

Following my ^{own} very (a) young memories of Edward
Parrish ^{what} follows ^{now} is mainly my own
research with assistance from Peter Hanfield
of Municipal Library who wrote ~~an~~ ^{an} article on
Mrs Tilly Thompson and published
in the Courier ^{on 14 Feb 1989} made available to me
by the ^{Supervisor} ~~Manager~~ of Sencways and my
own personal recollections of ~~his~~ life
and references already referred to earlier.

I have not found any ^{direct} reference to the ^{OF THE TOTAL MONEY RAISED OF £2600} ~~total~~ cost of erection of the "Arch of Victory"
^{ALTHOUGH THE TREES COST £2000 SO POSSIBLY THE ARCH COST 8600 POUNDS}
but Tilly Thompson is reported to have phoned
found for Robert Selkirk (Founder of the firm)
asking if he would donate the bricks.
(to which he had to agree - of course)
There could well have been quite a lot
of volunteer labour for brick laying etc as
well, knowing Tilly's power to move people!
^{Q.V. DRAFT} ~~Now~~ I should have mentioned earlier
that Tilly ^{WILLIAM DANIEL THOMPSON} Glennell married etc etc. ^{2ND PARAGRAPH (SEE PAGE 2) OF FIRST DRAFT}
~~that~~ Tilly ^{had} travelled to Europe etc.
and by the way. The Arch is hollow (of course)
I recall when at Ballard High School one
lunch time about 1928 or 29 several of the
boys came back saying "We've been climbing
around inside the Arch". I did not believe
this thinking another ~~old~~ ^{old} story - big solid ^{are} structure
of bricks & cement. - I lived for many years

(b)

with this mysterious and almost impossible thing in ~~test~~ disbelief. Until recently while waiting to meet a granddaughter from High School and reading inscriptions on the south end, $\frac{1}{2}$ way up there is a small trap door, the same color as the cement, so the boys ^{climbed and up} ~~clung~~ on to the slabs and were able to enter.

So if any of you ladies would like to check my story and climb up like the boys did you will find the door padlocked

Now to page 3 (all of it) + Page 4 + 5 To

Tilly Thompson retired ^{"Gregory St"}
then page 4 + 5 except where deleted I
Page 6 to "Gregory Street"

type

Now on a personal note, I cannot recall ever personally meeting Mrs Tilly Thompson, but she was so well known to so many Ballarat people, ^{as most of us felt we knew her} my father would have met her as long ago as 1919 or 1920 and they kept in touch for years. In the early life of the trees he ^{had} worked with Mr Selmon, ^{LANDSCAPE GARDENER} of Gnarr St. off Wendouree Parade who had a maintenance contract with Tilly to care for the Avenue trees for many years from 1920 ^{onwards} a watering, ^{checking ~~staking~~ guards} staking, tying up against road damage and replacing ~~the~~ trees which died, also loosening up

(C)

the hard ground for the water to penetrate.

In later years when the Poplars suckered Tilly would hope him out there grubbing them out.

^{As a horticulturist always} he took a life time interest in ~~all~~ the trees and loved to watch their growth and progress.

He ^{also} cared for her garden at Seeways, I recall her telling him not to rake up the ^{autumn} leaves on the lawns until all had fallen ^{in autumn}, as she loved to watch them falling from her bay windows. (reminding her no doubt of the European autumn fall)

Not everyone knows this or realises that the ~~Av~~ Avenue continues on after the left turn from the Western Highway ^{beyond Lake Burrun} on the narrower road towards Weatherboard & Learmonth. Now with the Freeway the motorist has to enter the Freeway then right for some distance and then left towards ~~to~~ this narrower road. The ~~Av~~ Avenue ends where this road turns right to Learmonth.

Tilly wanted a monument to mark the end of the Avenue; so it would be late 1940s or early

1950's she decided on a rock cairn on the ^{left} corner. My ~~father~~ ^{dad} built it for Tilly. She would call for him on Saturday afternoons by car, reading and waiting in the car while he built up the rocks, ~~it~~ in a wide circle about a metre high and big pile of rocks in the centre, with a metal cross on top & inscription "Let us forget".

