



Lieutenant T.J. BARRY

[1876 - 1938]



Lieutenant Barry was elected to Life Membership of the Club – prior to 1928.

Lieutenant Barry was a Trustee of the Club from 1928 to 1938.

Thomas Joseph Barry was born on 19 April 1876 in Tipperary, Ireland. He was the son of John Barry [1841-1878] - a Limerick born bootmaker and shopkeeper, who died in straitened circumstances in Cork, Ireland. His mother was Margaret (née McGrath) [1848 -1933] - born in Tipperary and died in Brisbane.

Thomas had 3 older sisters and one younger brother:

- Hannora or Hanna [1871-1879] born Tipperary, died in Cork.
- Margaret Mary Agnes [1872-1950] born Tipperary. Married Walter Cannon [1854-1922] in 1900 in Brisbane, Died in Brisbane.

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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- Bridget Josephine [1874-1946] born Tipperary. Married William Alfred O'Neill Stafford [1868-1945] in 1898 in Brisbane. Lived in Rockhampton and Brisbane where she died.
- John [b1878] born Cork. Possibly died as an infant.

In 1879, after her husband's death, Margaret Barry and her two younger children, Bridget and Thomas, migrated to Queensland, Australia as remittance passengers aboard the *Earl Derby*. It is not known who sponsored their passage, but it seems likely that it could have been Margaret's older sister Honora who had migrated to Queensland some years earlier. Her namesake daughter Margaret migrated separately in unknown circumstances.

It is not known where Thomas received his schooling.

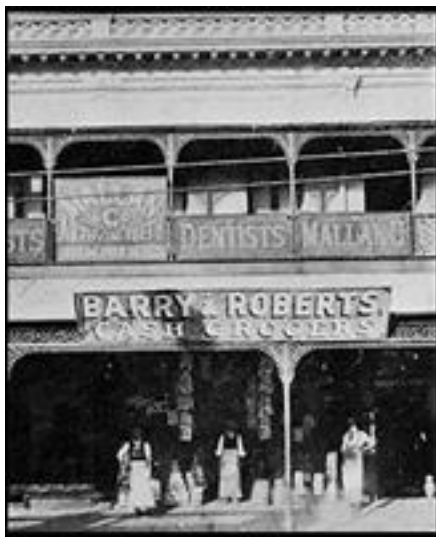
In Brisbane on 10 September 1902, Thomas married Catherine Ann "Katie or "Kit" (née Little) [1883-1977]. They had eight children – all of whom were born and died in Brisbane:

- Evelyn Margaret Mary [1903-1968] Married Thomas Cathrae Laidlaw Gamin [1901-1944] an optometrist, in Brisbane in 1927.
- Eileen Agnes [1905-1990] Married Owen Brendon Woodbine [1895-1967] a driver, in Brisbane in 1926. He had served as an MT driver in the AIF in France 1915-19.
- Alma Lillian [1907-2001] who became a teaching sister in the Ursuline Community, as Mother Christina.
- Madeline Birkdale [1908-1981] Married Reginald "Rex" Arthur Brown [1899-1961], a bank officer, in Brisbane in 1940.
- Marie Josephine [1909-1977] Married (later Sir) Clive Wentworth Uhr [1903-1974], a radiologist, in Brisbane in 1933. Major Uhr had served in 2/10 Australian General Hospital in Malaya and as PoW 1941-45.
- Paul Thomas [1914-1992] Company Director. Married Evelyn "Eve" (née Courteney) [1923-2013] in Brisbane in 1948. He had served as a Private in 2/4 Pioneer Battalion 1941-46.
- Kevin John [1917-2000] Company Director. Married Helen Margaret "Peg" (née Wilson) [1919-2014]. He had served as Private in 2 Battalion Volunteer Defence Corps 1942-45.
- Joan [1919-1994] Married Kevin Loeman Crosbie [1912-1985] a shipping agent, in Brisbane in 1950. They lived in Victoria and the Gold Coast. He had served as a Gunner at HQ Q LoC 1940-45.

The family lived at Kangaroo Point and later at Ascot.

The 1908 electoral rolls show Thomas as a "grocer". This was true and was to become an understatement. In 1898 he and a colleague (Sam Roberts) founded a department store in George Street, Brisbane, undercutting other retail merchants and rapidly making a name for themselves. Barry and Roberts soon opened other Brisbane stores and also moved into major regional centres such as Rockhampton, Toowoomba, and Ipswich.

The company's house brand was "Baroba". Barry & Roberts won first prize for their horse drawn float in the peace parade in Brisbane in December 1918. The company listed on the Brisbane Stock Exchange in 1949 and de-listed in December 1985.



Barry & Roberts Queen Street, Brisbane store, c1903

Barry and Roberts remained a household name in Queensland until the 1980s. The shop front of the Barry and Roberts Queen Street store can still be seen today forming part of the Myer Centre facade.



Following their father's death, Kevin and Paul Barry continued to run the business, occupying the role of managing directors of the company throughout their respective careers, Paul eventually retiring in 1980.

The only record that has been located regarding Thomas's military service is in the Government Gazette of February 1908 noting his appointment as Quartermaster and Honorary Lieutenant 9th Australian Infantry (Moreton) Regiment. He is not known to have seen any active service in either the Boer War or the Great War.

There is no record of Lieutenant Barry's Club membership. It can be presumed that he joined early in the 1900s while establishing his military and civilian careers.

Lieutenant Thomas Barry died on 11 Nov 1938 at the Mater Hospital, South Brisbane.

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
- NAA and DVA archives
- Trove
- Queensland Government Gazettes