

83 Moorang Rd.

~~Hawthorn~~ Hawthorn

March 6th.

Forest & District Historical Society,

3122

Dear Sir,

I have at last got a-  
round to collecting some information  
on the Gurtis family from my cousin  
Dawn "Lucein" formally of Birregurra.

Our Grand-father who the write up is  
about was born 17-2-1871 died Feb. 1922 at  
bolac & was buried at Faughar Cemetery, he  
married our Grand-Mother Mary Elizabeth  
Newcombe who was born 28-5-1878 died at  
bolac 8-12-1953. buried at Faughar.

They were married at St James C of E Faughar  
11-9-1901, "Church later burnt in bush-fire."

You may find some of this of interest  
for your news-letter which I will be  
looking forward to receiving. Kevin has

I remain

Yours truly,

(Mrs) Marjorie Harrington.

I was Eric Katherine Gowlups <sup>2nd</sup> daughter &  
married Francis Harrington (Dec)

14 Blount St.  
Donald 3480.  
9/4/12

Secretary Forrest Historical Society  
To Whom It May Concern.

During the years 1943, 1944 + 1945. I taught at the little school at Barramunga, which I thoroughly enjoyed, making good friends with the people especially the Mulgrave and Taylor family. Jean Taylor now Jean Whitehead and I still keep in touch.

The purpose of this note is to return a booklet + photos of Forrest that I have treasured but will possibly be thrown out when I am no longer here, as they are of little interest to my family. Also included is a cutting from our local paper the Buloke Times featuring Holly Luster from Forrest on her way to Mildara, which I thought may be of interest.

Sincerely

Mollie Sheridan

~~me~~

formerly Mollie Nelson

## DAY FAMILY

Ken Widdowson

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**From:** Astrovisuals [mailto:astrovisuals.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 23 April 2009 7:35 PM  
**To:** Ken Widdowson  
**Subject:** Re: McCubbin

Don't even know where Baynton is...

isn't that amazing about Frank's uncle... small world...

Noticed that Yaughar cemetery gets a mention too...

Cheers,

\* David Widdowson, ASTROVISUALS, \*  
 \* 6 Lind St, Strathmore, 3041, AUSTRALIA  
 \* Ph/fax: 61- (0)3 - 9379 5753 \*  
 EMAIL: [mail@astrovisuals.com.au](mailto:mail@astrovisuals.com.au)  
 WEB: <http://www.astrovisuals.com.au>

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Ken Widdowson](#)  
**To:** 'Astrovisuals'  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2009 5:15 PM  
**Subject:** RE: McCubbin

Thanks that's great. The Day in the paintinf is Frank's uncle!! They're all related here.

We are the Andersons of Baynton. Is that relevant? Cheers, K

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**From:** Astrovisuals [mailto:mail@astrovisuals.com.au]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 21 April 2009 7:41 PM  
**To:** Ken Widdowson  
**Subject:** McCubbin

All I could find on the web:

My great grandfather was John James DAY, b. 13.3.1881 at Chintin/Springfield, Vic., d. 1927, 46 years. His mother was Eliza DAY, father unknown. Eliza Day's parents were Richard Day and Louisa Halling, who married at Seymour and lived at Goldie (near Lancefield/Romsey).

John James DAY m. Catherine MATHESON, b. 1880 Kyneton (parents Alexander Matheson & Catherine Kennedy, 1862 - 1945).

John and Catherine DAY (m. 22.10.1900 Mt. Macedon) had 10 children

-  
 Walter DAY.  
 Rupert DAY b. at Woodend,

3/05/2009

Catherine Maude DAY b. 1906 (m. Alfred Waldamore John a.k.a. Walter John WAITE). (My grandparents). Maude d. 1968, Colac, Vic. Wally d. 1988 Colac.

John (Youngun) DAY b. 23.2.1909 at Newham Village,  
**Archibald (Lock) DAY b. 28.11.1910 at Barwon Downs, Vic.**

Robert (Jiggs) DAY,  
 Joseph Charles DAY d. 3.4.1921, 6 1/2 years. (Buried with his parents at Yaughar cemetery, near Forrest, Vic.).  
 Nellie DAY.  
 Eileen DAY.  
 Les DAY.

Looks like the DAY family moved to Barwon Downs (near Colac, Vic.) around 1910/1911.

**Catherine (known as Kate) DAY nee Matheson worked for the famous Australian artist, Frederick McCubbin, at one stage. Her son, Rupert, was supposedly "lent" to McCubbin for his painting in "The Pioneers", as he needed a baby with a head of golden curls to balance the centre of the picture. Kate sometimes stood in for Mrs. McCubbin, who posed for the paintings. Kate was given the magnificent sum of 25 pounds for posing, and for the use of Rupert for the painting, who was two years old at the time.**

My grandmother, Catherine Maude DAY was b. 26.10.1906 at Woodend, Vic. On her birth certificate it has the informant as Catherine DAY (mother), of Heskett S.S. 1004. (Presume this was the local school).

I have noticed that there is a Day's Picnic Ground on a map of Heskett. Can anyone tell me if this ground was named after any of my DAY ancestors or any history behind the naming of it?

I am also researching the Kennedy family of Baynton near Kyneton.  
 John Kennedy m. Catherine Boyd and their son, Archibald Kennedy m. Mary Cameron.  
 Archibald and Mary's son, John Kennedy (came out to Australia in 1852) m. Margaret Smith and their daughter Catherine Kennedy m. Alexander Matheson.

John and Margaret Kennedy & Alexander and Catherine Matheson are buried in the Kyneton cemetery.

If anyone is related to any of these families, I would like to hear from you, to try and add a bit more to the various family trees.  
Cheers,

\* David Widdowson, ASTROVISUALS, \*  
\* 6 Lind St, Strathmore, 3041, AUSTRALIA  
\* Ph/fax: 61- (0)3 - 9379 5753 \*  
EMAIL: [mail@astrovisuals.com.au](mailto:mail@astrovisuals.com.au)  
WEB: <http://www.astrovisuals.com.au>

McLENNAN

**Ken Widdowson**

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**From:** Rod McLennan [rodmcclennan2002@yahoo.co.uk]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 June 2012 8:23 PM  
**To:** Ken Widdowson  
**Cc:** Birregurra Centre; Jenny Ron Cunnington; johncallahan@internode.on.net; Liz John  
**Subject:** Re:McLennan Family History

Dear Ken

Thanks for your message.

No, I have not seen any writings by Loma Cunnington but would of course be very keen to see them.

I have recently seen material from Sheilah McLennan and her son Andrew from Gellibrand and have also met Janet Brien at Birregurra Historical Society, all of which has been helpful but also generates a whole new list of enquiries.

My interest in properties now reaches beyond Brae Heid, Fern Grove and Spring Glen to encompass Ard Mohr, Roseburn, Balmacara, The Grange or is it The Range? There are probably also a few more properties as yet names not known to me that were occupied by members of the McLennan family such as Kenneth, Alexander, Duncan, Murdoch. I have made a few notes about what I would like to know - see below.

I think it is time I made another visit to Barwon Downs and met a few more of the people who may be able to help me. If anyone would like to suggest a few dates, sooner rather than later but not between 6 July and 29 July, also avoid 19 August to 31 August, I would be most keen to arrange a visit.

Thanks again.

**McLENNAN PROPERTIES**

**Brae Heid**

Owned by John McLennan and childhood home to Annie and Alexander M M ?

Did Annie inherit it - was it operated by Archie McLean and Annie or A M M and Edith?

When did AMM and Edith move to Ard Mohr?

Was there a subsequent owner before Shanahan? Later owned by Ron Cunnington, then his son Neil.

**Fern Grove**

The home of Donald R (jnr) aka Dosh. Did he marry?

Was there a subsequent owner before Shanahan?

Who owns it now - portion owned by Liz Barbante nee Cunnington - is the remainder incorporated in Neil's property?

**Spring Glen**

Was the original owner Rory or was there someone earlier?

Emma ceased operating it as a dairy farm in 1909 (with her youngest son Stuart as an employee ?) but how much longer did she live there?

**Balmacara**

Was this the property at Cororooke, owned by Murdoch (3) and sold about 1920 for 140 pounds per acre &/or building blocks for 100 pounds per half acre.

Where did Murdoch live following the sale?

**Roseburn** Said to be owned by Rory – where is it located and when did he and Emma live there?

**The Grange (or Range?)**

The home of Donald B (snr) and Ann. Where is it located?

**Ard Mohr**

Who was original owner?

Owned by John McLennan 10 February 1903 (died 25 November 1922), transferred to Alexander Murdoch Matheson McLennan (son of John) 20 July 1923 presumably as an inheritance (particularly if Annie got Brae Heid).

A M M McL died 29 April 1953, probate granted to Edith (his widow) 5 March 1958. Transferred to Albert George Brien 21 March 1958, now owned /occupied/inherited by Graham Brien and Janet Brien

**Homechase (or Holmchase ??)**

Larpent - The home of Alexander William McLennan and Mary nee Crabbe, subsequently inherited by their children Flo and Jack, since sold.

Where did Alex and Mary live prior to moving to Larpent?

Where did Kenneth live? Was Charlotte his housekeeper? Where did she live after his death?

Where did Murdoch (1821-1911) live? Was he the blacksmith? Was Christina his housekeeper until his death in 1911 – she appears at a Moonee Ponds address from 1911

Where did Alexander (1834-1894) live? Was he the A W who appeared on the maps as a landholder? Did he marry?

Where did Duncan (1854-1940) live? Married Alice Gregson about 1910.

**Rod McLennan**

18 Yarrabin Street, Brunswick West, Vic 3055  
03 9346 7425 or mobile 0431 641 684

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From: Ken Widdowson <[kenw@pipeline.com.au](mailto:kenw@pipeline.com.au)>  
To: 'Rod McLennan' <[rodmcclennan2002@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rodmcclennan2002@yahoo.co.uk)>  
Sent: Wednesday, 20 June 2012 3:21 PM  
Subject: Family History

## Ken Widdowson

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**From:** Ken Widdowson [kenw@pipeline.com.au]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 12 May 2012 2:01 PM  
**To:** 'Rod McLennan'  
**Cc:** 'barbante@optusnet.com.au'; 'jen-and-ron@live.com.au'  
**Subject:** RE: Forrest Historical Society Meeting Tomorrow.

Dear Rod, It was very good to hear from you again. I thought, with your UK email address, that it was out of date and I would not be able to reach you. We had a very good day on family histories but there was plenty left over for another event.

On the day, Ron and Jen Cunnington from Barwon Downs was asking for your contact address and I gave them the old one. They were enquiring on behalf of Ron's sister, Elizabeth Barbante, who has been keenly doing some research on the McLennans on internet but had reached a blockage in the information. They have both been copied with your email so will now have the correct contact information. Another person who may have some information is John Callahan 52 366 290. His family history goes back to the early McLennans.

We have a copy of Pam's information on the Green family in our archives but nothing on the Kenneth or Murdoch families. I hope you will be able to let us have the results of your research for our archives. Those letters sound very interesting too. Will let you know when we are getting together again. Best wishes, Ken

---

**From:** Rod McLennan [<mailto:rodmcclennan2002@yahoo.co.uk>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 May 2012 6:16 PM  
**To:** Ken Widdowson  
**Subject:** Re: Forrest Historical Society Meeting Tomorrow.

*Write  
re. new records*

Dear Ken

Sorry to say I did not receive your invitation. I have moved from Croydon - new address and phone number as shown below.

I returned last night from five weeks in Carnarvon, W A. Did not take my computer with me so fell behind on emails.

I would be most happy to attend one of your meetings. Can you give me a list of optional dates?

I would also be happy to visit at some other time if anyone could spare me time to talk about local history.

I have a pretty comprehensive coverage of the Green family, courtesy of Pam Jennings but I am very interested in learning more about the McLennan family which had two threads - the Kenneth family and the Murdoch family. I would like to establish who lived where - Brae Heid, Fern Grove and Spring Glen.

My father, Stuart McLennan, left quite a cache of letters, postcards and other scraps covering mostly about 1908 to 1920 which I am scanning into my computer. It is far from complete but mentions, albeit briefly, other local identities and covers the WWI period when he was in France. Two of his brothers also served, one did not return.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

**Rod McLennan**  
18 Yarrabin Street, Brunswick West, Vic 3055  
03 9346 7425 or mobile 0431 641 684

please forward to  
 Elizabeth Barbante - barbante@optusnet.com.au

Ken Widdowson 4 Jen+Ron Cumagton.

**From:** Rod McLennan [rodmcclennan2002@yahoo.co.uk]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 May 2010 10:52 PM  
**To:** p.obrien@mstechpl.com.au  
**Cc:** Kenw@pipeline.com.au; pje23513@bigpond.net.au  
**Subject:** Barwon Downs centenary celebrations

jen-and-ron@  
 live.com.au.

Paul

Sorry I missed you at the centenary celebrations. I was there but did not push forward whilst you were busy with your duties and when I looked for you later could not spot you. I did have some time with Ken Widdowson and lunched at Forrest Hotel with some of the members of the historical society. I had with me copies of a number of photos from the early part of twentieth century that drew quite a lot of interest from people who saw them.

I purchased two of the booklets telling the story of the primary school and the wider community, and discovered some of my ancient relatives mentioned in those books. Have gained some information but am left with a whole series of new questions as a result.

I promised to copy my photos to Ken Widdowson but have not yet done so because of a recalcitrant computer, now functioning again.

I failed to get any photos of the Saturday events but returned on the Sunday and tried to capture the contents of the display panels with relative success.

I thought the whole event was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed being there.

Thank you for all the information in your email of 6 April. It helps me to get a better understanding of where the family was in the late 19th century. Unfortunately, there is so much more to learn if it can be discovered, and that leads me to ask if there is a repository of relevant documents and the like, and who has control of it.

I have a pretty good fix on the Greens, courtesy of Pam Jennings, but much of the McLennan history is still a mystery. The sort of information I would like to find is where did Murdoch McLennan live after he arrived in Barwon Downs/Murroon; where did Roderick live, what did he do other than running the general store, was he known as Roderick or Rory as he was shown in the passenger list of the "Europa" en route from Liverpool in 1852. Why did the eldest son of Roderick attend school in Barwon Downs and the youngest son (my father) attend school in Murroon. Was Murdoch the father the blacksmith or was that Murdoch the son of Kenneth. Incidentally, Murdoch and Kenneth were not brothers; Kenneth's wife Catherine was Murdoch's sister. If there was a blood relationship between the two strains of McLennans, I have not yet discovered it - it is further back than their immediate parents. Annie the school teacher was the eldest daughter of John, the squire of Brae Heid - was the other school teacher Mary, her sister? I have traced Annie's life to some extent but know very little about Mary. Why was it fashionable for the Barwon Downs folk to gravitate to Apollo Bay for R&R, rather than say Colac. How did they travel to Apollo Bay - coach, horse, bicycle? I have a brief note from Annie saying it was great to have horses in Apollo Bay but they could have been stabled there. So, you can see I have much to do yet, if I can find sources. Fascinating, isn't it.

If sources can be found, I will have to return to Barwon Downs soon, not least because I am amongst the

18/05/2010

## Ken Widdowson

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**From:** Shirley Aitchison [shirley.a@ozemail.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 23 February 2015 10:49 AM  
**To:** kenw@pipeline.com.au  
**Subject:** FW: family history

Dear Ken,

Jan Lewis as you can see below has suggested I contact you. I did speak to someone from your society (maybe your wife) last week. She thought that Colac might be a better place for information which I will be visiting 22 or 23 March. I have been in contact with them and they do have information. I am also looking for any old photos of the area where they lived.

A cousin of mine has seen an old sign post 'Penman Shalepit' on Kaanglang Road which I am going to try and find.

My family names, great grandparents on both sides of my mother's family were: John Penman and Margaret Penman nee` Sutherland who arrived and settled in Bendigo 1869 to about 1875 or 1877, then Geelong, and where they and some of their children had property in Kaanglang, Forrest, Winchelsea, Birregurra areas from about 1885.

Great Grandparents James Bishop and Jane Minna Bishop nee` Dixon arrive from England 1852 and 1853 and married in Geelong in 1856 and were there until about 1864 then had a store in Camperdown and Cobden.

If you have any information it would more likely be about the Penman family.

Kind regards,

Shirley Aitchison

**From:** Apollo Bay Historical Society [<mailto:apollobayhs@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 February 2015 5:07 PM  
**To:** Shirley Aitchison  
**Subject:** Re: family history

Dear Shirley,

The Apollo Bay Museum is open to the public 2-5pm Saturdays and Sundays as well as school holidays, if you are in Apollo Bay from 19th March you are welcome to call in 21st and /or 22nd March. You did not mention the family name(s) that you are researching. I can check if we have any records that might be useful before you arrive. Please include dates if possible.

You might also like to contact Ked Widdowson at the Forrest Historical Society they may have information on the properties in Forrest and Winchelsea. [kenw@pipeline.com.au](mailto:kenw@pipeline.com.au)

Regards,

Jan Lewis

Secretary

Apollo Bay and District Historical Society

On Tue, Feb 17, 2015 at 6:29 PM, Shirley Aitchison <[shirley.a@ozemail.com.au](mailto:shirley.a@ozemail.com.au)> wrote:

Dear Secretary,

**FAMILY GROUP SHEET**

Husband - John Penman (great grandfather)				Wife - Margaret Sutherland (great grandmother)					
Birth date: 1835	Place: Gilmerton, Midlothian, Scotland			Birth date: 10 July 1834	Place: Tillicoultry, Clackmannansh, Galashiels, Scotland (possibly a farm) Registration:				
Christened: 1835	Place:			Baptism date:	Place:				
Marriage date: 28 February 1861 Lived at: 3 Bridge St, Galashiels, Scotland	Place of marriage: Ladhope Parish Church, Roxburgh, Scotland			Marriage date: 28 February 1861 Lived at: 3 Bridge St, Galashiels, Scotland	Place of marriage: Ladhope Parish Church, Roxburgh, Scotland				
Death date: 1 July 1905 Lived at:	Place: 174 Yarra Street Town of Geelong (his son's house) Cause:			Death date: 9 November 1899 Lived at:	Place: Forrest Colac Shire - Kangland Cause: Reg: 4363				
Burial date: 3 July 1905	Place: Eastern Cemetery Geelong. EAS-PRES row 04-807 grave 135 Probate:			Burial date: 12 Nov 1899	Place: Eastern Cemetery Geelong. Old EAS-PRES--row 04-807 grave 134 Probate:				
Occupation: Wool Dyer (Journeyman) Weaver (They had property of 173.2.39 acres, about 14klms along Kaunglang Rd from Yaughar and other crown land acreage)				Occupation:					
Father: Thomas Penman (coal miner)				Father: James Sutherland (Wool Dyer employing three men)					
Mother: Willamina Cunningham				Mother: Mary Ramage					
Sex	Child Name	Birth	Birth Place	Christening	Death	Death place	Cemetery	Spouse Name	Mge date & place
F	Mary Ramage	13 March 1862	Ladhope, Scotland		1947 (reg:8518)	Victoria		Spinster	
F	Willamina Cunningham	12 June 1863	5 Buccleuch St Hawick, Scotland		23 March 1952 (reg: 3546)			Spinster	
F	Margaret Eleanor	24 Sept 1865	5 Buccleuch St Hawick, Scotland		July 1891	Geelong	28 July Geelong Cemetery. Old PRES - 04-807 grave 134		
F	Elsbeth	2 July 1867	5 Buccleuch St Hawick, Scotland		22 Jan 1939	Alfred Hospital Prahran	23 Jan at St Kilda Cemetery, Baptist Compartment C, Grave 514	Ernest Kennett Bishop	8 July 1896 at Cargen Lodge St Kilda Vic
F	Agnes reg:9287	1869	Kangaroo Flat, Vic		1 June 1869 (at 12 days)	Kangaroo Flat			
M	Thomas Sutherland	1870 (reg: 8398)	Eaglehawk, Vic		11 April, 1946	Forrest, Vic		Maria Wood, died 1954	1900
F	Catherine	1874	Kangaroo Flat, Vic		1874 (10 days old)	Kangaroo Flat. Reg: 10705			
M	John McCrae	1877	Geelong, Vic		31 Oct 1951	318 Bellarine St,		Susan	1907

# FAMILY GROUP SHEET

					Geelong		Rickets	
M	David Blackstock (known as Uncle Scotch)	1879	Geelong	8 Sep 1964	Blackburn South ? Victoria (killed by fallen tree in electrical storm)			

**Notes:**

John and Margaret Penman with four children arrived on the SS Great Britain on 9 April 1869.  
1 Jan 1877-1880 payments - John Penman had license for land in Tongala - allotment 37 - 136 acres

**Census years and residential addresses  
and electoral role address**

Year	Name of occupants	Address	Occupation of head on census	Record				
1861	John, Margaret	3 Bridge St Galashiels, Scotland	Wool-Dyer					
1862	John, Margaret, Mary	3 Bridge St Galashiels, Scotland						
1863	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina	5 Beccleuch St, Hawick, Scotland						
1865	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina, Margaret	5 Beccleuch St, Hawick, Scotland						
1867	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina, Margaret, Elspeth	5 Beccleuch St, Hawick, Scotland						
1869	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina, Margaret, Elspeth, Agnes	Kangaroo Flat, Vic						
1870	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina, Margaret, Elspeth, Agnus, Thomas	Kangaroo Flat, Vic						
1872	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina, Margaret, Elspeth, Agnus, Thomas, James	Kangaroo Flat, Vic						
1877	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina, Margaret, James, Agnus, Thomas, John	Geelong, Vic						
1879	John, Margaret, Mary, Williamina, Margaret, James, Agnus, Thomas, John, David	Geelong, Vic						
1903- 1905	John, David, John Jnr, Williamina	Kaanglang, Barwon Downs, Corangamite	David-grazier, John- farmer, John Jnr- grazier, Williamina- home duties					

## Ken Widdowson

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**From:** mara luglio [maraluglio@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 July 2017 12:41 PM  
**To:** Ken Widdowson  
**Subject:** Fw: Memories of Forrest

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**From:** Dianne Pearce <diannempearce@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 April 2017 7:24 PM  
**To:** maraluglio@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Memories of Forrest

Hi Mara,

I have some minutes so thought I would get in contact.

