

PHOTOGRAPHER CHARLIE



NORBURY



**ARTIST
SERIES**

PHOTOGRAPHER CHARLIE NORBURY

CONTRIBUTORS

John & Maureen Norbury

Ted & Val Hall
Lawrence Hood

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Kelly Petersen

Peter Rice

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HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Name: Charlie Norbury
Born: 1 October 1907
Died: 12 January 2000
Known for: Local pioneer and keen amateur photographer

Charlie Norbury was an amateur photographer who was born, lived and worked at Alexandra. His photographs now make up an important part of Alexandra's history.



Francis Charles (Charlie) Norbury was born at the Alexandra Cottage Hospital 1 October 1907, to parents Walter James Norbury and Emma Stanford Collis.

Charlie's father Walter was a native of Alexandra who died 1941 aged 72 and his grandfather Joshua Norbury had run the Bell Vue Gardens and Pleasure Resort in Manchester and was also responsible for establishing the Belle Vue Hotel in 1868, just north of Alexandra.

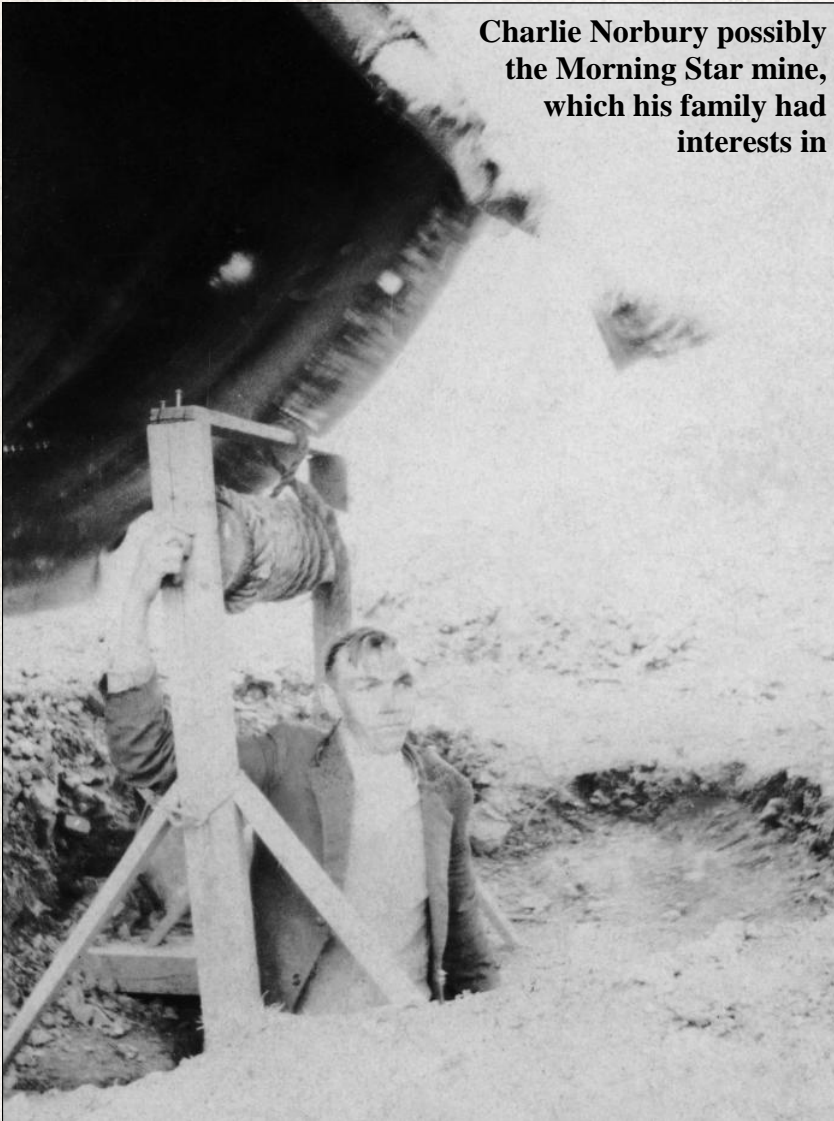
Charlie also lived in Alexandra all of his life,



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

INTRODUCTION

Charlie Norbury possibly
the Morning Star mine,
which his family had
interests in



passing through the local school system. Charlie married Alleyna Mary (Polly) Roberts 1940 at East Malvern. They had six children (Deidre, Robert, John, Jeffrey, Elizabeth (Beth) and Wesley). All the children were born at Alexandra and all passed through the Alexandra State Schooling system.

