

BARRY, Nathaniel James Merriman



HAC First XV Rugby Team 1903

Back Row: A. Armstrong, A. Hall, T. Sleeman, R. Pinhey, E. Lindeman, S. Beales

Middle Row: A. Ogg, P. Harris, L. Harden (Treasurer), J. Adams (Capt.), J. McGoran, J. Bryant (secretary),
N. Barry

Seated: A. Douglas, J. Gorden, J. Evans

Nathaniel James Merriman Barry was the youngest of nine children born on 26 July 1882 in Cape Province, South Africa to Jacob Dirk Barry and Charlotte nee Merriman. Nathaniel's siblings were: Grace Pauline b.1868, Oswald Charles Merriman b.1871, Arthur Joseph b.1873, Richard Alan b.1874, Noel Mary b.1875, Charles Dirk b.1878, Charlotte Theodora b.1879, and Agnes Gabrielle b.1881.

From 1898-1900, Nathaniel attended Sherborne School (an independent boys boarding school whose history dates back to the twelfth century) in the United Kingdom.

Nathaniel was a 19 year old from South Africa when he entered HAC in 1902 to undertake the Diploma Course. His father, by this time, Sir Jacob Dirk Barry, was the Chief Justice of Cape Colony, South Africa.

Nathaniel was in the First Eleven Cricket Team and First XV Rugby in 1902. He was also Vice-Captain of the First XV, and received the Honour Cap for the Best Back in Rugby in 1903.

Nathaniel and the dairy students cleared and made a tennis court on the College grounds by hand (HAC Journal Dec 1903 p.15), and he was the Honourable Secretary of the College Tennis Club until December 1903.

Nathaniel returned to South Africa, December 1903, and the College Journal reported '...Yong [Nathaniel's College 'Mot' name] was the life and soul of the Lawn Tennis Club. His genial disposition, sparkling wit, and readiness ever to join in wholesome sport endeared him to everyone. Few students at the College have left more keenly regretted and so highly esteemed. He proposes to go in for fruitgrowing at Rustenberg, Stellenbosch, Cape Colony. He was an earnest worker. We wish him a prosperous career' (HAC Journal January 1904 p.9).

Throughout 1904-05, Nathaniel was orchard farming and experimenting with green manures, in Rustenburg, South Africa. In 1908, Nathaniel moved to Naivasha, British East Africa (now Kenya) to farm sheep, ostriches and cattle. He married Marian Boyd Merriman in 1913 in Knutsford, Cheshire, England.

Nathaniel was a Captain in the East Africa Transport Corp, and was Killed in Action at Lukuledi, aged 34, in German East Africa (now Tanzania), on 21 October 1917. He left a widow and a child, and is buried at Dar Es Salaam Cemetery, Tanzania.