

# Carl Lauenstein Schrader

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1895 - 20<sup>th</sup> November 1915

*Killed in action at Gallipoli*

One of the things that has always struck me about St. Theodore's Church is the substantial presence of memorials to Carl Lauenstein Schrader, who was killed at Gallipoli in World War I. There is a large plaque immediately above the Bishop's Throne in the Choir of the church, one of the three stained-glass windows in the Baptistry is dedicated to him, and his name is on the Honour Roll in the Vestry. In the over 100 years of the parish's history, the memory of Carl Schrader holds a special place – and yet he remains something of an enigma, as time seems to have clouded the details. As the period of this issue of *The Tidings* includes the centenary of his death (November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1915), I determined to try and find out something about Carl Schrader . . .



Carl Lauenstein Schrader was born in Yorketown in South Australia on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1895. His father was also named Carl – Carl Hugo Eugen Schrader – and his mother was Louisa Margarethe Schlüter: they were married in 1894 in the house of Louisa's mother in Greenock in the Barossa. Carl (Jnr.) had a younger brother – Adolph Hugo – who was born on 24<sup>th</sup> February, 1897 in Norwood. When young Carl was almost 10 years old, his mother died (27<sup>th</sup> November 1904) – and his father was re-married to Lily Von Nida on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 1907 in St. Paul's Anglican Church in Pulteney Street, Adelaide.

Interestingly, young Carl's grandfather was a Frederick August Carl Schrader, who married Anna Clara Helene Muecke (in the Lutheran Church in Tanunda in 1859). However, the grandfather died within a year of that wedding and Carl Hugo Eugen Schrader was born after his father's death. Anna Schrader re-married to Martin Peter Frederick Basedow, whose father established Basedow's winery. Peter himself was a formidable figure . . . among other things he was an MP (Member for Barossa in the SA House of Assembly), a newspaper proprietor and he was largely responsible for the establishment of Roseworthy College. In Carl Lauenstein Schrader's death notice – published in the *Adelaide Advertiser* and the *Observer* – he is noted as the grandson of Mrs. A. Basedow of Kent Town, and Mrs. S. Schülter of Greenock.



*The memorial plaque (Memorial Tablet) dedicated to Pte. Carl L. Schrader in the Choir of St. Theodore's Church, on the wall behind the Bishop's Throne. It was presented by the Executor Trustee and Agency Company of South Australia, and was unveiled by Carl's father during Evensong on Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1916.*

In the time between Carl's birth and that of his brother Adolph, the family moved to Rose Park, where they lived in a house called "Taminga" on Kensington Road. During Carl's childhood, it is clear that he and Adolph became associated with the parish of St. Theodore's – then in Gurney Road, Rose Park – during the time of Rev'd. Frank H. King (later Canon King) as the Priest-in-Charge. In the St. Theodore's archives, the Pew Sheets actually commenced in 1912 and at that stage the two boys were Servers. Rev'd. King had formed a Catechism Group within the parish, and in November 1912 (Carl would have been 17 years old) he came forward as Assistant-Secretary of that group. In August 1913, the newly-formed Church of England Men's Society (CEMS) Group in the parish held its first "men's service" at which 56 men were present and Carl Schrader was admitted. During 1914, the Parish of St. Theodore's moved from its original church in Gurney Road, Rose Park to its present location in Prescott Terrace, Toorak Gardens and at the Dedication on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 1914 Carl was one of the Crucifers – and the Pew Sheet of the day notes that "he carried out his duties with reverence and dignity". He attended Rose Park Primary School, but no other school is listed on his records, so it is quite conceivable that he had no secondary education . . . which was acceptable in that era. Similarly, we know little about his employment, other than his occupation is listed in his Army papers as a "clerk". Carl Schrader enlisted into the Army in July, 1915 but while he was in camp before going to the front, a Pew Sheet in August 1915 notes that he – by this time Secretary of the Catechism Group – had been presented by the group with a belt and sovereign case and that Carl had generously given the church a silver lavabo bowl before his departure.

