ANDREW THOMAS O'CONNOR

Andrew Thomas O'Connor was born on 05 May 1864 in 7 off Bank Street Emerald Hill, the fifth child of Andrew O'Connor and Margaret Fynes and the third to be born in Emerald Hill. He lived all his early life around Emerald Hill/South Melbourne.

He married Elizabeth Jane Rafter, daughter of Joseph Henry Rafter and Bridget Ryan on 8 Apr 1896 in Sts Peter & Paul's South Melbourne (Reg No 2572). She was born on 01 Dec 1869 in Dover Street Williamstown but was living in South Melbourne at the time of her marriage. Records show that her father, Joseph Rafter, and we assume she and other members of the family, were living at 13 Mountain Street South Melbourne through this period. (13 Mountain Street was re-numbered to 14 Mountain Street in the early 20th Century).

A notice was placed in the Age on Saturday 9th May as follows:

Interesting to see that Elizabeth was referred to as "Lizzie".

When Andrew and Elizabeth married they moved to 35 Waterloo Street St Kilda and within a year or so were at 46 Vale Street St Kilda as renters then by 1900 they were the owners/occupiers of 50 Vale Street.

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Andrew worked as a postal worker at the St Kilda Post Office hence he lived very close to where he worked – just across the road.

He died on 03 Sep 1942 at 308 Inkerman Street East St Kilda

He was buried in a grave at Coburg Cemetery which had been started by the Lynch family for Lillian Doris Lynch. The connection was that the sister of Elizabeth Rafter, Andrew's wife, married a Lynch and it was their daughter who was first interred in this grave. Because of Elizabeth Rafter's connection into the O'Connors, this became the family grave. Adjacent graves contain the remains of many other members of the Lynch family.

His death notice was in the Age of Friday 4th September 1942. It was also in the Argus of the same date.

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In the land o' the leal.
O'CONNOR.—On September 3, at his residence, 308 Inkerman-road, East St. Kilda, Andrew Thomas, beloved husband of Elizabeth, and loving father of Mary (Sister M. Ligouri), Margaret, Joseph, Francis (deceased), John, James and William (A.M.F.), aged 78 years. R.I.P.

Another funeral notice identified that Andrew had been a member of the Ancient Order of Foresters, just as his father Andrew had been. However he was a member and Trustee of a different "Court", namely the Court of Good Intent No. 2728 in St Kilda. Interesting to see that they referred to him as "Andy".

...m (A.M.F.), aged 78 years. R.I.P.
O'CONNOR.—On September 3, at his residence, 308 Inkerman-road, East St. Kilda, Andrew Thomas (Andy), Trustee and beloved member of the Order for 46 years, aged 78 years. Respected by us all. —Inserted by the Officers and Members of Court Good Intent No. 2728. A.O.F., St. Kilda.

Friendly Societies were established in Australia in the 1830s and were traditionally founded on mutual self-help ideals. These societies grew as ordinary Australians – labourers, miners, carpenters, bricklayers, stonemasons, blacksmiths, shop workers, railwaymen and others -banded together to provide, by their own exertions and from their own slender resources, some of the medical and other essential services they lacked. They sought help from no one but each other and received none from either government or from the more affluent.

Devoid of clinics and hospitals, with few trustworthy chemists and doctors, early Australia was fruitful soil for the mutual aid organisations that were and are friendly

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societies. Friendly Societies with such unusual names as The Independent Order of Oddfellows, The Independent Order of Rechabites, the United Ancient Order of Druids and, the one that Andrew joined, the Ancient Order of Foresters have, since European settlement of this country, became a part of the history of Australia.

Elizabeth continued to live at 308 Inkerman Street until her death on 5 Jan 1951.

O'CONNOR.—On January 5, at 308 Inkerman street, St. Kilda, Elizabeth, beloved wife of the late Andrew O'Connor, and loving mother of Mary (Sister M. Ligouri), Margaret (Mrs. J. Kennedy), Joseph, Francis (deceased), John, James, and William, loved sister of Mary (deceased), Ann (Mrs. O'Grady, W.A.), Nell, Catherine, and Jack (deceased), aged 81 years. — Requiescat in pace.