

NAME : STEVE NORTON

SN (Steve) NORTON MEMORIAL TREE

The Lenswood Memorial Park was opened in April 1949 as a memorial to those of the community who served in World War Two.



Steve Norton

Near the park's entrance gate is a tree, planted in memory of Stephen Norton, the inaugural secretary of the Park Committee. The tree has grown, over the years, into a fine specimen of Californian Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), a species known for its longevity.

Steve came from a large family. His parents were Samuel Gascoyne Norton and Sarah Ann Stafford, who married 20 February 1896. They lived on the corner of Tiers Road and Lobethal Road, Lenswood in a small home that managed to fit a large family.

1. William Charles (born Forest Range, SA, 29 November 1896, died near Villers-Bretonneux, France 25 April 1918)
2. Samuel Walter (born Forest Range, SA, 3 August 1898)
3. Clarence John (born Forest Range, SA, 20 September 1899, died Renmark, SA)
4. Nelson Hope (born Forest Range, SA, 5 May 1901, died Adelaide, SA, 12 March 1987)
5. Pearl Eileen (born Forest Range, SA, 20 January 1903)
6. Annie (born Forest Range, SA, 29 July 1904)
7. Sarah (born Forest Range, SA, 11 August 1905, married name Alexander)
8. Myrtle Linda (born Forest Range, SA, 1 June 1907, died 1972, married name Harvey)
9. Stephen Norman (born Forest Range, SA, 23 May 1909)
10. Clement Gascoyne (born Forest Range, SA, 10 November 1910, died 1982)
11. Ronald Lionel (born 11 April 1914)
12. Hartley Graham (born 24 June 1921, died Hanover, Germany 3 October 1943)

Steve was the ninth child. His eldest brother, William, was killed in WW1 and his youngest brother, Hartley, was killed in WW2. Their names are recorded on the two local war memorials.

Steve was very community minded and was a keen cricketer as were most of his family. His father was a regular correspondent to the "Chronicle" under the pseudonym of "Tommy the Sweater." His article on the "Lost Ball" can be found in our cricket history article <https://historylfr.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/frlhg-cricket.pdf>. Perhaps this is where Steve got his 'dramatic' aspects from. Steve was an active membership of the Lenswood Amateur Dramatic Society. This group toured hills townships in the late 1920's and early 1930s presenting plays, including some written by the group. His involvement in community events also stretched to organising social events at the Methodist church and at the Mission

Hall.

Steve married Reta Rowley and they build a house at 655 Tiers Road, Lenswood. They had three children; Lyndon, Vaughan and Cecilie.



SN (Steve) Norton Tree, Lenswood Memorial Park

Steve died as a result of a car crash in Weethalie, N.S.W. on May 15, 1952. A Norton relative had been in Lenswood to visit his family and he was driving to his home in Tamworth with Steve joining him to visit his relatives. The car overturned and Steve was killed. He was almost 43 years old and was buried at Lobethal.

References:

1952 'Man Killed in Road Accident at Police Blitzon Tail Light Weethalle Offenders', *The West Wyalong Advocate (NSW : 1928 - 1954)*, 19 May, p. 1. , viewed 26 Apr 2020, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article185686478>

Forest Range and Lenswood History Group – ANZAC story
<https://frlhganzac.wordpress.com/2014/05/03/norton-william-charles/>

Forest Range and Lenswood History Group – cricket history -
<https://historylfr.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/frlhg-cricket.pdf>

Forest Range and Lenswood History Group – Lenswood Memorial Park -
<https://lfrplaces.wordpress.com/lenswood-memorial-park/>

Steve Norton.

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