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FALCONER
FAMILY
IN
AUSTRALIA

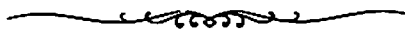
*Scotland
and
Australia*

EVELYN MAY KINGHAM

Dedication

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF HOWARD
STANLEY KINGHAM, O.B.E., E.D., J.P., WHO INSTIGATED
IT'S COMPILATION.





Acknowledgements

EVELYN AND THE LATE HOWARD KINGHAM - FOR COLLECTING
COMPILING AND EDITING THE INFORMATION IN THIS BOOK.
THOMAS AND IRENE BUTTERWORTH - FOR COMPILING THE FAMILY TREE
AND INFORMING US ALL OF RECENT HAPPENINGS AT REUNIONS.
DAVID KINGHAM - FOR THE PRINTING OF THIS RECORD OF THE
FALCONER FAMILY.
ELIZABETH KINGHAM - FOR THE TYPING OF THE INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN THIS BOOK.
JANICE KINGHAM - FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND EDITING.

Introduction

The third generation descendants of Thomas Meikleham and Eleanor Jane (nee Legerton) Falconer, pioneers of New Zealand and Australia, collected material from the following family members.

A journal written in 1910 by Miss Blanche Jane Pennell, a niece of Thomas Meikleham Falconer, was loaned to Evelyn and Howard Kingham, by Joseph Cameron of Edinburgh, a fifth generation descendant of Thomas and Bethia (nee Stuart) Meikleham.

On a visit to Edinburgh in 1968, Howard and Evelyn Kingham were taken by an Army friend to a solicitor's office to have some travellers cheques cashed. There it was that one of the partners, Joe Cameron discovered that Howard was a relative. At Joe and Celia's home that evening the missing part of the Meikleham family tree, which Joe was compiling was filled in with Falconers. Joe didn't know that Thomas Meikleham Falconer had arrived in New Zealand in 1863, had married, and reared eight children in Australia. So a long list of Falconers has been added to the Meikleham family tree. The first date on one early family tree which is in Joe's possession is a death dated 1705, so that takes the list of known ancestors back to the late 17th century.

Since that meeting Rene and Tom Butterworth, Margaret and Wilfred Brook, and Ian Falconer have enjoyed Joe and Celia's hospitality. During Howard and Evelyns few days stay with Joe and Celia in 1980 at their country home in West Linton, Peebleshire, a delightful day was spent on Rothesay. They travelled by car to the Clyde River, taking a ferry from Weymss to the island. It was a glorious sunny day and they found the island remarkably beautiful.

Other relations with whom Evelyn and Howard stayed for a few days were Daphne McNaught, a Meikleham descendant, and her husband Gordon. They live in West Hartlepool with their son and daughter, Edward and Julia. Gordon is the senior surgeon at the large hospital there. Howard had met Daphne in Edinburgh during 1947 and they were both happy to meet again.

Morisson Cameron, who lives in New Zealand corresponded with Rene and Tom Butterworth. He is descended from the same Meikleham ancestors as Joe Cameron and



Scotland

Daphne McNaught. Whilst touring in New Zealand a few years ago, Evelyn and Howard left their tour in Geraldine to visit Morisson and his wife Helen. They had lived in Edinburgh, but came to New Zealand to be near their daughter Elizabeth, who now lives in South Africa with her husband and son. Morisson's younger daughter, Caroline is married and lives not far from them in Christchurch, with her husband and sons.

Bethea MacFarlane, daughter of the Rev. Peter and Bethea MacFarlane, later lived in Edinburgh. She was a niece of Grandpa Falconer, and Stan Falconer visited her in 1928. Later, in 1947, Howard also visited her and filled in some of the family history. She was in a Nursing Home in Edinburgh, in 1956 when Nola Goode and Bethea Gifford visited.

At a family reunion at Dr. Ian Falconer's on Labour Day, 1974, a tape recording was taken by Rob Butterworth, of reminiscences of the early days, by Stan Falconer. Letters from Patrick Falconer and his wife Nell, of Glasgow, to Grandpa Falconer were amongst Stan's papers. These have been valuable in providing information, as they comment on events when they happened, and show that Stan's memory in regards to dates was not accurate.

During 1980 Ian travelled to Rothesay, on the Isle of Bute, which is situated in the Clyde estuary, west of Glasgow. He there discovered the graves of our great-grandparents, Patrick Falconer and his wife Margaret Burrell (nee Meikleham). He sent money on behalf of the family to Rothesay, in 1981, for the headstone to be cleaned and the letters recoloured. This year Ian again travelled to Scotland, and through painstaking searches of records, has established that Thomas Meikelham's grandparents were British citizens. Ian also visited Holland and while there met a small Dutchman named Percy Douglas who is of Scottish descent. Percy is an expert on genealogy, and at Ian's expense is trying to find further information on the Falconer's years in Holland.

