

Olive Muriel Carty (née Bishop)

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PHOEBE WILKENS H I S T O R I A N

Born & Bred Historical Research was born out of a love of historical research and a passion for unlocking hidden mysteries. We're in the business to find your people and tell their story.

Established in 2014, Born & Bred are your resident family history researchers, super sleuths or 'History Detectives' and specialise in family history research and building family trees as well as delving into all historical avenues.

Director and historian, Phoebe has a passion for genealogy, a love of researching families, their origins and finding the skeletons in the closet (and coaxing them out). Phoebe also loves to solve historical mysteries and delves into the history of homes and properties as well as working with professional services, presenting to groups, cohosting the *Chickstory* podcast and working as a consultant and presenter for television.



WITH THANKS

A special thanks goes to the following people who gave their time and memories in interviews and research assistance.

- Sally Wood
- Lorraine Wood (née Bell)
- Maria Bell
- Susie Myers (née Black)
- Sam Carty
- Carol Wilson
- Jen Hutton (current president of The Napier Club)



Olive Muriel Carty (née Bishop) Photo supplied.

OLIVE MURIEL CARTY (NÉE BISHOP)

1904-1977

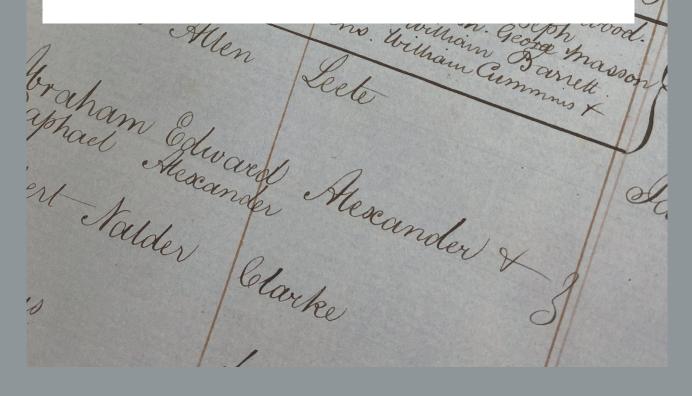
If e is not defined by a birth date and death date, but by the days and the moments within those milestones. We can never know everything about those moments, all those days that make a life or make a person who they are in the moment in which you know them.

Olive's life is no exception. We can never know everything that happened in her life without walking beside her or learning about it from her own voice. Even then, there are moments in life that are experienced and remembered differently by individuals. However, we can learn from the stories from the people in her life, who had a connection to Olive, who may have known her for a lifetime, or merely an instant in time. We can learn so much from a fleeting meeting or a nurtured relationship. We can also learn about Olive and her life story by understanding the connections she had to her family, her circle, and the wider community in which she lived and socialised in, as well as what was happening in the world around her at junctures of her life.

Olive's life is not only defined by those moments within her birth and deaths dates, but has continued through the legacy she left after her death, albeit, in recognition of her late husband, to which the legacy was named even with her forethought and determination.

Medeander 2454 The Bank of 21,35. John Mexander Gregory Kew South Man 2456 loodin "IN THE END, WE ALL BECOME STORIES."

Margaret Atwood



Like many women of her time, Olive was living in a man's world. She had a modicum of privilege that would have afforded her many opportunities that other women of the same generation were not able to experience, however, she was still, to a degree, living in the shadows of the men in her life – her father, her brothers, and later her husband. However, with this privilege Olive was able to help provide joy and memories for those important in her life – her family – and allow ongoing opportunities in the form of the charitable fund that allows funds to be distributed to 'assist or promote research into the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of physical or mental disorders of human beings,' thus allowing institutions and organisations to establish or continue with work that will have ongoing benefits for the greater good.

Olive's story is not only her legacy – the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund – that was established under her final wishes after her death with a bequest of \$200,000, but also her life and the impact she had on others throughout her remarkable 72 years. To learn and understand more about the force that was Olive Muriel Carty (née Bishop) we need to understand more about her family, life, decisions she made, and the every day.

Olive Muriel Bishop was born at the family home in the residential seaside suburb of Brighton in Melbourne's south-east on 24 March 1904. The Bishops had resided in Brighton from the mid-1890s in a home called *Lybster* close to the corner of Carpenter and Church Streets (the number of the home varied between number 19 and 27 as the population grew and street numbering altered). Olive was the sixth child of seven for John Bishop and Jemima Gibson MacVean who had married on 24 October 1894 at the Manse, Brunswick in a ceremony conducted by Jemima's father, Reverand Allan MacVean. The newly married couple established themselves in Brighton which had a relatively elite population, that was steadily increasing, but it also allowed for easy access to central Melbourne where John's offices were located, as well as a developed shopping centre and market gardens, a range of private and public schools for any Bishop children who were to come along, as well as at least six churches, in which they could worship.

John Bishop had hailed from Coleraine in County Londonderry (formerly County Coleraine), Northern Ireland. Coleraine, located at the mouth of the River Bann and part of the Causeway Coast had managed to evade the harshest destruction that was brought about by the Great Famine in 1840, however, it allowed an influx of destitute people seeking refuge and resurrection. When John was born in 1864 Coleraine was experiencing significant expansion, and with it would have possibly allowed greater employment opportunities for John as he grew to adulthood. John's hard work and quiet nature allowed him to flourish in the financial sector after he began his first job at about the age of 16 years old in the Northern Banking Company Limited in Belfast. John remained in his position for eight years before he was transferred to the Dublin office. In 1889 after about 12 months in Dublin, John handed in his resignation upon deciding to sail to the colony of Victoria where he took up employment with the Royal Bank of Australia Limited in Melbourne. John's star continued to rise and he was soon after appointed as an Associate of the Incorporated Institute of Accountants in 1892.

As John Bishop was working his way up through the ranks in the financial world in Northern Ireland's capital, his future wife, Jemima was living a world away in the inner suburbs of Melbourne.

