

Bendigo Cemetery



This grave does not have a detailed headstone.  
It is the family grave for William Kenneth McKenzie, grave #7191 in section B2.  
He owned a grocer shop in Bendigo for 50 years.  
A detailed summary of the shops his family owned is shown the Jubilee report.

William married Elizabeth Ann (nee: Stocker) in 1876 (M-4386). Her father, Anderson STOKER, was a Presbyterian minister and is buried in this family grave. An interesting obituary.

William was an Old Bendigonian.

This report also details the sad double shooting/suicide deaths of William's son David and his wife Margaret (nee: Sawers) in 1932.  
Margaret's parents are buried in the White Hills Cemetery.

William Kenneth McKenzie (died in 1889 D-4167) and Jane McKenzie (nee: Corrie) who died in 1894 (D-12189), may have been the parents of the William Kenneth McKenzie, the grocer, but has/was not confirmed by the compiler.

Images:

McKENZIE\_B2\_090.JPG

to

McKENZIE\_B2\_090B.JPG

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The Family Grave  
of  
W. K. McKENZIE



The following people were buried in this grave #7191 Sect B2 as per cemetery records.

7191 McKENZIE Baby 14/01/1879 1 day  
10159 McKENZIE Clarence George 13/01/1887 9 mths  
10164 McKENZIE Kenneth Weddell 14/01/1887 9 mths  
10932 McKENZIE William Kenneth 18/01/1889 19/01/1889 67 yrs *carpenter*  
11225 McKENZIE Ethel Sarah 17/09/1889 7 yrs  
11948 STOKER Anderson 5/10/1891 7/10/1891 77 yrs  
13252 McKENZIE Jane 10/12/1894 75 yrs  
24782 McKENZIE William Kenneth 5/09/1920 6/09/1920 70 yrs *store owner*  
28187 McKENZIE Elizabeth Ann 22/07/1929 24/07/1929 75 yrs *wife to WK*  
29046 McKENZIE David Anderson 20/01/1932 21/01/1932 56 yrs  
29047 McKENZIE Margaret Alexandria 20/01/1932 21/01/1932 53 yrs

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*William Kenneth McKenzie*

*This William Kenneth is not the grocer.*

**Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Sat 26 Jan 1889 Page 7**

Family Notices

DEATHS.

McKENZIE

On the 18th, at Port Melbourne, W K McKenzie, carpenter, Queen Street, Sandhurst

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*The Jubilee story gives a good account of the history of William Kenneth McKenzie  
and the stores he came to manage then own.*

**Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Saturday 19 December 1914 - Page 12**

OLD BENDIGO FIRM, MESSRS D WHYTE AND CO.

MR MCKENZIE'S JUBILEE AND DIAMOND JUBILEE.

GIVES £50 TO CHARITIES.

Mr W K McKenzie, of the firm of Messrs D Whyte and Co, this Christmas is celebrating two jubilees - his jubilee in the grocery business, and his diamond jubilee as a resident of Bendigo.

It was on 24th December, 1852, he arrived in Hobson's Bay from Liverpool. In recognition of his long connection with this city, and of the splendid support accorded him, Mr W K McKenzie has decided to make the following charitable distributions, totalling £50: - Watson's Sustentation Fund, £10; St Aidan's Orphanage, £10; St Andrew's Ladies' Benevolent Society, £5/5/-; Salvation Army, £5/5/-; Eaglehawk Ladies' Benevolent Society, £4/4/-; St Vincent De Paul Society, £4/4/-; St Pauls Work Basket, £3; Bendigo Rescue Home, £3; Dorcas Society, £3; and City Poor Box, £2/2/-.

If the accredited representatives of these institutions call upon Mr McKenzie they will receive their cheques. The history of the Teapot Cash Store, Pall Mall, is almost as old as Bendigo.

In fact, the only alteration in the appearance of the front part of the large structure since its erection, in 1856, has been in the front windows. But, particularly in recent years, constant additions have been made at the rear and particularly in the cellar, which is claimed to be the finest in Bendigo, having a length of 80ft, and a Neuchatel asphalt floor. The store was founded by W and A Webb in 1856, and was carried on successfully by them for a number of years.

After passing through several hands, Messrs David Whyte and W K McKenzie took possession in 1875, and started trading as D Whyte and Co. Under that title the business has since been conducted, although Mr David Whyte retired in 1907, and the principals now are Mr W K McKenzie and his son, Mr David Anderson McKenzie.

