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LUCY STEPHANEL 1897 to 1970

Lucy was the youngest child of James and Bridget. She was born at Cockburn on 16 December 1897, the only one of the eight children not born at Whyte Yarcowie. Lucy was baptized at Cockburn House on 27 February 1898.

Around 1900 the family moved to Broken Hill and settled at 171 Newton Street, Railwaytown and Lucy went to the local Catholic School, St. Marys. We have identified a few of her early achievements:

The girls' race (under 15) provided good sport among the younger fry, and Lucy Harford was proclaimed the winner, thus entitling her to enrich the family larder to the extent of 10s, worth of S(elf) R(aising) flour.¹

Lucy was turning eleven two weeks later and this result in an Under 15 Race indicated that she was a good runner. In May 1909 the family attended the HACB Society picnic at Silverton among some 700 people and Lucy dead heated for first in the Girls race and also later in the year she won the Girls under 12 race at the annual Allendale Sports meeting.²

Also in 1909 Lucy won the Arithmetic Prize for the Lower Fifth Class. The newspaper reported the School break up concert. Bishop Dunne was in attendance presenting the prizes and he and two priests wished the children a happy Christmas holiday. The children provided a concert of Christmas songs and hymns.³



Lucy Harford

¹ Barrier Miner 26 November 1908

² Barrier Miner 28 December 1909

³ Barrier Miner 21 December 1909

In 1924 Lucy married William David Eichler. William was known as Bill was the sixth born child and fourth boy of Frederick John Eichler and Margaret Ross Rankine.

The Eichler Family

Bill's father was Frederick John Eichler and his grandfather was Charles August Eichler. There were Eichler families at Burra in the 1850's who had migrated from Clausthal in Germany and Frederick is believed to be related to them, although this has not been proven.

Frederick had been married previously to an **Emma Jane Gray** and they had two children Emily Beatrice (1870-1891) and Frederick who died in May 1875 at the age of two weeks. His mother Emily died on 1 May 1875 giving birth. She was 24 years old.

Frederick married Margaret on 9 August 1883 at the Baptist Manse Terowie. Margaret's father was David Rankine and she was 21 having been born in 1863 and Frederick 36 being born on 22 April 1848.

Fred Eichler was a very tough and hardworking man. He worked till age 76 at the mines in Broken Hill. There are several news items that illustrate his toughness. The first of these was reported in the Barrier Miner on 11 January 1923. Fred ricked his back at the 140 feet level of the British Mine. He would have been 75 years old at the time. He recovered from this injury and returned to work.

A second fall occurred at the British Mine on 28 August 1924 and this made it impossible for Fred to continue working. As a consequence Fred sued the New Broken Hill Mining Company for compensation. On 4 April 1925 it was reported that the company denied any responsibility and claimed that Fred's "present condition" was caused by his age and also the hard work he had done for 60 years as a miner. However, the judge said he could not understand why the company would have employed him unless he was in good health and awarded him 3 Pounds a week up to the time he was again paid.

Fred died not long afterwards on 12 December 1925 and his wife sued for further compensation. The judge's decision was:

*"I find that the deceased, **Eichler**, was suffering from nephritis in August, 1924, and that the accident which happened on the 24th of that month accelerated his death. I make an award in favor of the applicant. The amount to be awarded will, I understand, be £500, less the amount paid to deceased, £156, which will leave £344. Costs to be on the highest scale."*⁴

Fred and Margaret had eight children⁵:

⁴ Barrier Miner 27 April 1926

⁵ Eichler Descendants in Australia 1851 to 1986. From Clausthal Germany to Burra Australia.