Charlie worked in numerous jobs including managing the Alexandra Golf Club, managing the Alexandra Pool and working for Grant Street General Merchant A.E. Howell as a store-person. He also worked as a grave digger for A.E. Howell and did paid gardening jobs (pruning roses) around town. After A.E. Howell was sold, he worked for other local supermarkets, including doing home deliveries.

He worked in the construction industry and helped build the

second Alexandra Water Pumping Station, where his foot was severely cut in an axe accident.

Charlie acted as an agent for 'George Ferries, Monumental and building Masons' of Castlemaine during the late 1940s and early 1950s, and like his father before him, had a strong interest in gold mining (his father having been a member of the group who held the 'Morning Star' claim at Alexandra).

The image on the left shows Charlie exiting a mine shaft which is likely a local mine shaft and may have been a shaft associated with the Morning Star mine. Charlie's son John

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INTRODUCTION

remembers a mine being referenced as the 'Norbury Mine', though it is unclear if this was the Morning Star, or if Charlie held another local mining lease.

Charlie loved sport and was especially fond of cycling, in which he would often win events. He also loved cricket. He was also extremely caring, always helping out anyone that he had the capacity too, regularly donated fruit and vegetables to the Alexandra Hospital.

Charlie was an extremely good agriculturalist, having the largest flower garden, vegetable garden and fruit orchid in Alexandra for some time. At his garden's peak he dedicated over an acre of land to his enterprise. He sold produce locally and was well known for giving produce to those in need. Being a

dedicated member and elder of the Methodist Church (and later the Uniting Church), he would hand out chrysanthemums to the ladies at church on Mothers Day.

Charlie was also an amateur photographer and produced hundreds of works taken in and around Alexandra during the early to mid 1900s. Some of these photographs survive today in print and negative formats. His collection came to Artworkz attention in 2012 thanks to Ted and Val Hall, who introduced us to Charlie's son John Norbury and his wife Maureen. As a result of this connection, Charlie's works are now being released back into the community and have helped shed new light into early life in and around



General Merchant A.E. Howell in the 1930s, where Charlie worked.
Courtesy Lawrence Hood.

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**Charlie at the 1948 opening of the
Alexandra Park cricket pavilion**

Photographer Lin Cumming
Courtesy Sandra Cumming and
State Library Victoria 2016

the township of Alexandra. While Charlie was never a professional photographer, many of his works have outlasted works from other photographers, who were likely more qualified, and the standard of his work is considered to be very high.

Charlie would develop most of his photographs himself in his makeshift dark room (the family bathroom). His son John remembers being excluded from using the bathroom when his father was at work developing his prints. During these early years of photography, bathrooms across Australia were used as makeshift darkrooms for amateur photographers who could not afford to outsource development, or loved being involved in the entire photographic processes and having full creative control.

Charlie died 12 January 2000 and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery. He is fondly remembered as a lovely decent man who would help out anyone he

could. Thanks to his remaining photographic collection, he is also remembered as one of the defining photographers of the Alexandra district.

His son John, who still lives in Alexandra, had an early interest in photography, owning an early box camera, however it was not until after his retirement that his interest in photography blossomed. He quickly becoming one of the district's most published photographers (through the Artworkz photographic publications and the local eSplash Tourism, Arts and Heritage magazine). With advances in photography, John's workflow does not require long periods in the family bathroom, just his Nikon camera and his iPad - the modern day photographers darkroom and photo album.

