



Lieutenant Colonel H. R. CARTER VD

[1875 – 1934]



Colonel Carter was President of the Club in 1930

Hubert “Bertie” Reginald Carter was born in Brisbane on 31 January 1875. His father was Arthur John Carter [1847-1917], from St. Ives, Huntingdonshire, England, who became a prominent Brisbane businessman, company director and member of the Queensland Legislative Council [1901-1917]. He had lived briefly in France before entering the underwriters' room of Lloyd's of London in 1863.

John married Jane “Jennie” (née Nodes) [1847-1871] in London in February 1867 and in January 1871 the family reached Brisbane by the *Light Brigade*. His wife died in May of that year, leaving him with three young sons (who all died in Brisbane):

- Arthur Charles [1867-1883]
- Frederick Walter [1868-1940]
- Harry Gaudin McLean [1870-1872]

We thank the History Interest Group and other volunteers who have researched and prepared these Notes. The series will be progressively expanded and developed. They are intended as casual reading for the benefit of Members, who are encouraged to advise of any inaccuracies in the material.

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On 9 November 1872 Arthur re-married - a widow, Frances Eliza Elgin Koch (née Johnson) [1845-1936]. They had four children, of whom Hubert was the eldest:

- Maude Isabel [1877-1928] In 1899 married William James Forsyth [1874-1936] in Brisbane. They both died in Sydney. They had two daughters and a son.
- Francis Joseph Alexander [1880-1959], an insurance inspector. In 1911 he married Barbara Eleanor (nee Summerlin) [1882-1961]
- Mabel Winifred [1886-1903]

Hubert was educated by private tutors and at Brisbane Grammar School (1889-1892). He passed the Sydney Junior Examination in 1891, and the Solicitors Preliminary in 1892. He qualified as a solicitor but in 1893 entered his father's business. In 1914 he was manager of the Atlas Assurance Company.

Hubert married Violet May (née Smith) [1883-1966] in 1909 in Brisbane. They had four children:

- Margaret Jacqueline [1910-2003] (sometimes Jacqueline Margaret) In 1938 she married Ronald Cyril Mundell ¹ [1900-1941] in Sydney. He was born in Miles, Queensland and was an entomologist. They lived in India from 1938. In 1942 she married Sir John Frederick Sleight ² [1909-1990] in Lincolnshire UK. They had a son Richard (b. 1946). After her husband's death she returned to Australia and lived at Surfers Paradise.
- Marion Elizabeth "Betty" Wrenne [b.1911] In 1932 married Colin Anderson Gray [1905-1966] of Sydney in Brisbane. Lived in Sydney. Divorced in 1939.
- Vivienne Olive [1912-1970] In 1936 married George Frederick Purdy [1905-1965] ³ of Sydney in the New Hebrides. Lived in Brisbane and North Tamborine.
- Arthur Barton "Ted" [1919-1999] ⁴ A solicitor and company director. Married Sheila Mary Mulholland [1917-2009] in 1944 in Brisbane They had six children - Rosemary, John Barton [1950-1977], James, Peter, Paul, and Margaret-Anne,

They lived at the family home "Nunnington", Kangaroo Point.

Hubert's military career was varied and extensive:

March 1900	Provisional Lieutenant
July 1900	First Lieutenant
1901	Honorary Captain
	He served in South Africa in the 5th (Queensland Imperial Bushmen) Contingent from February 1901 to May 1902. He was severely wounded in January 1902.
1909	Captain, Brigade Major Queensland Infantry Brigade
1910	1 st Infantry Regiment
1912	7 th Infantry (Moreton) Regiment
September 1914	Captain AIF
November 1914	Major, Second in Command 15 th Battalion AIF. He served on Gallipoli until he was wounded at Gaba Tepe on 10 August 1915. Later invalided for 3 months leave in Australia
November 1915	Medically "... unfit for return to active service but could be utilised as OC of transport or of a Depot Battalion."

¹ Second Lieutenant R.C. Mundell 5th Battalion 13th Frontier Force Rifles, Indian Army, Killed in action. Buried Rawalpindi War Cemetery

² 3rd Baronet Sleight. The Sleight family were from Grimsby and in the early 20th century were reputed to be the largest steam fishing trawler owners in the world.

³ Flight Lieutenant G.F. Purdy RAAF 194X -1946, Brisbane Medical Unit

⁴ Sergeant A.B. Carter 1939-40, HQ 1 Military District

Then followed a series of AIF Sea Transport Service commissions as OC Troops on voyages between UK and Australia, including:

December 1915	A50 HMAT <i>Itonus</i>
December 1916	A64 HMAT <i>Demosthenes</i>
July 1917	A32 HMAT <i>Themistocles</i>

For a brief period in early 1916 he served with 53rd Battalion and commanded 4th Pioneer Battalion on their raising in Egypt prior to deploying to France in June 1916.

1918	7 th Infantry (Moreton) Regiment
1919	Unattached List
1920	promoted Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel on moving to the Retired List.

He was second State President of the Returned Sailors' & Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia in 1918-19. He remained active in business until his death.

The then Captain Carter served on the Club Committee in 1909-10 and again, after his presidency, in 1931-33. Club records are incomplete for the period 1910-28.

Colonel Carter died at his home at Kangaroo Point on 14 July 1934.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports, and sundry documents
- Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 7, (MUP), 1979
- AWM & NAA archives
- Trove