



Lieutenant Colonel A. SUTTON CB, CMG, VD

[1863 – 1923]



Colonel Sutton was President of the Club in 1910.

Alfred Sutton was born on 25 March 1863, Egham, Surrey. His father was George Sutton, a chemist and druggist of Gillingham, Kent; and his mother Harriet (née Shilling).

Alfred was the third child and only boy of their five children:

Florence	[b.1859]
Clara	[b.1860]
Emma	[b.1865]
Marion	[b.1867]

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After leaving school, he studied medicine in London at Guys Hospital.

Sutton was married to Mary Annette "Nettie" (née Graham) [1865-1934] in 1886 at Hatcham Park, England. The couple then emigrated to Brisbane in about 1887. The family lived at Beenleigh, and later at "Northam", Paddington, Brisbane. After moving from Beenleigh, his surgery was in South Brisbane and then at 29 Wickham Terrace.

They had three children:

- Mordaunt Graham [1890-1955] ¹ Born in Beenleigh, died in Brisbane. He married Beryl Esme (née Southgate) [1894-1953] in 1920 at Hampton Wick, Middlesex. Graham was a doctor (urologist) practising at Ballow Chambers, Wickham Terrace. They had two sons.
- Neville Graham [1892-1981] ² born in Beenleigh died in Brisbane. Doctor. Married in 1923 in Brisbane to Dorothy Maria (née Boddington) [1900- 1985] who was born and died in Brisbane. It is not known if they had children.
- Winifred Mary Graham [1894-1966] Born and died in Brisbane. In 1920 in Brisbane she married Dr. Valentine Neville Buchanan Willis [1894 - 1979] ³ Born in Albury and died in Brisbane. He practised in Wickham Terrace. It is not known if they had children

Both sons graduated in medicine at the University of Sydney pre-World War I. Both were granted leave to undertake some medical studies in UK before their discharge from the AIF. They may have known Dr Willis at the University of Sydney.

Alfred had served in the 38th Middlesex (Artists) Rifle Volunteers for 2½ years - possibly while studying medicine. He then served from 1900 for over 14 years in the Queensland and Commonwealth Military Forces where for some time he was Principal Medical Officer Queensland before World War I.

At the age of 51 he joined the AIF.

August 1914	Appointed as Lieutenant Colonel AAMC to the AIF as the CO 3 Field Ambulance.
April 1915	Landed at Gallipoli. Sutton was Pte John Simpson's (the man with the donkey) Commanding Officer.
July 1915	Promoted to Colonel and appointed as ADMS 2 nd Australian Division at ANZAC
Mar 1916	to France
August 1916	5 Field Ambulance
November 1917	Medical Board in UK with hernia / respiratory conditions
December 1917	Returned to Australia
March 1918	Discharged medically unfit

After the war he was the Principal Medical Officer, 1st Military District for five years.

Sutton was awarded a CMG in December 1916 for his service in Gallipoli and France; and a CB in December 1917 for his actions at Passchendaele. He was Mentioned in Dispatches on three occasions.

¹ Major M.G. Sutton AAMC, 1916-1920; 1st Field Ambulance, RMO attachments - France.

² Captain N.G. Sutton AAMC, 1917-1919; UK; 2nd AGH, 1st Aust Pioneer Battalion – France. Mentioned in Despatches.

³ Captain V.N.B. Willis AAMC, 1917-20, 2nd AGH UK; France. He also saw service in World War 2 in the RAAF as a medical officer.

The Club records indicate that Alfred Sutton was a member of the Committee in 1908 and was the first elected President of the Club. Prior to that time the Club Presidency alternated between the local senior marine and military commandant. He was described as “genial and popular”.

Colonel Sutton died on 24 October 1923 shortly after retiring from his medical practice.

Sources included:

- Various web pages
- *United Service Club, Queensland: The First Century, 1892-1992* by Flight Lieutenant Murray Adams and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Charlton
- Club Meeting Minutes, Annual Reports and sundry documents
- AWM, NAA & DVA Archives