After Carl decided to join the Army, the progress was very rapid. He passed his medical examination on July 7<sup>th</sup> (from it we find he was 5' 10" tall, weighed 163 pounds, had a 'fresh' complexion, grey eyes and dark hair), and he arrived in camp on July 12<sup>th</sup>. His enlistment became official on July 13<sup>th</sup>. He was allotted to his Unit on August 16<sup>th</sup> (16<sup>th</sup> Battalion A.I.F.), and embarked for overseas service on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The overseas service was of course to Gallipoli and he was killed in action on November 20<sup>th</sup>, 1915. The timing is extremely poignant: two days after Carl's death, Lord Kitchener issued the order for the evacuation of the Allied forces from Turkey and within four weeks all of the ANZAC forces had left the front! There is a memorial for the remains of Private Carl Lauenstein Schrader in the Lone Pine Memorial, Gallipoli Peninsula, Canakkie Province, Turkey.

Carl Schrader's "effects" were duly returned to his father. Carl had left a Will, and its provisions are very revealing . . . the first allocation turned out to be £50 assigned to the Wardens of St. Theodore's Church "to be placed to credit of the general fund or for such purpose or purposes in connection with the said church as the Wardens or Priest-in-Charge for the time being decide". He then gave his "books, personal apparel, furniture and property of like nature" to his brother Adolph, and finally the residue of his estate to Adolph, his father Carl and his step-mother Lily in equal share. One can only marvel at the primary allocation by a 20-year old clerk to his parish . . . in modern-day terms, that would be equivalent to an endowment of some \$10,000 (based on a comparison of the average wage in Australia in 1915 compared with that in 2015).

In February 1916, the Church Notes reported that there was to be a Memorial Window erected in the church in honour of Carl L. Schrader. In June 1916, the Pew Sheet reported that the erection of the window had been approved and the designs were to be submitted to the Bishop for approval – the window was described as a "handsome figure of a crusader". On Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>, 1916 the Priest-in-Charge (Rev'd. King) dedicated the window in memory of "our beloved fellow-worker Carl Schrader" – it was unveiled by his brother Adolph and was a gift of relations, the children of the parish among whom he worked, and other friends.



*Left: The Memorial Window for Carl Lauenstein Schrader in the Baptistry of St. Theodore's Church; and Above: the inscription below the Window.*

The Pew Sheet of September 1916 proclaimed that "To be true soldiers of God will ever be the message of the Window for all who see it".

So perhaps while I did not uncover all the details about Carl Schrader I may have wished, he is less of an enigma. There is no doubt that in his association as a youth and young man in the life of the parish he made an enormous impact in a very short time, and was remembered with great fondness and love by those who knew him and worked alongside him. The articles in the press at the time of the unveiling of the Memorial Window note that "he was greatly loved by the children of the parish, and made a practice of writing long letters to them describing his life and experiences in active service". He was clearly deeply involved in the parish activities at the time he left for his overseas posting with the A.I.F., particularly with the youth, and he was extremely dedicated to the parish. Just maybe I have a little bit more of a feeling for someone who must have been a remarkable and impressive young man: may he indeed inspire us to "be true soldiers of God".

**Richard Keene**

*The information on Carl Lauenstein Schrader was obtained from the National Archives of Australia, the Family History Service Section of the State Library of SA and Records of South Australia, and I thank Judith Dimond (the Parish Archivist) for her efforts in documenting for me the references to Carl Schrader in the Pew Sheets between 1912 and 1916. I also warmly record my appreciation for the interest and encouragement which seemed to be a characteristic of all archivists I consulted – at the Lutheran Archives Centre, the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, a number of schools (St. Peter's College, Prince Alfred College, Immanuel College), State Records of SA and the State Library of SA . . . their good humour and generosity in terms of their time, enthusiasm, knowledge and assistance – even when the trail was going nowhere – made this quest a real pleasure.*