Firstly, the painting of the shop was done by a neighbour in Geelong (now dec). I asked her to do it from a slide that my father took back in the early 60's. The painting is only recent, she also did one from a photo of my grandmothers house, now demolished. It was opposite the shop, across the river flats.

I was Dianne Neale, my parents Norm and Val Neale owned the shop between 1955 and 1964. They sold it in 1964 and moved to Geelong. Norm was the brother of Bruce Neale, a long term resident of Forrest. My siblings were Kevin, Doug and Andrea. I am hunting down the post card I sent you by text, I have an old invoice fr the shop (somewhere...) and my dad wrote some memories of his early life. I've made this into a small, simple book with some photos - written for his grandchildren/great grand chn. I have a spare if your friend wants one.

For the magazine....

I remember....

The shop.....selling everything without packaging... biscuits in tins to to be counted out and sold on paper bags.....as with flour, sugar and other staples....a grocery section, hardware, farm goods, drapery and clothing, gifts and toys.....getting supplies in Geelong in the old Morris truck.....grocery deliveries in Forrest and Barwon Downs....phone number was Forrest 1.....standing in my old bedroom 53 years after I was last there, just a few weeks ago!

School.....100 students.....Mrs Lynch for prep, Miss Calder for grades 1,2,3.....hot milk for playtime....wearing gum boots to school in winter, slippers in class.....the vintage ute that we played on.....being devastated when it was removed one holidays.....Mrs Rourke and June Marriner coming to school to play the piano for singing.....school concerts in the old hall that burned down.....being told to 'watch for snakes' walking to school....

The Town.....2 general stores and 1 milk bar, a butcher, a bakery (burned down and nearly took our shop with it - the concrete floor remains to this day), a service station, Pescotts Post office, a bank agency and an electrical shop/ repairs??, a pub, 2 churches and a Sunday school, 2 or 3 saw mills.....the bush track that is now the Colac Rd.....tennis teams.....local footy....massive bonfires at the footy oval for bonfire night.....dam workers/builders staying in our backyard in caravans...

Life as a child....going up 'the Kang' with my brother in Uncle Bruce's log truck.....visiting the saw mills.....walking over to our grandmothers farm.....mushrooming on the river flats....Sunday drives down the coast.....freedom and simplicity.

Hope this is what you want, edit as you wish or can rewrite.

Will be in touch,  
Best wishes,  
Dianne

Sent from my iPad

GEORGE is my brother - shared father.

**Pedigree Chart for**

**George Lindsay Hand** DOB 23 July 1934 PORT FAIRY

Oldest of EDNA & LINDSAY'S Children.

DAWN MARGARET HAND

DOB 16 July 1936 PORT FAIRY

DOD 11 Nov 2013 FRANKSTON

WILMA CHARLOTTE HAND

DOB 8 JAN 1940

Lindsay Thomas Hand

b: 20 Oct 1912 in Port Fairy, Victoria, Australia  
m: 18 May 1934 in Colac  
d: 19 Sep 1988 in Mt Eliza Victoria Australia

**Thomas Hand Jr [5-6]**

b: 31 Jul 1874 in Broadwater, Victoria, Australia  
m: 30 Oct 1911 in Port Fairy, Victoria, Australia  
d: 03 Jul 1949 in Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia

**Sarah Rodgers [7-10]**

b: 12 Jul 1887 in Broadwater, Victoria, Australia  
d: 02 Feb 1928 in Ballarat [8]

**George Lindsay Hand**

b: 23 Jul 1934 in Port Fairy, Victoria, Australia  
m:  
d:

**William Riddler Pyle [2]**

b: 26 Nov 1882 in Murroon / Birregurra Victoria Australia  
m: 1909 in Victoria  
d: 27 Nov 1945 in Colac, Victoria, Australia

**Edna May Pyle [1-4]**

b: 02 Nov 1916 in Forrest, Victoria, Australia [1-2]  
d: 1968 in Dundas Western Australia [1-2]

**Charlotte Mc Queen Sanderson [2]**

b: 1881 in Mount Cole, Victoria, Australia  
d: 18 Dec 1919 in Forrest, Victoria, Australia

**Thomas Hand [6, 11-17]**

b: 1838 in Monag...  
m: 07 Jun 1865 in...  
d: 25 Oct 1913 in...

**Margaret Kelly [13, 18]**

b: 1843 in Ballybu...  
d: 17 Jan 1879 in...

**Arthur Rodgers [7]**

b: 16 Jul 1854 in T...  
m: Jan 1877 in Ha...  
d: 17 Nov 1931 in...

**Mary Ann Elizabeth Rowbottom**

b: 1856 in Yambuk, Victoria, Australia  
d: 09 Sep 1907 in Macarthur, Victoria [7]

**William John Pyle**

b: 02 Oct 1858 in...  
m: 01 Jul 1875 in...  
d: 10 Oct 1936 in...

**Elizabeth Ann "Betsy" Le Batt**

b: 1860 in Inglewood, Victoria, Australia  
d: 02 Oct 1902 in Colac, Victoria, Australia

**George William Sanderson**

b: 10 Mar 1857 in...  
m: 28 Dec 1882 in...  
d: 12 Apr 1916 in...

**Mary Ann McQueen**

b: 1859 in Geelong, Victoria, Australia  
d: 03 Apr 1937 in Forrest, Victoria, Australia

**James Hand [19-20]**

b: 1807 in Carrick...  
m:

**Bridget Clarke [19-20]**

b: 1812 in Monag...

**James Kelly [6, 18, 21-22]**

b: 1815 in Kilkenn...

**Mary Forde [6, 18, 21]**

b: 1820 in Grange,...

**Name:**

b:  
m:

**Name:**

b:  
d:

**Samuel Rowbottom**

b:  
m:

**Mary Amelia Maria Jurd**

b: 1829 in Wands...

**William Redler Pyle**

b: 29 Jan 1826 in...  
m: 17 Jul 1857 in...

**Sarah Lake**

b: 16 Apr 1841 in...  
d: 02 Feb 1914 in...

**John Marshall Le Batt**

b: 21 Sep 1826 in...

**Elizabeth Shipton**

b: 27 Jan 1828 in...  
d:

**David Sanderson**

b: 1829 in Melros...  
m: 16 Dec 1853 in...

**Margaret Anderson**

b: 28 May 1831 in...  
d: 05 Apr 1875 in...

**Angus McQueen**

b: 1811 in Portree, ...  
m: 03 May 1846 in...

**Ann McKinnon**

b: 1820 in Elgol, In...  
d: 09 Sep 1902 in...

DEATHS in the District of *Victoria*

in the State

of Victoria,

THIRD SCHEDULE

Registered by *Miss Emma Grant*

No.	Year and date when died	Description	Age	Cause of death	Place of death	Name of informant	Place of Burial		No. of the grave
							Church	Other	
77	1919	<i>Thomas Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273
78	1919	<i>John Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273
79	1919	<i>John Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273
80	1919	<i>John Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273

No.	Year and date when died	Description	Age	Cause of death	Place of death	Name of informant	Place of Burial		No. of the grave
							Church	Other	
81	1919	<i>John Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273
82	1919	<i>John Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273
83	1919	<i>John Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273
84	1919	<i>John Grant</i>	52	<i>Heart Disease</i>	<i>St. John's</i>	<i>St. John's</i>			17273

X

COPY OF Death Cert of CHARLOTTE PYLE (nee SANDERSON) 18<sup>th</sup> December 1919  
 wife of William RIDDER PYLE  
 mother of RONALD HUGH 10 yrs MARY ELIZABETH 6 yrs EDNA MAY 3 yrs  
 Buried at VAUGHAN CEMETERY - very close to SANDERSON Family Plot

**SECOND SCHEDULE**

BIRTHS in the District of *Forest* in the State of Victoria. Registered by *Alice Emma Grant*

No.	CHILD		FATHER		MOTHER		Date of Birth	Sex	Name and whether present at birth	Age	Name of the father at date of birth	Age of father at date of birth	Name of the mother at date of birth	Age of mother at date of birth	Name of the informant	Signature of Registrar	Name of the Registrar
	When and Where born	When and whether present at birth	At date of birth	At date of birth	At date of birth	At date of birth											
29865	24th November 1916	Female	Henry Stephens Labrie 33 years	Elizabeth Labrie 33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	Female	Present	33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	33 years	Henry Stephens Labrie	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29866	19th August 1916	Female	William Fiddler 35 years	Elizabeth Fiddler 35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	Female	Present	35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	35 years	William Fiddler	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29867	20th November 1916	Female	John Labrie 40 years	Elizabeth Labrie 40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	Female	Present	40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	40 years	John Labrie	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29868	13th December 1916	Female	John Wilson 45 years	Elizabeth Wilson 45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	Female	Present	45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	45 years	John Wilson	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29869	11th December 1916	Female	William Albert 39 years	Elizabeth Albert 39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	Female	Present	39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	39 years	William Albert	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	

**SECOND SCHEDULE**

BIRTHS in the District of *Forest* in the State of Victoria. Registered by *Alice Emma Grant*

No.	CHILD		FATHER		MOTHER		Date of Birth	Sex	Name and whether present at birth	Age	Name of the father at date of birth	Age of father at date of birth	Name of the mother at date of birth	Age of mother at date of birth	Name of the informant	Signature of Registrar	Name of the Registrar
	When and Where born	When and whether present at birth	At date of birth	At date of birth	At date of birth	At date of birth											
29870	24th November 1916	Female	Henry Stephens Labrie 33 years	Elizabeth Labrie 33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	Female	Present	33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	33 years	Edna Labrie 33 years	33 years	Henry Stephens Labrie	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29871	19th August 1916	Female	William Fiddler 35 years	Elizabeth Fiddler 35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	Female	Present	35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	35 years	Edna Fiddler 35 years	35 years	William Fiddler	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29872	20th November 1916	Female	John Labrie 40 years	Elizabeth Labrie 40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	Female	Present	40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	40 years	Edna Labrie 40 years	40 years	John Labrie	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29873	13th December 1916	Female	John Wilson 45 years	Elizabeth Wilson 45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	Female	Present	45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	45 years	Edna Wilson 45 years	45 years	John Wilson	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	
29874	11th December 1916	Female	William Albert 39 years	Elizabeth Albert 39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	Female	Present	39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	39 years	Edna Albert 39 years	39 years	William Albert	[Signature]	Alice E Grant	

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

Year 1934. Parish or Church District—Colac

Denomination—Methodist

C

No. in Register	When and where Married.	Name and Surname of each Party.	Overseas Qualifications, the Date of Marriage, or the Date of the Marriage (in Victoria or District).	Children by this Marriage.		Baptism.
				Sex	Age	
57	30 <sup>th</sup> May 1934 Methodist Church Colac.	James Thomas Harris Eveline Ellen Mitchell	Bachelor Spinster			Colac. Colac.

We declare that the above is a true statement of the particulars relating to each of us respectively, and that Marriage by License was solemnized between us on the date and at the place mentioned according to the usages of the Methodist Church.  
Signature of Bridegroom: James Thomas Harris  
Signature of Bride: Eveline Ellen Mitchell

58  
30<sup>th</sup> May 1934  
Methodist Church  
Colac.

Lindsay Thomas Hand  
Edna May Pyle

Bachelor.  
Spinster.

Paul Terry  
Connet

We declare that the above is a true statement of the particulars relating to each of us respectively, and that Marriage by License was solemnized between us on the date and at the place mentioned according to the usages of the Methodist Church.  
Signature of Bridegroom: John Harold Howe  
Signature of Bride: Edna May Pyle

59  
30<sup>th</sup> May 1934  
Methodist Church  
Stans Marsh.

Matthew Russell  
Audrey Eleanor Spink

Bachelor  
Spinster.

Stans Marsh  
England

We declare that the above is a true statement of the particulars relating to each of us respectively, and that Marriage by License was solemnized between us on the date and at the place mentioned according to the usages of the Methodist Church.  
Signature of Bridegroom: Edward William Millard  
Signature of Bride: Audrey Eleanor Spink

Occupation.	Each Marriage of each Party		Parent's Name.	
	Age in Years last day of Marriage (10)	Usual Residence (11)	Father (12)	Mother (13)
(8)	36	Elkington	Thomas Henry Harris	Mary Robinson Mitchell
	36	42 Quinn Road East Melbourne	John Harris deceased.	Mary Jane Rowland

I, Lester J. Perkins, being a Minister of the Methodist Church do hereby certify that I have, this day, duly celebrated Marriage between the above-named parties, after notice (had been deposited with the Registrar of Marriages) and after declaration duly made as by law required, (and with the written consent of the Registrar).

Dated this fifth day of May 1934.

Signature of Minister, Government Statist, and Registrar of Marriages: Lester J. Perkins

6500

21 Paul Terry  
7 Connet

Thomas Hand  
Edna May Pyle

Paul Terry  
Connet

Lester J. Perkins, being a Minister of the Methodist Church do hereby certify that I have, this day, duly celebrated Marriage between the above-named parties, after notice (had been deposited with the Registrar of Marriages) and after declaration duly made as by law required (and with the written consent of the Registrar).

Dated this eighth day of May 1934.

Signature of Minister, Government Statist, and Registrar of Marriages: Lester J. Perkins

6501

33 Stans Marsh  
23 Stans Marsh

Stans Marsh  
Audrey Eleanor Spink

Stans Marsh  
England

I, Lester J. Perkins, being a Minister of the Methodist Church do hereby certify that I have, this day, duly celebrated Marriage between the above-named parties, after notice (had been deposited with the Registrar of Marriages) and after declaration duly made as by law required, (and with the written consent of the Registrar).

Dated this thirteenth day of May 1934.

Signature of Minister, Government Statist, and Registrar of Marriages: Lester J. Perkins

6502

36  
36

Elkington  
42 Quinn Road East Melbourne

Thomas Henry Harris  
John Harris deceased.

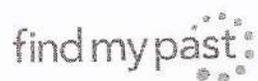
Mary Robinson Mitchell  
Mary Jane Rowland

I, Lester J. Perkins, being a Minister of the Methodist Church do hereby certify that I have, this day, duly celebrated Marriage between the above-named parties, after notice (had been deposited with the Registrar of Marriages) and after declaration duly made as by law required, (and with the written consent of the Registrar).

Dated this thirteenth day of May 1934.

Signature of Minister, Government Statist, and Registrar of Marriages: Lester J. Perkins

On the marriage cert of my parents LINDSAY THOMAS HAND & GLADYS YUTHA SMITH - MARRIED 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 1944 it is stated that the date of "ORDER ABSOLUTE" (DIVORCE) is 28<sup>th</sup> JULY 1944

**Record Transcription:**

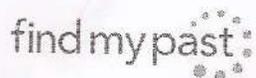
Western Australia Marriage Index

Record set	Western Australia Marriage Index
First name(s)	Edna May
Last name	Hand
Marriage year	1954
Spouse's first name(s)	Arthur David
Spouse's last name	Brewer
State	Western Australia
Country	Australia
Place	Dundas
Registration number	11
Category	Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
Subcategory	Civil Marriage & Divorce
Collections from	Australasia

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URL of this page: <https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=ANZ/BMD/WA/M/398543>



**Record Transcription:**

Western Australia Death Index

Record set	Western Australia Death Index
First name(s)	Edna May
Last name	Brewer
Death year	1968
Birth year	1917
State	Western Australia
Country	Australia
Place	Dundas
Mother's first name(s)	Charlotte
Father's first name(s)	William
Registration number	24/68
Category	Birth, Marriage & Death (Parish Registers)
Subcategory	Civil Deaths & Burials
Collections from	Australasia

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URL of this page: <https://www.findmypast.com/transcript?id=ANZ/BMD/WA/D/343242>

DEATHS IN THE.....QUANDAS.....REGISTRY DISTRICT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Column				
1	Registration Number	25/68		
2	DECEASED PERSON		Surname	
	(1) Name	Brewer	Other Names	
	(2) Usual Occupation	Home Duties	Edna May	
	(3) Late Residence	Glen Hartley Farm Grass Patch WA		
	(4) Sex; (5) Age	Female	54 years	
3	(1) Date of Death	28th June 1968		
	(2) Place of Death	District Hospital Esperance		
4	(1) Cause of Death (approximate interval between onset of disease or condition and death shown in parenthesis)	Coronary thrombosis (immediate)		
		Auricular fibrillation		
		Chronic rheumatic heart disease (most of life)		
		(contributory cause) Failure to take prescribed medication		
	(2) Name of Medical Practitioner by whom certified: and	Dr J Fenwick		
	(3) Date he last saw deceased alive	28th June 1968		
5	(1) Place of Birth	Perrest Victoria		
	(2) Number of years lived in each of the Australian States	Victoria 38 years Western Australia 13 years		
6	(1) Name of Father (surname last)	William Kyle		
	(2) Father's Usual Occupation	Farmer		
	(3) Christian (or equivalent) Name and Maiden Surname of Mother (surname last)	Charlotte Sanderson		
7	(1) Conjugal Condition of Deceased	Married		
	(2) Place of Marriage	1st Marriage	2nd Marriage	
	(3) Date of Marriage	Unknown	Grass Patch WA	
	(4) Name of Person to whom Married	Unknown	22nd December 1954 Arthur David Brewer	
	(5) Christian (or equivalent) Names and Ages of Children of Deceased, in order of Birth	Lorraine P	24 years	
		Rosemary	22 years	
Ernnett P		19 years		
William D		13 years		
8	DISPOSAL OF BODY			
	(1) Date of Burial or Cremation	1st July 1968		
	(2) Place of Burial or Cremation	Methodist portion of Esperance Cemetery WA		
	(3) Name of Person certifying to Disposal of Body	T H Mearns for Fern Bros		
	(4) Name of Certifying Crematorium Official	--		
	(5) Name of Officiating Minister	A W Federick		
	(6) Religious Denomination of Officiating Minister	Methodist		
(7) Names of Witnesses of Burial or Depositing of Body at Crematorium	--			
9	INFORMANT			
	(1) Description	Funeral Director		
	(2) Address	Regester Street Esperance WA		
	(3) Name (or signature)	Thomas Howard Mearns		
10	REGISTRAR			
	(1) Date, and (2) Place of Registration	5th August 1968 PERTH		
	(3) Signature of Registration Officer	 		

COPY of Death <sup>1/2</sup> Cert Information from  
the copy I received because it is NOT clear

## DEATH CERTIFICATE of EDNA MAY BREWER

DEATHS in the DUNDAS REGISTRY DISTRICT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1 Registration Number 24/68

### DECEASED PERSON

2 (1) Name

Surname

Other Names

BREWER

Edna May

(2) Usual Occupation

Home Duties

(3) Late Residence

Glen Hartley Farm Grass Patch W.A.