Jemima Gibson MacVean was born in 1865 in Brunswick, a working-class suburb where her father, the Reverand Allan MacVean had been ministering since 1854. Jemima was the daughter of Allan MacVean who was known as "The Father of Brunswick" – minister of the Free Church of Scotland – and Catherine Macpherson, the daughter of John Macpherson, a free settler and pastoralist who took up *Nerrin Nerrin* in Victoria's Western District. The Macpherson's were said to be one of several families, who by the late-19th century owned a total of two million acres of Victoria's best freehold land. Interestingly, of the other families included in the number of significant pastoral runs connected to the Macpherson's and *Nerrin Nerrin* would have been descendants who would have run in the same circles as Olive, John Macpherson's great granddaughter, a century later.

Jemima MacVean would have been raised to think of other's before herself, yet, would have also likely lived a comfortable life through her mother's family and the privileges in which that bestowed. There would have been great sacrifices through her father's connection to the church, and Jemima and her nine siblings would have learned charitability and generosity from an early age. Reverand MacVean had been lauded for his interest and commitment to charitable work, guidance, and counsel with regards to local institutions and only resigned from his positions shortly before his death due to ill-health.

There is no doubt that this sense of giving, understanding and charitability was ingrained in another generation of the MacVean's, which can be clearly defined by Olive's – and her sisters – commitments throughout their lives through various circumstances and avenues. It was not only her maternal side that had strong connections to the church. During his life, John Bishop was also a senior church warden and vestryman of St Andrew's Church of England in Brighton, Continue reading

and a member of the synod. St Andrew's was one of the earliest Christian churches established in the Port Phillip District and a short walk from the Bishop family home on Carpenter Street. It would have been a central and integral part of the family for all of Olive's childhood.

After John and Jemima had married and moved to Brighton, they began their family almost immediately with the arrival of a son, Alan Stephen Bishop in 1895, followed by a daughter, Mary Macvean Bishop in 1896, Ellen Marjorie "Marjorie" Bishop in 1898, John Reginald "Rex" Bishop in 1899, Kathleen Petrena Bishop in 1904, **Olive Muriel Bishop** in 1904, and Ivie Winifred Bishop in 1906. During the early years of their marriage, Jemima's father Allan died at the age of 72 years old in 1896, followed two years later by her mother, Catherine in 1898. By this time, Catherine had moved closer to her daughter and growing family where she relocated to her home which was known as Cintra on Carpenter Street in Brighton. Sadly, Olive never got to experience a relationship with any of her grandparents, however, her immediate family were close and would have played together in the grounds of their home, and worshipped together in their local church.

Meanwhile, John Bishop's hard work was demonstrated when he went into partnership with Andrew Burns and Frederick Hamilton Wilson – an already established duo – and forming Burns, Wilson & Bishop in 1900. John Bishop's employment success was on an upward trajectory and over the next decade the partnership reformed upon the death of Andrew Burns only months into the newly formed trio. However, the name continued until March 1909 when Arthur Percival Henderson joined the ranks and the firm became known as Wilson, Bishop & Henderson. Frederick Hamilton Wilson retired the following year, however the firm continued to trade under the name for the next 59 years. Upon Mr Wilson's resignation, John Bishop became the sole owner of the business; a mantle which he would hold for another three decades.

Meanwhile, Jemima would have been running the family home in Brighton where she would have seen her sons off to school at the prestigious Scotch College in Hawthorn, and preparing her daughters for a life where the expectation was to marry and begin a family. During the early years of the 20th century, working class and middle-class children were only required to complete their schooling until the 5th class, or about 11 years old. It is likely that the Bishop children surpassed that expectation and experienced a good education in the private school system. However, a boy's education was different to what Olive and her sisters would have learnt at school. Aside from the standard "3 Rs" – 'reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic'' – which embodied the fundamentals of education and provided the foundation of 'back to basics' rhetoric, Olive and her sisters would have also learnt needlework and cooking as part of their education.

Then, in 1914, when John Bishop was busy at his accounting firm, and Jemima was keeping home, social commitments and a connection to her faith, and their children were all at school, war was declared and life was to irrevocably change for the world, but also much closer to home.

Olive's eldest brother, Alan, was not yet 20 years old when he stepped forward to fight for 'King and Country.' Recruitment for the Australian Expeditionary Force began in August 1914 when Alan was still at school, however two weeks into the new year, Alan enlisted with the 'full knowledge and approval' of his father, John. Many recruits were worried that the fighting may have been over before they arrived on foreign shores and the rush to enlist was evident with more than 52,000 enlistments in the remaining five months of 1914 and more than triple that in the year following. Not only did the idea of war excite young recruits who felt a patriotic pull to defend the honour of their homeland and 'the mother country,' but it also afforded the idea travel, which may have otherwise been impossible, as well as a steady wage for many who were experiencing tough financial conditions and high unemployment during the mid-1910s. Alan's expectations for enlistment are unclear, however on 14 January 1915, he was enlisted under the rank of Corporal with the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.). Three months after his enlistment he embarked on the *Horarata* from Melbourne to the theatre of war.

Meanwhile, his family were to remain on the home front and wait for news from

their son and brother, and hope that life would otherwise resume as normal, that the war would end in victory and quickly, and that they would not be too long without they beloved Alan. Olive was only 10 years old when her eldest brother embarked on the adventure of war. It is likely that she and her sisters had been involved with elements of volunteer work for the war effort, something that would have been done through various parts of the community, including through church organisations the family would have been affiliated with, as well as the Red Cross and through school.