1. **Henrietta Mary** Born 28 December 1883 at Terowie, South Australia. Married John William Bock (1881-1931) in 1906 at Broken Hill. Henrietta died 24 August 1956 at Broken Hill. They had ten **Bock** children:
Frederick William. Born 14 June 1906. Married Mavis Whitelaw in 1928 at Broken Hill.
Charles Edward. Born 3 December 1907. Died 1970. Married Freda Steele.
George Edward. Born 5 October 1909. Married Monica McGuire.
Hazel Pauline. Born 5 June 1911 Married Peter Hay Bevan in 1940 at Broken Hill.
James Arthur. Born 5 November 1913
John Keith. Born 28 March 1915. Married Elsa Steele Lohmann
Margaret Jean. Born 26 Jun 1917. Married Robert Peter Lohmann in 1936 at Broken Hill.
Walter Allan. Born 18 September 1919. Married Vina Pearl Gilbert in 1939 at Broken Hill. Walter died in 1970.
Helena Mary. Born 1 Mar 1922. Married John Thomas Rowan in 1938 at Broken Hill and Edwin Henry Hart in 1958 at Broken Hill.
Eric Albert. Born 8 August 1926. Married Margaret Edith Ferguson in 1950 at Broken Hill.
2. **Frederick** Born 10 October 1885. Married 1912 Janet Bailey.
Fred and Janet moved to Newcastle and they were there in August 1920. He applied for the position of Chief Health Officer with the Council in 1926 and his address was given as Winchester St, Mayfield, Newcastle. He was unsuccessful.⁶ He was later reported as visiting Broken Hill in 1932 with his job stated as "official at the abattoirs, Canberra"⁷
Fred and Janet returned to Sydney here he died in 1954 at Chatswood. Janet died at St Leonards in 1966.
3. **John Born** 30 December 1887. Died 10 January 1888
4. **James (Jim) Carl** Born 6 March 1889. Married Lottie Stocker (Died 1945). Jim died 4 February 1947 at Broken Hill. His obituary read:

Death of Mr. J. Eichler

Mr. James Carl Eichler died at the Hospital last night at the age of 58 years. Mr. Eichler was born at Terowie, S.A. Coming here at an early age, he was well known as a keen supporter and one time trainer of the North Football Club. He had worked along the line of lode as a miner and was employed at the North mine before being admitted to the Hospital. He was a member of the W.I.U. of A. (Barrier District), North Mine Sickness Fund, and M.U.O.O.F. Loyal Standard Lodge.

The funeral left the home of his sister, Mrs. W. Bock, at 507 Blende Street, at 3 o'clock this afternoon for the Methodist Cemetery. Fred J. Potter & Son had charge of the funeral.

Barrier Miner 4 February 1947

⁶ Barrier Miner 28 May 1926

⁷ Barrier Miner 22 January 1932.

We have identified a number of news items related to James Carl. The first was in 1916⁸ when Jim, a Trucker, was granted a military exemption on the basis that he was the main supporter of his father mother and younger sisters. A further item was in 1930 where he was listed for the Labour Exchange as one of a number of men requested to attend to obtain a "Go to Work" Ticket⁹. This was during the Depression and work was very hard to get. He was also reported as being a member of a jury at a Coroner's Inquest into the death of a man at the South Mine.¹⁰ Jim and Lottie had one child James Frederick (Fred) born 23 March 1926. Fred married Valerie Gladys Hulbert on 16 October 1948 at Broken Hill and they had three children: Pamela Dawn born 25 August 1950, Christine Anne born 17 November 1952 and Carl John born 24 April 1962.

EICHLER- HULBERT WEDDING

— Conducted by —
Dorothea

Carrying a lovely bouquet of fragrant white blooms Saturday's bride, Miss Valerie Hulbert, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hulbert, of 44 Williams Lane, was a radiant bride when she married Frederick James, only son of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Eichler.

Mrs. J. Bennetts and Miss June Hulbert had decorated St. Peter's Anglican Church with pastel blossoms.

Escorted by her father, the bride wore a lovely gown of heavy white crepe, with a marquise yoke, outlined with a floral design in silver thread-work. A wide tuck-ing outlined the peaked yoke and formed epaulettes over the tops of the short sleeves. The peaked bodice met a full skirt and train. Her veil of embroidered tulle was worn over the face and held by a headdress made of a triple scallop-ing of white velvet flowers. She wore white gloves and the groom's gift—pearls.

3 ATTENDANTS

The bride was attended by her sister, Miss Shirley Hulbert, and Miss June Titcombe (bridesmaids) and Glendon Veal (flowergirl). Their identical frocks had ice-blue patterned lace bodices, worn over satin, and dainty gathered georgette skirts. They had sweetheart necklines and short, puff sleeves. They also wore pink mittens and pink crownless picture hats, trimmed with a band of blue velvet ribbon, with a large bow at the back. They carried bouquets of pastel flowers and wore the groom's gifts—marcasite brooches.

Bestman was Mr. Bill O'Callaghan.