It is thought that the Falconers may have belonged to the Keith Clan. If this is confirmed an appendix will be sent to each purchaser of the book for inclusion.

From these sources then, we pass on to succeeding generations family history, dating from the 18th century.

The Falconer family has been traced back to Andrew Falconer, born sometime in the 18th Century. He married Dorothy Coats.

In 1798, while living in Holland, a son Patrick was born. Andrew and Dorothy were British citizens and so Patrick was recognised as a British citizen also. Bethea MacFarlane, Patrick's granddaughter, told Howard Kingham that the Falconers were a family of Scottish linen weavers who went to either Belgium or Holland. When living with Evelyn Kingham during the Second World War while Howard was overseas, Nell (Eleanor) Falconer told Evelyn that the family was related to the Coats of Coats Cotton. Both these facts may be true but they do not explain why the Falconers chose to live in Holland.

For over two hundred years, between 1572 and 1788 a Scottish Brigade, consisting of between two to six regiments, was stationed in Holland. It is possible that Andrew was in Holland with this brigade for records show that later when living in Scotland Andrew was receiving an annuity which may have been an army pension.

The family returned to Scotland when Patrick was eight years of age, and may have lived in Gourock, on the Clyde Estuary, for in 1912 Nell (Helen) Falconer wrote to her brother-in-law Thomas, in Australia. "Pat says Gourock is much the same as old i.e. in the shore part of the town, he showed me where your grandfather lived the house is still there and occupied. I went up to the door one day and behold an electric bell, showing off itself. That's an innovation since sixty years ago."

Blanche Jane Pennell's writings tell us of her great-grandparents who were Thomas Meikleham and Bethiah (nee Stuart). Blanche Jane records that Thomas Meikleham disliked his name which was one of the many spellings; some of which are Macelwhom, McLewham, Macklewham, so he paid to have his name changed to Meikleham. Blanche Jane concludes that the Clan Lamond to which the Macilwhoms and also the Meiklehams belonged is a West Country Clan and as her great-grandfather was a West country man his name could have been Macilwhom. He married a Miss Bethiah Stuart or Stewart; there again a spelling query. Blanche Jane had reason to believe the spelling is Stuart as they came from the Isle of Bute where the name is spelt Stuart. Blanche Jane remarks that little is known of Bethiah Stuart beyond the conclusion she must have been loveable, as so many descendants are named Bethia or Bethea and Stuart. Thomas and Bethiah Meikleham had ten children. Thomas Meikleham was an importer of grain and lived in Glasgow circa 1778, his house was where the Maryhill Cattle Market later stood.

Blanche Jane in her writings mentions Clerics, Doctors, Professors etc. liberally sprinkled among the ancestors. Dr. William Meikleham, son of Thomas and Bethiah, eloped with Julia Haworth after meeting her in Brussels where she was holidaying with her mother and sisters. They went to a practice in Trinidad, but eventually sold it. Apparently Julia returned to the United Kingdom before him. On his return, people who



Margret Falconer.



Dr. William Meikelham



Blanche Jane Pennell.



Betha MacFarlane (nee Falconer)

were waiting to meet him as he disembarked at Folkstone, were told he had dropped dead as he boarded a launch which was to convey him to his ship. His widow, writes Blanche Jane, was a beautiful woman, had many lovers in her own rank!!!

Patrick married Margaret Burrell Meikleham, a daughter of Thomas and Bethiah Meikleham. They had four children, Betha Coats born, 1830, Patrick, born 1832, Isabella Meikleham, birthdate unknown, and Thomas Meikleham, born 1836. They possibly lived in Glasgow when the children were young and later moved to Rothesay on the isle of Bute to be near Betha and her husband Peter MacFarlane. In a letter to Tom, Pat wrote "I sent you a list of the houses we staid in in our youthful days and left out one so that you would fill it up but no. Do you not recollect living in Peel Terrace, Garret Hill?"

Blanche Jane Pennell described Patrick and Margaret in the following way 'Margaret Mickleham, a tall thin bright but rather emaciated old lady and her little Dutch husband who like all the Dutch was great on gardening and pruned all the trees at Ballyngry (the family home). They never "bore" for ever so long afterwards'. They later lived at 52 Ardbeg Road, Rothesay, Ian Falconer has a letter from Isabella Falconer with that address, dated 5th of February, 1872, advising Thomas of his mother's death in Rothesay. His father, Patrick having passed away during 1871. Of his parent's grave, Pat wrote in 1902, 'I went down last week to Rothesay, Saturday to Monday, and took a photo of the Grave Stone, fearfully dirty looking. Must have been a bad stone I think about the worst in the Graveyard. A fine view of the Loch which I took a few yards from the grave. You will see Bellas name is not on the Stone, her man of business should have done it'.