Olive, who was in primary school when war broke out would have been involved in fundraising efforts, including fairs and fêtes, and would have stood at school assembly where the news of the war was read out giving particular attention to Australia and the allies gains as well as outstanding actions of former students. During this time and for the next four or so years of the war, the Victorian Education Department also requested that teachers and pupils collect particular animals all in the name of the war effort. At one time they were asked to collect leeches as they 'were beneficial in relieving bruising as well as the pain in the back that accompanied pneumonia.' All of this, plus more would help with returned servicemen. For school-aged children like Olive there was great encouragement to donate pocket money to the war effort through various charities, churches and military hospitals as well as participate in other tangible ways, including producing goods for services such as the Red Cross. Jemima and her daughters would have also very likely been involved with fundraising with the Red Cross. It made no difference that Olive would not have yet been a teenager when these fundraising efforts were encouraged; there was an expectation for all ages to 'do their bit' for the war effort. The Red Cross organised the manufacture and supply of clothing and other home comforts to send to the troops, which Olive, her sisters, and mother would have participated. The 'home comforts' volunteers helped with such things as knitting socks and other 'trench comforts,' such as scarves, and balaclavas, baking (long-lasting goods), and packing clothing to send to the front. Women and girls 'knitted at home, on trams, in churches. When they ran out of knitting needles, they made new ones from bicycle spokes: when they ran out of dye, they used onion skins and wattle bark; when they ran out of wool, they learnt to spin their own.' And, Olive would have been adept at such efforts all for the men on the warfront, with thoughts of her big brother receiving such help.

Exactly three months after his departure, Corporal Alan Bishop, and his battalion joined the bloody warfare at Anzac Cove. He and the 8th Battalion remained there for five months and were integral in the evacuation of Anzac which began

on 15 December 1915. Over five nights 36,000 troops were withdrawn to the waiting transport ships and the last of them left in the early hours of 20 December. On 7 January 1916 Alan disembarked with his battalion at Alexandria where not only were troops unloaded, but also animals, guns, and supplies for the troops. In February 1916, Alan was transferred to the 60th Battalion at Serapeum, a training camp in Egypt where he underwent rigorous training before embarking on the campaign on the Western Front. After one month of training, Alan had been promoted and was now Sergeant Bishop. On 18 June 1916 he embarked with the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) in Alexandria for an 11-day sea voyage where they arrived in Marseille, France.

Over the next few weeks the battalion trained and made their way by train and foot to northern France where they were inevitably attached to the Battle of Fromelles which occurred on the 19 and 20 July 1916. The causalities reached in the tens of thousands, and the 59th and 60th Battalions were essentially annihilated during the warfare. Sergeant Alan Bishop sustained severe injuries when he received nine gunshot wounds in total; to the face, hand a knee. A week after his battle injuries occurred, he was transferred from the field hospital in France to the Third Northern Military Hospital in Sheffield, England.

Alan's family received news of their son's injuries, however, that news had been delayed by almost a month. Three months after he was admitted to the Third Northern Military Hospital, his mother Jemima, leaving her husband and children at home, embarked on her own sea voyage when she boarded the *R.M.S. Medina* from Melbourne bound for England via several ports. The liner was relatively new and had been regarded as one of the best liners of its time. It had been built as a royal mail carrier with an intended route from London, India, and Australia. Like many liners of a similar nature, the *R.M.S. Medina* had not been requestioned for the war effort and continued it services as it had pre-war; carrying passengers, goods, and mail. However, the *R.M.S. Medina* was armed.

The Bishops were of means and even though the war had an impact on employment and prosperity throughout Australia and the world, the family were able to maintain a level of comfort, which would have allowed Jemima to make the hasty trip to see her son in England during the middle of a war. Jemima departed from Port Melbourne on 31 October 1916 and arrived about five weeks later after a hazardous voyage. She sat vigil next to her wounded eldest son in the ward of the Third Northern Military Hospital in Sheffield. However, even with his mother by his side and 'even his buoyant disposition and fine constitution, aided by the best medical and surgical skill in Britain, were not able to save him, though the struggle lasted six months,' and tragically, Sergeant Alan Stephen Bishop died of his wounds two days after his mother's arrival. Alan's funeral took place in Sheffield and was attended by members of his extended family, including his uncle James Bishop who had travelled from Coleraine, and a number of his maternal aunts. Those missing from his send-off were his comrades who were still engaged in warfare on the Western Front and his immediate family, including his father, John and younger brother, Rex and his five sisters, including Olive who were left at home to grieve. The family were informed of his death via telegraph and noted that the 'relatives were present at the death and full details of the funeral will be forwarded to you in due course.' Alan's body was laid to rest as the Last Post was blown by an Artillery bugler and his remains were interred in a 'grave on the highest point of a hill which overlooks the whole of surrounding beautiful landscape' at the Burngreave Cemetery in Sheffield.

The Bishop family who remained at home in Brighton would have been reeling from the death of Alan, however, another blow to John was the loss of his business partner, Arthur Henderson who had also entered into the theatre of war when he enlisted with the British Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.). Arthur became attached to the 49th Siege Battery, Royal Garrison Artillery and was also killed in France when he died of wounds on 19 June 1917.

The two deaths so close to John and the Bishop family were tragic in their own rights, however, it was also to have lasting effects on the business with the loss of the "next in line." After the death of Alan in 1916, the Bishop family changed irrevocably. Not only had they lost a son and a brother, John had also lost the successor to his business. Whether it was Alan's desire to take over the family firm was not a consideration, and when his legacy was cut short on the battlefields of the Western Front, the next heir in line of the family business throne was John Reginald "Rex" Bishop. There was no consideration for any of John and Jemima's daughters, including Olive, to take over the family firm or any positions within the business. A role in which it is believed that Olive would have thrived.

There's little doubt that Olive would have been eager to join her father's firm when she had been older, and throughout her later life she became heavily involved with decision making and had a 'good head for business.' Alas, that was not to be the case, and realistically, was never a consideration to have one, or any of John and Jemima's daughters involved in the firm; that position was to be bestowed upon the next eldest surviving Bishop son – Rex.

