

Mr. Arthur T. Pattinson,  
Kent St.,  
MORNINGTON, Vic.

Dear Mr. Pattinson,

Last week your brother, Brit., whom I have known for many years, supplied "The Bendigo Advertiser" with some interesting information regarding your role as the model for the late Jack Walker when he was making the statue for the Boer War Memorial here.

Yesterday, however, another claimant to the distinction of being the model was advanced in "The Bendigo Advertiser" by Mr. Richard Marshall, of Moran Street, Bendigo, who said that the soldier's model was Phillip Handmear. I understand that your brother has sent the newspaper cuttings on to you. When he called to see me yesterday he suggested that I write direct to you for further particulars.

Can you recall the discussion you had with Jack Walker when he approached you about acting as the model and do you remember how many times you posed for him, and whether the work was done in the house, in the yard, or in one of the outbuildings at Moran Street? In short, any details at all.

At this point in time we are considering an interesting facet in Bendigo's history, so any seemingly unimportant incidents could be really very useful if we knew about them.

Have you any old newspaper cuttings mentioning your name in connection with this memorial? Do you remember any remarks that passed between you and Jack Walker during the long sessions you must have put in on this work? This could be quite important. And do you recall where the rifle came from? Did you or Jack Walker borrow it from the military authorities?

Back in 1934 Jack Walker recalled having had to pull the plaster model down and remake it when he discovered that it was slightly off-balance and was slowly toppling forward. He told me he had to get his model to pose again. Do you know anything about this? Could it have been that he got Mr. Handmear in for this final stage of the work? That, of course, would apply only if you were not available. Incidentally, I never heard of Mr. Handmear until I saw his

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name in yeaterday's "Advertiser".

In any case I intended contacting your brother or you to inquire whether any member of your family had an old photograph of you in your Boer War uniform, that is, one taken about the time of or just after the Boer War. I am sure that members of the Bendigo branch of the Royal Historical Society would be most interested to see it.

I hope you will have the time and inclination to consider the many points I have raised in this letter because the subject has aroused a lot of interest in Bendigo.

Hoping you are keeping well and quite as active as you could wish.

I remain, with all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Harold Burnard



November 21st.

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Editor,

"The Bendigo Advertiser".

Sir,-

The good story behind Bendigo's South African war memorial gets better with the telling. After remaining an inactive stock for about 60 years the lone soldier on the monument has now become the target for three take-over bids in two weeks.

Each claimant for the honor of being the original model for Mr. Jack Walker's statue has an interesting case. The first claim was made on behalf of Mr. Arthur Pattinson, now 84, living at Mornington, a veteran of three wars, including the Boer War.

The second bid for the honor was made on behalf of Mr. Phillip Handmear, a champion axeman who lived at Knowsley.

And now a third claim has been made by Mr. David Nabbs, of Bendigo, who is certain that the model for the statue was his late father, William Nabbs, a builder, who lived in Buckley Street, Long Gully, near Mr. Walker's home.

Mr. Nabbs said his father posed for six weeks as the model and in later years he had clear confirmation of that fact from Mr. Walker himself.

This all goes to show what happens sometimes when one undertakes research into an historic monument. An almost forgotten facet of local history becomes news again and the researcher must sound his way warily through a fog of apparently conflicting evidence. It is problematical what further investigation will reveal but it is certain to focus closer attention upon one of this city's fine monuments.

*Harold Bernard.*

P.O.Box 96, Bendigo.