Glasgow began to grow in the early 19th century, in 1800 the population was 77,000, by 1830 it had reached 200,000. In the 1840's large numbers of starving Irish, driven by the potato famine migrated there in search of work. The industrial revolution was turning the Clyde Valley into a centre of trade and industry; long hours and low wages were the rule. Pat and Tom worked in Glasgow.

Tom had a job in a drapers shop. The men's shirt fronts had patterns embroidered on them in those days, and as Tom was a talented drawer he would be sent with a paint brush, to warehouses and other firms, to copy the designs which would then be reproduced by his own firm. The family had a collection of his paintings, but eventually they deteriorated with age, one, of a white horse, lasted longer than the rest. Tom may have also been in the army. There is a pistol, with the inscription "Gunner T Falconer", and in a letter written in September 1905 Pat says 'We had a big review in Edinburgh on Monday, I did not go as I was a lodger in 1860 and in 1881 was alooker on at the two reviews. There was a good number of the old veterans of 1860 where you might have been.'

Pat and Tom were both keen photographers, Pat continued to develop his own prints well into his seventies. In 1902 he wrote, 'Have you given up Photography? I have still to send you a lot of Exhibition slides I took. I would have sent them now but the weather has been very bad for printing'. In 1905 he had over 1000 stereo-scope views of Scotland, and only 850 lantern slides. Stereoscopes were taken with a camera with twin lens, and when seen through a viewer, the image had a three-dimensional effect.

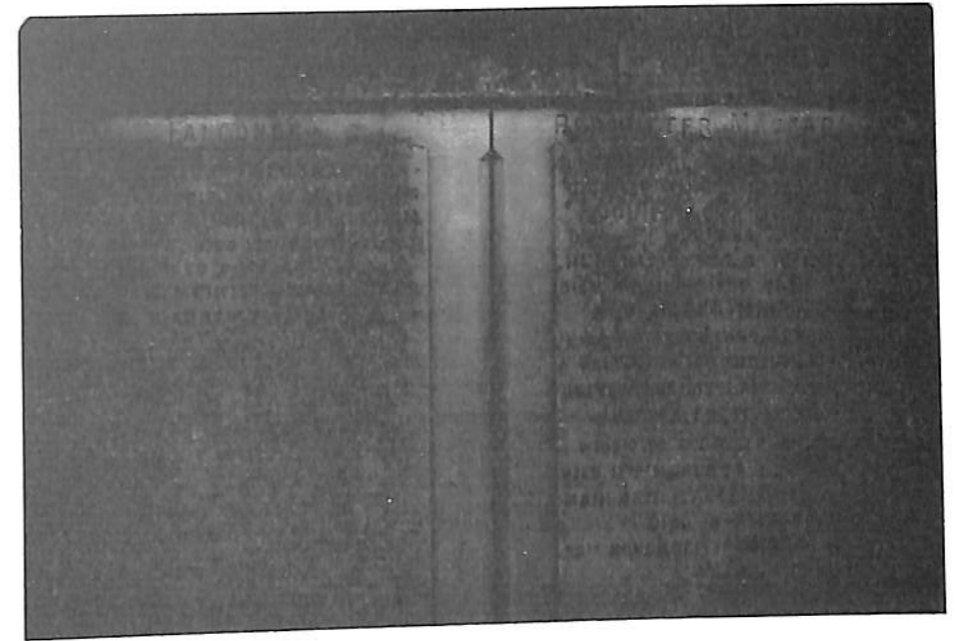
The brothers would be out together in their spare time; there was skating and curling on the frozen lakes in winter. By the turn of the century the seasons had changed. 'We are getting very little skating here now a days, the summers are colder and the winters are much warmer. Do you mind when we used for months to go out several times, and in the summer, to wear white trousers and vests, all is gone . . . Do you mind

Bethea married Rev. Peter MacFarlane and lived in Rothesay. Peter was the minister of the United Presbyterian Church there for 32 years. In 1884 he wrote a small book which includes an historical sketch and a report of the services held in celebration of the Centenary of the Congregation of the United Presbyterian Church. In the foreword he asserts that as a result of his research he discovered that the true origin of the church went back a further twenty years; a copy of this book was given to Howard Kingham by his aunt, Nell Falconer. Of Bethea and Peter's children only two, Margaret and Bethea reached adulthood. Both became nursing sisters, and later matrons. Maggie worked for a while in Antofogasta, Chile, and Bettie in Argentina.