(4) Sex (5) Age

Female 51years

3 (1) Date of Death

28th June 1968

(2) Place of Death

District Hospital Esperance W.A.

4 (1) Cause of Death

Coronary Thrombosis (immediate)

(approximate interval between  
onset of Disease or condition  
and Death shown in parenthesis

Auricular Fibrillation  
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease  
(most of life)

(Contributory Cause) -

Failure to take prescribed medication

(2) Name of Medical

Dr. J. Fenwick

Practitioner by whom certified

(3) Date he last saw deceased

28-Jun-68

5 (1) Place of Birth

Forrest Victoria

(2) Number of years

Victoria 38years

lived in each state of Australia

Western Australia 13years

6 (1) Fathers name

William PYLE

(2) Fathers Usual Occupation

Farmer

(3) Mothers Name

Charlotte SANDERSON

7 (1) Conjugal Condition  
of Deceased

Married

1st Marriage

2nd Marriage

(2) Place of Marriage

Unknown

Grass Patch W.A.

(3) Date of Marriage

Unknown

22nd December 1954

(4) Name of person to  
whom Married

Unknown

Arthur David Brewer

(5) Christian (or equivalent

Lorriane P

24 years DOB 1944-45

Names and Ages of

Rosemary

22 years 1946-47

Children of Deceased

Lynnett P

19 years 1949-50

In order of Births

William D

13 years 1955-56

### 8 DISPOSAL of BODY

(1) Date of Burial or  
Cremation

1st July 1968

(2) Place of Burial or  
Cremation

Methodist portion of Esperance Cemetery W.A.

(3) Name of Person Certifying

T.H.Hearn for Hearn Bros.

*Disposal of Body*

*Cont. next page*

~~Disposal of Body~~ I have hand written this line on first page.

- (4) Name of Certifying Cremation Official
- (5) Name of Officiating Minister A.N.Pederick
- (6) Religious Denomination Methodist

9 INFORMANT

- (1) Discription Funeral Director
- (2) Address Dempster St. Esperance W.A.
- (3) Name or Signature Thomas Howard HEARN

10 REGISTRAR

- (1) Date 5th August 1968
- (2) Place of Registration Perth
- (3) Signature of Registration Officer R.A.Peers



Added by: Jill Cockram on 9 Jun 2014

Taken from "FIND A GRAVE" site

BURIAL:— ESPERANCE PUBLIC LAWN CEMETERY  
ESPERANCE, ESPERANCE SHIRE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

PHOT UNITING 595-1153

MEMORIAL I.D. 131083038 (FIND A GRAVE)

DETAILS of ARTHUR DAVID BREWER SERVICE RECORD W.WII  
AUSTRALIAN ARMY — SERVICE No:— WX 8216  
DOB:— 30 Nov 1903 PLACE OF BIRTH:— SALISBURY ENGLAND  
ENLISTED:— 16 AUG 1940 LOCALITY WHEN ENLISTED:— ORA BANDA W.A.  
PLACE of Enlistment:— CLAREMONT W.A.  
N.O.K.:— W BREWER  
DISCHARGED:— 14 JAN 1946  
RANK:— GUNNER.  
POST AT TIME of DISCHARGE:— 2/3 FIELD REG.

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE DOC.....Date.....

Title.....

0496

Subject Category.....

Key Words.....

0496

## Ken Widdowson

---

**From:** Allan Bremner [allan.bremner@optusnet.com.au]  
**Sent:** Friday, 27 October 2017 5:04 PM  
**To:** kenw@pipeline.com.au  
**Subject:** Bremner History in Forrest

Dear Ken

Thank you for your time this morning to speak with us.  
It will be of interest if we can find out more of our family history.  
Some of the information we have is as follows:

**David Alexander Bremner (1910-1984)** was born in Queenstown Tasmania

Darb was my husband's uncle

He was known as a keen competitive bike rider who joined the Victorian Police force in 1935.

He was a member of the mounted police and regularly rode "Shadow King" on duty in events such as the Melbourne Cup.

He was also based in Forrest for a while.

He married Sylvia Eva Waite in 1935 in Melbourne and they had one child, David Alexander (Buddy) born in 1937.

**Allan James Bremner (1883-1944)**

In 1914 Allan James I (Manny) Bremner was living in Beaconsfield, Tasmania (Aged 31)

He was married in 1919 to Mollie Kathleen O'Conner (1891-1958) who seems to have been called Amy.

In the 1919 Census he seems to have been living in Forrest with Amy, and was listed as an engine driver.

Verbal family history has it that Amy supplied food to the local workers.

Allan and Amy moved to Victoria in 1931 and he and Amy later ran a mixed business and tea shop in Eltham at Bremner's corner.

They had a daughter who died at birth.

Allan James was a sickly man who suffered from ulcers. He died in 1944 in Eltham at the age of 61.

If you could flesh out any more information on our family tree it would be much appreciated.

If we can add anything to your history, we would be happy to help if we can.

As we live in Geelong we would be very happy to meet up with you if we can learn more.

Kind regards

Lynda & Allan Bremner  
PO BOX 6009  
Highton, Vic 3216  
0408 055 608

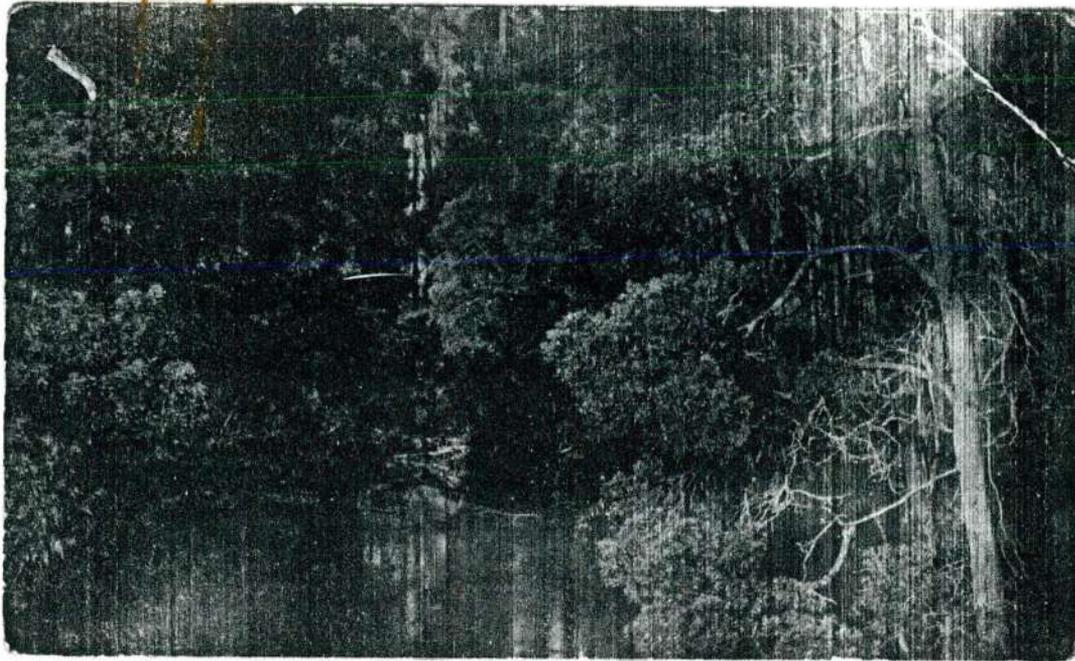
DOC 0370

From Mrs Anne Box  
of Barhale River

Family History



SMITHS' SMYTHINGS.



My families' history has turned out to be very interesting - my Mothers and Fathers' families being related through marriage. My Mothers' grandfather was Suttan - related - His sister married my Fathers' grandfather - Smith.

My brother has a mug which belonged to my Great Grandfather Samuel Stuart Smith. He was the younger son of John Smith, a gentleman who lived in Ulster, in or near Inniskillen - a police sergeant at one time. His Mother's name was Eliza Stuart and she was born in 1849.

The mug is now 116 years old, and my brother, whose name is John Stuart, at present a dairy farmer, is the keeper of this heirloom. The implements of a farmer of much earlier times are depicted on the mug - all the things were man-handled, except the plough. Even the harrow was sometimes drawn by a rope over the shoulder. There is a rake, a sheaf of hay, a small spade, a sickle, a barrel carried on back of shoulders., 3 sizes of mesh sieves, used according to grain being cleaned.

Hay etc., was cut with the scy scythe, or a sickle and bound by hand. The sheaves of grain were laid on a large canvas and beaten with the flail, then put into a largish flat dish and held up for the wind to blow away some of the chaff. This process was repeated till reasonably clean grain could be scooped up. The flail must be swung a certain way in order not to beat yourself.

In Ireland, the Smiths probably had a farm, as letters referred to the Irish Potato Blight in a very personal way. Samuel Stuart Smith came out to Australia in a sailing ship, "The Southern Empire", in 1869, when he was 19 years old. Smith was spelled as Smyth but, it was said, he felt that plain ordinary Smith was good enough for him.

On the way out, the ship was becalmed in the Indian Ocean for weeks on end, and everything sailing wise - my Great Grandfather used to say, "Was as still as a painted ship upon a painted ocean." It must have been very unnerving (to those in command especially), wondering how and if the provisions etc. would last, there being no refrigeration in those days. It took up to 3 months travel to reach Australis - without being becalmed. Today aeroplanes take a day or so to cover the same distance.

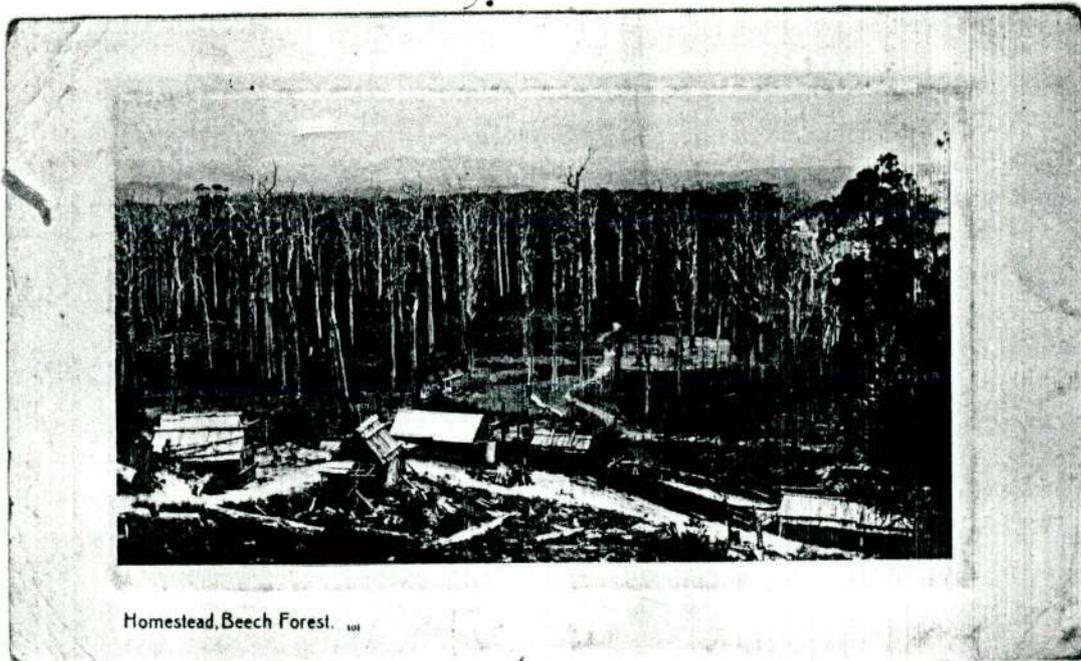
SSS met his Uncle Samuel Smith, who had come to Australia earlier and was farming wheat in the Yeilima district, near Echuca. He wheat farmed nearby.

In 1855, the Sutton family of Emily Sarah (nee Lewis), Daughter Jane, Daughter Elizabeth and son William Griffith, from Wiltshire in Southern England, came to Australia on the maiden voyage of the ship the Schomberg. The ship was wrecked near the mouth of the Curdies River at Peterborough on 27th December, 1855. The passengers were watched by the Aboriginies, who collected belongings washed up from the numerous wrecks along the coast. The passengers were transferred to Melbourne by a passing ship.

Job Stephen Sutton preceded the family on a ship the "Ayrshire", to prepare for their arrival. He arrived at Port Phillip Bay in August 1852, aged 30. He was a miller. Emma met up with her husband eventually and hardly recognized him as he had grown a beard and had "Toughened up."

The said Samuel Smith later married Elizabeth - one of the above daughters and they lived on his wheat farm. Another brother Frank and sister Emma Frances were born in Australis. Emma met and married Samuel Stuart Smith at her sisters and his Uncle's home and married in October, 1878. They had 11 children. 4 of whom died as babies.





Homestead, Beech Forest.

Samuel Stuart and Emma Frances moved down to Chapple Vale from Carrunin near Warrion in 1898, to open up the virgin Forest. They used all the implements pictured on the old mug when they first went down to the forest at Chapple Vale. The plough was a one furrow job. They later had some beehives as well. On one side of the mug is - The Farmers' Creed. -

Let this be held the Farmers' Creed  
 For stock seek out the choicest breed  
 In peace and plenty let them feed.  
 Your land sow with the best of seed  
 Let it not dung or dressing need  
 Inclose and drain it with all speed  
 And you will soon be rich indeed.

Samuel Stuart selected Crown Land on Barwongemoong and Noomowroong in 1887, in 4 lots of about 540 acres, and moved down in 1898. He began paying rates in 1900. The address was Carlisle at one stage, then part of the farm on the Gellibrand River was called Gellibrand West - Via Cobden. The first house built was here at Gellibrand West - called IONA. Whilst being built, SSS lived in bark huts - as in the photo. A piece of wall was cut to open like a door, to let in the light. The people and stock all came to the Otways in stages. This first house - Iona - was burned down in bushfires, and Gleneden was built at Chapple Vale. This was the Post Office and mail was taken around to Gellibrand West. SSS and Emma moved to a farm nearby and then moved out away up to Rochester, leaving the family to continue in the Otways. John William (their son and my Grandfather) married Hilda Lucy Chant in 1911 and had 3 boys and 4 girls. The girls did a lot of milking until their marriages.

John William (My grandfather) was a keen photographer - and took many photos of the bush. He had a dark room in the old house, and the children used to play underneath, and pull the negatives and photos through cracks in the floor boards. When his wife died, he burned a lot of photos, feeling they were not of much interest to anyone. He continued opening up the land and his sons took over clearing the bush, and dairying on the rich river flats. He also grew potatoes. Gleneden was sold to Skinners and Jack retired to Colac. Newton John took over Iona until his death in 1988, when his farm was sold. Chant Stuart took over Braeside.

My Aunt has related the fears those people felt, especially during the bush fires. She was sure the 1939 fires were worse than Ash Wednesday. My Mother came from Melbourne and trained as a Student Teacher. The family of Suttons visited their Smith relations, where she met my Father and settled at Braeside. The life was hard in the 40s - with no electricity. I remember the coolgardie safe on the verandah, and the copper and scrubbing board. My Mum had to learn how to make bread and the 1000 and 1 things necessary to keep a family. Many vegies were grown and when relations came, they brought fresh food for variety. Us children walked a mile to the bus to Laver Hill school, when Mr. Anselmi was the Head Teacher. I can remember porcupines running around the bus, when some other children let them out of their box. We used to stop at Hampshires' shop on the way home, and purchase an ice-block for 1 penny. An older girl would collect the money and bring the ice blocks out - square ones in a cone.

My Father purchased one of the first bulldozers to open up the land. The use of superphosphate was just beginning, and what a marvel that proved to be in soil deficient areas, making farming prosperous for many.

In 1952, he suffered a fatal accident of the doper., and our farm was sold to Mr. Jennings. My mother returned to her teaching career, as there were no widows' pensions in those days.

Over the years many visits were made back to the Otways, in holiday times, and this awakened my love of the hills and valleys of the land, the beauty and the scent of the forest. The clouds descending into the trees and down the rivers, in the floor of the valleys. The gathered tree tops - uncle Newt calling the cows - the cattle grazing up little tracks - the fences, the wild flowers - the cool glades and ferns. When the opportunity arose, I applied for a teaching position in the district, and while at Carlisle River, I met and married my farmer.

Anne Bax.  
(Nee Smith.)

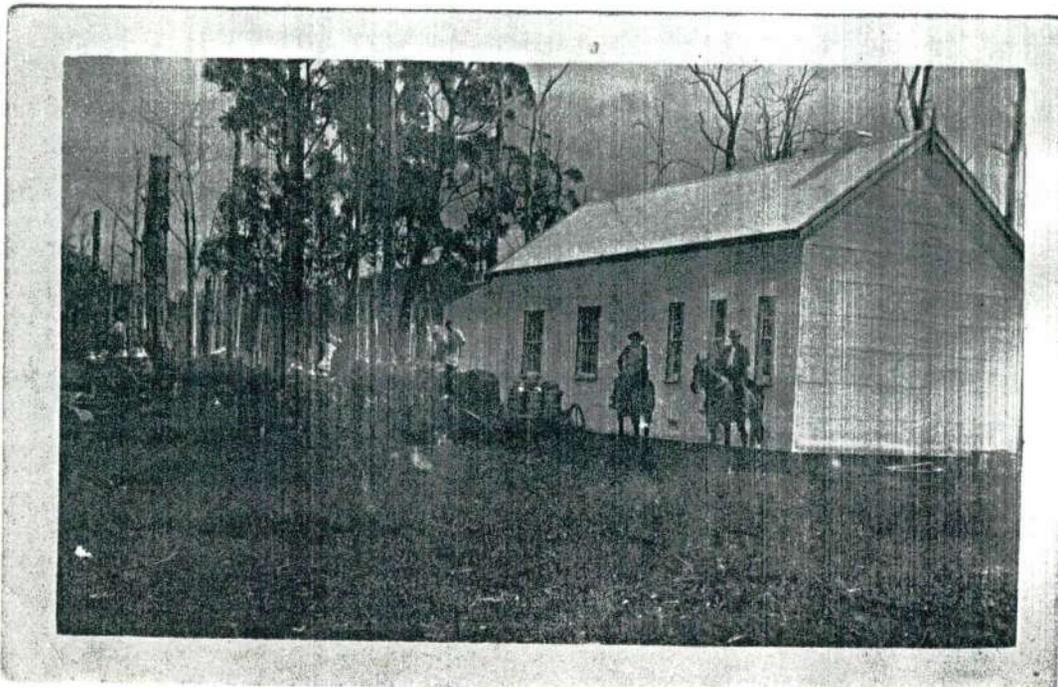
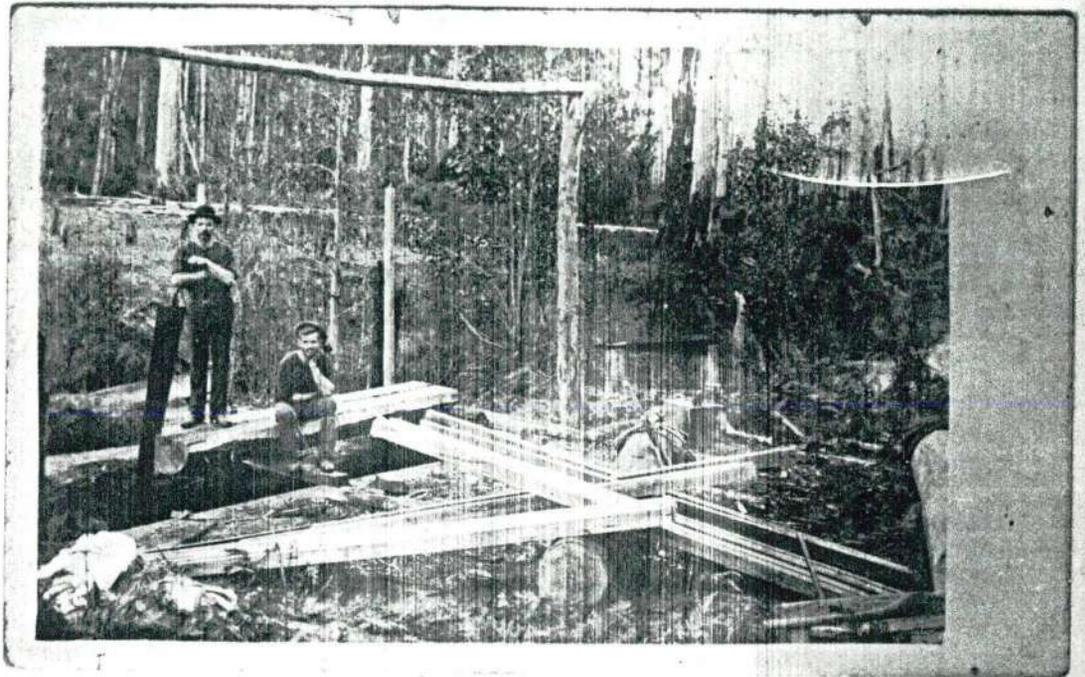


Log Hauling  
NOTTS MILL

Clearing the land  
1910 - logs  
hailed by  
bullocks.

