

Commemorative Roll - Thomas Storie Dixson

Rank: Captain

Unit: 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards

Service: British Army

Date of death: 8 December 1916

Place of death: Amiens, France

Cause of death: Accidental (Trench mortar grenade explosion)

Notes: Born 04/09/1886. Native place: Summer Hill, NSW.

Died age 29

Husband of Ruby Howard Dixson, of 2 Chesham St., London.

Remembered with honour

VAUX-EN-AMIENOIS COMMUNAL CEMETERY



A.S.C. 1899-1903

School history provides that he was a---."Prominent rifle shot at Sydney University and stroke in many inter-university races,

✠DIXSON, THOMAS STORIE.

B.A. : Captain, 1st Battn. Coldstream Guards, B.E.F., France.

Enlisting in London 24th May, 1915, served at Officers Training Corps till commissioned 31st August. Promoted lieutenant, 25th October ; appointed Instructor and Acting Captain, Trench Mortar School, 23rd July, 1916.

Killed accidentally by premature explosion of trench-mortar grenade, School of Instruction near Amiens, 8th December, 1916 and buried in Vaux-en-Amienois Communal Cemetery.

Early education at All Saints' College, Bathurst.

We quote the following from the "Bulletin" of November 24th:—"The marriage of Mr. Tom Storie Dixson, a younger son of the tobacco king, to Miss Ruby Turland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Turland, of Milson's Point, occurs on Wednesday next. The bride's nearest and dearest girl friends tell that it has taken six women nearly a month to embroider the tulle overdress of the bridal gown, and that the said dress will be one of the loveliest ever turned out by the house of David Jones. Miss Turland is one of Sydney's best lookers. The T. S. Dixsons—the damsel will become Mrs. Dixson some hours before this meets the eye—leave by the Otranto on the 26th for a year's trip."

Tom Dixson writes:—"I noticed in the last number of the "Bathurstian" that I stroked the last Inter-State eight; I regret to state that such is not a fact—Mr. Ward being the successful oarsman; I am afraid my only performances this year have been crowned with disappointment, as I was coach to the St. Andrew's crew which came second, and I was also one of the coaches to the University crew which also came second. Perhaps you meant the champion eights which I had the luck to get home with last December."

Dixson also made us an extract from the "Sportsman" Bathurstian Old Boys notes not dated.

SOCIAL

A marriage was solemnized at St. James' Church, King-street, on Wednesday, November 23, between Mr. Thomas Storie Dixson, of Abergeldie, Summer Hill, and Miss Ruby Turland, of McMahon's Point... She was given away by her father; the best man was Mr. Robert Dixson... Mr. and Mrs. Dixson left by the Otranto on Saturday for a year's tour round the world.

Sydney Morning Herald 3/12/1910 P.11

Australian Dictionary of Biography - Online Edition

Dixson, Thomas Storie (1854 - 1932)

Dixon, Sir H (1841-1926), tobacco manufacturer and philanthropist, and Thomas Storie (1854-1932), medical practitioner, were born on 29 January 1841 and 10 April 1854 in Sydney, sons of Hugh Dixson, tobacco manufacturer, and his wife Helen, née Craig.

In 1856 he entered his father's firm and, with his brother Robert, became a partner in 1864. On 3 July 1866 at Raymond Terrace he married Emma Elizabeth. The firm prospered, partly due to the impetus of the American Civil War, and expanded to Melbourne and Adelaide, where it became Robert Dixson & Co. On the death of his father in 1880 Dixson became head of Dixson & Sons Ltd and in 1883 built a massive warehouse and factory on the corner of Elizabeth and Park streets. In the late 1880s he introduced a profit-sharing scheme with employees. In 1903 he and his nephew Sir Hugh Denison organized the merger of the family companies with William Cameron Bros & Co. Pty, Melbourne; Dixson was chairman of the new British-Australasian Tobacco Co. Ltd. He was also chairman of the City Bank of Sydney, and the Strand Electric Lighting Co. Ltd, proprietor of the Strand Arcade and, in 1897-98, president of the Chamber of Manufactures of New South Wales. In 1904 he set up and became chairman of the Dixson Trust Ltd.

