

Design Plan - Moreland Park Estate

Montague Dare

Businessman and developer

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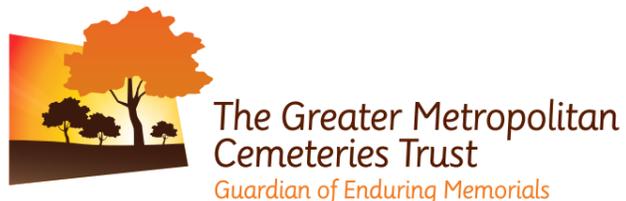
Montague Dare is best known for the development of the Moreland Park Estate and his contributions to the business community of Melbourne. Born in London in 1852 to John George Dare and Mary Ann (nee Clarke), he migrated to Melbourne with his family when he was seven. He grew up in St Kilda where his father established himself as a land and estate agent. Whilst working in his father's business Montague prospered and married Annie Charlotte, the daughter of Henry and Anne Mason in 1877.

In 1882 Montague and a partner purchased farmland adjacent to Sydney and Moreland Roads, renaming it Moreland Park Estate. They aimed to develop a prestigious subdivision – a 'Toorak of the North'. The land was subdivided into residential lots, parkland, a few large lots and some smaller shop allotments along Sydney Road. Buyers were offered architecturally designed three-bedroom homes built either in brick or wood. By 1890 twenty-four brick homes had been built on the Estate, the majority of which were owned by Montague. He also constructed the Moreland Park Buildings on Sydney Road which are still standing today. Financial difficulties in 1896 resulted in Montague divesting himself of most of the properties but retaining his own ten-acre home 'Moreland Park' by the Merri Creek.

Montague and Annie's son Charles had a distinguished career in the 14th Bn. AIF in the First World War. Charles was twice mentioned in dispatches, awarded the Distinguished Service Order and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Tragically, Annie was killed in a riding accident at Moreland Park in August 1904 and Montague erected this tall marble monument to her memory. It is a fine example of the style of mortuary monument popular in the late-Victorian and Edwardian eras. He was buried in the grave with his wife following his death in 1919 due to pneumonia.

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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