In 2016 this factsheet was commenced with the express purpose of highlighting Charlie's exploits as a photographer, though also explore his life and uncover his passions and loves. It is clear from our research that Charlie was a well liked man who was much loved by the community he was a part of. We thank John and Maureen Norbury for their help in making this factsheet possible.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1 October 1907** Francis Charles (Charlie) Norbury was born to parents Walter James Norbury and Emma Stanford Collis at Alexandra.
- 1940** Charlie married Alleyna Mary (Polly) Roberts (b1915 Cheltham, d1985 Alexandra).
- 9 May 1941** Death of Walter James Norbury, Charlie's father. Walter's father had owned the Belle Vue Hotel outside of Alexandra and his father had owned the Belle Vue Gardens and Pleasure Resort near Manchester. He had strong mining interests. Funeral arrangements were carried out by A.E. Howell.
- 1948** Charlie was at the opening of the Alexandra Park cricket pavilion and present in one of the Lin Cumming group photographs.
- 1985** Charlie's wife Alleyna died at Alexandra and was buried at the Alexandra cemetery.
- 12 January 2000** Charlie died at Alexandra and was buried at the Alexandra Cemetery.
- From 2013** John Norbury, Charlie's son, became one of Alexandra's most published photographers.
- 22 May 2016** Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.
- 30 August 2016** The photographic exploits of Charlie Norbury were spoken about at length at the Artworkz HistoryCafe and for the first time he was recognised as being one of the more significant photographers in early Alexandra.

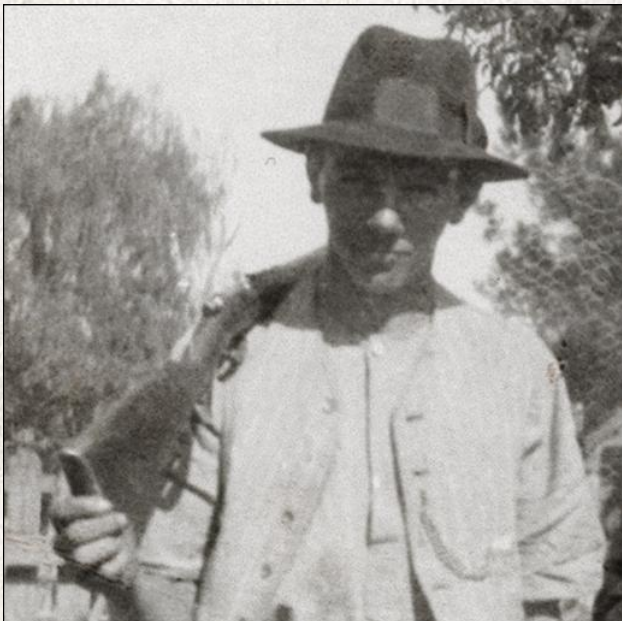
HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