John William Smith  
with a pit saw  
1909.

Saw goes down  
into the pit.

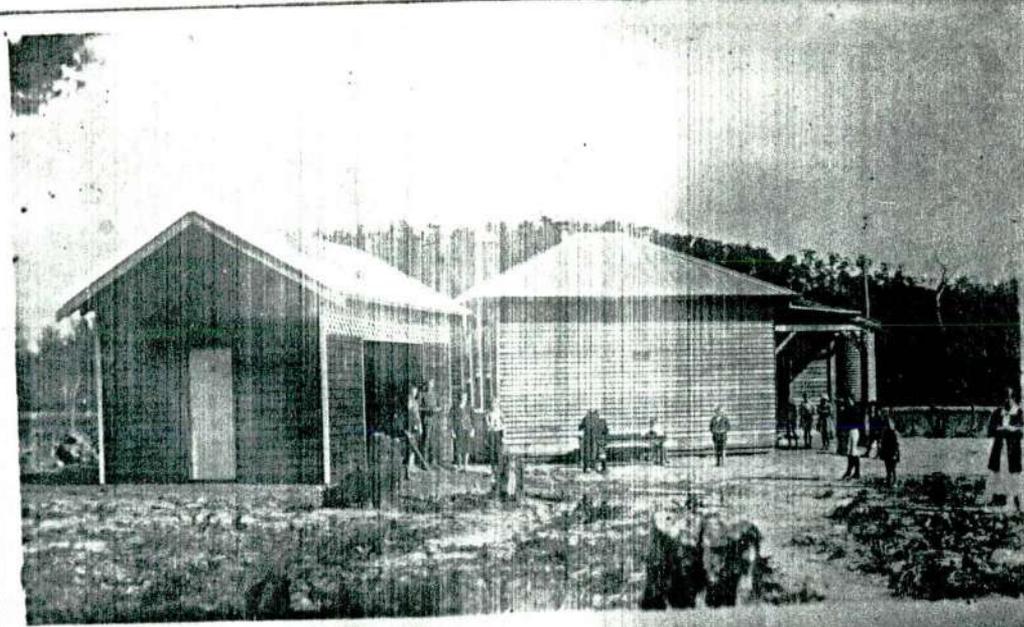


Chapple Vale  
Cheese Factory  
March 1914.

(Burnt in Fires later.)

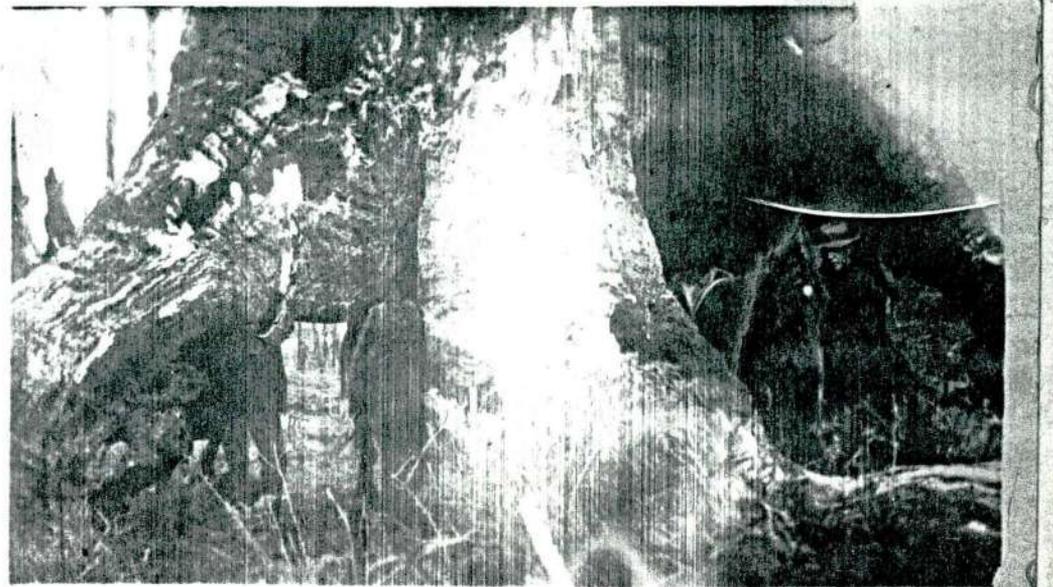
6. Chapple Vale School  
3649

Miss Ruston Teacher.  
This school carted up  
to Lavers Mill  
consolidated.



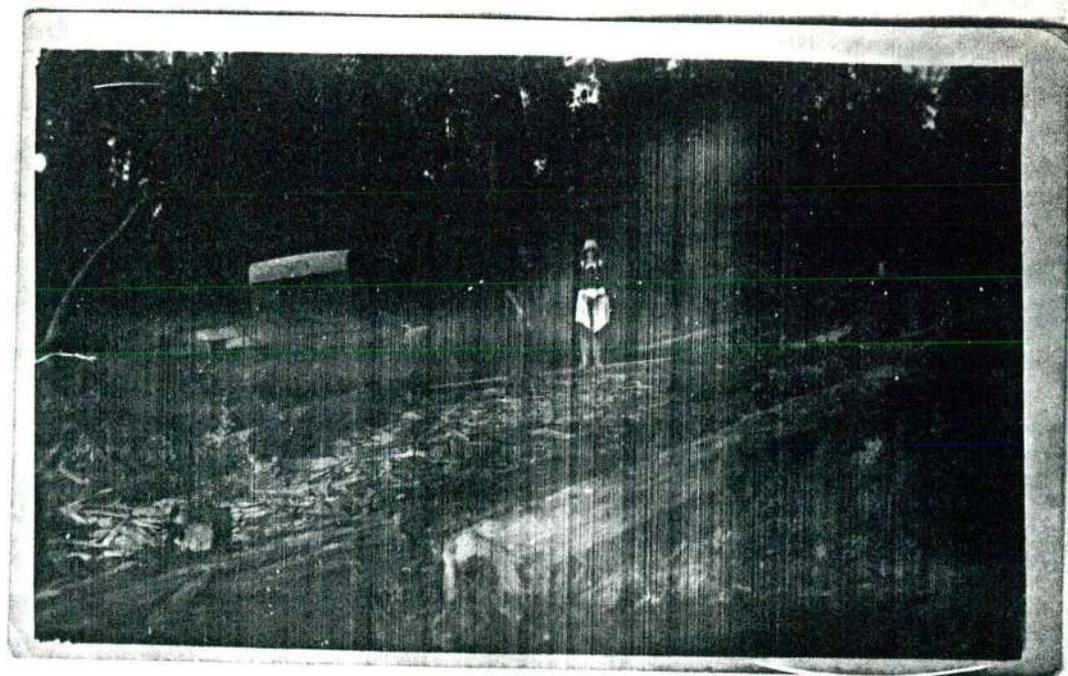
Chapple Vale  
Church  
(Burnt in Fires).

Hilda Lucy Smith (hat)

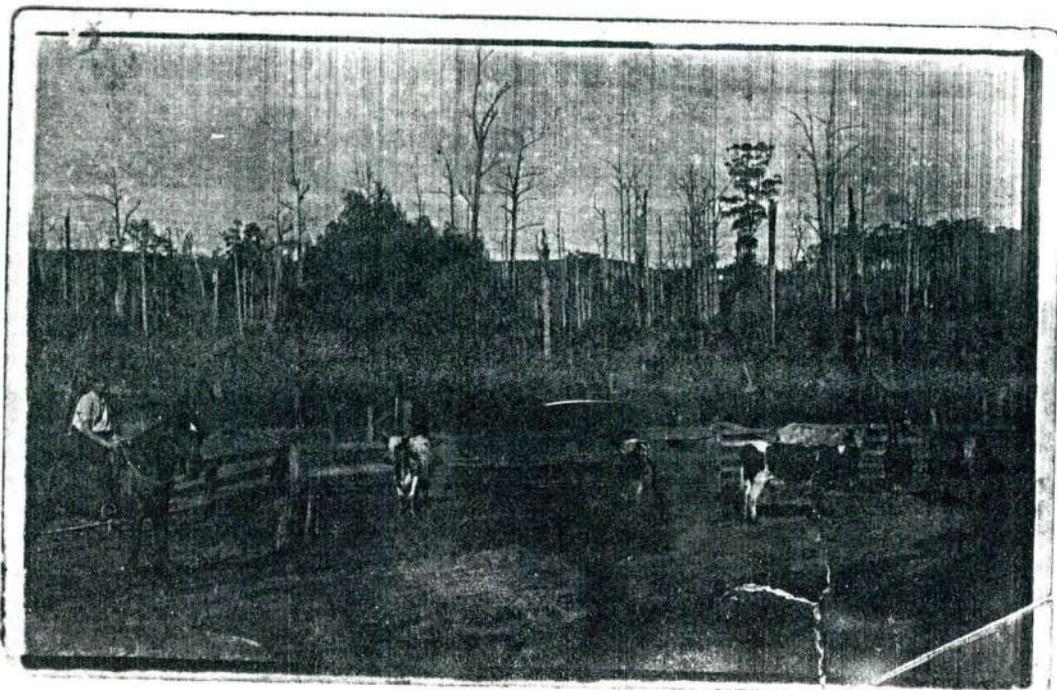
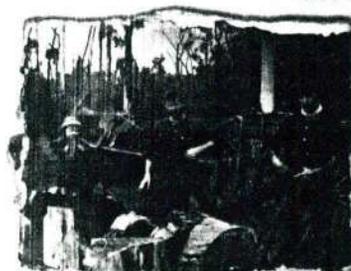
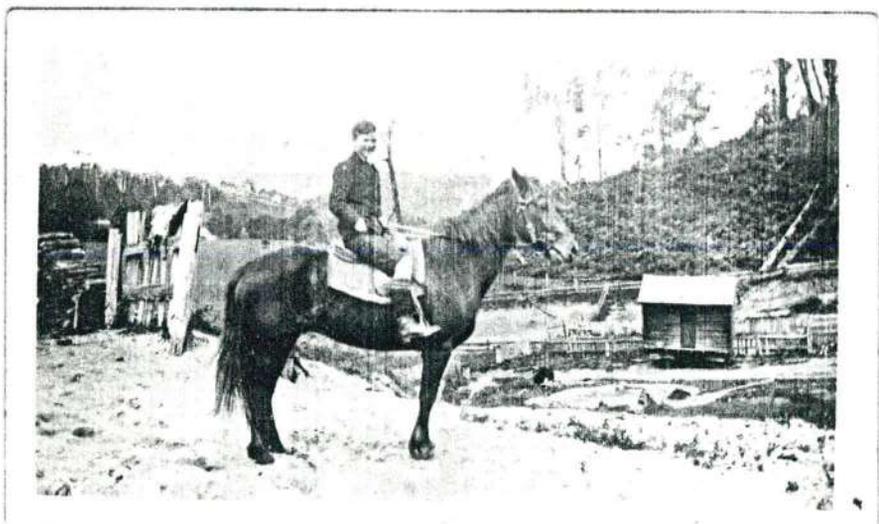
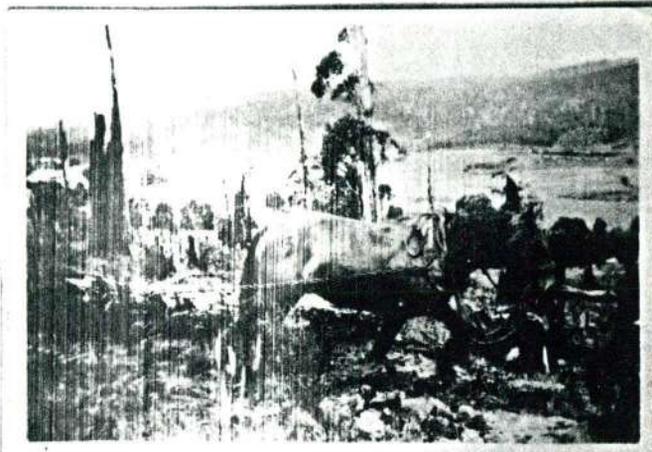


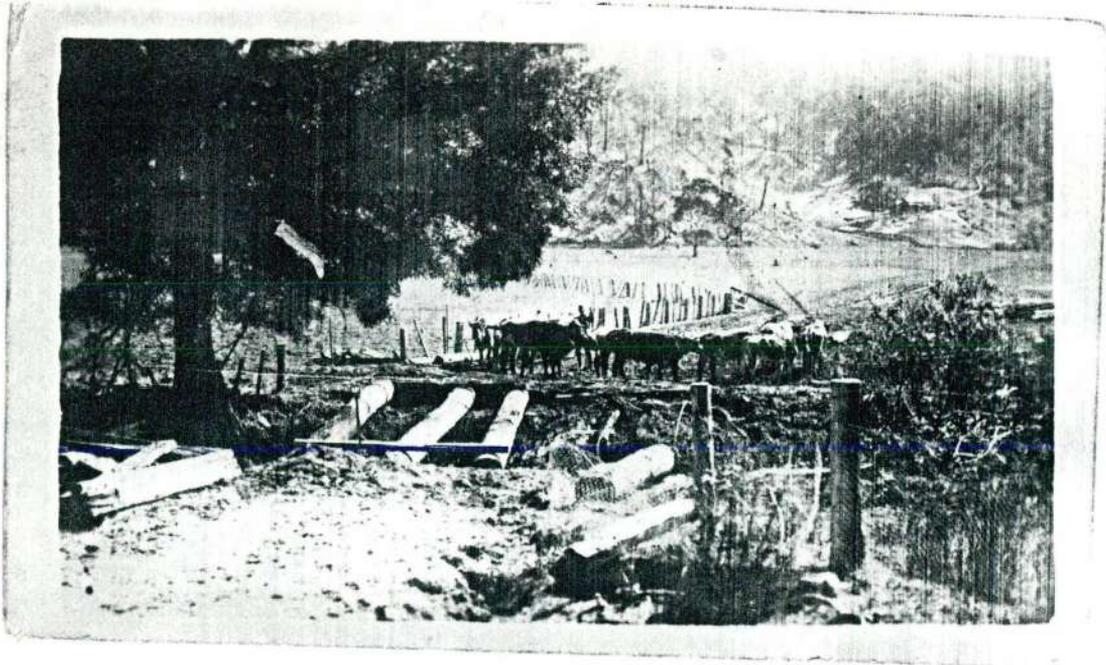
7.

Jack Smith  
daughter  
Vida

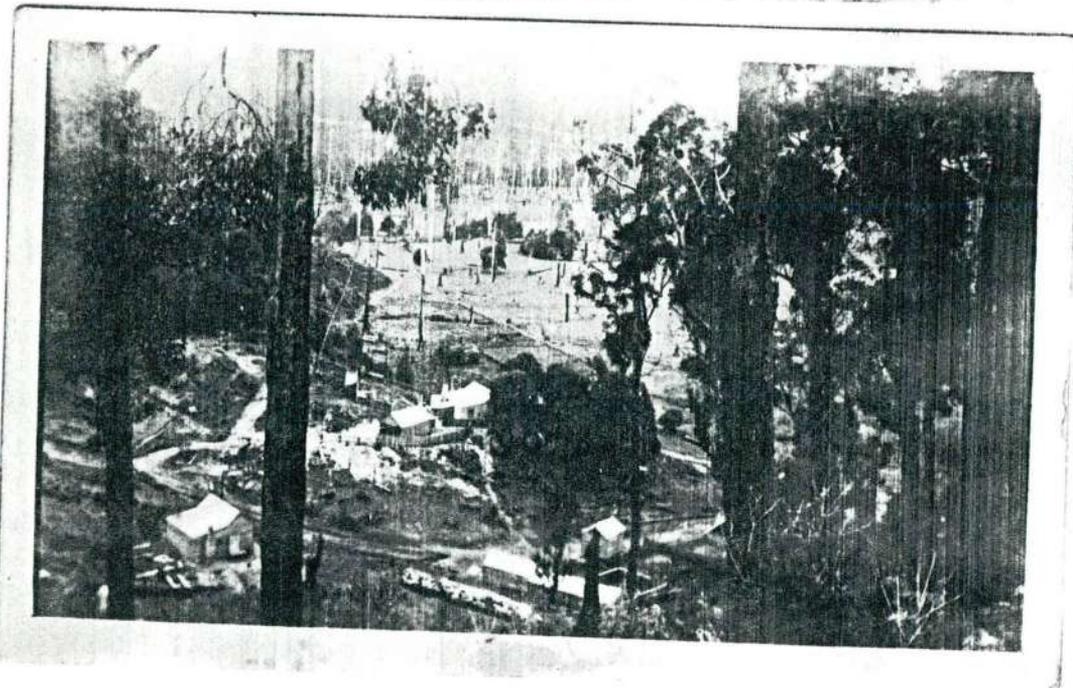
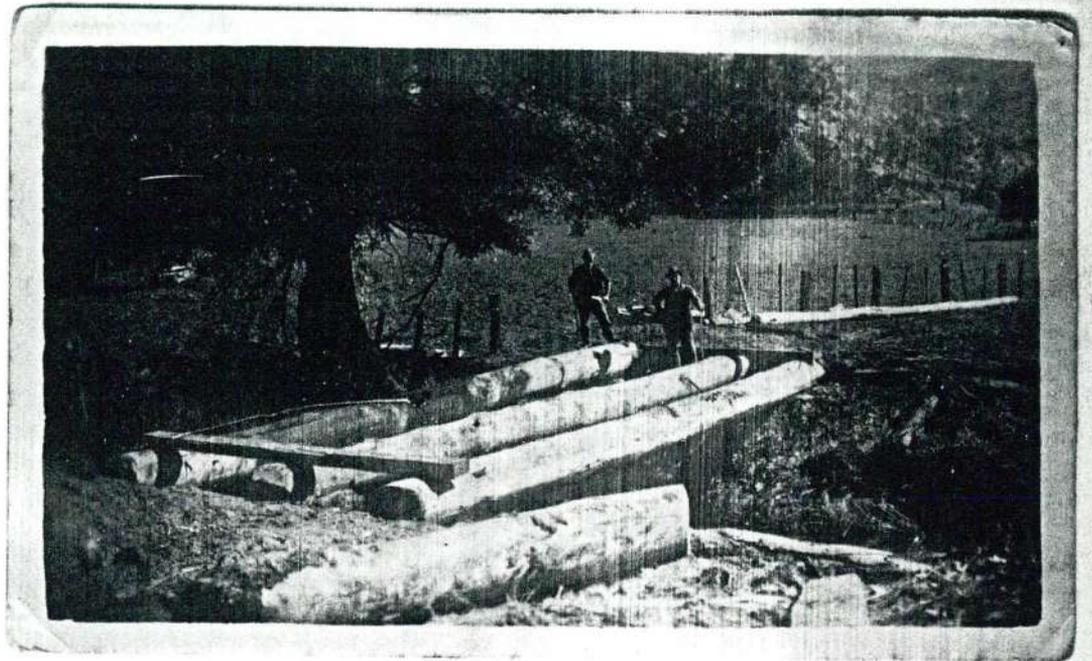


Son Stuart Aged 14.



