehicle in 1922/1923 and bought a new Willys-Knight car in 1923. Unfortunately, in 1924 the Willys-Knight car was involved in an accident after a tyre burst. The car hit a telegraph post and turned over, but neither Louis nor his passengers, who were returning from a ball in Northam, were seriously injured. The vehicle was not insured but he became an agent for The London & Lancashire Insurance Co., Ltd that same year, so perhaps a lesson was learnt.

Louis continued to advertise his taxi service until 1933/1934, and it must have been successful, as he ordered a second vehicle, a seven-passenger touring Hudson, in 1925, and became an agent for Hudson, Essex, Baby Citroen, Delco Light and Republic Trucks.

In 1926, Louis was granted permission to build a motor garage on blocks of land adjoining the Royal Hotel on Avon Terrace. In 1917, he was granted permission to store 2000 gallons of petrol at the site.

Louis married Dorothy Edwards in 1929 and, by 1931, they were living in South Street, and his occupation was listed as Garage Proprietor.

During his time in York, Louis was involved in several entertainments in the District. He was a member of “The Tatlers Concert Company” and, along with fellow veterans Ernie Hobbs, C. East and Sydney Hardwick, played in the orchestra which accompanied the performers. In 1923, his cornet, along with that of Ernie Hobbs, and a ring belonging to C. East, was stolen by the York Brass Band’s bandmaster, William Ruse.

Louis played football with the Medina Rovers Football Club and was also known to play cricket. In 1929, he donated a medal to Centrals Football Club to be awarded to the most unselfish player at the end of the season.

Louis also had two horses; a horse called “Jimmy Lee” and a trotter called “Grey Mace.” He later raced “Grey Mace” at the inaugural meeting of the York Trotting Club, where the horse placed 3rd in the Second Class Purse Race.

Louis continued to be involved with motorcycles, riding in group rides and competing in races held by the W.A. Motor Cycle Club and the York Motor Cycle Club which had formed in 1919 by Norman Craig.

In May 1932, Louis filed for bankruptcy. By the time the matter was settled and final dividends paid in 1937, Louis and his family had moved to Midland Junction where he found work as a moulder’s assistant at the Western Australian Government Railways Midland Workshops.

In 1934 Louis was employed as a casual labourer for W.A.G.R. in York and Northam. His property flooded, and he later became part of a class action against the W.A.G.R. where it was submitted that the railway embankment and insufficient culverts built by the railways were to blame for the flooding. A judgement against the Commissioner of Railways was handed down in 1935, but an appeal was made to the High Court in 1936.

Louis remained working at the Midland Workshops. He became a tarp maker in 1941 and then a trimmer in 1948. This remained his occupation until his retirement in 1959.

Louis and Dorothy remained in Midland Junction for the rest of their lives. Dorothy died in 1962 and Louis continued to live in Midland with his son, Leslie, until his death in 1979. He was buried in Midland Cemetery in the same grave as his wife.

Acknowledgements

The following people and organisations helped with the research to compile this booklet.

Harvey, Heather

Clarke, Cathy

Lewis, Christine

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