Miss Bonnie Lyall sang at the church. Horseshoes were placed by Jim Hulbert and Graham Bennetts, and a white satin cushion was lent by Mrs. Ron Tiller.

A sapphire blue crepe frock, with a multi-colored embroidered yoke and sleeves, was worn by Mrs. Hulbert when she received about 70 guests at the G.U.O.O.F. Hall. Her accessories were jet.

Mrs. J. Eichler (aunt of the groom) wore a black crepe frock, with a latticed yoke and black accessories.

The wedding cake of two tiers was made by Mrs. M. Heinicke and was topped with a bowl of flowers.

The couple have made their home at 289 Oxide Street.

Barrier Miner 18 October 1948

⁸ Barrier Miner 31 October 1931

⁹ Barrier Miner 30 December 1930

¹⁰ Barrier Miner 12 March 1931

5. **Emma Jane** Born 18 September 1891 at Silverton. Married James Hugh Harvey (died 8 May 1962) in 1920 at Broken Hill. Died 17 April 1961. They moved to Port Pirie where John was a real estate agent.

Emma Jane and her son Jack were involved in a serious accident in Port Pirie in 1926.¹¹ Jack (born Frederick John) was killed by a train and his mother was also struck and her arm was later amputated at the elbow. At the time they also had another child who had just started school.

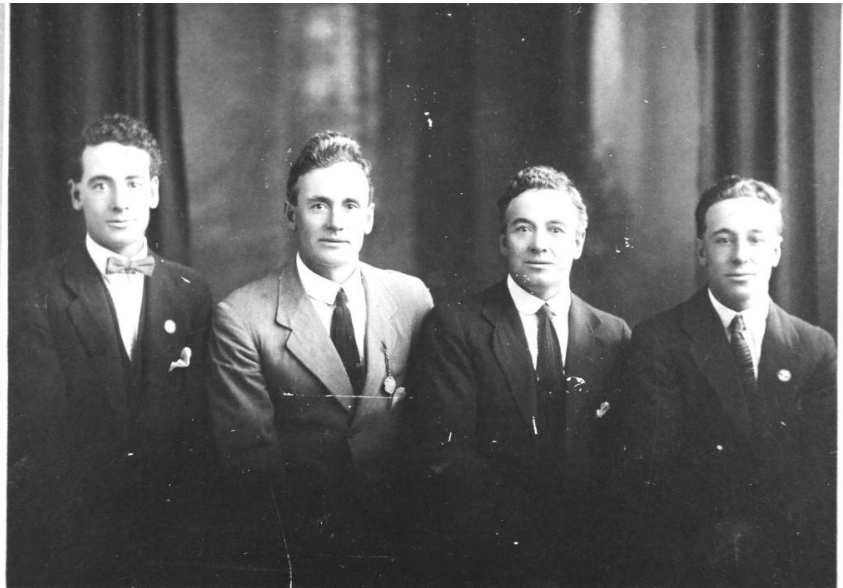
6. **Willam (Bill) David** Born 1Jul 1894 at Broken Hill. Married Lucy Stephanel Harford in 1924 at Broken Hill. Died 15 February 1943 at Semaphore, South Australia. They had two children Cletus David (1926 to 2009) and Marie Marion (born1927). After Bill's death Lucy married John William Gibson. He was a widower with a daughter, Natalie.

7. **Emily** Born 1898 at Broken Hill.

8. **John (Jack) Edward** Born 7 November 1901 at Broken Hill. Died 29 May 1966 at Broken Hill.

Jack married a Bridget Magdeline (we have not found her maiden name) and they were shown on the 1946 Electoral Roll as living at 113 Chloride St. Jack's occupation was a Braceman.

We know that Jack worked in the mines all his life and in 1930 he was reported as receiving two injuries. The first was in an accident at the North Mine and the second an injured finger at the South Mine.¹² He had a further accident at the South Mine 1946.¹³



The four Eichler Boys. Bill on right

¹¹ The Advertiser 29 July 1926

¹² Barrier Miner 6 February & 18 September 1930

¹³ Barrier Miner 4 April 1946

Bill and Lucy Eichler

William David (Bill) was born on 1 July 1894 at Broken Hill.