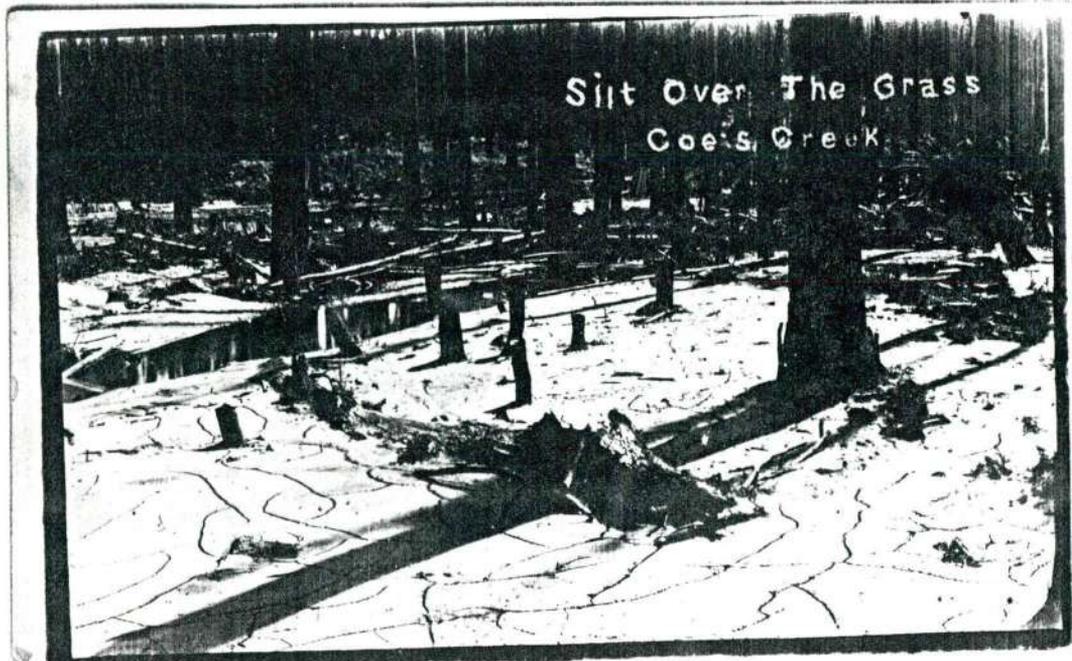


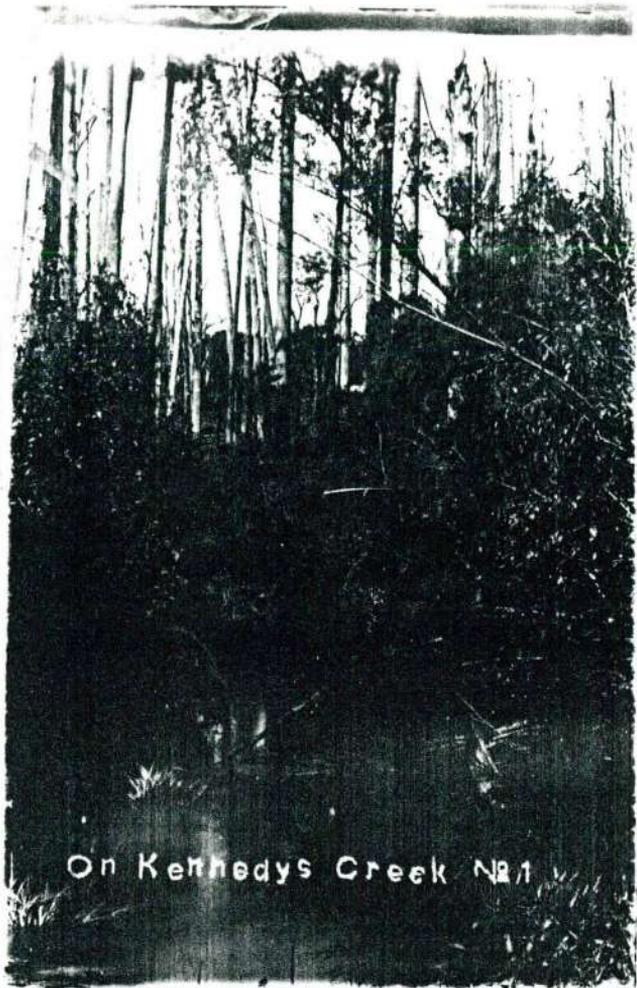
1931- Mr. W. Silk<sup>8.</sup>  
(From Carlisle)  
and his team of  
bullocks putting  
a new bridge  
over Chapple Creek  
on J.W. Smiths'  
farm.



Gleneden.

1928.





On Kennedys Creek N21

Timber Getting

(1)

Jack.

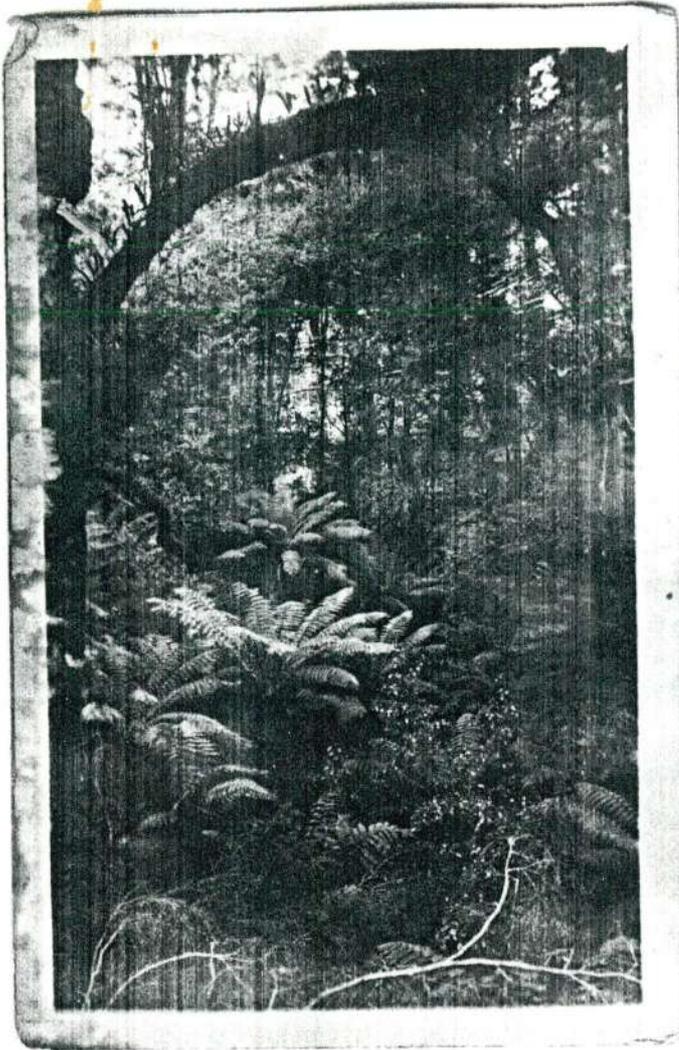


Vida on Lavers Hill Road.



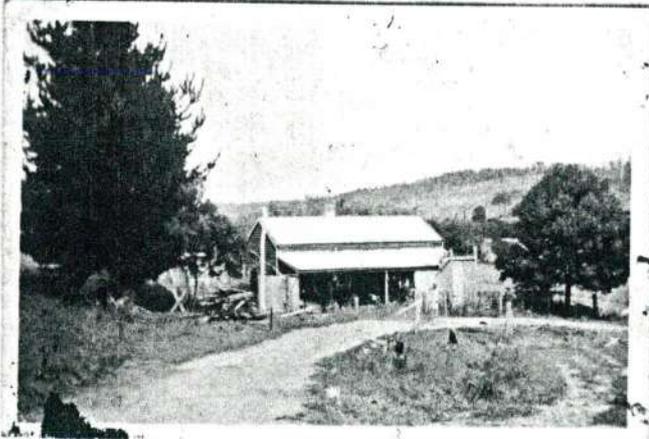
11.

The  
Welcome  
Tree.

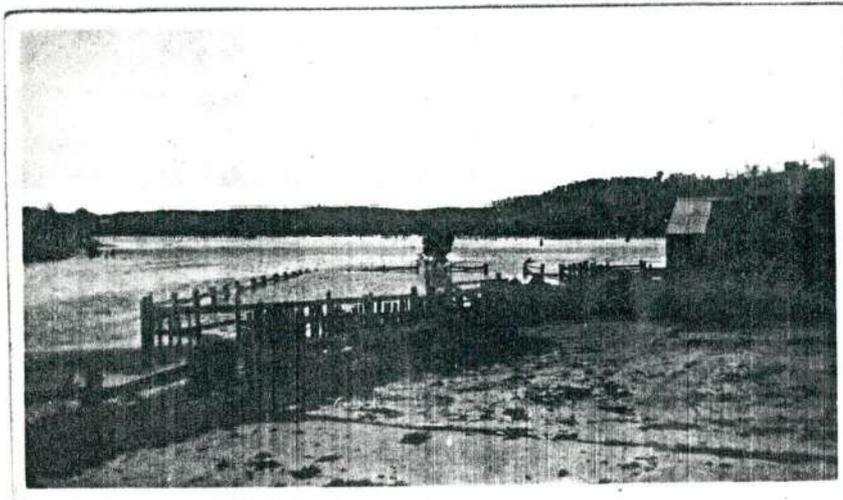


Hopeton Falls  
Aipe River

IONA.



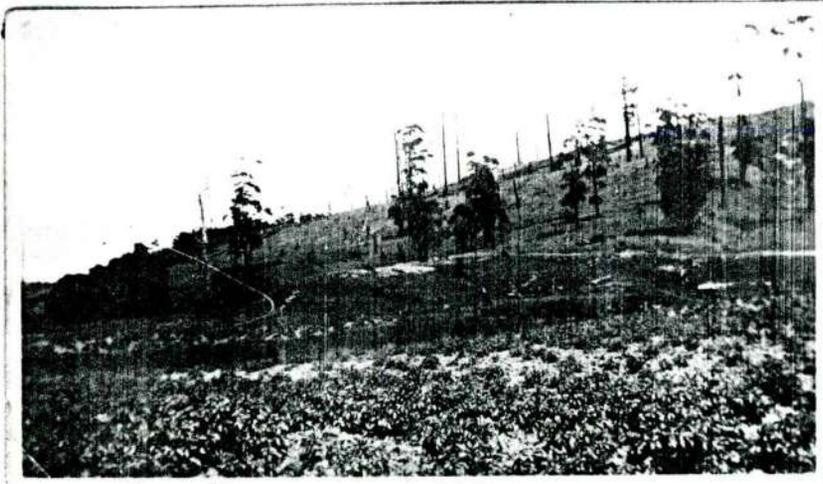
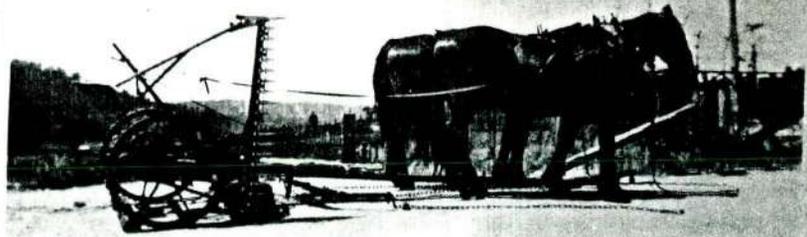
Gleneden



1939



Jack, Newton  
and Stuart.



Potatoes  
at Braeside.

Why do we  
take photos  
of floods?

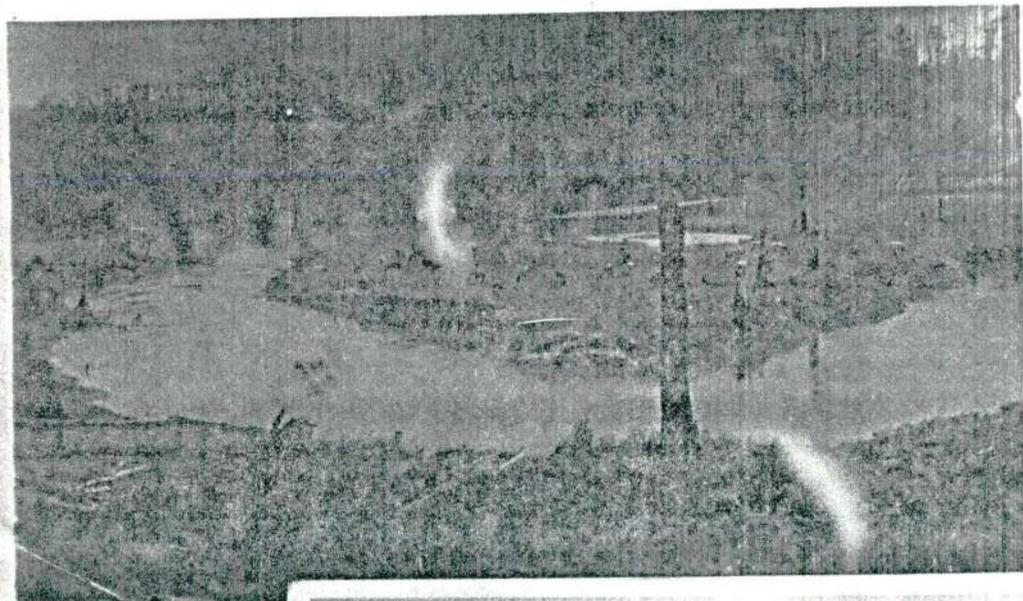
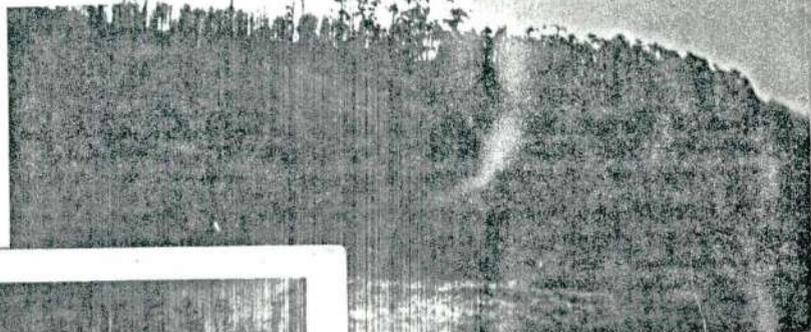


13.

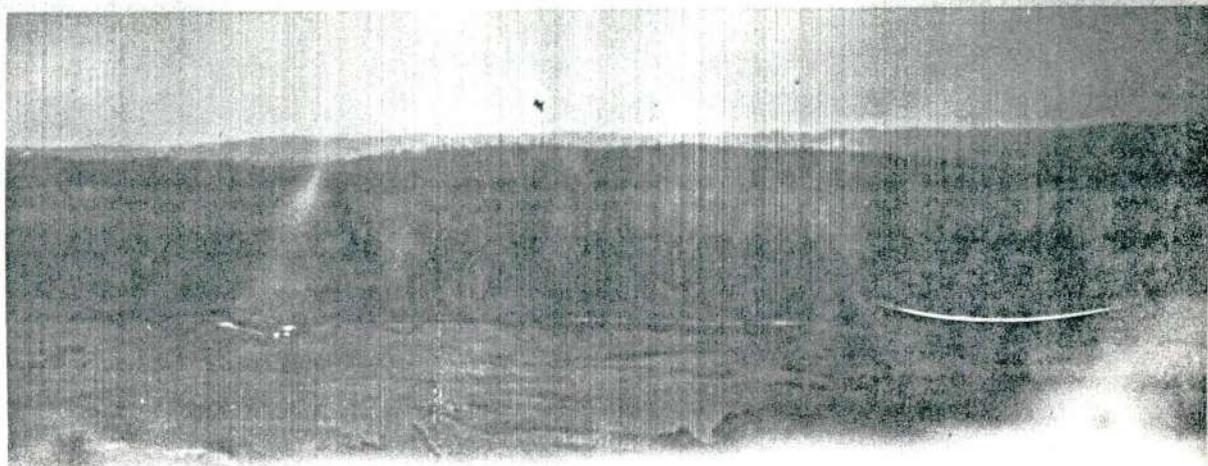
Braeside  
House and Dairy.



Along the  
road at  
Braeside.

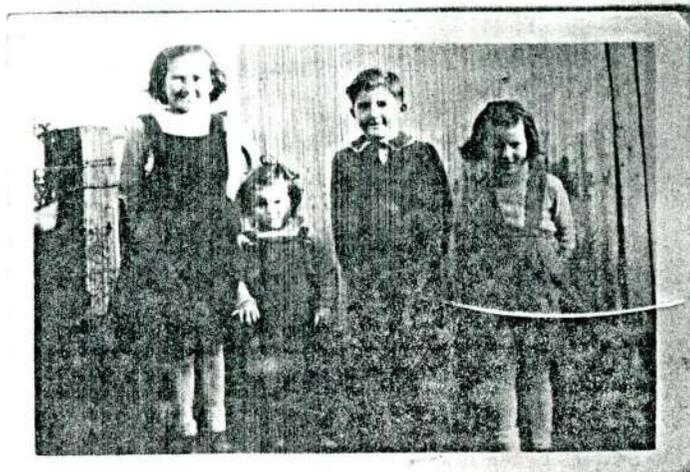


Looking from  
Braeside  
across to





Kennedys' Creek  
Sunday School.  
About 1950.



Elsie Betty John Anne  
(Smith)

December 1943.



Vida, Elsie, Joyce, Marjorie, Smith  
Joe Harper, Hilda Smith, Dont' know,  
Hubert + Annie Sutton, Dont know, Dont know,  
Margaret + Stuart Smith, Ian Smith.  
Ground - Sylvia + Carol Sutton. Jack Smith.



May 1936.

Bob Coe, Wray Trotter + Vida (Smith)  
Elsie Coe (Smith) Marjorie Henderson  
(Smith)  
Newton Smith Joyce Feldman.

SMITHS' SMATTERINGS

My families' history has turned out to be very interesting: my Mother's and Father's families being related through marriage. My Mother's grandfather was Sutton - related - his sister married my Father's grandfather - Smith.

My brother has a mug which belonged to my Great Grandfather, Samuel Stuart Smith. He was the younger son of John Smith, a gentleman who lived in Ulster, in or near Inniskillen - a police sergeant at one time. His Mother's name was Eliza Stuart and S.S.S. was born in 1849.

The mug is now 116 years old, and my brother whose name is John Stuart, at present a dairy farmer, is the keeper of this heirloom. The implements of a farmer of much earlier times are depicted on the mug - all the things were man-handled, except the plough. Even the harrow was sometimes drawn by a rope over the shoulder. There is a rake, a sheaf of hay, a small spade, a sickle, a barrel carried on back of shoulders, 3 sizes of mesh sieves, used according to grain being cleaned.

Hay etc was cut with the scythe, or a sickle and bound by hand. The sheaves of grain were laid on a large canvas and beaten with the flail, then put into a largish flat dish and held up for the wind to blow away some of the chaff. This process was repeated till reasonably clean grain could be scooped up. The flail must be swung a certain way in order not to beat yourself.

In Ireland, the Smith's probably had a farm, as letters referred to the Irish Potato Blight in a very personal way. Samuel Stuart Smith came out to Australia in a sailing ship, 'The Southern Empire', in 1869, when he was 19 years old. Smith was spelt as Smyth but, it was said, he felt that plain ordinary Smith was good enough for him.