John Bishop (senior) continued to guide the firm through the difficult war years – both personally and professionally – and in 1925, his son Rex joined the

business, in a position which would have been reserved for Alan, and was possibly undesirable for Rex. John and Rex continued with their new partnership, which flourished. Where John was staid and conservative in his business ventures and his life, Rex brought new ideas and enthusiasm to the firm, which in turn brought in new business, opportunities, and growth. Although, Olive was only a teenager when her brother Rex stepped into the role at Wilson, Bishop & Henderson, and there was no chance that she would ever be considered to join the firm, the employment landscape for Australian women after the First World War was changing. Women's roles had changed when the men went off to war; many who had never before worked outside of the home were required to take on roles that had once been reserved only for men, and whilst the war saw destruction and devastation, it was also a positive catalyst for progressing women's rights. Within their own community and that of the wider public Olive and her sisters would have been witness to the new role's women were permitted to fill, although, sadly, this was relatively short-lived. Although, no person wanted a world where the men were still fighting on foreign shores and facing-off with death and life altering wounds – physical and mental – their departure had allowed some degree of independence and change for women's lives. However, once the men returned, they were also mostly returned to their tenures throughout offices and factories across Australia, and thus, returning women to their roles as wife, mother, and housekeeper that they had gained a reprieve from for several years. Many women's hopes were dashed that they be able to remain or enter the paid workforce.

Throughout her teenage years and early-20s, Olive would have been heavily involved with her local community, including connections to the church, in which the Bishop and MacVean families were heavily entrenched. Her early years being surrounded by such a sense of community and giving were fostered throughout her life with her sense of generosity and philanthropy. Olive also would have remained in the family home during these years. As an unmarried woman, she was beholden to her parents until such time as she was married as it was unseemly and undignified to live outside of the familial home if one was not legally attached to a man. Some exceptions were for women who were employed as nurses who would live in shared quarters close to the hospital. But, for women like Olive, who did not have work, and were not required to work because of her father's standing in the community and business world, she would be destined to remain living with her parents and unmarried siblings until the time came – if it came – that she would marry and move into the marital home.

After the heartache of the 1910s and the First World War, Australia entered the 1920s with great anticipation. The fighting and uncertainty were over and there was a sense of security and prosperity in the first half of the 1920s. The Bishop family were undoubtedly still distraught by the loss of Alan, an event that one could never possibly forget or overcome. Although the Australian economy was suffering from falling wheat and wool prices, it appears that John's business was thriving, Rex was making great improvements in the firm, and the Bishop daughters were all healthy and living in the family home Lybster in Brighton under the tutelage and care of their mother Jemima. By the late-1920s, the Bishop's had moved from Brighton and the house they had called home for about 30 years, to the leafy residential suburb of Toorak. Spending time at Chiselhurst at 35 Wallace Avenue, Toorak they eventually moved to Sherwood at 8 Glenbervie Road, Toorak in about May 1928. Jemima, her son Rex and three of her daughters, Ellen, Olive, and Ivie would have travelled between Wallace Avenue and Sherwood in August 1928 whist John and daughters Mary and Kathleen spent eight months travelling through England and Europe returning to Melbourne in January 1929.

The world was once again dismayed when the stock market crash in October 1929 led to a worldwide economic depression. This undoubtedly would affect the Bishop family, however, it was on 9 December 1929 that the Bishop's world was rocked when their wife, mother and matriarch, Jemima died at the age of 64 years old at their home in Glenbervie Road.

Interestingly it was Jemima who had purchased Sherwood in conjunction with her five daughters, essentially allowing them to be set up without the need for a male to oversee their living arrangements and offered them a form of financial security and independence. When the property was purchased in 1928 it was divided equally amongst the six Bishop women – Jemima, Mary, Marjorie, Kathleen, Olive, and Ivie.

As the world struggled through the early years of the Great Depression, which saw hundreds of thousands of Australians out of work when unemployment peaked in 1932, the Bishop family also had cause for celebration when Marjorie Bishop married John Bell in 1931. Marjorie was the first of the Bishop, and she and John went on to have three children Judith "Judy", Alan John "AJ", and Lorraine "Rainey."

Further celebration ensued as on 21 March 1935, Olive Muriel Bishop walked down the aisle of St John's Church in Toorak on the arm of her father, John Bishop towards her soon-to-be husband, Leslie Ernest William Carty. It is unclear how the two came to meet as there was an age difference of 20 years – Olive was 30 years old to Leslie's 50 years – and a physical distance of more than 300 kilometres between them. The wedding, which was reported with much fanfare in the local newspapers of the day described a radiant Olive flanked by her two sisters – Ivie and Mary – standing as her bridesmaids, and the groom, Leslie who was attended by his two groomsmen; his two soon-to-be brothers-in-law, Harold Archer – his sister Lucy's husband – and, Rex Bishop. The inclusion of his future wife's brother in the bridal party speaks to the fact that the families must have accepted Leslie into the close family fold. After the ceremony at St John's, the newlyweds and wedding guests enjoyed a reception at *Sherwood* before they began their new life at *Brisbane Hill*, the Carty family property in Hamilton in Victoria's Western District.

What a shock it must have been for Olive to move from the bustling inner suburbs of Melbourne and the metropolis of the central business district where her father's offices were located at 99 Queen Street to the vast pastoral runs of Hamilton to start her new life as a wife and mistress of the homestead. Hamilton had been well established by the time Olive relocated there with her new husband who had lived his whole life on the family property known as *Brisbane Hill.*

INTRODUCING THE CARTY FAMILY

Leslie Ernest William Carty had been born in Melbourne on 31 January 1885 to Richard Thomas Carty and Lucy Constance Hawkins. Richard was a sheep farmer and had hailed from County Wexford in Ireland; Lucy had been born in the southwestern English county of Somerset and the two had met and married in Victoria. After the couple married in 1873, they welcomed their first son, Thomas Richard Carty in 1874, followed by Ernest James Carty in 1879, William Edward Carty in 1882, Leslie Ernest William Carty in 1885, and Lucy Constance Carty in 1886. Interestingly, all the children aside from Leslie, who was born in Melbourne, had been born in the Western District, between Hamilton and Casterton. It is possibly due to the fact that tragedy struck the family in 1884 when 4-year-old Ernest and 2-year-old William died. The family story alleges that the two boys were in the depths of the family apple orchard on the property known as Wando Vale Station near Casterton when they decided to have an apple eating contest. They ate so many green apples that they both eventually died due to complications. It is most likely that they actually died due to gastrointestinal issues possibly in consequence of this event. The elder of the two boys, Ernest died on 12 January 1884, followed eight days later by his younger brother, William. The following year, Leslie was born who bore the name of both of his dead brothers and who's mother possibly decided to give birth to him in Melbourne where medical intervention was closer to hand should she need it.