From an early age Bill showed good athletic ability. From 1908 the local newspapers regularly mentioned his name as a winner at races held at the many picnics around Broken Hill by employers and associations. These included:

- Barrier Boy's Brigade picnic 4 February 1908 first in the under 14 100 yards handicap winning a Silver Medal
- Proprietary Employees 1 June 1908 3rd Annual Picnic 2nd in Boy's race
- St Patrick's Day Sports at Silverton 18 March 1909 won Boys race
- 1 September 1911 Liquor Trades Picnic Won 16 years race

Bill continued his athletics through 1915 to 1917, competing in a number of events with moderate success winning heats and with an occasional place in finals. In 1918 he competed in his first cycling competitive event. He was given a handicap of 190 yards in the one mile race and 95 yards in the half mile race. Bill was 3rd in the Final of the half mile race. His prize was 10/-.¹⁴ Bill continued with his cycling and in March 1922 was being trained by "Dodger" Price a veteran Broken Hill cyclist. In September of that year his handicaps had reduced to 180 yards for the mile and 90 yards for the half mile. Some eighteen months later he had substantially improved to 120 yards for the mile and 60 yards for the half mile.¹⁵ The next month he won two races off these marks at the Labour Day picnic meeting. He would have won prize money for both of these events.

During 1923 Broken Hill was visited by Jack Fitzgerald and Australian Champion cyclist. In the mile and a half wheel race Bill was off 220 yards and Fitzgerald off scratch. Bill rode a great race but Fitzgerald coming from behind was able to beat him by a wheel.¹⁶ Fitzgerald's time was claimed to be an Australian record. Bill also competed in interstate events and in December 1923 he was one of a number of Broken Hill riders who visited Naracoorte, Mt Gambier and Clare to ride in half mile, mile and five mile races.¹⁷

Bill's cycling was not limited to the track. He competed in road races and in a number of events was reported as having the fastest time. He rode regularly in Wests Cycle Club road events and others which were of fairly long distances. One particular race was to Silverton and back a distance of 32 and a half miles (55km). He completed this in about one hour 39 minutes.

Bill was also able to earn other money from his wins through the advertising of the brand of his bike. The following advertisement ran in the newspaper for quite a number of editions:

¹⁴ Barrier Miner 30 March 1918

¹⁵ Barrier Miner 23 April 1923

¹⁶ Barrier Miner 27 October 1923

¹⁷ Barrier Miner 13 & 28 December 1923

RECORDS BROKEN!!

**At the Western Oval Cycling Carnival on
Saturday, May 24.**

F. ("JUMBO") WELLS rode a Mile Race, Motor Paced, in 1m. 58s.—over 30 miles an hour. To do this Mr. Wells chose a LEWIS CYCLE.

W. D. EICHLER wins Wheel Race on a LEWIS.

W. KITE wins Boys' Race on a LEWIS.

N. ARTHUR and J. BOSTON win the Novice on a LEWIS.

LEWIS CYCLE SUPERIORITY

is always PROVED BY PERFORMANCE—because OUR CYCLES have been built for 30 years in OUR OWN FACTORY under OUR OWN SUPERVISION.

GENUINE LEWIS CYCLES From £10 10/
Terms: From £1 Deposit; 10d. per day.

DON'T FAIL TO SEE US TO-DAY - - Open till 9 Fridays.

LEWIS CYCLE WORKS,

OPEN TILL 9 P.M. FRIDAYS.

ARGENT-STREET. E. F. WHITE, manager.

Barrier Miner 24 June 1924

Bill competed relatively successfully during 1924 and 1925. He and Lucy married during 1924.



1924 Wedding of Bill Eichler and Lucy Harford. Bill Pell was Best man.

Bill's marriage had little if any impact on his competitive activity through the two years. In December 1925 his father died and during a race a week later the cyclists wore crepe armbands as a mark of respect.

During 1926 Bill's cycling activity diminished especially after the birth of their first child **Cletus David** on 25 May 1926. A second child **Marie Marion** was born the next year on 3 December 1927. With two young children Bill and Lucy would have been kept quite busy.

There was no mention of Bill in the newspaper for the next couple of years although one article giving the name of a W. Eichler as required for relief work appeared in 1927.¹⁸ For his work, Bill had set out to become qualified as an Engine Driver and over a number of continued to enhance his qualifications. He passed his first examination in 1918

ENGINE DRIVERS' CERTIFICATES.

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

Sydney, Wednesday.