On the way out, the ship was becalmed in the Indian Ocean for weeks on end, and everything sailing wise, my Great Grandfather used to say, "Was as still as a painted ship upon a painted ocean". It must have been very unnerving (to those in command especially) wondering how and if the provisions etc would last, there being no refrigeration in those days. It took up to 3 months travel to reach Australia, without being becalmed. Today aeroplanes take a day or so to cover the same distance.

S.S.S. met his Uncle Samuel Smith, who had come to Australia earlier and was farming wheat in the Yeilima district, near Echuca. He wheat-farmed nearby.

SMITHS' SMATTERINGS (cont.)

In 1855, the Sutton family of Emily Sarah (nee Lewis), daughter Jane, daughter Elizabeth and son William Griffith, from Wiltshire in Southern England, came to Australia on the maiden voyage of the ship the 'Schomberg'. The ship was wrecked near the mouth of the Curdies River at Peterborough on 27th December, 1855. The passengers were watched by the Aborigines, who collected belongings washed up from the numerous wrecks along the coast. The passengers were transferred to Melbourne by a passing ship.

Job Stephen Sutton preceded the family on a ship the "Ayrshire", to prepare for their arrival. He arrived at Port Phillip Bay in August 1852, aged 30. He was a miller. Emma met up with her husband eventually and hardly recognised him as he had grown a beard and had "loughened up."

The said Samuel Smith later married Elizabeth, one of the above daughters and they lived on his wheat farm. Another brother Frank and sister Emma Frances were born in Australia. Emma met and married Samuel Stuart Smith at her sister's and his Uncle's home and married in October, 1878. They had 11 children, 4 of whom died as babies.

Samuel Stuart and Emma Frances moved down to Chapple Vale from Corrunin near Warrion in 1898, to open up the virgin forest. They used all the implements pictured on the old mug when they first went down to the forest at Chapple Vale. The plough was a one furrow job. They later had some bee hives as well. On one side of the mug is "The Farmer's Creed".

Let this be held the Farmers' Creed  
 For stock seek out the choicest breed  
 In peace and plenty let them feed  
 Your land sow with the best of seed  
 Let it not dung or dressing need  
 Inclose and drain it with all speed  
 And you will soon be rich indeed.

Samuel Stuart selected Crown Land on Barwongemoong and Moomowroong in 1897, in 4 lots of about 540 acres, and moved down in 1898. He began paying rates in 1900. The address was Carlisle at one stage, then part of the farm on the Gellibrand River was called Gellibrand West - via Cobden. The first house built was here at Gellibrand West, call "IONA". Whilst being built, S.S.S. lived in bark huts. A piece of wall was cut to open like a door, to let in the light. The people and stock all

SMITHS' SMATTERINGS (cont.)

came to the Otways in stages. This first house, 'Iona', was burned down in bushfires, and Gleneden was built at Chapple Vale. This was the Post Office, and mail was taken around to Gellibrand West. S.S.S. and Emma moved to a farm nearby and then moved out away up to Rochester, leaving the family to continue in the Otways. John William (their son and my Grandfather) married Hilda Lucy Chant in 1911 and had 3 boys and 4 girls. The girls did a lot of milking until their marriages.

John William (my grandfather) was a keen photographer, and took many photos of the bush. He had a dark room in the old house, and the children used to play underneath, and pull the negatives and photos through cracks in the floor boards. When his wife died, he burned a lot of photos, feeling they were not of much interest to anyone. He continued opening up the land and his sons took over clearing the bush, and dairying on the rich river flats. He also grew potatoes. Gleneden was sold to Skinners and Jack retired to Colac. Newton John took over "Iona" until his death in 1988, when his farm was sold. Chant Stuart took over Braeside.

My Aunt has related the fears those people felt, especially during the bush fires. She was sure the 1939 fires were worse than Ash Wednesday. My Mother came from Melbourne and trained as a Student Teacher. The family of Suttons visited their Smith relations, where she met my Father and settled at Braeside. The life was hard in the 40's with no S.E.C. I remember the Coolgardie safe on the verandah, and the copper and scrubbing board. My Mum had to learn how to make bread and the thousand and one things necessary to keep a family. Many vegies were grown and when relations came, they brought fresh food for variety. We children walked a mile to the bus to Lavers Hill School, when Mr Anselmi was the Head Teacher. I can remember porcupines running around the bus, when some other children let them out of their box. We used to stop at Hampshire's shop on the way home and purchase an iceblock for 1 penny. An older girl would collect the money and bring the ice blocks out - square ones in a cone.

My Father purchased one of the first bulldozers to open up the land. The use of superphosphate was just beginning, and what a marvel that proved to be in soil-deficient areas, making farming prosperous for many. In 1952 he suffered a fatal accident on the dozer and our farm was sold to Mr Jennings. My Mother returned to her teaching career, as there were no widow's pensions in those days.

SMITHS' SMATTERINGS (cont.)

Over the years many visits were made back to the Otways in holiday times, and this awakened my love of the hills and valleys of the land; the beauty and the scent of the forest; the clouds descending into the trees and down the rivers, in the floor of the valleys; the gathered tree tops; Uncle Newt calling the cows; the cattle grazing up little tracks; the fences, the wild flowers; the cool glades and ferns. When the opportunity arose, I applied for a teaching position in the district and while at Carlisle River I met and married my farmer.

Anne Box (Nee Smith)

TOWERS FAMILY

In 1904 David and Lavinia Towers (nee SUCKLING) left BULLARTO and travelled to Beech Forest in a bullock wagon with four young children. One of these, Alf, was 4 years old. (Edith was born later on at Beech Forest.)

David Towers was a timberman when he came to the Otways and his sons followed on in their footsteps and for many years hauled timber using bullocks from around Turtons Pass to the Beech Forest railway.

Around 1926-1930 they turned to dairying and potato growing. Alf had one of the first crops of certified seed potatoes in the Otways.

Alf married in 1923 (to Eileen Richardson of Alvie) and had two daughters and one son whose name is Derryl and still owns a 50 acre portion of the original selection taken by David at Beech Forest.

Derryl's oldest sister, Lola, married Doug Sterling of Lorne and she died in 1959. The other sister married Ron Trevaskis of Geelong.

Derryl married Jean (Nee MARRINER) in 1959.

The road east to Olangolah and south-east to Apollo Bay received little attention and remained an impassable morass for many winters. A new survey and deviation through Deppelers' and Flannagans' in 1909 resulted in better access to Apollo Bay. A horse-drawn coach service to and from Apollo Bay connecting with the train at Beech Forest ran on two days a week after 1910.

Animal-powered wagons and sleds continued as the principal form of transport until well into this century. The first bicycles were not seen until 1905, and were a summer time phenomenon only. The very first motor car chugged into Beech Forest on Wednesday, 22nd January, 1913. It belonged to a party of anglers staying at Gellibrand, who daringly accomplished the trip in one hour and twenty minutes. In the years after this the occasional motor car made the jolting journey to Beech Forest, but the experience remained a rare novelty until the late 1920s.

Prime responsibility for road improvements was due to the efforts of the newly-formed Otway Shire Council (1919) and the Country Roads Board. The passing of the Developmental Roads Act in 1918 enabled C.R.B. funds to be made available for access roads from farming properties to a main road or a railway station, and it was only after this time that selectors began to see gradual improvements.

The first locally-owned motor cars were carried in by the train in 1924 and were owned by "Cocko" Pearce and Jim Fry. There was hardly anywhere these cars could be driven until 1927 when Turtons Pass was made into a metalled road and access could be gained to Colac via Forrest. Harry Cunningham then began running his parcels and passenger service, and Cyril Varcoe initiated a motor service between Beech Forest and Apollo Bay.

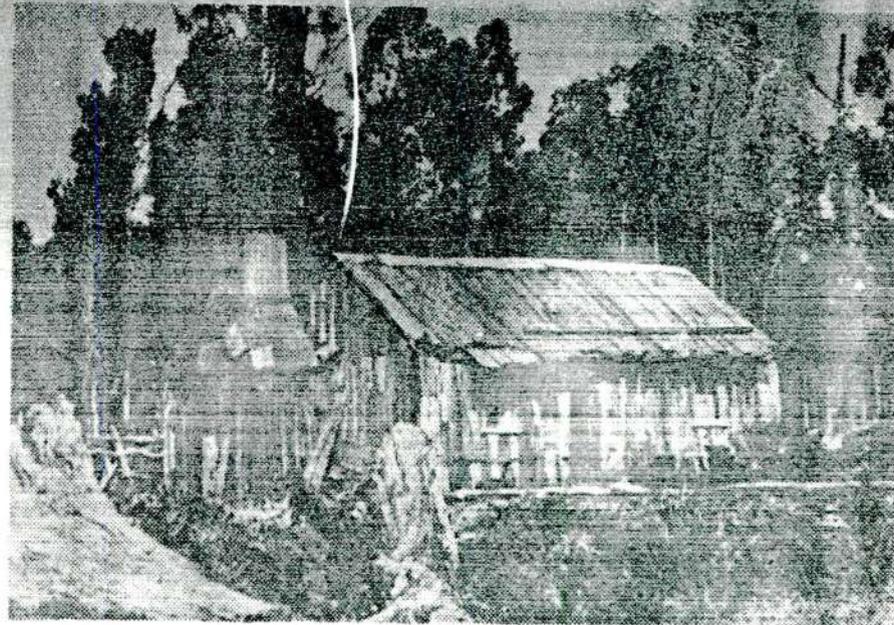
The direct road to Colac via Gellibrand was graded and formed along its entire length in 1926, but generally remained unsuitable to motor vehicles until it was metalled. The first section between Colac and Gellibrand was opened as an all-weather road in 1931, and four years later the metal reached Beech Forest via the Charleys Creek Road. It was the end of isolation.

In the years since then, the main roads at Beech Forest have been re-aligned and bitumenised, and now provide a smooth and fast pathway into and out of the district.

#### Railway

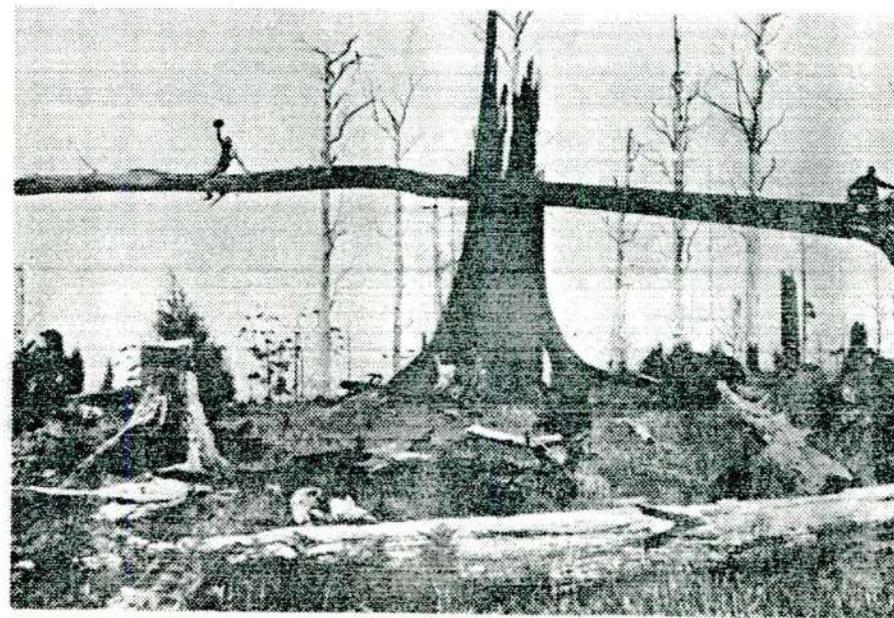
The coming of the railway to Beech Forest in 1902 was the single most important event to place what was then a struggling and isolated settlement on the way to prosperity.

Plans for a rail connection between Colac and Beech Forest had been drawn up as early as 1884 when Surveyor Collis ran a trial survey for a broad-gauge rail route south from Colac to the top of the main north-south dividing ridge of the Otways, about thirty miles from Colac. This survey became a sore point with selectors for many claimed they had taken up their blocks under the impression that a railway would soon be built, but had seen no progress in the years since they had arrived. Another survey



A selector's first home.

*Knox Collection Photo*



When the work is over it is time to play. A giant see-saw, Otway style.

*Minchinton Collection Photo*

DEWINS Family  
HISTORY  
SOURCE: Loma

DEWINS Family  
F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE  
Title: ~~BARWON DOWNS~~  
HISTORY  
Source: Loma CUNNINGTON  
DOC. 0082

Chelsea Lodge  
8 Gosney Street  
W. Chelsea 3241

Dear Janet,

About the Larries article in  
Pure Mail. Mrs Dewing had an elderly  
blind relation living with her and she  
must have been there for years as they had a  
short trimmed <sup>mini</sup> circular hedge that she used  
to walk around the outside and had a seat  
inside the circle and a rope leading to the garden  
from the door. Across the road to the south. Bill or  
<sup>Fairbank</sup> ~~Bill~~ Lidgerwood <sup>(Fairbank)</sup> lived and further along another  
house <sup>Marion</sup> what Dinnie <sup>Lidgerwood</sup> lived in then Ted and Daisy  
& Family were in it. Further south <sup>down</sup> ~~over~~ the rise  
lived the Old Lidgerwoods. Ted & Dinnies parents  
Joyce Harding may fill you in on this. This photo  
is of Daisy, Ted's wife with Issy Green (nee Rankin)  
who was Arthur Green's wife and they lived across  
the main road from the <sup>Myrtlebank</sup> Wine Shanty on the  
corner (Lannons now). Do what you like with this photo  
George Lidgerwood n.c. all our Sat dancers. Especially  
the old set dances like Fitzroys & dancers.  
In front of Dewings kitchen door and right alongside  
the chimney a Mr Sturifell and made a big dusty  
hole. This is a bit of local history for you to read.

Lots of love to the Historical Crew  
From Loma Cunningham

Chelmsford  
8 Boonay Street  
Wimborne, Dorset

Benjamin  
about 1870  
Benjamin had an elderly  
friend living with his mother  
and had been there for years with her  
about 1870 when he was about 10  
to work around the outside and had a

Maribank in Jenner St Spot.  
moved in (Houses  
Craham + Jenny)

Fairbank  
House Glen Kingwell Lues built in 1910  
moved to Burregarra 1935

John Kingwell Lues  
born 1870  
John Kingwell Lues was born in 1870  
in the village of Glen Kingwell  
near Burregarra. He was the  
son of John Kingwell Lues and  
Mary Kingwell Lues. He was  
educated at the village school  
and then at the Burregarra  
School. He was a member of  
the Burregarra School Board  
and was a prominent member  
of the community. He was  
a successful farmer and was  
one of the leading men of  
the district. He was a member  
of the Burregarra School  
Board and was a prominent  
member of the community.

F&DH DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Title..IRELAND FAMILY  
PHOTO 1871

Source..WILKINSON

DOC..0339



In 1871 William Henry Ireland, married Catherine Morrison, a sister of Mary Ann Morrison who married Stephen Henry Blundy.

Here is a marvellous photo of the Ireland family. Can we date it or place any of the children?

Children: Edwin Henry (Bert), Henrietta, Rosamund Catherine, Letitia Catherine, Roderick Rae (died at 3 months), Isabella Catherine, Morrison Henry, Elizabeth Anne (died at 9 months) Mary Elizabeth, Annie, Charles Henry, Hannah Melisa, Victoria Grace, Evelyn Elsie and Ada Elizabeth.

See Vol 2. Colac & District Pioneers & Settlers Register

Brief History and Photos kindly supplied by Alf and Lorna Wilhelms.

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE

Title.....WIN HOLT

Subject Category...100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

Key Words.....THANK YOU.....

DOC.0234...Date.2009...Dia.Copv?

5034

HOSE  
WHEEL



WIN'S 100TH BIRTHDAY 29/04/2009





*Dear Pam & Trevor*

Thank you very much for your lovely card on my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. I had a great time celebrating with my family. Please find enclosed a couple of photo's from my birthday party.

*Best wishes Win "Nan" Hoult  
29<sup>th</sup> April 2009*



54 Thacker Street,  
OCEAN GROVE VIC. 3226

TEL.52562208

8<sup>th</sup> November,2011

Dear Ken,

Thank you for the information and I enclose a cheque for \$15-00 being membership to the Forrest Historic Society for

John Thomas Hoult dob 2/7/1935

Lois Marie Hoult dob 9/10/1935

My e/mail address is [houlty@pipeline.com.au](mailto:houlty@pipeline.com.au)

I will think up some other points of interest and forward them to you in the near future.

Thanking you again for all the good work



John Hoult

L 7163

3 409/2 30/09/11

Barbed 21/11/11

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE DOC.....Date.....

Title.....

0499

Subject Category.....

Key Words.....

Dear Mary,

New year greetings to you and Paul and best wishes for your Forest Post publication, a copy of which I read last weekend and found most interesting.

Now that Geoff has purchased property at Forrest your paper made me realise just how many ties he has with the district (similar to Paul I guess) an historic association that goes back several generations.. Therefore I was prompted to record what I know and send to you.

I am enclosing a copy of the obituary from the Colac Herald, unfortunately undated but must be around 1937, for my great grandmother, Harriet Newcombe whom I understand lived on the property now owned by Bob and Carol Brookes (opposite Geoff's ). It is my understanding also that Harriet was the first white girl born at Connewarre. I think they may also have lived in the Main Street of Forrest.

Harriet's son, Septimus (my grandfather) lived with his wife and 9 children on a small farm at the site of the quarry above the West Barwon resevoir 'on the Noonday'. The phrase 'up the Noonday' I heard often as a child and it sounded such a magical and mysterious place..

Septimus worked as a road builder and the children walked to Forrest daily to attend school. At that time the Forrest school had approximately 200 pupils in a one classroom building.

Sep' later purchased the farm on the 7 Bridges Road now owned by the Seebeck family.

My mother, along with most district young people, helped to harvest the hops on Bertie Ireland's hop fields near the Roadknight Creek bridge, the property Sam & I purchased in 1961 and subsequently named 'Aroona'.

Our children, Geoff, Richard and Sue, attended the Forrest school whose numbers again swelled to 200 in the '60's & early 70's because of the construction of the West Barwon Reservoir

Sam's ancestors were pioneer farmers on the Sunnyside Road and after the death of Tom snr. his wife Sarah moved to a house in Station Street, Forrest.

**Bill's story**

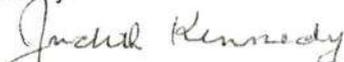
Bill Newcombe, Mum's brother, lived on the south side of Blundy Street and was a colourful storyteller. One story now seems pertinent. Bill worked on the farm, formerly part of the Neale property and claims to have lost his watch while working in the west facing paddock. Many years later, whilst sitting on his front verandah and looking across the valley he saw something glistening in that paddock. He went to the spot and was surprised to find not only his watch but that it was still ticking.. - It was lying in the pathway of an army of ants who had a nest nearby - they had constantly crossed the winder and kept the watch wound up!!!!

I think the attached photo was taken on the 'Brookes' property, sorry my copier did not enhance either document very well. The hand written note at the foot of the article relates to Hannah Whelan, Tassie's mother. I have her obituary also as she was a dearly respected neighbour of ours at Aroona.

Hope something of the enclosed may be interest to you. The family seems to have come 'full circle' with Geoff re-establishing an interest in the Forrest district,

Best wishes with your project,

Sincerely



Judith Kennedy  
2 Percy Jones Court  
Highton 3216

email:- [kennedy.judith@bigpond.com](mailto:kennedy.judith@bigpond.com)

DOC 0410

## Ken Widdowson

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**From:** Hirstcoll [hirstcoll@bigpond.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 30 January 2010 8:50 AM  
**To:** kenw@pipeline.com.au  
**Subject:** FW: message from Ken Widdowson.

