



*Bullock Wagon, Walcha, NSW, c. 1918*

# The Spry Family

## Carriers

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When William Spry and Dorothy Knight met, married and started their family in 1832 in Cornwall, it is likely that they had never dreamt of one day packing up and sailing to a new life in a new country.

William worked as a brickmaker and potter to support his wife and children. After a failed business venture in Penzance, the Sprys cut their losses and sailed for Melbourne on the Courier in 1849, settling in the area we now know as North Coburg.

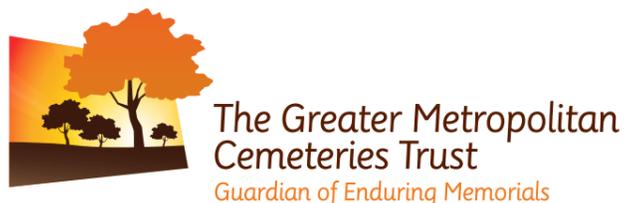
Arriving with nothing, it was not long before William bought a bullock dray and worked with his sons transporting goods around Melbourne. As Spry family lore tells it, William injured his back in a wrestling match and later died, becoming one of the first recorded burials in Coburg Cemetery in 1864.

William's sons, William and George, began working as carriers on the Victorian goldfields and then moved to New South Wales. In 1861 George, owner of a large team of horses and a flourishing transport business, was accosted and shot by the famous bushranger 'Mad Dog' Morgan. He continued to work, despite being crippled by the wounds, until he was granted a selection and turned it into a successful sheep farm.

In 1892 George returned to Coburg and lived with his sister Charity Treloar at the family property close to Merri Creek. After a stroke crippled him further, George walked with a stick and lost the use of his arm. In 1893, aged 54, George wandered down to Merri Creek to look at high water levels after a weekend of heavy rains. His drowned body was later found several miles downstream.

George's mother Dorothy died two years later, having buried at least four children and outliving her husband by over thirty years. She is buried here with her husband and son, only a few kilometres from the family property in an area now subdivided into streets carrying their family names.

Working together to preserve our history



The above information is based on research conducted in 2011-2012 and is presented in good faith by the Friends of Coburg Cemetery. Should family members wish to upgrade existing monuments within this cemetery please email [enquiries@gmct.com.au](mailto:enquiries@gmct.com.au)