On 1 January 1885, Richard Carty purchased the sprawling pastoral run known as *Brisbane Hill* where he and his family moved to the well-established property where he bred Lincoln sheep, planted crops, and attended to the orchard over about 10,000 acres.

The growing Carty family lived in the homestead at *Brisbane Hill* for about 15 years until a natural disaster changed their lives. Nearly ten years to the day that *Brisbane Hill* along with two other large pastoral runs lost a total of 14,000 acres to fires in the district, Hamilton and surrounds were facing a similar fate. Whilst the homestead was saved in the 1891 fires, 6,000 acres of property was lost, along with stock. Then, a decade later, on 8 February 1901 the first reports of fire taking hold of the Western District were coming through. The oppressive heat and strong winds that had swept through Melbourne the day before had made their way west and were causing an unnatural darkness that descended

on the state. The district was almost obliterated when the fires ran through. Homesteads, fencing, and sheep were lost, as well as a number of lives. The Carty's lost their home and wool shed, a men's hut, schoolroom, and stables. The schoolroom was the first to be destroyed when it 'burst into flames, and in a few seconds a tongue of fire leapt onto the verandah at the corner of the homestead, and from there the ignition of the whole building was the work of seconds, a dense volume of flame and smoke seeming to burst simultaneously from every part of the house...Mrs Carty and several members of the family having to rush down to the creek to get away from the unbearable heat; in fact, Mrs Carty's dress caught alight, but was fortunately extinguished.' The reports went on to state that most of the beautiful and established garden of trees and shrubs had been destroyed by the fire, as well as several outbuildings. The woolshed, which was full of chaff and hay was a tinder box that went up as soon as the flames reached the buildings, and a great number of sheep were burnt and subsequently died. Richard Carty was not at Brisbane Hill when the fire ripped through, however, his family would have been there to try and save what they could.

The homestead was rebuilt, likely the same year that it was burnt down, however, it was now located on the opposite side of the road to the pastoral run, and in latter years was renamed *Wexford* by Leslie's niece. The Carty's went about rebuilding their property and life after the devastation of the fires, including building the "new" *Brisbane Hill* homestead, a place that Olive would call home in the years to come. This new homestead was a singlestory bluestone building with 11 rooms and was situated on a rise above the Lyne Creek at Byaduk North. The house faced due east and had views of Mt Napier.

The façade was unusual in that it was "three-quarters" with one window on one side of the front door and two on the other. The large home was surrounded by a verandah on three sides that was adorned by fine iron lacework. Richard Carty continued to work his land with the assistance of his two sons, Thomas and Leslie. In 1911 Thomas married and set up his own property called *Eumeralla* in Macarthur about 20 kilometres south of the family home Brisbane Hill. Five years later, Leslie married Elsie Armstrong, a local woman from Branxholme whose family had resided in the district for a similar time as the Carty's.

Once Leslie and Elsie married they settled at *Brisbane Hill* and Leslie's parents Richard and Lucy moved into Hamilton proper to live with their unmarried daughter, Lucy. Richard continued to work at the property alongside his son who was now responsible for the farm. Less than a year into their marriage, Leslie, like so many men around him and those within the district, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force (A.I.F.) in the Field Artillery Brigade and was ranked as a Gunner. Leslie spent two years with the A.I.F. and saw action in France before he was granted leave without pay and returned to Australia. Leslie paid for his own passage home and sailed via the United States.

Whilst Leslie was stationed overseas for the war effort, his wife Elsie had returned to her family home to live for the duration of his service. It is unclear who managed the farm during Leslie's absence as his brother was working his own land in Macarthur, and sadly, Richard Carty, Leslie's father, died five months before he embarked from Melbourne for the theatre of war in Europe. Upon Leslie's return he and Elsie resumed living at *Brisbane Hill*. After her husband's death, Lucy Carty moved to St Kilda where she remained until her death in 1925.

On 25 May 1931, after some time suffering ill-health, Elsie Carty (née Armstrong) died at the age of 40 years old. The couple had been married for 15 years and never had any children.

Leslie was now a widower and returned home to *Brisbane Hill* where he continued to work the land and attend to his social commitments and the wider Hamilton and agricultural community. Four years later Olive, Leslie's new wife would join him and ingratiate herself into that same community with a sense of ease and confidence.

WELCOME TO THE WESTERN DISTRICT

Upon Olive's arrival to *Brisbane Hill* and the Western District she quickly mucked into work on the farm and involved herself in the community. She and Leslie were heavily involved in social events around the district and Olive made a seamless transition to the rural circles she and Leslie were now connected to individually and as a couple. Seemingly, ever the hostess, Olive was hosting parties and events around the district with many other pastoralists wives and would have been servicing the community in other capacities where she was able.

It seems that she took to rural life effortlessly and went about tending to the house, which included some additions to they had made to modernise it, and nurturing the garden at *Brisbane Hill*, as well as making trips, where possible, back to Toorak to see her family. John and Rex Bishop were still in partnership together in the accountancy firm and her sisters Mary, Kathleen, and Ivie were still residing at *Sherwood*. Four years after Leslie and Olive married and returned to *Brisbane Hill*, the unthinkable happened when the world was plunged into another war. Whilst Leslie was already a "bit older" when he had served in Europe during the First World War, he was significantly older by the late-1930s. However, this time Australia was gripped by more fear when it appeared that the threat loomed right on the doorstep.

Leslie was 57 years old in 1942 when he enlisted for a second time and became attached to the Volunteer Defence Corps (V.D.C.) in May. The Hamilton unit of the 9th Battalion of the V.D.C. was a home defence force made up largely of exservicemen and others over service age and was established in March 1941. By 1942 the V.D.C. was 45,000 strong and growing. Whilst the Australian front-line fighting forces were given first call on weapons and equipment, the V.D.C. had to make do with improvised weapons, which for a rural town such as Hamilton, would have been relatively easy as most farmers would have had access to firearms. Upon Leslie's enlistment his civilian qualifications were considered and the applicant was considered 'to be of value for defence purposes...' this being that he had his own transport truck and was able to drive it. Only two months after Leslie enlisted, his 26-year-old niece Sybil also enlisted with the V.D.C.