Good morning Ken,

Thanks for your email and the 'back to' Barwon Downs date which will be an event I'd like to attend. Here a few thoughts which may or may not be useful:

- my father's name was Norman (Norm) Gay.
- we used to have one of the school teacher's board with us – Miss Ralph.
- Miss Ralph and I walked to and from school together. I think I must have been walking rather slowly as Miss Ralph started walking races with me and somehow I always won! They were only on the way to school, I was not quite 4 years old when I started school.
- I think I attended Barwon P.S. 1955, 1956, 1957 and part of 1958. I know I was young to start but in those days it didn't matter, particularly when your teacher was boarding at your place.
- We didn't have television in 1956, 1957 but we travelled to the McPaddens on a Sunday night and the children had to sit quietly and watch whilst the man kept talking (the news) and then it was our show (Disneyland), then we were put to bed and the grown ups watched The Lucy Show. Later on we returned home.
- One of the neighbours behind us surname was Curtis and they had a son called Rodney about 62 now (they later moved to Colac). Rodney played for the Richmond Football Club in the '70's in the under 18's or 19's. He was offered tertiary education sponsorship and a car but decided that he didn't really like the lifestyle after a short time and returned home.
- A family that lived next door to us (Shannahan – not sure of spelling) Mr Shannahan was killed in the bush, wife and children moved away after his death. One of the children (Julie) was a playmate of mine.
- My mother, brother and I moved to Melbourne in March 1958. My father used to visit us on week ends.
- I had a cocker spaniel (Suzy) and after one weekend that Dad visited us, we couldn't find Suzy. Dad was unaware that Suzy had jumped into Dad's car and travelled with him. Dad stopped on the side of the road at Waurm Ponds for a nap and had one of the window's was down - Suzy jumped out. Weeks later Suzy arrived quite bedraggled at Dad's doorstep in Forest. We don't know how she found her way but we were so relieved that she did.
- My brother Geoffrey Gay died 26<sup>th</sup> May 1958 of leukemia aged 3 ½ .
- My parents separated after his death.
- A few years later my father moved to East Gippsland (Club Terrace) ran his own business as a bush contractor and at one stage had the largest privately owned bulldozer in Australia. My father re married and had 4 children.
- My father came from Monbulk (family are pioneers of Monbulk) but visited Colac to visit 2 of his older brothers who had married and settled there. One brother Gordon Gay, remained at Colac whereas, Harry Gay was a dairy farmer but returned to Monbulk after a few years.
- My mother Helen Gay (nee McEwen) was born in Colac and a 4<sup>th</sup> generation western district person.
- My mother wanted to be an opera singer and travelled to Melbourne every Friday for singing lessons. There were concerts that she sang in and I think some fund raising for the CWA or Red Cross (not quite sure) but my Godmother 'Hursty' (Mrs Hurst) was a great mentor for my mother, encouraging her to achieve her dream.
- My mother was on 3CS radio several times. Mum used to interview people and I remember her mentioning Nat King Cole and Elisabeth Taylor but not sure of the others.
- The local butcher, I think his name was Mr Gooley.
- I was baptised in the Barwon Downs Presbyterian Church (now privately owned).
- I remember the Barwon River flooding and hearing of locals needing a tow. One time my father was driving me somewhere and our blue zephyr sedan started taking in water as Dad was trying to cross. Dad got out and gave me the huge responsibility of steering the steering wheel as he pushed the car out of the water. My father was a great story teller and when we returned home Dad was full of praise of how I saved the car from floating down the Barwon. I was such a proud 5 year old that day.

24/06/2010

- My mother obtained her opera dream and sang professionally in Melbourne, won scholarships to study in Paris but didn't continue this pathway. However, she later became a welfare worker and then a family law lawyer. She only retired last year, re-married 24 years ago, lives in Melbourne and will turn 79 this year.

Not sure whether this information will be useful, but I'm amazed at how much I have remembered.

Cheers,  
Jenny

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**From:** Ken Widdowson [mailto:kenw@pipeline.com.au]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 January 2010 10:27 PM  
**To:** Jenny G&S ( )  
**Subject:** Back to Barwon Downs

Dear Jenny, I have become more involved in the history of Barwon Downs lately. In fact they have created a little history centre where the primary school used to be, to be opened on Sat May 8<sup>th</sup>. It will be a real 'back to' so put that date in your diary and don't miss it.

What was your father's name again? I might come across more information now. We have reprinted the school booklets. Were you in one of the pictures? What years were you at the school? Do you need copies? Have you gathered any more information?

Hope all is well, Cheers, Ken

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Version: 8.5.432 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2650 - Release Date: 01/27/10 19:36:00

24/06/2010

F&DHS DOCUMENT ARCHIVE  
Title...THE FLETCHER FAMILY  
History of FORREST  
Source BEV. MATTINGLEY.....  
DOC. 0135.0143.

Notes from Chas. Weir  
21.07.1948

## Chapter 2

### The Fletcher Family

From Bev Mattingley

The history of the Fletcher family so far as this narrative is concerned begins at Marlow on the Thames not far from London. Three families are concerned: the Easts, the Stanboroughs, and the Fletchers. A certain Mr Fletcher married a Ann Lomax and they had two sons Thomas East Fletcher and Charles Fletcher. Their sister Betty married William White in 1851 in Melbourne.??

The two Fletchers who were cabinet makers in London, married and had young families when they decided to migrate to Australia. Charles Fletcher's wife was Sarah Stanborough. The Fletcher brothers embarked on the same ship a small sailing vessel called *Medina* and after long voyage of about 5 months, arrived at Geelong about 1853. The conditions on the goldfields did not appeal to them with their young families. William White decided to open a business in Rokewood which was not only a prosperous goldfield, but the centre of a pastoral district. He built a stone building, which was not only a general store, drapery ironmongery, post office etc but was also a residence for himself and his family of two daughters. Charles Fletcher, no doubt influenced by his relative William White, also made his home in Rokewood and opened a cabinet makers and carpenter's shop close to White's store and erected a nice home for his family nearby. There were three children in his family, - Charles, Rosetta and Medina, the latter so called because she was born on the *Medina* about two months before the vessel arrived at Geelong. William White and Charles Fletcher remained at Rokewood for the rest of their lives.

Thomas East Fletcher (who married Sarah E Wilder - died 1867) did not settle down in any place for long. He was a tall fine looking man, genial and popular with his friends. He decided to go into the hotel business and to establish hostelries of the English type, for the better class of people. He built hotels in various goldfields, moving from one place to another as the population diminished. At Piggoreet he built a hotel which became very well known to travellers, which he named 'The Coach and Horses'. At Carngham he built another which he named 'The Old House at Home'. These were the names of the popular hostelries in London. At Happy Valley he built another hotel, the name of which I cannot recall. He had several sons and daughters. The sons were named - Thomas, Harry and Charles. The daughters were Lilian, Fanny, Sarah, Elizabeth and Victoria. He was proud of his country, and was a good singer. Two of his songs I recall - 'I'm an Englishman' and 'The Ivy Green'.

It was at Happy Valley that the Fletcher and Weir families became connected by the marriage of Rebecca Lilian Fletcher to Joseph Weir (2).

Another family which comes into this history must be mentioned here.

A young Scotchman named Andrew Porteous migrated to Victoria before the discovery of gold and took up an extensive area of good land at Carngham, adjoining Phillip Russell's estate. Later he married a young Scotch widow named Janet Dempsey who had a young son John. Three daughters and a son Robert were subsequently born to them. His stepson, John, was brought up as his own and became his right hand in the management of his sheep station. Andrew Porteous was appointed as Protector of the Carngham tribe of blacks, at that time very numerous. Rosetta Fletcher of Rokewood, visiting Carngham when her uncle Thomas East Fletcher was in business there, became acquainted with John Dempsey-Porteous as he was always named and married him not long after her cousin Lilian Fletcher married Joseph Weir (2). They took up their residence in Carngham and all of their eight children except the youngest were born there. John Dempsey-Porteous, continued with his step father, Andrew Porteous until the death of the latter when the estate was sold. His half brother Robert and the three sisters purchased station properties in New South Wales. John Dempsey-Porteous who had received a legacy from his step father, decided to remain in Victoria, and purchased a block of land at Gerangamite in the foothills of the Otway Forest. This land was

only partly cleared. With the assistance of his father in law, Charles Fletcher, who came from Rokewood to help him, he built a nice six roomed house with a wide verandah running all round it and settled down to the business of hop growing which at that time seemed to offer profitable returns. This place was named Rosevale, in honour of his wife.

## CHAPTER 3

### Joseph Weir (2) and family

#### ROKEWOOD AND BALLARAT

As set out earlier I was the third son of Joseph Weir (2) and was born at Derwent Jack's on 21 July 1868. My first memories are associated with Rokewood when I was four years old. In the interval the family home had been moved to Rokewood then a prosperous mining town. I now had a little sister Alice two years old and though it may seem abnormal I distinctly remember being taken into my mother's room to see my new baby brother as a new arrival. I also remember my mother's grief not long after, when she was told that the pet goat, which supplied milk for the baby, had been shot by a land owner. I also have many other more pleasant memories.

My mother's Aunt Sarah (Stanborough) lived close to our home and I liked Cousin Dina (Medina). Just a little way up on the main street was Uncle William White's store where Uncle Charlie Fletcher (my mother's brother) worked and sometimes took me out in his spring cart when he was delivering goods. Cousins Polly and Lizzie (Uncle William's two daughters) made much of me when I went on errands to the store. (They were of course my mother's cousin).

My brothers Will and Joe (3) went to the Common School. I did not go there but I did go to Sunday school where, on my first visit, the teacher gave me the task of learning the first verse of Lord, A little band and lowly, to be repeated on the following Sunday. The Whites and Fletchers all went to the Church of England, but our family all went to the Presbyterian Church nearby, which had a taller spire and seemed to me to be much more impressive. I recall a children's party when I learned to sing Put me in my little bed, and another party where I learned another song For he's a jolly good fellow...,and so she all a bus,! I did not know what the last line meant till some years later, when I also was told that the party, was on the occasion of the marriage of Cousin Polly and Donald Cameron (1875). Donald was the village blacksmith. I spent a good deal of time in his forge, but I liked him best in kilts. He was a big tall young man and noted at all Highland gatherings as a champion in various athletic games. The Cameron family eventually settled in Ballarat where there are numerous descendants now. Lizzie White married but left no family.

#### 1874

The next move of the Weir family was to Ballarat when I was six years old. Uncle Charlie Fletcher drove my mother and the five children there in the store wagon. Our home was in Darling Street, close to the Band and Albion mine in which my father was now working. The new system of State Schools had been instituted to replace, common Schools, and the nearest State School was in Smythes Road, Redan. It was not quite finished, so we three bothers were sent to a private Catholic School till the new State School was ready. We all attended the State School the first day it was opened. I was placed in the ABC, Joe in the first class, and Will in the second. I liked school and caught up to Joe when he was in the second class. We went to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and Sunday School every Sunday morning and had to tell the text when we got home. Father sang in the choir. We were a happy family and we all enjoyed singing together in the evenings.

## CHAPTER V

### GERANGAMITE AND FORREST

On arrival at Ballarat father told me about my new job. It appeared that he had recently met my mother's cousin Rose (Mrs JD Porteous) who was visiting some of her friends at Carngham, and her mother at Rokewood. She had written to her husband at Gerangamite and he had offered to give me employment on his farm on learning from her that father was looking for a job for me. I have no doubt that father realised that the Kerr's had shown foresight in putting their money into land, as both Will and Joe were certainly not lacking in employment so he fitted me out with clothes. A few days later he took me to the Ballarat Railway Station to meet Mrs Porteous who was returning to Gerangamite. He said to me 'Now I have done all I can for you. You are to get 5/- a week and will learn farming, and will be near your brothers. From now on you must depend on yourself'.

I was fifteen years old and as tall as I am now. None of the three brothers grew any taller after 15 years old and we were mortified when boys of the same age as us, who were much smaller than we were, kept on growing till they were about twenty years old and left us far behind.

Mrs Porteous was surprised to see that 'the young nut, as her mother still called me was so big. We were met at the Birregurra Railway Station by her husband, and he seemed pleased that he was getting a much bigger and stronger boy than he had bargained for. Then followed the twenty mile drive through the foothills to Gerangamite. Strangely enough many members of the Fletcher family were settled in this locality. To begin with my mother's sister Fanny had married a man named George Wellings and her eldest brother had also married (Thomas Fletcher). These two men had taken up land at Barwon Downs, and converted it into two profitable farms. George Wellings with the aid of a large family was engaged in dairying, and Tom Fletcher, also with a large family, carried on dairying and in addition had a team of bullocks with which he carted timber.

Charles Fletcher of Rokewood, my mother's cousin had heard of their prosperity, and had decided to take up land near them. He had learned the trade of a carpenter from his father, switched from that to a butchery business at Rokewood and failing in that now also with a large family coming on, had decided to go on the land.

The decision had prompted John Dempsey Porteous to go to Gerangamite to bring up his family in the same way, in the same locality as his wife's brother, Charles Fletcher.

Further still, my brother Will, had become tired of slaving on his Uncle Richard's farm at Camperdown, without wages, the said uncle was a slave driver who slaved himself and made all his family do likewise.

Will had come to Ballarat to see his father then to Happy Valley to see me then to Rokewood to see other relatives there. He then saw Charlie Fletcher (mother's cousin) who persuaded him to go with him to the Otway Forest and select land next to his block. This Will had done, and then sent to Camperdown to get his brother Joe to join him. This he gladly did, thankful to get away from his unpleasant Uncle Richard.

So I found the following related families within five miles of my new home:

John Dempsey Porteous and Mrs Porteous (Catherine Rosetta -mother's cousin) at Gerangamite  
Charles Fletcher (mother's cousin) at Forrest  
Thomas Fletcher (mother's brother) at Barwon Downs  
George & Mrs. Wellings (mother's sister) at Barwon Downs  
William and Joseph Weir (my brothers) at Forrest

I found my new home vastly different from that at Happy Valley. Mr & Mrs Porteous were strict Presbyterians and I had little opportunity to wander. We worked from early morning till dark milking, feeding pigs, ploughing, clearing, grubbing etc. associated with a half-cleared block. It was the same on every block and settlers saw little of each other except on Sunday afternoons which was regarded as visiting time. But not so with the Porteous family. They neither visited nor received visitors on Sunday. Meals were cooked on Saturday and served cold on Sunday. All light reading was forbidden. The children's toys were put away and they had Bible lessons from their parents. There were no churches nor Sunday Schools within many miles. Only necessary work, such as milking and feeding pigs, was carried out. I was checked for whistling, which to me was second nature, if I could not sing. When I replied that I was whistling a hymn, it raised a problem. But no bar was imposed on my visiting my brothers on Sunday after I had finished milking and pig feeding and this I did regularly. They lived in a tent, roofed over with bark, working hard on their block, but on Sundays we went about together, and I made the acquaintance of several aunts and uncles and numerous cousins.

There were eight children in the Porteous family. The eldest girl Jessie was at this time (1884) living with her grandmother (Janet Porteous) at Ballarat and attending the St Andrews Ladies College there. The long evenings were spent in reading mostly.

There was one family I sometimes visited at night. They lived about a mile away. They had all been born on this farm (the six children I mean). Their ages ranged from 15 to 25. The parents were English, both well educated but only the youngest boy Joe, had been taught to read and write as for many years there had been no school within 20 miles. I never learned the story of how this English couple, coming to Victoria about the time of the gold fever had elected to go away into the heart of the Otway Forest, 60 miles from the nearest railway station at Geelong and live on what they produced, and the wild animals and fish that were abundant there. The eldest girl and the mother had done heavy manual work, cutting timber, driving bullocks. The mother was not prematurely aged and bowed, and the girl Esther looked twice her age. The brothers were all splendid specimens of humanity each about 6 feet tall except the youngest. Mary, the other daughter, had evidently been favoured. She did the house work and was probably the most beautiful young woman I ever saw. She and her brothers were unconscious of their good looks. They had never been on a train nor seen enough other people to make comparisons. Mary had learned from her younger brother to read a little and also write. She would be about 20 at this time and always looked neat and clean. They welcomed my visits. I was looked on as someone who had seen the world of which they had heard. When I took my concertina and played and sang for them they were delighted. It was worthwhile going through the dark forest, and crossing the river on a log, to get away sometimes from the austere atmosphere of the Porteous home. Mary always called me Prince Charlie. But I had to be back home by 10 o'clock.

Hop picking time was a bright interlude. Mr Porteous whom it was agreed I should call Uncle, had with my assistance built a barn 60 x 30 with sawn timber and I learned a good deal of the carpentering trade I had fancied. There was also a kiln attached to dry the hops. Quite a number of pickers were employed including several aborigines about whom I have written elsewhere.

After I had been there about a year, the eldest daughter Jessie came home from Ballarat and things brightened up considerably. She was a charming young girl nearly seventeen years old, and the young men around would have given a good deal to know her better, but the Sunday rules put this out of the question. One of the Grant boys, a blonde giant, often found it necessary to consult Uncle about stock etc. but he rarely got a chance to speak to her, and when he did he was speechless. Jessie's mother adopted her primmest attitude towards him, and he was awed. In the second year I had a chance of visiting Happy Valley. Jessie's grandmother, (Sarah S) who spent a good deal of time in the forest officiating at the birth of various grandchildren, wanted to go back to Rokewood, and Jessie was to go with her to have a course of pious tuition there. Her father (John Dempsey-Porteous) had been an invalid for months and I was deputed to drive them to Rokewood about 45

miles across country. Leaving the horse and buggy at Rokewood I went by coach to Happy Valley. Poor old grandmother (Sarah Weir d 1887) was overjoyed to see me and clung to me at parting. I never saw her again. She had for years been a martyr to varicose ulcers in one leg and during the whole time I lived at the Valley I don't think that she once left the house. Grandfather said little as usual, but was pleased to see me. He never visited anyone but his son in law Sam Todd. I never remember either of them going to the hotel near by, with one exception on an election day, when grandfather seemed very obstinate after calling at the hotel after voting. I went on to Ballarat and spent a couple of days with father in his bachelor home. Shortly after that he came to Forrest to help build a home for Will and Joe, who had had enough of life in a tent.

About six months after I arrived at Rosevale, I plucked up enough courage to ask Uncle for a rise of wages. He was surprised. He said it was clearly understood that my engagement was for twelve months. Father had not told me that, but I let the matter drop although I was doing the work of a man on the farm, in consequence of his illness I thought that he might have waived that point. At the end of the first year, he offered me 7/6 a week for the ensuing twelve months, which I accepted. When Jessie returned from Rokewood she brightened up the place again. We had music and singing in the parlour, and her parents became much more cordial. I had always been treated as one of the family, but with reserve. I had my own room and everything done for me. I fancy that Aunt Sarah (Jessie's grandmother) had predicted trouble with "that young nut" in the house, but after about a year's probation in the home, they had formed a favourable opinion of me.

Jessie and I had certainly come to know each other well and before I left at the end of the second year, we had entered into a compact to wait for each other. This of course was unknown to the parents, who had quite other ideas for their eldest daughter.

I was offered 10/- a week for a third year period, but had discussed this matter previously with Will & Joe who wanted me to come in with them. It had been our ambition to get together once more. We had a deep affection for each other so I declined to stay on at Rosevale. So after nine years of separation, Weir Bros, became partners again. I was elected treasurer, and signed all cheques, Weir Bros CW. This partnership lasted four years nearly, and we never once had a disagreement. Sometimes we worked for others to earn some cash. We got 1 pound a week each then. The first job I took was as a cook not long after I had left Rosevale. We took our cooking in turns, week about at Fernville, as our place was called. I had just about mastered the art of breadmaking in a camp oven, which included making yeast as well as other things, could do something with scones and pufferloonies which go well with butter. A survey party was in want of a cook. The one they had had too great a fondness for the whisky bottle, and they were tired of finding no meal ready when the return to camp. Joe came to hear of this and told them a story about me and I was engaged before I had heard of the vacancy.

## **FORREST 1886**

The survey camp was located high up the Otway Ranges where virgin forest land was being surveyed. There were six men in the party including myself, three tents, in each of which two men slept, and a larger tent which was the dining and supply room. The tall gum trees shut out the sunlight (if any) overhead. It was necessary to clear away scrub to get room for the camp and rain fell so frequently that the scrub was nearly always wet, and waterproof overalls, high leggings and waterproof boots were worn. The men went out each morning to survey, wet or fine, and came back to camp each evening. My job was to cook all food, hot breakfast, cut the lunches, and have a hot meal ready at night. Also to go down among the settlers, and purchase all necessary foodstuff and carry it, or pack it on one of the two packhorses to the camp. The horses were kept as near to camp as possible, depending upon where they could get into a grass paddock.