(Photo)
circulated

(2)

Its design reminds me of the Scouts & Guides & Guides sign "Gone Home".

Now says Tilly Thompson died --- Old cemetery
+ #5 IS SO WELL KNOWN TO GREAT

Now I'd like to say that researching the life and work of Tilly Thompson has given me a feeling of pride and privilege that we had in Ballarat a citizen and a woman of her tremendous drive and enthusiasm.

I still like that compliment paid when she joined at Lucas in 1905 "Terrifying Energy"

particular
So her legend will live on in one respect ^{because of the boys and also} and also ^{bequest and also} I would ask - where else in Australia is there an arch of victory and avenue of 14 miles of trees which pays tribute to those who ^{so bravely} fought and died for freedom and peace in our world?

* (This concluded the talk)

As time permitted ^{at this stage} Mrs Tilly Thompson's home "Sunways", Wendouree Parade as written ^{up} and illustrated in The Australian Home Beautiful, April 1939, "Vibrating with Sunshine and Glass" was read to the audience.

* The following ^{R. O. Moxman} photos and publications ^{annexed reports} were handed around to the audience

GV

- ✓ Extracts from "The Golden Thread"[®]
on early days of F. L. Lucas Co
- ✓ Lest we forget --- the Lucas Girls
Courier Saturday Feb 25 1984.
With pictures surrounding the article
- ✓ Vibrating with Sunshine and Glass
Sp. N.W. 495
- ✓ Enlarged photo of Tilly Thompson
- ✓ Photo from "The Golden Thread"
Photo (Sp. N.W. 1) Thompson
- ✓ Laying the foundation stone of
Victory Feb 1920
- ✓ Photo Mrs Thompson's first bar.
Travelling Sales Lady and friends
- ✓ Tilly with Tom Toop.
Former home "Homeleigh Wendouree Pde"
April 1995 now "Green Shores"
reunited

111

Tilly Thompson
Introduction to talk.

24. 2. 00.

+ RESEARCH

~~John~~ Tilly Thompson (spelt "Tilly" by all who knew her and "Thompson" spelt with a "p") was born Matilda L. Glennell (spell) on 28th April 1871 the fifth child of ^{J. M. CLEGG & CO. GREGORY ST} John & Matilda Glennell of Wendouree. Her parents had migrated to Victoria in the 1850's. John Glennell came from Durham England and Matilda McIntosh from Fifeshire Scotland. were married in December 1862 - 12 YEARS LATER.

Tilly left school about 1884 ^{AGE 13 YEARS} and first started work for Davies - Drooper and later moved to Tylers Dropery, Bridge Street as buyer until 1905.

Now, reading from ^{both} "The Golden Threads" history of the Lucas Co P/ld. and ^{drop page from} a Courier Saturday Magazine page on 25th February 1984 - headed "Lest we forget" - ... the Lucas girls by

Margaret Rotherham - which I will later hand ^{as several historical pictures are showing} around
Read FIRST - WE NEED TO LEARN A LITTLE ABOUT THE EARLY LIFE OF LUCAS
First "The role of Women in the story of Lucas"
FROM THE COURIER MAGAZINE ARTICLE - I WILL LATER HAND AROUND ^{ALSO}
Then "Among the most colorful personalities" on works from The Golden Thread.

Read on from The Golden Thread to end.

THEN FROM "LEST WE FORGET" READ AGAIN: ^{LEST WE FORGET}

"The stories of the Lucas girls achievements" & later 2nd Column starting "The firm's reputation" etc

There is a photo of Tilly, the Lucas & the Lucas GIRLS LOADING BRICKS - PASS AROUND

NOTE - (NOT IN TALK) W.D. THOMPSON'S FATHER T.H. THOMPSON WAS ONE TIME MAYOR OF THE CITY

I have not found the ^{TOTAL} cost of erection of the "Arch of Victory" but Tilly Thompson is reported to have ~~was~~ phoned Mr Robert Selthick (Founder of the firm) asking if he would donate the bricks - to which he had to agree. (Of course). There could well have, quite a lot of voluntary labour, as well ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~there~~ ^{there} ~~as well~~ ^{as well}

I should have mentioned earlier that Tilly O'Connell married William Daniel Thompson, Born in 1858, ^{and manager} a wealthy Mining Agent after his first wife Annie ~~had~~ died in 1913 and left him with 6 children - when he was 55 years of age - probably mostly grown up by that time. ^{no doubt (S)} MISS MARGORIE TODD ^{TILLY'S (PROBABLE) GRAND NIECE} RECALLED THREE STEP-DAUGHTERS WERE NURSES. ^{AT SLOWWAYS}

← ALSO →
Tilly had travelled to Europe for recess during the earlier years of her time with the firm to study fashion trends and also research the latest in machine development.