Two years before her husband took up arms (again), Olive was sending off her brother Rex to the theatre of war. What an unnerving and tumultuous time it must have been for the Bishop family who had lost their eldest son and brother in the First World War to now send off another son. Rex enlisted in September 1940 when he was 37 years old and was attached to the 3rd Australian Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. Five months after his enlistment, Rex embarked from Melbourne on a sea voyage to the Middle East where he was promoted to Lance Bombardier and moved through Libya on their way to Tobruk. Rex's Battery – the 8th – had not been issued with any guns and on their arrival to Tobruk had to make do with captured artillery from the Italians. Rex would spend the remainder of his time in the Middle East fighting for the Second Australian Imperial Force at Tobruk before his service was cut short when he was required to return home to Australia. On 7 July 1941, John Bishop (senior) died suddenly and unexpectedly at the family home *Sherwood* in Toorak at the age of 76 years old. Rex would have received the news of his father's death at least a month after the event occurred and was granted six months leave on compassionate grounds to return home to be with his family, and essentially take up the mantle of director of the family firm, Wilson, Bishop & Henderson.

The return journey for Rex was said to be done reluctantly as he did not want to leave his battalion and fellow servicemen behind. Rex was required to make the return sea voyage to Australia, which was precarious as they were to sail through hostile waters. The vessel he was travelling on was hit by a bomber attack shortly after their departure from Tobruk, but fortunately stayed afloat long enough to proceed to the port. The remainder of his journey was to be made by air and he returned to Melbourne where he was not fit enough to return to work as a senior partner for some months. Rex had now returned to Australia as the new patriarch of the family, having left his battalion on the battlefields of the Middle East, and was suffering from what we would now describe as post-traumatic stress disorder. He had lost his father and his independence from the business and was now required to return to his old life in a larger capacity. He returned home to be cared for by his sisters still living at Sherwood where he would remain.

There is no doubt that Olive would have made the journey along the Hamilton Highway to farewell her father and care for her brother in any capacity possible, however, she was still required to be at home at *Brisbane Hill* and care for the home and the community in which she had become engrained. Through the war years, the farm, and the work around it did not cease. Not only would Olive continued to keep her family in Melbourne close to her in any possible way despite the physical distance, she would have contributed to her own community in Hamilton and the Western District. There is no doubt that Olive would have been in regular contact with her sisters via written letter and telephone (where possible), something they continued to do throughout their lives when they would have long phone conversations with each other to catch

up on news. However, throughout this time, Olive and her sisters would have had their own experiences of the war. Whilst, Mary, Kathleen and Ivie remained at Sherwood and cared for their returned serviceman brother, the sisters were said to have also volunteered with the Red Cross driving ambulances, whereas, the rural war experience for Olive would have been significantly different. Whilst her husband Leslie was part of the V.D.C., the farm, home and gardens at Brisbane Hill still needed to be tended to, as well as other charitable roles. During the Second World War on the home front a majority of the female population were undertaking unpaid labour - volunteer work - within their local communities as part of properly constituted organisations, either by donating, organising or participating. Not only were they at home caring for their families and properties, many women contributed by organising and participating in other volunteer roles and learning new skills. Many attended meetings, organised functions, took minutes, and typed letters, managed local volunteer branches and learnt how to drive. The war opened a range of possibilities for women, many of whom had experienced it before during the years of the First World War.

From her early years in Hamilton, Olive became a member of the Napier Club, and in later years its president. The Napier Club and its male counterpart, the Hamilton Club were established to provide a place for members and guests to convene and socialise with like-minded people and to enjoy the facilities, such as the library. The exclusive social club was similar to the Country Women's Association, but established earlier than the Victorian branch, and other organisations which were formed for rural women. The Napier Club had – and still has to this day – an emphasis on community, volunteerism, and charitability. It was a place for women to gather in a social setting and to organise and host events for women in the rural area. Membership was almost exclusively available for pastoralists wives.

Olive became the president of the Napier Club in 1945 for a twelve-month tenure. The Napier Club had been founded in 1921, and the club's predecessor and male counterpart, the Hamilton Club was a place where pastoralists of the district frequented. It would be safe to assume that membership to the Hamilton Club was held by Leslie Carty and his father Richard before him.

In early-1940, 18 years after it was established, the Napier Club – a destination for many a farewell party, bridge tournament, handkerchief tea, kitchen tea and afternoon tea – was moved from its original location to the home Eildon on Thompson Street, Hamilton. Eighteen months after the Club's relocation to Eildon, they vacated the premises. The Napier Clubs new home was to be used by the air force – a prominent addition to the Hamilton scenery during the Second World War – and was to be used in conjunction with the Armed Forces for the duration of the war. Eventually, the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (W.A.A.A.F.) Officers' Club and Headquarters were housed at the Napier Club. Therefore, whilst the usual activities and events that the Napier Club held were on an indefinite pause, the women of Hamilton, including Olive, would have been involved with fundraising initiatives within the community and church, but it is also likely that they were involved with organisations such as the Australian Comforts Fund. By 1940, the Victorian branch of the fund had 22,000 female members who were responsible for providing parcels for the military forces and who gathered in church and municipal halls across the state. This voluntary work had no prerequisites other than time. Women enthusiastically held fundraisers for the forces or opened their homes as recreational, office or accommodation facilities for the military. A position which many Hamiltonians offered during these tumultuous times.

With the end of the war and the evacuation of the W.A.A.A.F. from the Napier Club, it would have been difficult work to return the club to its former glory, however, that fell to Olive who became the president, and remained a member, in the post-war years.

Olive would have been a highly respected and valued member of the community to have been voted as the president of the prestigious women's club in a town in which she had only been a resident for 10 years – a blink of an eye for rural communities.