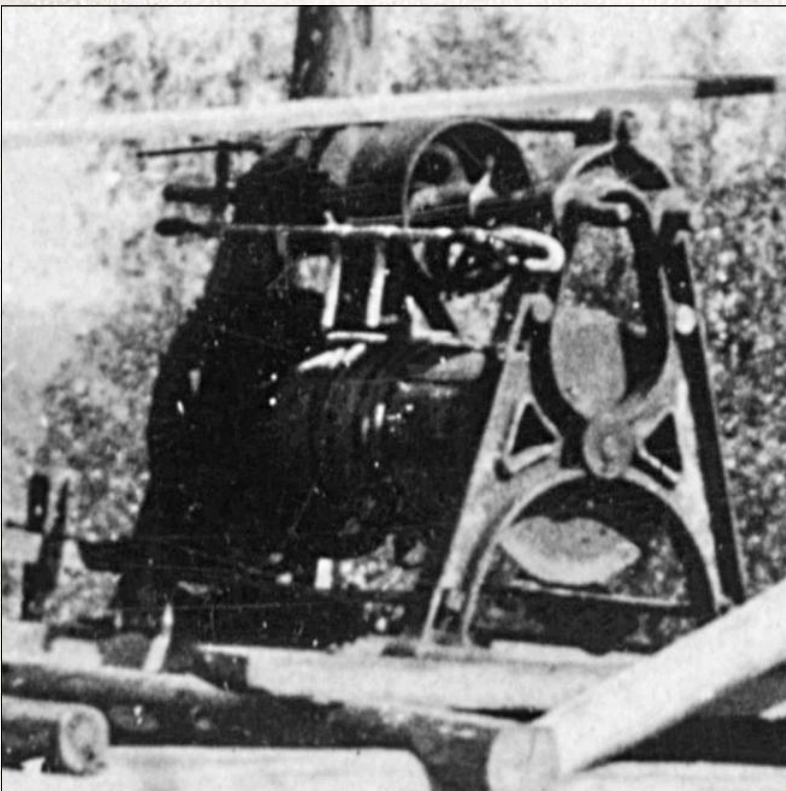
Charlie Norbury circa 1935

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2017



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

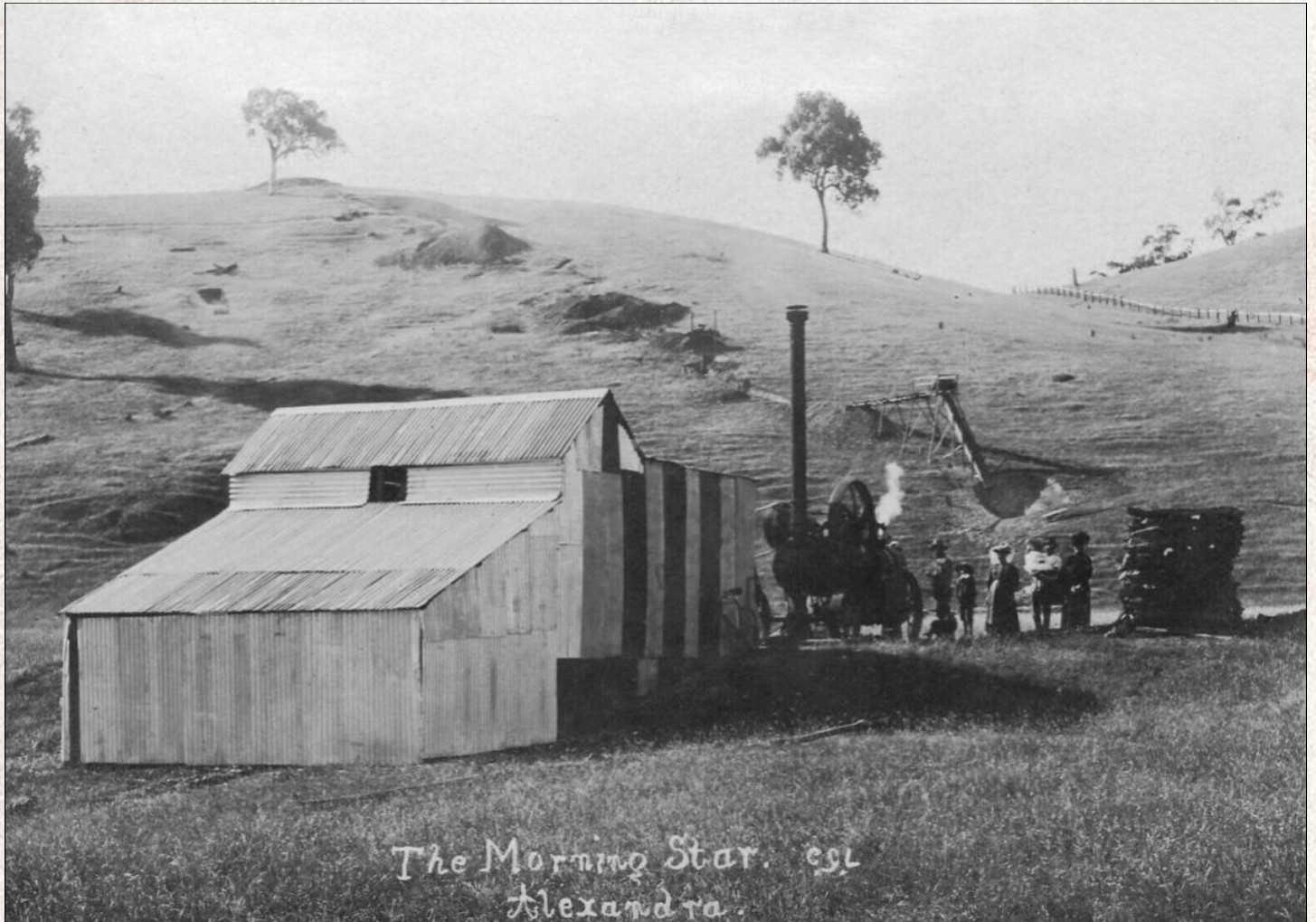


Morning Star mine circa 1900. Walter Norbury (1869–1941) was a member of the group who held the 'Morning Star' claim at Alexandra. His father ran the Belle Vue Hotel.

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2019

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Morning Star mine circa 1940.