Staunch Baptists, Dixson and his wife originated many trust funds for the Church, including £10,000 for aged and infirm ministers. He was president of the Baptist Union of New South Wales in 1895-96, the Baptist Home Mission Society until 1926 and of the Young Men's Christian Association in 1900-02 and in 1909, and a director of Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Lady Dixson was a life governor of the Queen Victoria Homes for Consumptives, the Women's Hospital, Crown Street, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and of the Infants' Home, Ashfield, a life vice-president of the British Empire League in Australia, the National Council of Women of New South Wales, and the Victoria League; president of the women's auxiliary of the Sydney City Mission and the Veterans' Home of New South Wales and vice-president of the New South Wales Home for Incurables, Ryde (to which they gave £20,000), and the Fresh Air League; she also founded the Sydney Medical Mission. Among Dixson's many benefactions were £5000 each to the Dreadnought Fund, the Chamber of Commerce War Food fund and the Y.M.C.A.'s building fund; and £7500 to the University of Sydney to buy a collection of minerals from the Barrier district; he and his wife were as charitable privately as publicly.

Dixson was a noted horticulturist and became a member of the Linnean Society of NSW in 1887 and the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1898. At his home, Abergeldie, Summer Hill, his garden contained many exotic and rare plants; he contributed articles to such journals as the *Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales*. Bespectacled and bearded with curling side-whiskers, he was knighted in 1921. Lady Dixson enthusiastically collected rare china and owned a tea-service that had belonged to Marie Antoinette.

She died in Sydney on 12 April 1922 and Sir Hugh at Colombo on 11 May 1926; they were survived by two of their six sons and by four daughters; one son Lieutenant Thomas Storie Dixson, Coldstream Guards, was killed on active service in France in World War I. Sir Hugh left his estate, valued for probate at £143,194, to his children and grandchildren.

Whilst writing of Thomas, one should not neglect his brother who is today known for the Dixon Library, within the State Library, Macquarie St. (Ed.)

Sir Hugh Dixson's eldest surviving son Sir William (1870-1952), businessman and collector of Australiana, was born on 18 April 1870 in Sydney. Educated at All Saints College, Bathurst, and **(Ed. 1887)** he qualified as an engineer in Scotland in 1889-96. On his return to Sydney he worked for several years for Norman Selfe. He was a director of Dixson & Sons Ltd in 1899-1903, the British-Australasian Tobacco Co. Ltd in 1903-08, the City Bank of Sydney (1909-17) and of the Dixson Trust Ltd 1909-52 and Timbrol Ltd until 1952. William began collecting rare books and manuscripts for use in his 'own historical researches' but when he learned that the income from David Scott Mitchell's bequest to the Public Library of New South Wales could not be spent on pictures, he 'decided to give special attention to them'.

Dixson first offered his pictures to the State in 1919 and again in 1924, adding that he would bequeath the remainder of his pictures and collections of Australiana, including manuscripts, books, coins and stamps, to the library on similar conditions to Mitchell's bequest: the Dixon Gallery was opened in October 1929. He later gave to the library other pictures, including a number by artists who accompanied Captain James Cook, its great bronze entrance doors, three stained-glass windows in the main reading room, and £15,000, the income of which is used to buy historical pictures.

In 1937-39 Dixson gave a total of £5000 to assist in establishing a library at the New England University College, Armidale, which is named in his honour; he also presented some 1500 anthropological specimens from Australasia, New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago to the Australian Museum. He was a benefactor and fellow of the Royal Australian Historical Society, contributing many articles to its *Journal*, and a member of the Geographical, Royal and Linnean societies of New South Wales. Like his parents, he aided hospitals and institutions and was treasurer and president of the Queen Victoria Homes. He was knighted in 1939. Although 'reserved and retiring', he was a 'very kindly gentleman', with neatly brushed hair and a trim beard and moustache. He was a member of Killara Golf Club, and was an excellent photographer.

Sir William, a bachelor, died in hospital at Chatswood on 17 August 1952 and was cremated with Anglican rites. His estate was valued for probate at £429,132; in addition to his promised bequests, he left all his shares in the British Tobacco Co. (Australia) Ltd (about £114,000) to the trustee of the Public Library to set up the William Dixson Foundation to benefit students by reproducing, with 'no editing whatsoever', manuscripts relating to Australasia and the Pacific, reprinting rare books and translating manuscripts into English. The Dixson Library, housing his great collections, was opened in 1959.