At the camp there was no dry wood. Fires had to be lit each morning and stoked with green wood. There was no shelter for the fire and all cooking had to be done outside, wet or dry. Imagine baking bread in such conditions. The bread was set, overnight, and it rose, by morning. The dough was then kneaded and placed in the camp oven. In the meantime, a good fire had been burning for a couple of hours, which was brushed aside, the camp oven then placed in a hole where the fire had been and covered over with hot charcoal and ashes, a sheet of bark placed over it if it were raining, and in an hour's time the campoven was opened up and a loaf of good sweet bread turned out (mostly). Meals consisted of meat and vegetables (meat boiled or fried) at night, a good boiled plum pudding finished the repast. There was little change of diet. My culinary skill did not run to cakes, and as far as I can remember scones were only provided when weather and other conditions were favourable. I was with the party three months, and we travelled through the forest from the Wye River to the Gellibrand River shifting camp as required. In the bad weather camp conditions became bad also. Bark had to be renewed in the tents often, as it sank down into the muddy ground. We had some unpleasant experiences. Crossing the Aire River I narrowly escaped drowning. Continuing our journey the next day to the Gellibrand we become bushed in the forest. We had no food our supplies having mostly been lost at the Aire River, but we had obtained from the Aire River station a dressed sheep and expected to be able to get full supplies when we reached Princetown. So we camped where we had got bushed and waited for daylight next morning to enable us to get our bearings. A good fire was made in spite of the pouring rain, and the sheep cut into where each of us roasted mutton on sticks at the fire, and then we cut sheets of bark from the trees and lay on them all night as we were, mostly very wet. Next morning we got going and reach Moonlight Heads. There was a shepherds hut there, the outpost of a cattle station. The shepherd's wife saw us emerging from the forest and thought we were a shipwreck party, as no one had ever come from there before, but it was only a lot of hungry men, who had eaten nothing for 24 hours, except a few half raw chops. She had nothing to offer us but plenty of potatoes, which she sliced and fried as soon as she could, and we ate for an hour in turns as fast as she could turn them out. I had never tasted potato chips before and thought they were excellent.

We camped at Moonlight Heads for about three weeks. I had spare time on my hands as food supplies were handy, and every day spent some hours exploring the rocky coast line where several ships had been wrecked. I took greater risks than I knew, for if I had overstayed in some places, the incoming tide would have cut off all hope of getting back, the cliffs were 400 feet high there.

We had some pleasant evenings together in the various camps. One of the young men was musical and knew many songs. We frequently sang, together or solo, and my tinwhistle came into play often. I had a brush with the boss at one camp. The scrub was so dense that no horse could be brought to it. I had to pack all food in myself and all our camp equipment had to be carried in. On leaving there all our belongings had to be carried out for two miles to where the horses were kept. We were all loaded up except the surveyor, who only had to do a course of field work to become qualified, who as befitted a gentleman, had only his personal belonging to carry. There was still some stuff left and the surveyor ordered me to add it to my burden. As I already had a heavy load I refused, and told him that Tom -the aforesaid pupil- had very little to carry and as far as I was concerned if he did not carry it, it could stay there. Tom had to carry it, but the boss got even later. Working back from the Gellibrand we got through without any of the previous trouble and reached Apollo Bay, where we had previously camped and I had some interesting experiences. The boss found out that Harry, his previous cook, was at Apollo Bay on the water wagon and repentant. He immediately engaged him. He certainly was a much better cook than myself. The boss paid me off forthwith, and indicated I was free to go home. It was winter time and home was over twenty miles away. There was then only a bush track leading over Mt Sabine. It was in many places deep in mud. The tall scrub at the sides of the track was impenetrable and the mud could not be escaped. At one stage it took me four hours hard going to cover four miles and even the best places were difficult as the track had been cut up by a mob of cattle coming from Glen Aire Station. I reached an old settlers hut after dark with still five miles to go. He took me in and gave me a good meal. He then made a lantern for me by the simple process of putting an inch of water into a long necked bottle,

putting it into the hot ashes of his fire, and giving it a knock, when, heigh presto, the bottom fell out of it at the water line. He then put a candle into the neck of the bottle and my lantern was complete. I set off, tired but refreshed. It was all down hill now, and at length I reached home to find the placed locked up. A good fire was burning inside. Will and Joe were out visiting. There was a kind of verandah in front of the house made up of logs, and when my brothers came home some hours later, they found me lying on the logs fast asleep.

Every summer Will and Joe used to go with a threshing machine to earn money to carry them on. A farm worker's wages were 1 pound a week but more could be made with the thresher which worked very long hours. George Wellings our uncle, was in charge and ran the engine etc. Will was feeder and got 2 pounds a week from the owner. The other men were paid sixpence an hour by the farmer for time actually worked. It was decided when I joined the farm that two of us would go with the machine every summer, while one stopped home and worked on the block. Joe and myself would take it in turns to stay at home. The first day I worked I was done in by the 12 hours continuous work, and when the whistle blew at 4.45 am I thought I had only just gone to bed. I was so stiff I could hardly move. We had to be on the machine at 5 am. In a few days, however, I got used to the work and could carry on with comfort. This was the general experience of all men, no matter how used they were to ordinary hard work. Every man worked like a machine without a moment's cessation. The machine had a great steel cylinder, call the drum about six feet long which revolved at tremendous speed and beat the grain out of the stalks. The feeder stood in a pit in front of the drum, and two band cutters threw sheaves to him in such a way that with a sweep of his hand he opened it up and fed it along the full length of the drum. Four men on the sheaf stack pitched the sheaves. The two nearest the band cutters piled sheaves in front of them in such a way that they could life the sheaves (at the rate of about one every two seconds) with the knife blade held flat under the twine band, and with a turn of the wrist cut the band and drop it just where the feeder wanted it. I was mostly band cutting. The engine was taken from place to place by six bullocks, with the machine, like a small house, following drawn by eight bullocks. I was timekeeper, kept each man's working time and settled with each farmer when his stacks were thrashed and then paid each man his wages. I got no pay for this extra work. We liked the change from the monotony of the bush work. The machine travelled over the Western district farms as far as Mortlake. We met people whom we liked and renewed their acquaintance each year. Most of our men were regulars, but occasionally some would leave for some reason or other, and then the boss would get some swagman or other to work with him. Some of these men were well educated and highly connected men, on the road mostly because of drink. One whom we call Dublin, that was the only name he gave us, we more than suspected as a doctor educated at the Dublin University. There were many other interesting cases.

My mate who was band cutting dropped out, and a young swaggie happened along looking for a mob just then and was put on with me. He made no secret of his past life. He was about 19 years old. His father had apprenticed him to a merchant sailing ship. He had run away at Melbourne and got as far as Cororooke. He was from Yorkshire, and we called him, Yorcky, I forget his real name. He was a fine young chap. He had been with us a few weeks. The machine was working and I had stepped down to get a drink at the engine. As I was walking back there was a loud thud, and the belt flew off the driving wheel. 'Good God! What's that' my uncle said, and ran up the ladder. I followed. There was Yorcky in the drum of the machine. He had stepped into it with one leg and fallen across it with his body in such a way that it was clear of the drum. As was the practice when one man left for a few minutes, the remaining man had to work twice as fast -and Yorcky had obviously lifted one foot to reach for a sheaf and as there was no safety guard, he had put it down a little too far and into the drum. He was lifted out and carried down to the ground. His left leg was gone high up above the knee. He was not in pain and quite conscious. My one thought was to get a doctor. I ran into the paddock, grabbed a pony and set off for Colac at a gallop. I reached the doctor's house. He was out. I went to the place he was visiting and picked him up. After hearing my story he rode with me to his home for some extra implements and we set off at a gallop for Cororooke about 8 miles. Half way there we met a waggonette with Yorcky aboard and Uncle and

Will. The doctor examined Yorky and put a tourniquet on (which had not been done) and we drove direct to the hospital where Yorky was operated on at once. Will and I waited outside. Uncle helped with the operation. He was dangerously ill for a time. Few people recovered from this accident, which from time to time happened on threshers, but eventually Yorky recovered. The Colac people practically adopted him. They got in touch with his father, who sent his fare and asked for him to be sent home. A good sum of money had also been raised at Colac so Yorky had a good send off. It was his cheerful spirit, which his accident had failed to extinguish that made him a favourite of all who met him.

One day a couple of men came looking for a job. We were short of men and they were both put on at once. They were brothers, Jim and Tom Doyle, both of splendid physique, but obviously recovering from a spree. Jim's eye was badly discoloured. The white of one was blood red. They proved to be first class workers. I liked Tom but not Jim. At meal times he boasted of his exploits - the number of policemen it took to arrest him and how long he was in, for at different times. Tom was quiet. I asked him one day what made Jim's eye such a peculiar colour 'Well', he said, 'It's like this Charlie. Jim and I are known as the best fighters in the Western district. No one put up against us has ever won. A couple of weeks ago Jim said to me 'I say Tom, you and I have never been beaten. I wonder who is the best man of the two?' So we had a fight to decide the matter and Jim decided I was too good for him. That's how he got that eye.'" I may add that these men never used gloves in their fights.

One day when the machine was working Tom was pitching to me and he said "You are not singing today, Charlie. The work always goes better when you sing". I used to sign at work softly to myself, and had no idea that I could be heard above the loud hum of the drum.

We finished up that year at Camperdown and I stayed a week there visiting friends. When I was riding home through the Stony Rises I came across Tom Doyle carrying his swag. He had stayed at a hotel at Camperdown till he had drunk the value of all his money and was now looking for work. He borrowed two shillings from me. The sequel came some years later when I was living in Geelong. A big fellow stopped me in the street and asked me for the price of a loaf of bread. He said frankly that he had spent all his money on booze but was now leaving Geelong to get work. I recognised him at once. It was Tom, but he did not know me. I was in a white collar job. My answer was "Look here Tom! The last time I saw you was in the Stony Rises and I lent you two bob, and now you are after more money". He was completely staggered and then he gasped 'Why. It's Charlie!' I asked him about Jim. He said "Poor old Jim. He was lying out in the wet and cold when he was tight and he got pneumonia and passed out". He would not take more than a shilling from me. Said he could get plenty of work. I had often envied these men their splendid physique but it would not stand up against the life they led.

Another season there was an incident that had a humorous side. We were travelling along the road near the Warriors to another farm about a 2 hours journey. We left before dinner time and planned to get dinner when we reached the next place about 1.30 pm. There was a vineyard fronting the road and the owner had a small shop on the roadway with the sign "Licensed to sell wine". The boss stopped the teams so that we could get a glass of wine to help us until dinner time. We all went in and the wine was handed round. I refused the drink, so did Will. I had no special reason. Wine was always considered the proper thing on festive occasions. I had tasted it, but did not care for it. My uncle however, was very enthusiastic about the wine. He said he had never tasted better asked the price per bottle and said he would take a dozen bottles home when we had finished threshing. They all, with the exception of Will and myself, had two or three glasses each. About an hour later I noticed that the bullock teams drawing the engine and the thresher, were going from one side of the road to the other. Will and I investigated and found both drivers stumbling along and doing nothing to guide the teams. We got them to drive off the road and pull up, which was done, and they immediately began to be violently sick. Going back we found Uncle and the rest of the team in the same plight groaning and making a lot of contortions. Will told me to take the pony and let the

farmer know that we were delayed. I had dinner at the farm and then returned to relieve Will and let him go for his dinner. It was nearly dark before they recovered sufficiently to bring the machines along and that night some of them could still be heard groaning etc. Next day I asked Uncle about the wine he was going to take home. I never saw him so angry. He said he had learned that the wine sold at that shop was not matured and was fortified with spirits and that, taken on empty stomachs, had caused it to have a bad effect. When years later I heard in the Mallee about the dire effect of "pinky" on those who drank it, I thought of this incident.

That year I went on a chaff cutting plant and also a straw pressing plant after I finished with the thresher. Though the work was not so continuous, it was most unpleasant -because of dust etc. However I was nearly five months away from the block and brought back a good sum of money for the general fund.

Home again I soon got in touch with 'Rosevale'. The Sunday ban still existed, of course, but Jessie and her sister Kate (Catherine) always went for a walk on the Sunday afternoon, and strangely enough often met me on their land, but did not think it necessary to mention this to their parents. Then their father, who had been ailing for so long became obviously near his end and I and several of the older male relatives were sent for by my aunt. (1887). I was with him at the last, and aunt put everything into my hands. I had to go to Colac and Birregurra, make all arrangements in connection with the funeral, and after his interment at the Birregurra Cemetery, which according to Scottish custom was only attended by menfolk, came back to Rosevale and read out his Will to the assembled family. A day or two later I took his widow to see his last resting place.

From that time on my aunt, (Catherine Rosetta) treated me as her eldest son and talked over her family affairs with me. Before his death John Dempsey Porteous had bought a portion of her brother Charlie's land at Forrest. It had a fair sized house on it. Her brother built another house across the river on the land he retained which was Violet Grove. Aunt, as I still called her, conceived the idea of selling Rosevale and shifting to her property at Forrest. She told a Crown Lands Bailiff who was visiting around officially, of her desire to sell, and he told her that he thought he could get a buyer for it. She said "if you do I will make you a good present". Later he sent word that he and a possible buyer, would be out on a certain date to make an inspection, and she promptly sent for me to come and show them over. This I did, and knowing the land so thoroughly I pointed out all its good points and was silent on its bad ones. I had suggested to aunt that she should ask 12 pound per acre. The buyer was impressed but beat aunt down to 10 pound an acre, which she accepted, and the contract was signed, the deposit paid, the balance to be paid within a month's time. Now comes the joke. Aunt was quite unaware of any business transactions, her husband had done everything in that line, and had no idea that the CL Bailiff was expecting a commission, which by the way he was not entitled to, and as a Government servant would have got himself into trouble if it were known he did any of that sort of business.

In fulfilment of her promise, she led him out of the house to where on the verandah, a beautiful camellia was growing in a tub and said "There Mr Duncan, is the present I promised you, I prize it very much but it is yours". I would like to have seen Duncan's face, but of course he could not tell her he was expecting money. He declined the present, and later, when the family shifted to "Marlow" as her new home was named after her birthplace in Kent, I took the camellia out of the tub and planted it in the flower garden where it flourished for many years.

Previous to this, the Church of England curate at Birregurra had started services in the new State School at Yaugher. The Bishop of Ballarat, whose diocese embraced the Otway Forest, wished to see for himself this part of this charge. The Porteous home was the best in the district and the curate asked that the bishop be given hospitality there. Aunt's reply was characteristic. "I will be happy to have him and yourself here, but I want you to understand clearly that I will not call him 'My Lord'". It was arranged that he should arrive on a Saturday and hold a service in the barn. (I had heard the bishop preach at Happy Valley. He was a saintly looking man, with snowy white hair. His name

was Dr Thornton. He took for his text "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree" and I remember much of his sermon).

The bishop arrived in due course, and was installed in the best bedroom which was never used except for special visitors. He and the curate had meals with the family. I can visualize it now. The long table in the big dining room, Aunt in her place at the head of the table, the bishop and curate side by side in the centre. Aunt smiling across at the bishop 'Will you have another cup of tea, Doctor? (She had beautiful dark expressive eyes, and could be very charming). The curate 'May I pass you some cake, my Lord?' On Sunday the bishop issued from his room in his Episcopal robes, and walked across to the barn, where people had gathered from miles around to hear him preach. There must have been 60 or 70 people there. The text was taken from Acts, Verses 13 & 14 'Send for Peter, who shall tell thee words whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved'. I have never forgotten his sermon and have preached some of the same text myself. Aunt told him I had heard him preach at Happy Valley but he never went out of his way to speak to me.

Later it was decided to build a Church of England at Yaugher. Tenders were called and the successful contractor who lived some distance away engaged me to help him. We set out the building according to plans, and erected most of the framework. Then the contractor had to go elsewhere and I suggested that he should put on Joe to help me. So I was put in charge with Joe as my helper, and we finished the building with occasional visits from the contractor and it was approved by the architect. It was a pretty church, of Gothic design, and was used by other denominations for a number of years until it was destroyed by a bush fire. A Sunday School was established there, the first in the district, in which Jessie, Joe and myself were teachers. I mention the building of this church to show how I had profited by my barn building experience, and also because it gave Joe a start in the building trade, in which he afterwards made his living as a carpenter.

## FORREST

About this time we had a visit from father, Joseph(2). He knew all about us, for we corresponded regularly. He did not often have a holiday.

In December 1877 he took me from Happy Valley on a visit to my brothers at Camperdown. I got my first glimpse of the sea at Geelong, and enjoyed the journey especially the coach ride behind four horses from Colac to Camperdown. From time to time I went from HV to spend a holiday with him at Ballarat. He had bought a small house and lived alone. I thought he was a great cook.

Mining had been revived in Ballarat -with the discovery of rich quartz reefs which introduced a new form of goldmining with shafts at times thousands of feet deep. Father was on the Board of Directors of a company which had been floated "The Star of the East Gold Mining Co. Ltd.". It had been working for years without success. Shareholders had to pay calls to provide working expenses. Father had 1300 shares and though he was in continuous employment it must have been a great struggle to meet these calls. Still he had faith in the ultimate success of the mine. He made arrangements with the mine manager to pay any call for him that might be made during his absence. He came one December just before Will and Joe went off with the thresher. It was my turn to stay on the block and father kept me company. It was a treat for me. I was very fond of him and he taught me a good deal about the Tonic Sol-Far system of music. He was a good singer, a regular churchgoer, and a member of a Presbyterian Church choir.

During his visit the first bush fire which took place in the Otway Forrest occurred. It was a terrifying experience, but we saved the house. I have never seen such a magnificent spectacle as the hills opposite our place presented that night, as the fire which had passed our place continued on. The trees looked like giant torches. Some of the dry trees sent upward a stream of sparks which

looked like rockets bursting and as trees fell to the ground the sparks flew upward like a beautiful fan. I was anxious about 'Rosevale' and rode across as soon as possible late at night. Trees were burning along the track, and in some places had fallen across it, but I got through with difficulty, and was relieved to find all the buildings standing. There were no lights showing so I rode back. I learned afterwards that they had a great struggle to save the house -some carrying buckets of water from the river nearby, others posted on the roof and pouring water where the shingles had been set on fire, where lighted pieces of bark from the trees had blown on it. All our people came through safely but a few miles away two men were trapped and burnt to death.

Then came the good news. 'The Star of the East' had struck a rich quartz reef. Shares had jumped up from 11- each to 24/1 shillings. Father had become rich! I felt like a millionaire myself.

Later when father got back he discovered that he had nothing. A call of 3d a share had been called. His friend had not paid it. The shares had been forfeited and sold for a few pence each shortly before the gold bearing quartz had been found.

When in Ballarat some years later I heard the story from some of father's friends who had plenty to say about the mine manager. It was said that he and a few men in the know, had kept secret the discovery of gold, till forfeited shares were offered for sale, and then they bought them up and reaped a rich harvest. I never heard father make any adverse comment. I tried to get him to talk, but he said 'It's no use saying anything about it now'. That was typical of him. I never heard him say one unkind thing about anybody.

I was far from satisfied with the outlook at Forrest. It was obvious to me that our block was a very poor one and would never support one family, much less three. I heard that men were wanted in the Railway Department, and twice made application, but was thrown out in the ballot. I wrote to the Postmaster-General and after some correspondence became aware of the method of entering the Public Service. Both Joe and myself put in applications to be examined for the General Division. A perusal of examination papers had convinced me that without further tuition I could not successfully compete in the Clerical Division. We went to Geelong for the examination and later learned that we had passed but Joe was too low down to be called, as there were only 20 vacancies.

I was working on the threshing machine at Beac when an official looking letter was given to me. Joe had re-addressed it from Forrest. It asked me to report without delay at the GPO Melbourne.

So I bade the thresher goodbye forever, and presented myself as directed at Melbourne This was December 1889. I was 21 years of age.