Walter Norbury (1869–1941) was a member of the group who held the 'Morning Star' claim at Alexandra. His father ran the Belle Vue Hotel.

Courtesy Tony Ballino 2019

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



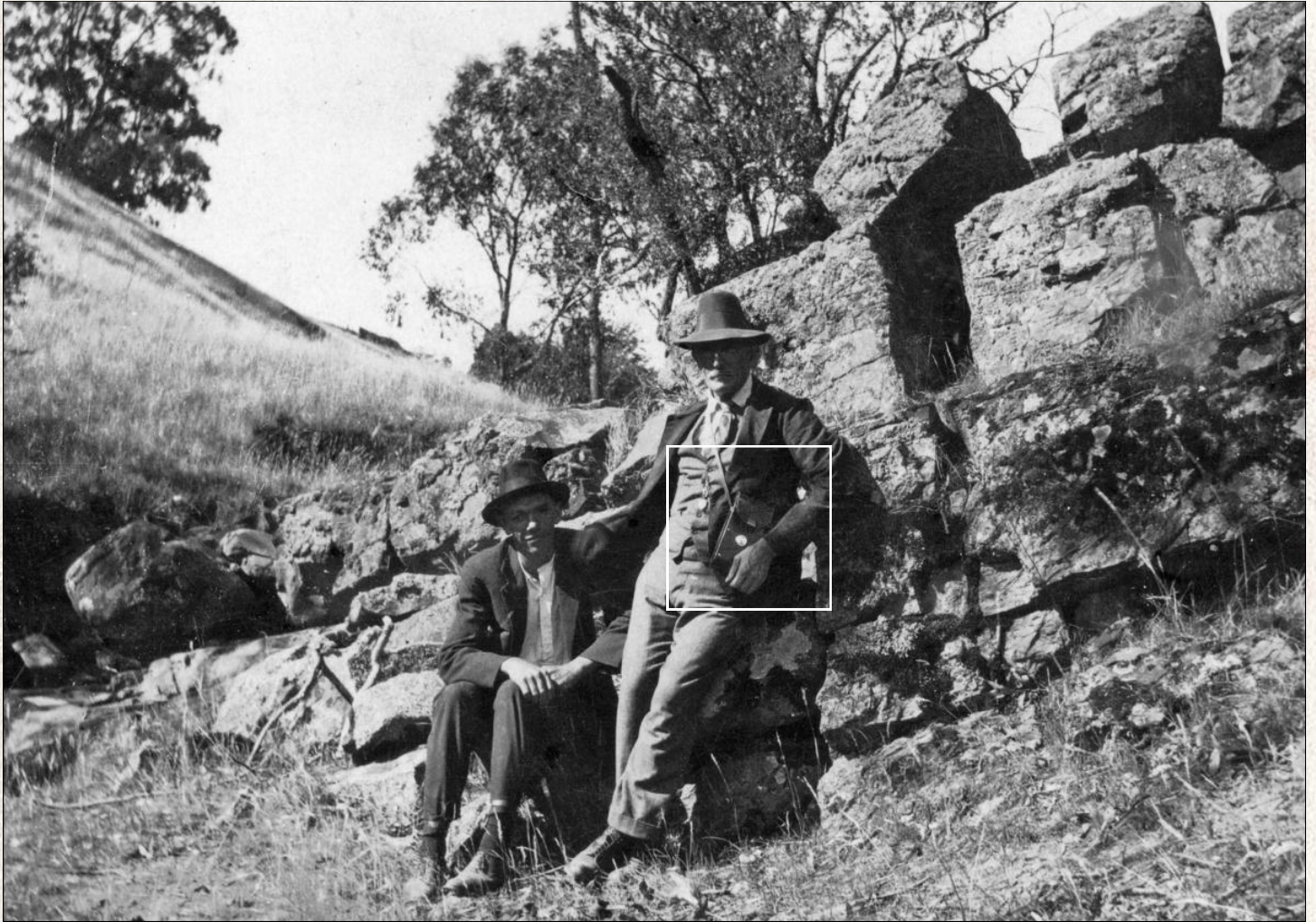
Charlie Norbury under a windless at the head of a gold mine shaft circa 1950.

It is possible that this shaft was associated with the Morning Star gold mine at Alexandra, which the Norbury family had an interest in.