Isabella remained in the family home for some time after her parents death, she then sold the family furniture and jewelry and moved out to New Zealand to live with Tom and his family. This did not suit her so she returned, lived with Bethea and Peter for a few years, then set up her own house. In her will she left the remaining family heirlooms to Miss H (Nell) MacFarlane, Peter's niece. It took quite some negotiating before the family china and silver were returned, Maggie received the china, and the silver and some pictures went to Tom.

The silver was eventually passed on to Margaret Falconer when she married Will Kingham. One year, while preparing for their holidays, Will became concerned that thieves might break into the house so he hid the heirlooms. On their return the first thing Margaret did was light the copper for the family wash, unaware that the bundle of newspaper at the back of the fire compartment contained the Falconer silver. The larger items survived, but the cutlery was rather misshapened.

Blanche Jane asserts in her diary that Thomas Meikleham went to America, we know he migrated to New Zealand, in 1863 and later to Australia.



THE STONE READS

FALCONER
 PATRICK FALCONER
 Died 22nd April 1871 aged 73 years
 MARGARET BURRELL MEIKLEHAM
 His wife, died 12 Feb 1872 aged 68 years
 ISABELLA MEIKLEHAM FALCONER
 Died 13th Feb 1901

REV PETER MACFARLANE
 STUART FALCONER MACFARLANE
 Died 4th Sept 1866 aged 6 months
 HUGH POLLOCK MACFARLANE
 Died 21st Aug 1860 aged 16 years
 HELEN ISABELLA CHARLOTTE
 Died 4th July 1886 aged 14 years
 REV PETER MACFARLANE
 Died 16th Sept 1890 aged 68 years. For 32 years
 minister of the United Presbyterian Church
 here
 BETHEA COATS FALCONER
 Widow of the Rev P MacFarlane died 11th Mar
 1897 aged 67 years
 MARGARET FALCONER MACFARLANE
 Died in Edinburgh 29th Nov 1944 aged 82
 years

Emigration

A friend had migrated to New Zealand, and he wrote to Thomas telling of the advantages, and encouraging Tom to join him in a business venture. A copy of the letter is reproduced here, his name was John Lamont, so was possibly a relation.

Manuoto
Otago N.Z.
10 February '63

'My dear Thomas

Your much esteemed and welcome epistle to hand a few days ago, dated 11th Nov. Long and anxiously have I awaited your decision as to whether or no you would come out to me. You say that had I given you any encouragement you would have made up your mind long ago. Now as you are aware 'tis a ticklish thing to ask a fellow to come because if things don't turn out as he expects then he might blame one. Now I have kept from any engagement until I would hear from you decidedly whether or no you would come. I was upon the eve of asking McMaster what were his intentions as regards me for the future, but your welcome letter alters my intentions entirely and now I await your arrival in Otago. I much prefer to join you and have a home of our own. I would not ask you to come unless I were sure of doing well and the life I know you will like well. I will now give you an idea of my intentions as regard our future career.

From my experience I see that to buy some land and build a house which we can put up ourselves at not much expense and live in a tent until it's completed. We can farm what we can of it for our own use, and lay the remainder out in grass, as grazing and breeding cattle for the market will pay well for many years to come. We can live cheaply on our own produce and there are many chances of other things in connection with our farm home by which we can turn the penny. When we buy land we can run cattle upon the unbought land in the vicinity so you see we have a good chance. Now remember I expect you to sail as soon as you can as there is no time to lose. Don't bring many things with you, but all the money you can, one or two tweed suits and corded trousers and blankets. I would recommend you to sail from London, as the ships are never so crowded as from the Clyde. Take some good whisky on board for your own use on the way. I wished that I had done so, everything is so dear on board and inferior. Bring out your revolver as we may require such. I have thought seriously over your intended coming out and the more I think of it the more convinced am I that we won't regret the step.

I may as well give you an idea of how my funds are, so that you will know what you are about, although I am in the dark as to yours. Yours of course is in cash and mine almost all invested but in such a manner to be advantageous to our farm intentions.