By the way. ^{rewritten page (a)} (Of course) LUNCH TIME
The Arch is hollow - School makes 1928 or 29 climbed over the inside - I did not believe them. Solid brick & cement render + thought just another tall story I lived ^{many years} with this ^{MYSTERIOUS} almost impossible thing. ~~almost~~ in disbelief - Recently - reading inscription - South Side - ^{1/2 way up} a trap door - SAME COLOR AS CEMENT. ^{BOYS CLIMBED - FINEST LAST TO GET}
Any ladies feel like trying to climb up - Will find trap door ^{PAID LOCKED}

Jilly Thompson retired from ~~at~~
E. Lucas & Co Pty Ltd in 1926 (The Golden
Threads) & quote "To spend her
indefatigable energies in world travel
and in public spirited activities in
Ballarat." She was then 55 years of age.

? M TAFFE
SAYS 1922

Her husband W.D. Thompson died in
1927. Soon after his death Jilly
decided to travel overseas, mostly
through Europe ^{and Russia}, returning to
Ballarat in 1933, some five (5)
years later.

Her ^{original} family home in Wendouree Parade
was at 510/512 on the northern
shore of Lake Wendouree, known
then as "Home^{leigh}" probably built in
the 1880's of Victorian ^{era} style spacious
lounge, 3 bedrooms, study & sunroom
& superb outlook over the lake.
It was auctioned on 5th April, 1995
under its changed name of "Green Shores"
(Cawner Real Estate Guide) - (circulated
copy)

4

On returning from overseas in 1933 Tilly became very interested in health, nutrition and exercise which she called "Radiant Health". She started exercise classes at the City Hall (I think) for women, and continued this elsewhere for years. Even later when 80 years of age she actively encouraged people to improve their diet, adopt sound religious principles and become more healthy.

In 1939 her Dream House "Sunways" ^{was} built to her own design ^{and innovative ideas} ~~and~~ plan with the help of her builder, David Quayle at 418/420 Kenton Parade.

She continued her charitable work in retirement and helped so many people in so many and numerous ways, too numerous to know all about - including Ballant Bore Hospital, Churches and speaking Groups. Raffle of Forest St Home for 1/2 ticket. ^{OPPOSITE JUBILEE KINDERGARTEN}

She was an active member of the Jubilee Methodist Church for many years of her life, and in the publication "Centenary Celebrations 1860 to 1960" was listed in the thanks and appreciations as "Mrs Matilda Thompson, Church Benefactor and friend of all"

In 1950 and 1951 she had gifted land at the rear of the church tennis Courts in Gregory Street and made a substantial donation to purchase the tennis court land previously leased from her.

Tilly had also formed a friendship with Tom Toop, curator of the Botanical Gardens which she dearly loved. ^{IT WAS SO FITTING THAT WE HAD A MEMORIAL GARDEN IN HER NAME} ^{THE FRIENDS OF THE BOTANICAL GARDENS} ^{T.M. TOOP} she was also a member of the Jubilee Church following in the footsteps of George Longley, ^{of our denomination} Communion superintendent of Sunday School & Bellringer for all services for many years. ^(INCIDENTALLY FRED CHEWELL FOLLOWED AS BELLRINGER)

Tilly also arranged for the Rev. Telean ^{METHODIST MINISTER} to use Sunways to interview and diagnose medical problems for his patients and conducted health and exercise classes in her lounge room.