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2014 Photographer Charlie Norbury

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Charlie Norbury (sitting) and an unknown male (possibly a relative) holding a camera that is similar but not the same as the camera now held by John & Maureen Norbury. Charlie's surviving camera can be viewed later in this factsheet.

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2014.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Charlie loved agriculture and his flower, fruit orchid and vegetable garden was the largest in Alexandra for some time. His orchid, which covered more than an acre, included pairs, apples, cherries, apricots, peaches, nectarines and blood plums. His vegetable garden produced zucchinis, pumpkins, potatoes, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, beetroot, raspberries, boysenberries, gooseberries and asparagus. The flower garden produced large quantities of gladioli, tulips and chrysanthemums, amongst others.

As a dedicated member and elder of the Methodist and later the Uniting Church, he would give ladies present at church on Mother's Day chrysanthemums from his garden.

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2014 - Photographer Charlie Norbury

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rose Series Postcard images of the Alexandra Pool circa 1944 likely taken in the year that Charlie Norbury managed the pool (1944)

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2014 - Photographer Charlie Norbury

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Rose Series Postcard images of the Alexandra Pool circa 1944 likely taken in the year that Charlie Norbury managed the pool (1944)

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2014 - Photographer Charlie Norbury

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Charlie at the opening of the Alexandra Park cricket pavilion in 1948

Photographer Lin Cumming
Courtesy Sandra Cumming and State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY

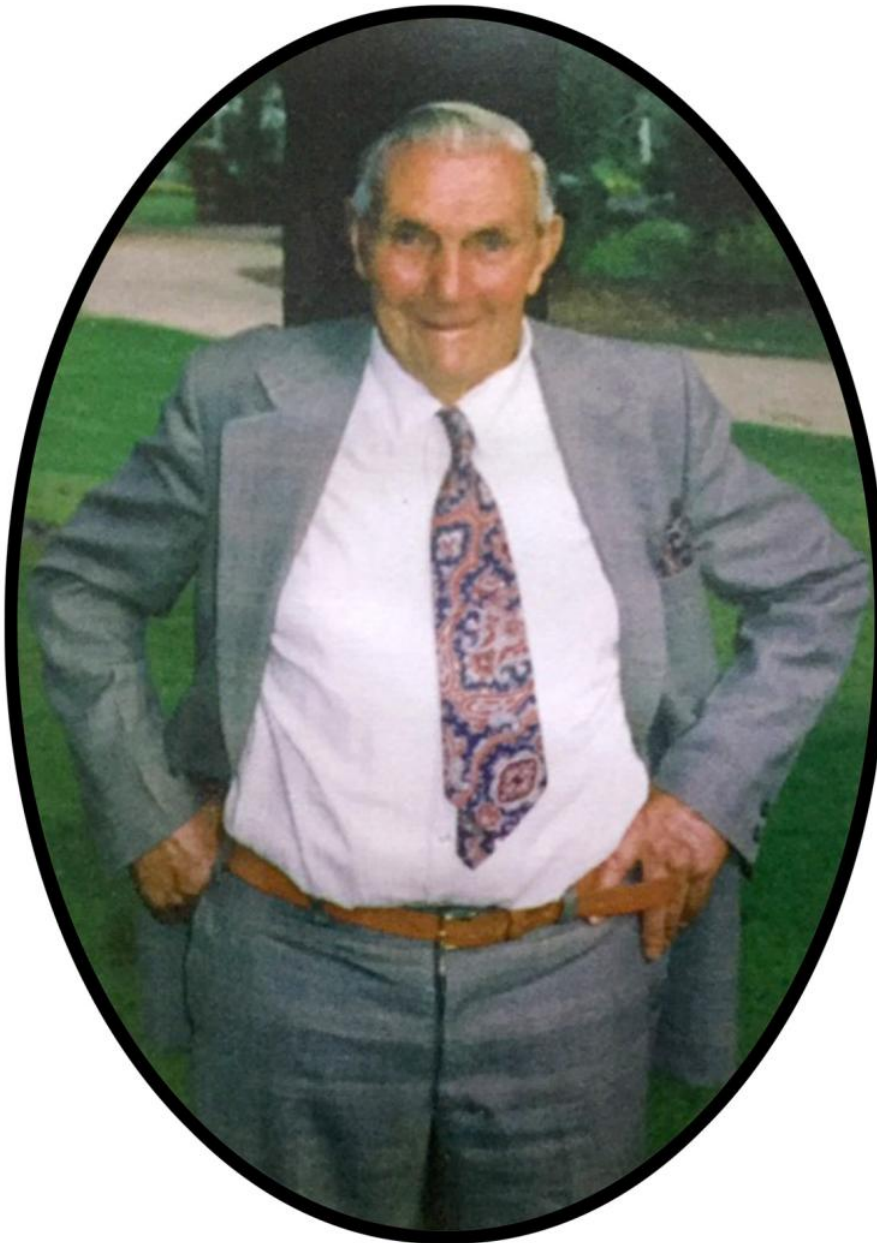


A relative of Charlie Norbury. While we may never know if Charlie took this photograph, we do know that it was in his photographic collection

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2014

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Charlie Norbury

Courtesy John & Maureen Norbury 2014



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

Wedding.

The marriage of Miss Alleyna Mary Roberts, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Vincent Roberts, The Avenue, East Malvern, and Mr. Francis Charles Norbury, third son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Norbury, Alexandra, was celebrated at the Methodist Church, Darling rd., East Malvern, on Saturday by Rev. Dr. C. W. Atkinson, assisted by Rev. T. C. Carne.

A gown of off-white embossed lace over taffetta, finished with sprays of orange blossom, was worn by the bride.

She was attended by Miss Joyce Drysdale, who wore a bouffant gown of pale green organdie. Miss Aileen Follett was flower girl and Margaret and Roy Provis were train bearers.

Mr. Harold Norbury was best man, and Messrs. R. Roberts and A. Roberts ushers.

The wedding breakfast was held at Central Park Kiosk, Burke rd., East Malvern.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 4 October 1940
Courtesy National Library Australia

Wedding of Francis Charles Norbury

Alexandra & Yea Standard
4 October 1940
Courtesy National Library Australia

NEWSPAPERS

Death of Mr. W. J. Norbury.

Another of the few remaining natives of Alexandra who grew up with the town passed away on Friday last in the person of Mr. Walter J. Norbury. He was 72 years of age. His father owned the property known as "Belle Vue," situated a couple of miles out of the town on the road to Yea. As a young man Mr. Walter Norbury followed the occupation of a miner for some time, and was a member of the party that successfully worked the "Morning Star" mine. Later on, he devoted his attention to gardening and dairying pursuits. He was intensely interested in cricket, and down through the years the doings of the various Australian Elevens were always foremost in his mind when sporting matters were discussed. As a citizen he was upright and honorable in his dealings. He liked to smoke a good cigar, and while the weaklings took to cigarettes, he continued to enjoy the aroma of a cigar until his final illness. His father was a man of vision, and came to Australia from Manchester (England), via America. He was a landscape gardener, and endeavored to create at the "Belle Vue" a bit of Old England (his father

owned the Belle Vue gardens and pleasure resort near Manchester), but he was ahead of his time. Of the original family only two survive—Mrs. A. Milroy, of Alexandra, and Mr. William Norbury, of Caulfield.

The funeral took place on Saturday, the remains being interred in the Alexandra cemetery. The coffin bearers were his four sons and members of the M.U.I.O.O.F. were the pallbearers—Messrs. G. Armstrong, G. A. Payne, S. Hewitt, E. Stillman, C. Richings, R. Roberts. He was one of the oldest members of the lodge.

The Rev. E. Leaver read the burial service.

Mr. A. Howell carried out the funeral arrangements.

The late Mr. Norbury's wife and family of five (four sons—Victor, Leslie, Charles, and John—and one daughter—Mrs. O. Jones) are left to mourn their sad loss.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 16 May 1941
Courtesy National Library Australia

Death of Walter James Norbury, Charlie's father

Alexandra & Yea Standard
16 May 1941 Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

Alexandra Cemetery Trust.

The annual meeting was held on Monday night last. Mr. S. Hewitt was voted to the chair. The balance sheet was received and adopted. The financial statement presented was for the period from January to December, 1939, and was as follows:—

RECEIPTS.