About 40 head of cattle, worth £10 a head, £400, 1 mare worth £5 and put to the horse £10, the foal in return. Cash now in hand £140 and by the time you come out I will (have) 8 or 9 months pay to lift. I expect this incoming winter to sell one or two steers, at about £6 to 20 pounds each, which will give one more ready cash. I am about to buy another horse which will do for you if he pleases you if not I can sell it again, but you must have a horse. If you have 3 or 400 pounds we will do first rate for a commencement. You write and tell me of what vessel you intend coming by and when you expect to be here and I will be down with a horse to meet you and bring you up here for a week or so until we have our plans matured. If you come to Dunedin ere I come down please call at Mess. James Paterson and Co. and ask for Mr. M. Hepburn and he will tell you about me as I will write to him about you coming and to pay what attention he can. I know he will do so for my sake as I am very intimate with the family, and the address is Manse St. I will write him about you by the next mail, this letter will reach you in April then I can hear in reply by June. Now dear Thomas I do fondly hope that you will come.

Thomas did not take his friend's advice on the port of departure, his ticket shows that he sailed from Glasgow on the 14th of July, 1863, on the 'Nelson', destination Dunedin. The fare for the berth in the Chief Cabin was £30. He sometimes spoke of the trip to his children, and told them it was the best time of his life.

POTTER, WILSON, & CO. & WILLIAM ORR & CO'S
Regular Line of Packet Ships to New Zealand.
 18' and 19' Victoria, Cap. 119 - SCHEDULE L
INTERMEDIATE PASSENGER'S CONTRACT TICKET.

Ship *Nelson* of *Glasgow* 1248 tons Register, to sail in Passengers at GREENOCK for *Dunedin* on the fourteenth day of *July* 1863

NAME	AGES
<i>Thomas Falconer 28</i>	
<i>Berth in Chief Cabin</i>	

Signature in full: *William Orr*
 Place and Date: *Glasgow 3rd June 1863*
 Signature: *John Harper*

Deposit, 15 " "
 Balance, 15 " "
 Total, 30 " "
 Received on board 14th day of July 1863

NOTICE TO PASSENGERS.
 N.B.—This Contract Ticket is Exempt from Stamp Duty.

by last mail, with a description of them all as I do every year will get a good laugh - the stuff of some the Doctor is had yet got him - the Doctor is a good old fellow. I have had 27 of my crew, but he got a pick up - in board - yesterday all my cargo was discharged & I have commenced to take on board ballast. I will leave here on Tuesday first for 8:30 a.m. is all you will be again. I still have yet a few dollars engine working well. Remember me to your friends when you write from the Nelson or tell him he is doing the arrival of the Nelson - although I leave after Nelson on my arrival at home I should much like to see the old ship to give me all the news; drop me a few lines to home & let me know how you get on & I shall write you on my arrival at home. address to me High Street. on. A.M. Homevale s.s.

I am very glad to hear you are all settled down snug at your post. The Doctor is still with me, but so he cannot make up his mind to reside in N.Z. I have offered him a passage home to Brighton & on by way of India (Calcutta). which he gladly accepted. he sends his very best respects to you & bids me tell you that he now sleeps comfortable as there is no one to haul his bed clothes off him. Miss Henderson has not got married her intended was some one else but I don't know where too. from John he suffered much from Scott's work and your toil just before he left. I had an interview with Mrs. Mearns

Tom kept up correspondence with the captain of the Nelson for some time after the trip. There is the suggestion in the Captain's letter, reproduced here, that he may have known the family. Some points of interest from the letter, 'The Doctor . . . sends his very best respects to you and bids me tell you that he now sleeps comfortable as there is no one to haul his bed clothes off him . . . Bullie and Martain has enlisted as volunteers to go to Auckland to fight the natives . . . Miss Henderson has not got married her intended wanted to live with her and marry her after as he was short of cash, but Miss Priss would



Young's Flour Mill, Shag Valley, Palmerston South, New Zealand.



Eleanor and Thomas Falconer on their wedding day.



Eleanor Jane Falconer.

In New Zealand they stayed with guardians, Mr. and Mrs. Young, who were possibly relations. Mr. Young owned the Flour Mills in Shag Valley, Palmerston South. Eleanor lived with them for approximately two years until her marriage to Thomas on 21st of January, 1873, in St. Mary's Church Palmerston South. Eleanor was seventeen years of age, Thomas thirty-six. Seven children were born in New Zealand, Thomas the eldest in 1875, then Samuel, Henry, Eleanor, Margaret and Horwood in 1887, shortly before the family left for Australia.

Pat and Bella both came to New Zealand. Pat came in the early days when Thomas was living in a hut. He wasn't strong and didn't like the rough colonial life, so he returned. Bella came later when there were many young children in a small house. It was not a happy arrangement, so Thomas moved her into a house nearby. However she also found this did not suit, so returned to Scotland. She did not get on well with Thomas, thinking him the black sheep of the family. Everyone found Bella difficult to live with, 'She was a tiger', was Stan's comment.

