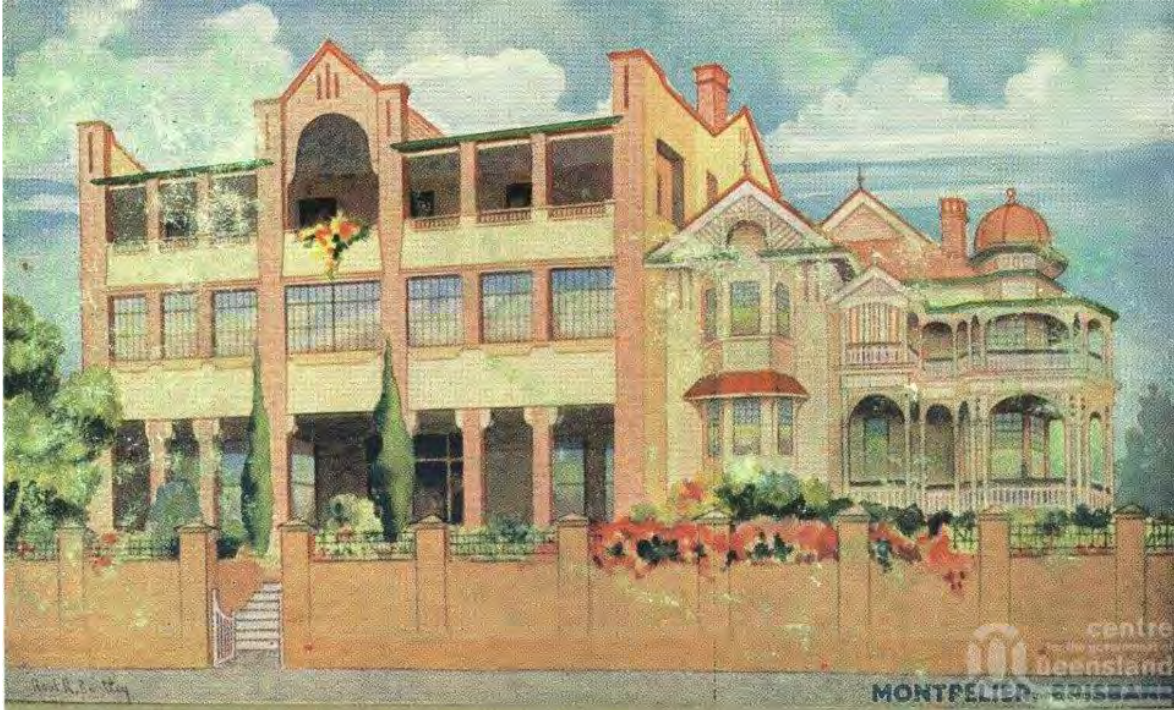




The Davies Family



Montpelier Boarding House and the adjacent Green House, 1930s.

The Davies family are notable in the history of the Club, in being the builders and owners of the Club's Wickham Terrace premises before the Club's purchase in 1946, and as Club Members.

A more detailed account of the buildings and their use by the Club is contained in the "Buildings" section of the "History" tab on the Home Page of the Club's website.

William Davies bought the property on Wickham Terrace (adjacent to the Baptist Tabernacle at the Upper Edward Street intersection) as an investment in 1897 and it remained in the Davies family until purchased by the United Service Club almost 50 years later. The original *Montpelier* was built in 1864 as a pair of large semi-detached villas. The *Green House* was erected in 1906-07 and for many years was a doctor's residence and surgery. The original *Montpelier* was replaced c1910 with the current *Montpelier* building - a purpose-built, high-quality brick boarding house for gentlemen. The architect for both buildings was Claude William Chambers.

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.

Please do not reproduce them or distribute them outside of the Club membership.

William Davies was born in Pent-e-vyr, Carmarthenshire, South Wales, on July. 16, 1847. He came to Victoria when 18 years of age. Eventually he set up in the mining industry at Gympie, in the early 1870s and lived at Willow Park, outside Gympie.