To Balance at bank ...	£107	6	5
Investments ...	1	17	8
Fees for graves, &c.	51	0	0
Tablets ...	5	0	0
Grave digging ...	35	15	0
Erecting kerbs ...	1	0	6
Total ...	£201	19	7

EXPENDITURE.

Secretary's Salary	£15	0	0
Office expenses ...	1	2	0
Works, clearing, etc.,	28	3	3
Grave digging ...	35	15	0
Insurance ...	15	5	
Contingencies (tablets)	7	19	8
Balance at bank ...	113	4	3
Total ...	£201	19	7

W. E. Edwards, Secretary.

There were 26 burials for 1939 (8 were bush fire victims).

The office at the cemetery is to be painted; also denominational tablets and compartment numbers are to be erected (this will make the location of graves easier).

The water is to be laid on to the cemetery, providing satisfactory arrangements can be made.

Relatives of people buried in the cemetery can have graves kept in order for a very nominal fee per year. Particulars in this direction can be obtained from Mr. L. Delzoppo or Mr. C. Norbury.

It is not the duty of the trust to keep graves in order. Some of the graves are sadly in need of attention.

Alexandra Cemetery Trust

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 9 February 1940
Courtesy National Library Australia

Alexandra & Yea Standard
9 February 1940
Courtesy National Library Australia



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

Monuments.

The term "monument" is derived from the Latin "Momentum" or "monimentum," meaning "that which serves to keep alive the memory of a person, an event, or a period." It may be applied to a column, statue, or building erected for that particular purpose. These are its generally accepted forms. Monuments are urges of the human spirit to perpetuate deeds or thoughts that have been considered worth commemoration. From a heap of stones to the vast pile of the pyramids suggests a great range, and from the North American Indian totem pole to the Egyptian pyramids alike show the activity of man to perpetuate memory. Some monuments are the vanity of man, perpetuating something that hardly justifies itself, but on the other hand many monuments express something worthy of commemoration. They are generally considered with an air of sacredness. The result of 85 years of experience makes the organisation of Geo. Ferris, Castlemaine, the leading memorialists of this State. Let them, through their local agent, Mr. Chas. Norbury, guide you in your problem.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 10 June 1949
Courtesy National Library Australia

Monuments

Alexandra & Yea Standard
10 June 1949
Courtesy National Library Australia

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS



GEO. FERRIES,
—
Monumental and Building
Masons
CASTLEVAINE.
Phone 139.

—
Visiting the District **Regularly**
Enquiries Invited to Local
Agent: Mr. Chas. Norbury.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 24 June 1949
Courtesy National Library Australia

Advertisement: George Ferris Monumental and Building Mason - Agent Charles Norbury

Alexandra & Yea Standard
4 October 1940
Courtesy National Library Australia

KODAK N1A (AUTOGRAPHIC) POCKET CAMERA

HISTORIC CAMERA SERIES

Built from 1914-1916



Kodak was founded by high school dropout George Eastman in America in 1888. In 2012 they filed for Bankruptcy protection as the digital age caught them unprepared. They emerged from Bankruptcy in 2013 with a new business model that saw the end of Kodak as a camera manufacturer.

Charlie Norbury, father of Alexandra local John Norbury, owned this camera and used it to take a large number of photographs during his early life. Charlie was an accomplished photographer and his photographs show skill and framing that was often consistent with the quality from professional photographers of his time.

The Kodak 1A camera was the larger version of the smaller Kodak Vest Pocket Camera, though was still considered a pocket camera. The 'A' indicated it was an Autographic model, having a sliding door on the back that allowed inscriptions to be made on the negative, which would show on the photograph when processed.



The Aperture range was f6.3-f45 with shutter speeds of Bulb, 1/25th and 1/50th of a second. A 'T' mode allowed the shutter to remain open for time exposure until the trigger was pressed a second time. The N1A was manufactured until 1916 when newer models in the series were introduced with expanded features.

KODAK BROWNIE FLASH II

HISTORIC CAMERA SERIES

Built from 1957-1963



John Norbury, son of Charlie Norbury, owned a Brownie Flash II as well as this Kodak flash pack. The camera has been lost, though the flash pack was recently photographed. His camera was identical to the one shown. 500,000 Brownie Flash II cameras were made in Melbourne, for the Australian market (between 1958-1963). At the time Australia had a population of just over ten million people, showing just how popular this inexpensive camera was.



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