The business abilities of Mr W K McKenzie are so well known as not to need emphasising in print. The successful and constantly expanding business he has been chiefly instrumental in developing speaks for itself.

It also goes without, saying that the firm has at all times met the public's demands, hence the continuance of such liberal support. Working on a cash basis, and ever striving to secure a larger and yet larger output, the firm has been able to sell the best articles at the lowest prices. With a large output small profits suffice, and both can be and have been attained by this firm on its working policy.

Above all, the firm has laid it down as a fixed principle to keep faith with the public, and to be prompt and courteous in all dealings.

Since 1875 there has been an enormous increase in the annual turnover in groceries, wines, spirits, crockery ware, furnishing ironmongery, stationery, etc so much so that, in 1911 a three storied warehouse had to be erected at the rear of the premises.

The firm employs about 40 well trained assistants, and 15 horses, carts and lorries handle and deliver the goods. Branches were established at Echuca, Rochester and Kerang, where large and flourishing businesses were conducted, but with a view to consolidating the business these were closed.

The following branches, however, are being carried on in Bendigo and Eaglehawk: Farmers' Cash Store, Hargreaves Street; Melbourne Cash Store, Pall Mall; and Eaglehawk Cash Store, Eaglehawk. The years have dealt kindly with Mr McKenzie and he is still pushing with great mental and physical vigour his vast business enterprises.

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*Rev Anderson Stoker*  
**Bendigo Advertiser (Vic. : 1855 - 1918) Tue 6 Oct 1891 Page 2**

Death of the Rev Anderson Stoker.

The many friends of the Rev Anderson Stoker, a retired Presbyterian minister, will regret to hear of his death at an early hour yesterday morning. The deceased gentleman, who was 75 years of age, was a native of Durham, England.

In early life he was an intimate friend of the Stephenson family, of railway steam engine fame. He came out to the colonies in the "fifties," and shortly afterwards made his way up to the Bendigo gold-field.

In 1860 he was in charge of the Presbyterian Church at Epsom. The building was subsequently blown down by a terrible storm that passed over the district. For a time he labored in the North eastern district, and had charge of churches at Rutherglen, Beechworth and other places in that district. After that he received a call to the Inglewood Church, where he remained for about ten years. Since then he has been stationed at Golden Square and Carisbrook.

Two or three years ago he retired from active service, and has been living quietly in Mollison street. He occasionally officiated in the pulpits of different churches in the district, and was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Presbytery, where he was always cordially received.

About two months ago his old age and a severe cold necessitated his taking to his bed, from which he was destined never to rise again. He retained his faculties up to the last to a surprising degree, and passed away quietly about half-past four o'clock yesterday morning.

He was a thorough Presbyterian minister of the old school, and wherever he was stationed he earned the respect and esteem of not only the members of his congregation but of the public generally.

The deceased gentleman leaves a grown up family of three sons and one daughter, the latter being the wife of Mr W K M'Kenzie, the well known grocer of this city. One of the sons is town clerk at Scarsdale, and another is managing a coach factory at Wangaratta.

The funeral takes place at half past two o'clock to morrow afternoon, the place of interment being the Bendigo Cemetery.

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*William Kenneth McKenzie*

**The Argus (Melbourne, Vic. : 1848 - 1957) Mon 6 Sep 1920 Page 1**

#### Family Notices

**McKENZIE.** - On the 5th September, at "Bona Vista," Moore Street, Bendigo, William Kenneth McKenzie, a colonist of 68 years.

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*David Anderson MCKENZIE and Margaret Alexandria MCKENZIE*

**The Herald (Melbourne, Vic. : 1861 - 1954) Wed 20 Jan 1932 Page 1**

#### MAN AND WIFE FOUND SHOT

Elwood Tragedy

MURDER AND SUICIDE IN FASHIONABLE HOUSE

A man and his wife were found shot dead in bed in a fashionable house in St Kilda Street, Elwood, at 7.30 am today. It is thought that the husband shot the wife first and then shot himself.

The victims were:-

DAVID ANDERSON McKENZIE, 56, a collector.

and his wife

MARGARET A McKENZIE, 53.

Mr McKenzie was well known in Bendigo, where he was proprietor for years of the firm of D Whyte and Co, grocers and wine and spirit merchants. He retired about eight years ago and, with his wife, went to Elwood, where they had lived since.

On Monday he became a collector with Hoadleys Chocolates Ltd, Coventry Street, South Melbourne. He was apparently in good financial circumstances, and no motive for the tragedy has been discovered.