Throughout the war years, Olive would have continued to tend to the home where she took over and tended the verdant gardens of *Brisbane Hill* which included 19th and 20th century plantings. The front area of the property was dominated by a large, old weeping Lillypilly and the garden contained a range of specimens, including Jacaranda, Grevillea, and various species of Eucalyptus. The garden, part of which would have also been planted by Olive during her time at *Brisbane Hill* was traditionally English, whereby it had been bordered by bulbs of irises, roses, and daisies. There was also an orchard which would have supplied the household with fresh goods and included fig, walnut, olive, and apple trees. A tennis court on the property also allowed for games of social tennis and parties for Olive and Leslie.

Change was afoot for the extended Bishop family. Sadly, John Bell had died in 1942 leaving a grieving widow and three children; the youngest Bishop daughter, Ivie married William Main in 1943 and left the family home in Toorak and moved to Balaclava; Rex Bishop was continuing in is partnership at Wilson, Bishop &

Henderson in Queen Street, and Olive and Leslie were contending with the possibility of a significant reduction in their land holdings when they were approached by the War Service Land Settlement Division to subdivide Brisbane Hill for returned soldiers as part of the Victorian soldier settlement scheme. Following the Second World War, the government resumed a similar program to that of returned servicemen after the First World War in the hopes of them settling and working the land. Large landholders and prominent pastoralists around Victoria were approached by the Soldier Settlement Commission who were identifying land and property, valuing it, and then acquiring it from the owners, either compulsorily or by agreement under the Land Settlement (Acquisition) Act 1943. In late-1945, Olive and Leslie were approached about their substantial land holdings at Brisbane Hill, which had been in the family since the 1880s The Soldier Settlement Commission valued the property, which included land Leslie had leased from his sister, Lucy Carty (now Archer) which she had purchased and built a house on. The property was called Dunroe and it adjoined Brisbane Hill, included in this valuation was also almost 2,000 acres which had been purchased by Olive.

It was in 1957 that the Governor in Council on behalf of the Soldier Settlement Commission approved the final acquisition of thousands of acres of farming land from Olive and Leslie Carty and thus reducing *Brisbane Hill's* land holdings substantially. They had gradually lost acreage over the years from the first communication with the Commission, however, with this final approval they effectively subdivided the original Carty land into 16 soldier settlement blocks – 12 from Leslie and 4 from Lucy – and left Olive and Leslie with 100 acres and the homestead. This was still a substantial amount of property for Leslie, who by now was in his 70s, and Olive to farm with their merino sheep and crops.

In the post-war years, Olive and Leslie took time away from the farm and would visit Melbourne. They would drive to *Sherwood* from *Brisbane Hill* in their car which had a charcoal burning gas producer mounted to the vehicle due to the distance they had to cover. These converters were a relic from the rationing days of the Second World War, but got them to their destination. During this time as Olive and Leslie were contending with a huge alteration to their lives on the land, Olive's elder sister, Marjorie Bell (née Bishop) died in 1950, leaving her three children without parents. After their sister's death, Mary Bishop became the guardian of the three Bell children who moved into the home she shared with her sister Kathleen and brother Rex at 19 Glyndebourne Avenue, Toorak. The three remaining Bishop children had left *Sherwood* in which they had been living for more than two decades. There is no doubt that the siblings were close and

had a strong bond, they were all in contact with one another – making and receiving long distance calls to Olive – and visited the farm when they could. They were a supportive family who each had a strong work ethic and a caring nature.

As Olive was located the furthest away from her family, visits to the farm were always full of adventure for her siblings, nieces, and nephew. She was a patient and kind advisor and always made time for those within her family, and the wider community and acquaintances no matter their age, background or circumstance. She never adhered to the maxim "children should be seen and not heard" and believed that everyone had something worthy to say. Visits to Brisbane Hill inevitably led to walks around Olive's magnificent garden, which people were expected to help her tend, helping with the cooking and feeding the chooks. Time spent in her warm kitchen as she cooked and baked was always a pleasure and the chat flowed freely as she was always warm and talkative, and a great communicator with anyone she had a conversation with. Whilst Olive kept everything running in the home and garden, it would be remiss to assume that she was not tending to what needed to be done around the farm as well. However, Leslie's place was primarily tending to the needs of remaining acres of Brisbane Hill, which included stock, and crops, but was not necessarily your stereotypical gruff farmer. He was a quiet man who always made time for Olive's family and was generous with his own nieces and nephews throughout their lives and even after his death. Olive too had relationships with Leslie's family, and would have been in constant contact with sister-in-law Lucy and her husband Harold who were their neighbours (albeit a neighbour in a rural sense where one is a fair distance from the another); Olive would have also seen and communicated with Leslie's older brother Thomas and his family, however, this would have been more sporadic as they were working their own large property in Macarthur. Olive was also known to Leslie's other nieces and nephews, and later their own children who would visit her in Melbourne in their later years after their uncle (and great uncle) Leslie died.

Unlike many women of Olive's generation, she was not reliant on her husband, and was fiercely independent and head strong. This is evident in the way she conducted herself moving from all she had known in the suburbs of Melbourne where she was surrounded by family and friends to move to a close-knit, and sometimes closedminded rural community where many of the inhabitants could trace back several generations and were still living on the same property their ancestors had settled. A move that was by no means an easy feat or transition, but one which she appeared to do with ease and grace. She taught herself to live on the farm and do what was needed to be done without complaint. It also made for excellent tales of life on the land and the trials, tribulations, and humour in which that could entail. These were stories that she readily regaled her family with who were living many miles away in Melbourne. Olive was capable, which was a strength that would have allowed her to flourish once she had moved to *Brisbane Hill* and the rural community she would become a part of for nearly 30 years. She was also not stereotypical of her time, and had independent means which implied that she had no need to rely on her husband and was able to make decisions autonomously. This also allowed Olive to make decisions about where she could and would share her generosity. Her generous nature was not always placed on a monetary value, Olive was also incredibly generous with her time and would take great interest in everyone's stories.