To crown her life's achievements in 1939 Tilly Thompson was awarded the Gold Medal of R.S.S.A.I.L.A. (now A.S.L.) and later in 1941 ^{NEW YEARS HONOURS LIST} at aged 70 the high award of M.B.E. which we must all agree was richly deserved for her life long ^{devotion} to charities and other public spirited activities.

Tilly Thompson died in hospital on 7th April 1959 ^{AGED 88 ON 28 APRIL OF THAT YEAR} and was buried at the Bellair Old Cemetery. ^{HER LIFE'S WORK COMPLETED} ^{WOULD BEEN} ^{SO ENDED THE EARTHLY LIFE OF A MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN. (LAST)} ^{DELETED.} ^{MY OWN RECOLLECTIONS}

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: THE GOLDEN THREAD: EARLY DAYS E. LUCAS & CO. LOANED FROM ART GALLERY SUGGESTED BY JESSIE SCOTT
COURIER MAGAZINE SAT 25 FEB 1984 LEST WE FORGET WITHIN FORMATION PROVIDED BY MISS JEAN ELFORD - OLD PAL
PETER MANSFIELD - HISTORIAN, MUNICIPAL LIBRARY, COURIER 4.2.1989 FROM SUPERVISOR - SUNWAYS & VIBRATING WITH SUNSHINE & GLASS

COME BACK TO THIS TO FINISH

WE HAVE HELPED TO WHAT? WE HAVE HELPED TO WHAT? WE HAVE HELPED TO WHAT?

→ BUT THE MEMORY OF MRS TILLY THOMPSON DID NOT DIE.

As is so well-known, by her will she left her beloved home "Sunways" to the Uniting Church. Her ^{mere or} grand ~~idea~~ ^{idea} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~to~~ ^{to} provide a Holiday home for the elderly poor who could not afford to go away ^{for holidays}. But I'm sure ~~if~~ she would be most pleased ~~now~~ with its present use for the elderly and with the expanded facilities right through to Gregory Street. ^(SEE PAGE 6) NOW ON A PERSONAL NOTE ^{PAGE 8}

→ in the light of this talk - would have been better I cannot recall ever ^{personally} meeting Mrs Tilly Thompson, but my father would have met her as long ago as 1919 or 1920. Kept in touch for years job with Mr Selmon Landscape Gardener - today's equivalent Guarr Street off West Pde. ^{contract} maintenance of Avenue trees for several years from 1920. Making, staking, ^{tying - wind} replacing trees which died. Looking up around trees to enable water to soak in. ^{WORKED ON THIS} My father loved these trees.

Cared for her garden Sunways after 1946 planting seedlings ^{LAWNS} etc. ^{RECALL} Do not rake up Autumn leaves I like to see them ^{falling} on lawns. NOT EVERYONE REALISES OR KNOWS THIS BUT The Avenue continues on from Western Hwy - towards Learmonth - Cairn at end of Avenue. My Dad built it. ^{FOR TILLY THOMPSON} Called for him on Sets Cen while he built up the ^{DESIGN} rocks. Circle ^{of} center of rocks & CROSS TOP. Seats & Guides "Home Home" sign. NOW - BACK ONE PAGE TO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Tilly Thompson has given me a feeling
of pride and privilege that we had
in Ballarat a woman of her

~~her~~ tremendous drive & enthusiasm and
I still like that complement paid ~~during~~ when she
joined at Lucas ^{in 1905} - Terrifying energy -

So her legend will live on in one
respect ^{is it not} elsewhere in Australia is there ~~any~~
an Act and ceremony of 15 miles of feet?

which ~~is~~ pay tribute to ~~the~~ ^{the boys who} ~~the~~ ^{freedom of our world}
fought and died for peace in ~~Australia~~

87 29 U
Mrs W.D. Thompson (Her husband a mine
manager and wealthy) retired from Lucas
in 1926 (Page 28 "The Golden Threads")

to spend her indefatigable energies in
World travel and in public spirited
activities in Ballarat which earned
her the award of an M.B.E.

Fitzes Home in Forest St. Raffle at 1/- per ticket.
? (Red Cross) ? year uncertain - I saw it.
& the first washing machine.

on Return from Overseas trip started on Health
& fitness classes at the Town Hall. For Women
Course lectures of Women in light (R. A. Gould)