For one year Thomas was a councillor in Palmerston South. Thomas and Eleanor bought a confectionary business connected with a theatre, but the vendor started up in opposition on the opposite site, and took their trade. Eleanor's sister Julia helped in the shop.



Priscilla Legerton

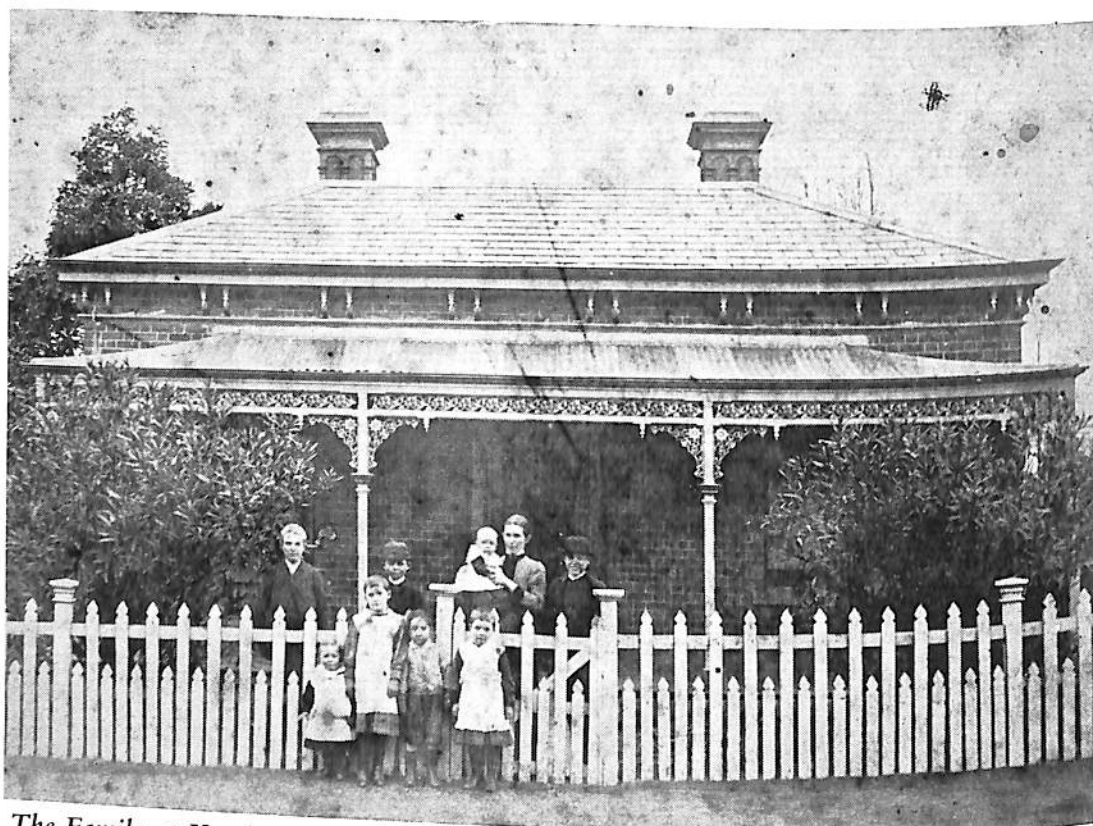


Lizzie Paul (née Legerton)

The Falconers Of The Foothills

In 1887, shortly before Stanley, the youngest of the family was born, the family sailed for Melbourne aboard the S.S. Rotomahana. They settled in Kensington where Stan was born next door to Longmore's the chemist. Thomas and Eleanor bought a wood and coal yard there. Times were hard and people lived in furniture vans. When coal was delivered to customers, neighbours or others stole it, therefore no payment was made. Often a load would be delivered, and the next day, goods and people would be gone.

The 1880's were boom years in Melbourne, land prices soared. A crash came in 1891, and in the depression which followed many banks, building societies and companies went bankrupt. The depression was the worst in the nation's history, there was no government assistance for those without employment, some charitable institutions attempted to aid those in distress, but their attempts were insignificant. Between 1891-93 Melbourne lost 50,000 people through starvation, disease and migration. In the suburbs scores of houses stood empty.



The Family at Kensington

The family moved to Chesterville Road, Highett, they raised a few fowls and kept some cows. The three older boys left school at twelve years of age, and all had work in the nearby towns. Tom worked at Highett, Sam at Cheltenham, and Henry at Jones's Bond at Highett. The boys would walk across the paddocks to work. Sam worked in a grocers shop, eventually earning as high a sum as £1 per week plus meals; wages and keep was the custom in grocers shops at that time. Pat wrote that he was sorry that the boys had to go out to work for themselves, and he was 'afraid the second one has too much brain work, you must take care not to let him over work'.