The Board of Examiners has submitted to the Minister for Mines its report on the recent examinations of candidates for enginedrivers' certificates. Out of 52 candidates 45 passed and 7 failed. The following are the passes at Broken Hill —

Winding engines: H. A. Cuy, N. R. Davis.

Ordinary engines: F. P. Anthony, B. G. Atterton, A. W. Barnett, W. Curtis, W. D. Eichler, A. P. Hanson, W. T. Kelly, R. J. Magor, S. D. Matters, J. F. McCarron, J. A. McDonald, P. J. Murphy, F. J. Nancarrow, C. E. W. Nurton, J. T. Paine, R. J. Powell, W. A. Rice, A. W. Thomas, and T. Wilson

Barrier Miner 11 December 1918

ENGINE DRIVERS' EXAMINATIONS

BROKEN HILL PASSES

The Board of Examiners of enginedrivers has submitted to the Minister for Mines their report on the examinations of candidates for enginedrivers' certificates of competency held at Broken Hill on May 17 and 18, 1921. The passes were:—

Electric Motor.—A.C. only: G. L. Baker and J. K. McKenna. D.C. only: E. W. Little and R. J. Powell. A.C. and D.C.: A. C. Allen, C. H. Brealey, H. Clarkson, W. R. Decker, C. R. Hendry, M. F. Hughes, R. Main, I. J. McKenna, J. Mercer, B. T. Pascoe, W. S. Percival, H. S. Robertson, H. J. Sutton, A. S. Thomas, H. H. Tombs, and R. W. Worden.

Winding—W. D. Eichler and J. Rowe.

Ordinary—P. J. Brady, W. G. Helson, W. E. Kendall, C. A. Luckman, G. W. Moore, J. M. O'Connor, and J. Wilson.

Gas—F. X. Bellefontille, H. L. Birmingham, B. G. Cook, W. G. V. Crocker, W. J. Davis, F. C. W. Eichler, E. M. Jenkins, W. C. Liddel, C. A. W. Manlitz, J. F. McCarron, R. H. Nancarrow, C. O'Brien, L. R. Osborn, H. R. T. Pryor, and W. H. Thomas.

All the returned soldier candidates passed.

Barrier Miner 2 July 1921

Living in Broken Hill, Bill like many others became involved in union affairs and in 1920 was elected to the management committee of the Federated Engine Drivers and Fireman's Association. It was clear that he saw engine driving as his career.

However, it is also clear that Bill did not always get the work he wanted to do. In 1922 he sustained an injury working at the North Mine pushing a truck. Truckers were always young and very fit men because it was such hard work. While this accident brought a press comment it did not interfere with his cycling activity and he was back competing within a week or so.

¹⁸ Barrier Miner 25 October 1927

INJURED AT NORTH MINE

W. D. Eichler, an employee of the North mine, was to-day treated at the Hospital for an internal injury received at the North mine while he was pushing a truck. After receiving attention Mr. Eichler was taken in the casualty ambulance to his home in Blende-street.

Barrier Miner 2 May 1922

In 1921 Bill obtained further qualifications in Winding and Gas engines and later in 1923 on Electric Motors (Direct and Alternating Current). In 1930 he qualified as a Diesel engine driver:

ENGINE DRIVERS' EXAMINATIONS

The Board of Examiners of engine-drivers appointed under the Mines Inspection Act, 1901, has submitted to the Minister for Mines its report on the examination of candidates for engine-drivers' certificates of competency held in terms of that Act at Broken Hill on August 23, 1923. The following is an alphabetical list of the passes:—

Winding.—A. T. Caines and A. E. Raggatt.

Ordinary.—F. Woodman.

Gas.—E. Simms and H. A. Woolcock.
Electric Motor (direct current and alternating current).—W. D. Eichler and T. W. E. Erskine.

Direct Current Only.—W. P. Donay and K. Summers.

Alternating Current Only.—E. A. Coleman.

Barrier Miner 22 September 1923

ENGINE DRIVERS' CERTIFICATES

The Board of Examiners of Engine-drivers appointed under the Mines Inspection Act, 1901, has submitted to the Minister for Mines its report on the examination of candidates for engine-drivers' certificates of competency held in terms of that Act at Broken Hill on Wednesday and Thursday, February 26 and 27. The following is the alphabetical list of passes:—

Diesel: S. J. Brooks, S. Crossing, E. G. Crapp, G. F. R. Dixon, W. D. Eichler, R. R. French, R. F. Greenwood, A. H. Halliday, L. R. Jones, W. C. Liddell, E. H. Teale, A. E. Luxon, J. F. McCarron, R. A. McLellan, W. H. Roberts.