Husband and wife were widely respected, and were, it is stated, devotedly attached to one another.

The couple, who had no children, lived in Esperanza, a two-storied house, of 11 or 12 rooms, in St Kilda Street, a few doors from Martin Street. It is surrounded by a beautiful garden, and is handsomely furnished, and very comfortable.

Following her usual custom, the maid, Maud Ellson, walked upstairs to the front bedroom at 7.30 am today to give a cup of morning tea to Mr and Mrs McKenzie. She found the bedroom door closed. It was usually left wide open. The maid opened the door and walked in.

Seeing Mr McKenzie's face covered with blood, she ran to the house of Mr A S MacGlashan next door. Mr MacGlashan returned to the house with Dr Keith Chambers, of St Kilda Street, and found the bodies.

### **SAWN-OFF SHOT-GUN**

Mr McKenzie was in bed with a shot wound in the right temple. His wife was beside him. She had been shot behind the right ear. In his hand Mr McKenzie had a small calibre sawn-off breech loading shotgun. No note was found to indicate the motive for the tragedy.

There was no sign of a struggle. The indications were that the woman was shot while asleep. No shot was heard by the maid or neighbours. It is thought that the tragedy occurred between 1 am and 2 am.

The end of the butt, sawn from the shot gun, was found in a workshop at the rear of the house. Mr McKenzie bought the gun several days ago.

Rolls of £1 notes were found in his desk upstairs. His financial affairs, so far as his relatives know, are in order. He owned the house in which he lived, and was stated to be in good health. "SEEMED SO HAPPY" "They were a homely couple, and I had no idea this was likely to happen," said Miss Elison, the maid, today, "I sleep in a room downstairs at the rear of the house, and heard nothing unusual."

"I did not discover the tragedy until I took the morning tea into the bedroom. I could not believe, even then, that a tragedy had occurred, as Mr and Mrs McKenzie seemed so happy."

"Yesterday Mrs McKenzie spent most of the day watering the garden, in which she took a keen interest. Last night Mr McKenzie drove his wife to the pictures. He went out himself, and came home at 10.30. He read for a little while and then went out again to the pictures to meet his wife. They returned about 11.30. I was in bed at the time, and did not know what occurred after that Mr McKenzie seemed normal and happy, and was never depressed or worried, so far as I know."

Mr J B Sawers, of Elwood Street, Brighton, a brother-in-law of Mr McKenzie, said that he was at a loss to account for the tragedy.

"They were a devoted couple," he added. "They had no financial worry. I saw Mr McKenzie a few days ago, and he made no complaint of any kind to me."

Mr A MacGlashan, who lives next door, said that he was astounded, as he knew both Mr and Mrs McKenzie well, and they appeared to be extremely happy. Yesterday morning he passed Mr McKenzie going to the city in his car. He seemed quite happy. Mrs McKenzie was interested in her garden, and was a fine woman.

Another neighbour said: "You would not meet a better man than Mr McKenzie. Two years ago he bought a car so that he could take his wife out. They were the loveliest couple you could meet. At

midnight we heard a strange noise and one of us ran into the street, but could see nothing. It is probable that the tragedy occurred then."

### PHILOSOPHY IN VERSE

Hanging on the wall of the bedroom, in which the tragedy occurred, was a plaque on which was printed a verse entitled "**Taint,**" which neighbors say reflected the philosophy of Mr McKenzie. It read as follows:-

"Taint what we have  
But what we give  
Taint how we care  
But how we live  
Taint what we do  
But how we do it  
That makes this life  
Worth going through it."

On ornamental stepping-stones in the garden at the back are inscribed the words, "Thank God for a garden."

### McKENZIE'S CAREER

Controlled Chain of Bendigo Shops  
BENDIGO. Wednesday.

David Anderson McKenzie was prominently associated with the business life of Bendigo until 1921, when he retired and transferred to Melbourne. His father, the late Mr W K McKenzie was in the grocery trade in Bendigo for more than 50 years.

David started as a boy with the pioneer firm of D Whyte & Co, and subsequently became a partner in the business and later sole proprietor. The business consisted of four stores in the city and Eaglehawk. It was sold to Mr A J Hamilton, of Bendigo. It has since been sold in lots, and one shop still retains the trade name of D Whyte & Co.

Mrs McKenzie was a Bendigo girl, a daughter of Mr and Mrs Sawers, pioneer Bendigonians.

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Compiled by Pat & Ian Belmont  
in January 2021  
for the Bendigo Cemetery Obituaries & Notes