**NEPEAN STREET - FACT OR FICTION?**

A few months ago, one of my neighbours said that the house of one of their neighbours, 216 Nepean (formerly Arthur) Street Greensborough, was the oldest in the street, and had been owned by someone who had farmed the land. I thought this was worth investigating, and started to identify past owners by checking Certificates of Title.

I knew that the land was part of Grace Park, owned by Frederick Augustus Nell, who had bought the land in 1877 from John Brown, the original Crown Grantee. (see *Grace Park and the Nell Family* in the GHS Collection)

Working back from the current owners (since 1997), I found that part of the large (81 x 200 ft.) block had originally been purchased from Nell's Estate by Thomas Moylan on 15/6/1916, part to Arthur Marshall on 17/12/1919, and another part by Peter Grunden on 17/2/1926. Marshall had subdivided and sold a part to Frank Howard, who had sold some to Annie Veness on 17/3/1944 (she had been a landholder in the area since 1929).

Now it gets more complicated. Moylan, Grunden and Veness all sold land to Harold and Mavis Waldron, a block each in 1954 and a further three blocks in 1961 (each described as part of Lot 1, LP 50685 reg. 9/10/1959). The latter blocks were consolidated on 1/5/1961 into C/T Vol. 8322 Fol. 237), on which the Waldrons were registered as joint proprietors. The block was resold in 1996 to Clarence & Margaret Roberts in 1966, to Stephen & Sharon Goodes in 1983, to Stephen & Katrina FitzPatrick in 1992 and to the current owner in 1997.

The occupations of the earlier purchasers were Clerk, Electrician, Property Salesman, Traveller, Spinster and Carpenter - not a farmer among them! So, was my neighbour being imaginative? He had lived there for nearly 50 years, and seemed to know the history of the street and its residents pretty well. Given the location of the house (photograph attached), which is very probably built prior to World War 2, before the consolidation of titles, and its apparent extension to the east, it may well have been built on the central (Grunden's) section of the current block and the surrounding land used either as a small domestic farm or as part of a larger, leased group of properties before my friend came to live there. Anyone out there know?

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*September 2018*

**References:**

Certificates of Title 3972/282, 5096/007, 6681/194, 8322/237, 112861/559, LP 50685 Ed. 1