Ordinary: M. Atherton (C.), A. J. Dempster (N.C.), J. Murray (N.C.), O. R. Pettigrove (C.), E. J. Skipworth (N.C.).

Electric motor results will be issued later.

Barrier Miner 11 March 1930

Through the 1930's it appears Lucy participated in the married Ladies races at the various picnics the family attended. We cannot be absolutely reports referred to Lucy because the name given in the results was simply Mrs Eichler without any initials. However, at a number of these picnics we know the family was there as Marie was also being placed in races.

In 1932 Bill was charged with uncoupling and reversing the gas meter at their property at 281 Jones Street. He was also charged with refusing the gas company access to the meter. The court decision was to dismiss the charge.¹⁹

Bill also studied First Aid with the St John's Ambulance North Mine Branch. He obtained a First Aid Certificate after examinations in November 1939. The next year he passed a further examination and obtained a Voucher Certificate.²⁰

¹⁹ Barrier Miner 30 June 1932

²⁰ Barrier Miner 16 November 1938 & 3 October 1935

The family moved to Adelaide in mid 1940 and settled at 19 Water Street, Semaphore. This was quite close to Bill's job as an engine driver at the phosphate works at Outer Harbour. Bill continued to ride his bicycle to work every day even though he had bought a Vauxhall car.



Bill c1942 with his Vauxhall Car

Despite always being very fit from his cycling, Bill developed pains in the kidneys and then started to get headaches. He went into the Royal Adelaide Hospital for tests. He died a short time later from a tumour on the brain.

**DEATH IN ADELAIDE
OF MR. W. EICHLER**

Word has been received of the death in Adelaide of a former resident of Broken Hill, Mr. W. D. (Bill) Eichler. He was well known here and worked on the mines for several years and was on Block 10 when it closed down. Later he worked as a winch driver at the Central mine. He was a former member of the F.E.D. and F.A.

Mr. Eichler was a prominent cyclist and had many local and interstate victories to his credit in this branch of sport.

The Eichler family is well known in Broken Hill several members being resident here at present.

Barrier Miner 22 February 1943

EICHLER. The friends of the late Mr. William David Eichler are respectfully informed that his funeral will leave his late residence, 19 Water st. Semaphore, on Wednesday, at 11 a.m. for the Catholic Cemetery, Cheltenham.
ALAN C. DESLANDES, late A.I.F. Undertaker, 84 Semaphore rd., Semaphore.
 Phone J6511

Funeral Notice The Advertiser 17 February 1943

Lucy was left with her two children with Cletus 16 turning 17 and Marie had not long turned 15. At their age and given the times they were both close to being independent. In October 1944 Cletus joined the RAAF and at around that time Marie would have commenced her nursing training and would have lived at the hospital as was the case in those days.

In about 1947 Lucy met John William Gibson and they married soon after. John was a good Catholic and a Bookmaker. He had been previously married and was a widower with a daughter named Natalie who was later to marry a Bill Coleman. They moved into Lucy's home at Semaphore. He was known to Marie's children as "Pop" Gibson.

John died on 15 December 1967 and was buried in the eastern Catholic Section of West Terrace Cemetery.

Marie has commented that Lucy was a beautiful sweet lady who could give a sharp word if required. They were both very close. Marie's children used to go to Adelaide every January school holidays and as they got older they would go in other holiday times as well. Cletus' stepdaughter Lynne also recalls staying with Lucy in Adelaide when she was a young child. She was a strong character, caring, and not in any way hard with her. She took her shopping to buy her new school uniform.

Lucy came across to Geelong in 1962 to 304 Autumn St where Marie nursed her for three years. It was arranged for Lucy to return to South Australia and go to the House for Incurables where she stayed for about five years.

Lucy died on 31 May 1970 at the age of 72 years. Lucy was buried with the name Lucy Stephney Gibson in the same grave as Bill at Cheltenham Cemetery, Section FX Drive: A Path (#): 8(30) Site Number: 249C. The grave is not in very good condition and is in need of renovation. Also the headstone does not recognize that Lucy is also buried there.



Headstone



Grave