



Abel Greenwood, 1898

Abel Greenwood

Businessman and Shire President

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Born in 1830 in Cheshire, England, Abel Greenwood arrived in Melbourne as a young man in 1852 aboard the *Delta*.

He started his new life in the colony by settling in the farming region of Pentridge (Coburg) then headed north to try his luck on the Victorian goldfields. Returning to Pentridge after only a year, he set up a grain and produce shop on Bell Street, married Frances Wright Thornley and over the following decades built a thriving business. He and Frances had a large family and in 1874, during a time of diphtheria and dysentery, all five daughters died, four of them within a few days.

With the help of their four surviving sons, the Greenwoods continued to build their business, establishing a produce store in Melbourne. The company thrived despite a fire in 1889 that tore through the upstairs storage of their Elizabeth Street warehouse, causing great damage.

After retirement, Greenwood became a Coburg Shire Councillor and by 1898 was Shire President. The Greenwoods lived in Hudson and Waterfield Streets in Coburg and on his death Greenwood also owned property in Parkville.

Abel Greenwood died on 26 November 1912 and was, according to the mayor of the time, 'one of the oldest and best known residents of Coburg'. He was laid to rest in this grave where he had buried his wife, Frances and, years before, their five daughters and a baby son.

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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