In 1880 he married **Miss Eliza Jane Wylie**, of Pine River. He was in the forefront of businessmen connected with the mining fields at Gympie and is reported to have accumulated substantial wealth there. He had been a director of several mining companies and various other institutions, including the National Bank of Australia, Queensland.

Davies came to Brisbane in 1897, and made his home at *Dryslwyn*, John Street, Toowong. He was invalided about 1915 and died on 21 September 1927 in Brisbane. His interest in the welfare of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, of which he was an elder, was keen up to the time of his death. Davies was survived by his widow, one daughter, and two sons - Mrs. **Jessie Elizabeth Dempster**, **William Gauld Davies** and **Maldwyn Douglas Davies**.

William Davies' daughter - **Jessie Elizabeth Dempster** – was born on 14 July 1884 in Gympie. She had married Frederick George Dempster on 9 September 1908 and lived in rural northern Western Australia, and then in Kalamunda, WA. She died in 1965 in Fremantle, WA. She jointly owned the Wickham Terrace properties with her brother Major Maldwyn Davies.

William Davies' elder son – **Lieutenant William Gauld Davies** was born on 2 July 1888 at Gympie. He married Margaret Grant Black at Scots Church, Melbourne on 10 June 1911. He was a grazier and lived at *Atholl*, Blackall. They had two children.

World War One service – He enlisted at the same time as his younger brother on 12 June 1917 as a mechanical transport driver in the Army Service Corps and embarked for overseas in November 1917. They served in the same unit. He was promoted Corporal and served in France in 1 Australian Siege Brigade Ammunition Column then promoted Lieutenant prior to the Armistice. He returned to Australia via America with his brother at his own expense in mid-1919, and his appointment was terminated on 6 December 1919.

He was a Member of the Queensland Land Advisory Board. He died 18 February 1976 and is buried at Sutton Forest in NSW.

William Davies' younger son - **Major Maldwyn Douglas Davies** was born on 15 Jun 1893 at Gympie. He married Isobel Martin McDonald on 1 July 1914 at Toowong; and they lived at Auchenflower.

He had prior military service as a Senior Cadet, plus 2 years as a Lieutenant in the Moreton Regiment, and 3 years in the Oxley Regiment.

World War One service – He enlisted at the same time as his older brother in Melbourne in June 1917 in the Army Service Corps. They served in the same unit. He was promoted Corporal and served in France in 1 Australian Siege Brigade Ammunition Column. He returned to Australia via America with his brother at his own expense in mid-1919 and discharged in June 1919.

Maldwyn was described as a merchant and his company was Davies & Co.; and was one-time Chairman of the Queensland State Business Administration in the 1940s.

World War Two service – He enlisted on 16 February 1943 (as Q200691 / Q185351) and discharged on 22 October 1945 as a Captain of the 1Bn VDCA (Volunteer Defence Corps).

He is recorded in these notes as "Major" Davies – according to Club records. His military records do not record this rank, and it is assumed that it was an honorary "retirement" rank that was common in those days.

He jointly owned the Wickham Terrace properties with his sister Jessie Dempster.

His date and place of death are not known.

Maldwyn Douglas Davies' son: -

Flight Lieutenant Ian Douglas Davies – was born in Brisbane on 20 March 1920.

He enlisted in the RAAF on 29 January 1943 (#434799) and discharged on 20 February 1946 from 21 Operational Training Unit.

Ian joined the Club on 22 July 1946 (#1070).

He was a radiologist and lived at 149 Lancaster Road, Ascot with his wife – Betty Rutherford. He died on 9 November 2015 at Brisbane

And Ian Douglas Davies' son:

Maldwyn Ian Davies was born on 1 August 1961 in Brisbane.

He joined the Club on 1 April 1994 (#3299) and resigned on 31 August 2002.

He was an airline pilot and lived at Ascot and Hamilton.

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
- *The Queenslander* 29 September 1927