They did not stay long at Highett, in 1892, when Stan was about four years of age they moved again to Mentone so they could have more land. They rented a property near the station for which they paid nine shillings a week rent. Eleanor had a local woman, Mrs. Jordan, in to help with the care of the young children.

Simultaneously they paid ten shillings a week rent for 34-100 acres, with a four roomed house, in Ferntree Gully. Grazing cattle were kept there, and young Tom would cut wood. Because of the two properties the family was split up, Thomas would spend a week at Ferntree Gully then return for a week at Mentone. One of the older boys, Tom or Will, would accompany their father, plus one of the girls to keep house. The younger children would also take turns to accompany their father as well. They would spend one week of school at Mentone, and the other at Ferntree Gully.

They travelled from Mentone to Ferntree Gully by spring dray, the seventeen mile trip taking from 9am. until 4pm. stopping at the Police Paddocks to feed and water the horses at the Dandenong Creek. Aborigines lived in the area which was still bush, they rode the horses at the Paddocks. Stan remembered that their mother always packed a good lunch, which included a couple of bottles of cold tea. A white rouseabout, a big lump of a man, worked at the Paddocks, he always amused the children. Each time they stopped for lunch he would come over and ask Thomas 'Got any bakky?'. Thomas would reply that he didn't smoke. 'Oh me do' the rouseabout would reply. So the youngsters gave him the name Me Do, and he soon became known as that to everyone.

Warrigul road was bush, tea-tree with sand tracks running through it extended from the Dandenong Highway to Mentone. A house in Warrigul road had been removed leaving a pan closet (outside toilet to the young generation) standing, which Thomas bought. There wasn't a decent W.C. at Ferntree Gully. When it was removed to be put on the dray for transport to Ferntree Gully, two large snakes were found under it. As Nell had to reach Ferntree Gully her seat for the rest of the journey was on the side of the W.C.

The property in Ferntree Gully was on Burwood Highway, (then called Ferntree Gully Road), just past Scoresby Road, opposite the Johnson Park housing estate. The blocks were in one hundred acre lots, Falconers had Jones on one side as neighbours, and McMahons on the other. The area from there to the Club Hotel on the corner of Ferntree Gully Road, (then called Oakleigh Road), was all bush. There were no made roads, only bush tracks. The youngsters would often go into the bush and find young parrots in hollow logs. They found a large number of Rosellas in the trees which had been cut down on their property. After the trees had been cut the wood would be taken to the city and sold. They would only receive a few shillings for the load if they were lucky enough to sell it, sometimes they had to return with their load unsold. One of the paddocks was known locally as the Shilling Paddock, as people could pay one shilling to cart away a load of wood.

The leases for the Ferntree Gully and Mentone properties expired in 1898 or '99, so a lease was taken on 84 acres with a house which had been advertised, in Ringwood, on Loughnan's Hill. It was in Warrandyte Road, then called Anderson Creek Road, and the rent was ten shillings a week. Stan considered renting at that time to be an advantage as there were no rates or other expenses.

The land was unsuitable for grazing, there was no top dressing in those days, it was so poor that Thomas often said the one hundred acres wouldn't feed a "goot". Part of the property was cultivated, jam and pine melons, swede turnips and peas were grown. The area was picturesque as photos of family picnics show.

They also had an orchard and young Tom helped his father with the fruit. He supplemented his income by carting wood from South Warrandyte to a bakery in Richmond for sixpence a drayload. He also carted antimony from a mine in Ringwood East, where the Civic Centre now stands. Tom soon bought an orchard of twenty acres near his father's, and in 1903, Henry was considering buying thirty acres next to Tom's, as an investment.

Although Australian fruit was selling for high prices in the U.K., Ringwood growers were not receiving high returns for their labour. The poor prices they received for fruit and vegetables were scarcely enough to repay ones toil, let alone rent and leave a trifle over for the Lord. Everyone had to lend a hand with the work at the orchard. In 1904, at sixty-eight years of age, Thomas assisted in the harvest field, mowing by hand with a scythe. He must have been a fit and vigorous individual to have undertaken such fatiguing work at that age.



Margaret, Florrie Kemp, Nell and Stan at Mullum Creek, 1900.

Over the years the returns did not increase greatly, 1911 was such a good year for crops that farmers were unable to sell their fruit, and much of it was left to rot in the orchards. Pat decided that Tom should arrange the export of his fruit and sent the card of a Glasgow firm of fruit importers. He also gave Tom advice on shipping the crop. 'You will require to see that what you send is packed all right, you can send any quantity to any of the places on the card'. The Ringwood Cool Store opened in November 1910, and was soon unable to cope with the quantity of fruit being grown in the area, additions were added in 1913.