B. Cook, 'Dixson, Thomas Storie (1854–1932)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University.

Our London correspondent cables that **Lieutenant Thomas Storie Dixon**, youngest son of Mr. Hugh Dixon, of Sydney, has been killed in action while serving with the Coldstream Guards.

SMH 14/12/16

KILLED IN ACTION. LIEUTENANT T. S. DIXSON

Lieutenant Thomas Storie Dixon, of the Coldstream Guards, the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Dixon, of Abergeldie, Summer Hill, has been killed in action in France. Lieutenant Dixon, whose home was at Redleaf, Rose Bay, was 30 years of age. He was educated at **All Saints' College**, Bathurst, and subsequently was a student at St. Andrew's College, where he graduated as Bachelor of Arts. He gained his "blue" as an oarsman in the University Rowing Club, and afterwards coached his college crew. He studied accountancy in the office of Messrs. Kent, Brierley, and Sully; and was also in the office of the Dixson Trust, Limited. He was married several years ago to Miss Ruby Turland, daughter of Mr. J. H. Turland, of North Sydney. About two and a half years ago Mr. Dixon, accompanied by his wife and two children, went to England for a health trip. He was there at the outbreak of the war and enlisted, subsequently getting a commission in the Coldstream Guards. Among the officers and men of his regiment Lieutenant Dixon was very popular, as he was among his many friends in Sydney. His brothers are Messrs. W. Dixon and R. C. Dixon, of the Dixson Trust; and his sisters are Mrs. Ronald K-- and Mrs. H. C. Eaton, both of whom are in England, Mrs. Chester Wells, who is living in the United States, and Mrs. C. R. TBW-*f The late Mr. Dixon's wife and children are at present in London.

SMH 15/12/16

(Redleaf is now the Woollahrah Council Chambers. Quoting from its website :)

At the time of Frederick Lasseter's death in 1911, Redleaf and St Brigid's remained on the one title. In 1912 the land, in readiness for its sale, was subdivided into two allotments. Redleaf was reduced to an area a little over 2 acres and St Brigid's to an area a little under 1 acre. The Redleaf property was then purchased by the merchant Thomas Storie Dixon while St Brigid's was bought by Cecil Moulder.



Vaux-en-Amienois is a small village in the Department of the Somme, 8 kilometres north-west of Amiens.

During the First World War, the Fourth Army Trench Mortar School was at Vaux-en-Amienois. The communal cemetery contains 15 Commonwealth burials of the First World War.

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE LONDON GAZETTE, 9 SEPTEMBER, 1915.
FOOT GUARDS.**

The undermentioned to be Second Lieutenants (on probation):
Coldstream Guards.

Thomas Storie Dixson (Member of Inns of Court Officers Training Corps).
Dated 31st August, 1915.

LATE LIEUTENANT DIXSON.

ESTATE VALUED AT £132,000.

Lieutenant Thomas Storie Dixson, formerly of Double Bay, Sydney, when the war started enlisted in England, and secured a commission in the Coldstream Guards, special reserve. While on active service he was accidentally killed in France on December 8 Inst. The deceased left a widow and two young children, both girls. Yesterday probate was granted of his will and codicils. The net value of the estate was £132,000, the principal asset being the sum of 115,889 being shares held by the late Lieutenant Dixson in public companies. Included in these shares are 33,701 in the British Tobacco Company, 2260 in the Dixson Trust, Limited, and 2610 in W. H. Soul, Pattinson, and Co. The estate was bequeathed to the wife and children.

LADY DIXSON'S WILL.

Sydney, June 9.

The estate of the late Lady Emma Elizabeth Dixson, wife of Sir Hugh Dixson, of Abergeldie, Summer Hills, has been valued for probate purposes at £107,638. Four charitable institutions benefit by £500 each by her will and a year's wages is to be given to all her and her husband's servants who had been in their employ for five consecutive years. Subject to certain bequests to relatives, the deceased bequeathed her estate to her children and the children of her deceased son, Thomas Storie Dixson.