A NEW ERA

Olive and Leslie continued to live and work at *Brisbane Hill* all the while Leslie was suffering from continued ill-health. Sadly, on 12 June 1961 at the age of 75 years old, Leslie Ernest William Carty died. He had suffered from congestive heart disease for many years, an ailment which was essentially his death sentence. Olive and Leslie had 26 years with one another and built a life together. Olive was only 57 years old when her husband died and she became a widow. Leslie provided well for his family during his life and after his death, although Olive had her own independent means and was never required to be "looked after" during or after her marriage, as men were often counted upon to do during that era. After the death of Leslie, Olive remained at Brisbane Hill for a short time before she returned to live in Melbourne. Sybil Hannah (née Carty), Leslie's niece eventually took over the property, which she renamed *Wexford*, and it remained in the Carty family for another generation with Leslie's great nieces and nephews still appreciating what had become of the gardens and grounds that Olive had tended so lovingly.

Once Olive returned to Melbourne she lived independently and had stronger connections with Wilson, Bishop & Henderson, the accounting firm her father had been integral in establishing at the beginning of the 20th century, and where her brother Rex was still presiding. Had Olive had the opportunity for further study beyond what was required for females of her generation, it is feasible to believe that she would have progressed into the business world. Olive had a strength for business and would have loved to have had the opportunity to work in paid employment over her life, alas, this was not the path women of means were to take. Whilst there had been shifts in attitudes towards women taking on paid employment during the years of the Second World War, most women were required to vacate those roles once the men returned home to take up their positions. Although Olive did not take up paid employment, she would have flourished had she been able to work within Wilson, Bishop & Henderson, she had strong opinions and ideas and worked cohesively with Darvell Hutchinson. Olive was strong-willed and occasionally the two had differing opinions in the early days of their working relationship, but ultimately gained respect for each other. Olive could hold her own and was comfortable and confident in men's company, particularly when it came to business matters. She had a good head for business and it is acknowledged that she

would have liked to have taken over the business, or at least had a more prominent role within it had she been allowed the opportunity.

Olive had opinions and was happy – and not afraid – to share them, however, she was also intent on listening to others. Despite these opinions, she was never opinionated and was always approachable and measured.

Once Olive returned to live in Melbourne she was now much closer in distance to her siblings, and extended family, including her great-nieces and nephews who looked to her as more of a grandmother figure. Consistently, Olive is remembered to have been interested in her family. She loved her great-nieces and nephews fiercely and was always happy to muck in with them, as well as babysit when needed. Maria Bell – Olive's nephew AJ's wife – remembers when she visited when their twins were only young, and Olive suggesting that the four of them visit the park so the children could play and be involved, rather than be cooped up inside the house while the adults caught up. There was always consideration for the younger generation and Olive wanted to see the children as much as she wanted to spend time with the adults. She doted on her greatnieces and nephews, taking them on adventures in her car and then special trips to explore Melbourne and make memories, which they still cherish. Their conversations were always interesting and involved and she always imparted her knowledge and wisdom alongside their general conversation.

Love and care for others is never a certainty in life, however, a big part of Olive's legacy is that the care she showed her extended family was immeasurable. She ensured that they all benefitted from her ability to assist in education, life and guidance, and love.

Olive clearly had an incredible resilience. She witnessed the death of her parents, all her siblings, and her husband; she was the last surviving Bishop sibling of her generation and was a force until her last days. She became the matriarch of the Bishop family in 1973 after the death of her brother, Rex in 1964, followed by her two sisters Mary and Ivie in 1965, and then Kathleen in 1973. During her life her strength was demonstrated time and again when she offered a listening ear over the phone or in-person, a meal, the offer of babysitting, her presence in any way, or financially to those who needed it. And, for so many of these instances there was no request from the recipient, but an understanding or intuition from Olive about a difficult situation for someone in her family, or in her life.

She became a role model to her nieces and nephew, their partners, and children, and was someone they confided in and looked up to for her advice and understanding. She was always thoughtful, generous with her time and helped where she could.

Olive's vibrancy and vivaciousness was renowned within the family. She was not the shy and retiring type, she loved outrage and had a wonderful sense of humour. She was always well-dressed and quite ahead of her time and exuded confidence. She always had an interest in medical matters and became fascinated by the change in societies attitude towards women, and was enthralled by the fact that women now had choices that she never had in her formative and younger years; particularly when it came to the idea of women's medicine and the contraceptive pill.

Throughout her life Olive demonstrated the importance of connection and had strong ties with family, friends, and community and always supported those around her. She had faced adversity through the death of her loved ones, living through two world wars, an economic depression and moving from the comfort and security of her family and everything she knew to embark on life on the farm in the Western District. Throughout all of this she showed tenacity and grace and kept her calm and caring manner.

Once you met Olive, you never forgot her, she had a big heart and was fortunate to be able to give so much to those who would genuinely benefit from her support. Her legacy lives on through her philanthropy, something that has been demonstrated through other branches of her family tree through her maternal line. Signifying the strength of the women on the Macpherson line, Olive's first cousin, Helen Macpherson Schutt (née Smith) left a substantial bequest upon her death in 1951 to establish a perpetual philanthropic trust to benefit Victorian charitable institutions known as the Helen Macpherson Smith Trust. Another cousin, John Villiers established a charitable trust upon his death in 2002 called the John Villiers Trust which supports organisations working in country Queensland to help build better, fairer, more resilient communities.

Olive Muriel Carty (née Bishop) died at the age of 72 years old on 26 February 1977. Upon her death she left behind a legacy that would benefit generations to come. Whilst her family and circle cherished their memories of the kind-hearted and unforgettable woman that they called aunt, great-aunt, and friend, they remembered a progressive, head-strong and independent woman who walked through life with confidence, kindness and compassion.

Olive made sure that her legacy lived on long after her death with the establishment of the L.E.W. Carty Charitable Fund. Although, the initial donation to set up the fund came from Olive's estate and was to be created to her last wishes, the name in which was to be bestowed upon her generosity was in honour of her late husband whom she had loved, admired, and respected during their 26 years together. The charitable fund is Olive's legacy that will benefit generations to come and should be something to be proud of for her descendants.

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