R. A. MARSH

CHURCH STREET GREENSBOROUGH

Richard Arthur Marsh was born in England c1871 to Shepshard Marsh and Angeline Arnold, it is not known exactly when he arrived in Australia. In his early days in Victoria he lived in South Yarra. Before his marriage, Richard was shown to be living at “Evelyn House” in Church Street, Greensborough.

In 1907 Richard purchased a bluestone house, on the corner of Hailes Street and Church Street in Greensborough, built by Jonah Britnell in 1861. The name of the house was “Dunbar”. It was built before the railway came to Greensborough, that is why the house is so close to the line.

Richard made alterations to the house, with bluestones from the Gas & Fuel Company, where he worked as a Civil Engineer. People used to say they could smell the gas in the bluestones. He built a fence around the house, and added a hitching post on the corner. Just inside the original front gate, where there was a bluestone seat, where he had attached a ring to tie up the horses. Later he built a cellar room for hanging their meat in, then he built a second cellar. Both in bluestone, the second cellar, was attached to the front of the house, near the railway line. Both are still there today.

Richard was sent to Spain for the Gas & Fuel Company, while there he met a young girl aged 14, named Teresa Bautista, he told her he would come back and marry her when she turned 21. He kept his word and brought her to Australia in 1921. Before they were married, she lived in Ormond. They married in 1923 in Victoria; they had three sons, Arnold, Richard and Gordon. Teresa never lost her Spanish accent.

Arnold never married, he lived with his mother until her death. Isobela Grant Marsh, known in the area as “Miss Marsh” lived with Richard and his family. Obviously related, she was a nurse at the Austin Hospital, she died in 1944 aged 68.

 The house is still much the same today, with an extension added. The present owners have lived there for 14 years, as did the owners before them. Both owners loved the house and kept it much the same inside, the old fireplaces are just the same as they were.

Teresa Maria Bautista, was born in Spain c1898 to A. Bautista and Maria Mendess.

Teresa died in Greensborough in 1984, age 86.

Richard died in Greensborough in 1945 age 74.

Faye Fort & June Hall

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