In 1905 the family decided to move back into the business in which the boys were experienced. A grocery store on the corner of Adelaide Street and Maroondah Highway was bought. £50 deposit was put on the stock, and the remainder paid off. The building was leased from Miss Shanks, and, as business prospered, was bought for £900 in 1912. Later, two shops next door, a boot shop and a drapers were bought from John Parker for £400. The original wooden buildings were later demolished and replaced by brick.

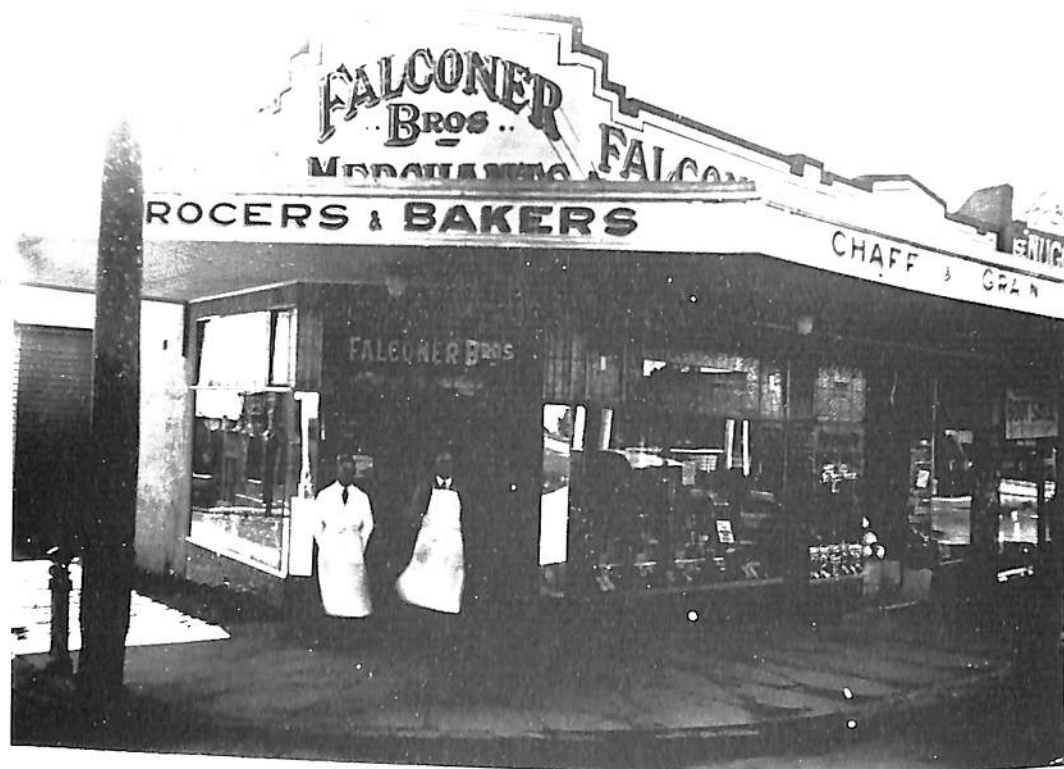
The expansion of Falconer's grocery paralleled the development of Ringwood. Between 1910 and 1912 the population of Ringwood was increasing, an average of five houses were constantly in the course of erection within a three mile radius of the railway station. Anderson's Creek Road was particularly busy, and several properties in the main road changed hands.



Family picnic on property at Loughnans Hill, Ringwood



Ringwood Store, before and after remodelling



Stan was fifteen years of age when the family bought the grocery, he left a job he had in the city to work in the store. Tom and Sam also worked with their father, Henry was working at Harrison Ramsay (Melbourne importers), and Horwood was either in the cycle shop of the PMG Melbourne, or building houses with Mr. Kennedy. Sam had been working at Reynolds Bros. grocery in South Brighton. The orchards were kept so there was plenty of work with several properties to manage. The family moved into the rooms at the back of the shop as the store took over more of their time. The family were beginning to marry and move away from home. Henry was the first, in 1907, followed two years later by Margaret and Will.

With the growth of the area the business prospered sufficiently for the family to buy another grocery at Bayswater. There is some uncertainty over who took over the new store. Stan definitely went, and from Pat's letters it appears that Tom also went. Some say that Will opened the new store, he was there in 1912 when Horwood left his job with Bamford Bros. to join the family business. In 1913 Horwood was coming home from "up country" to visit his parents once a fortnight. Sam worked with his father at Ringwood, and it is possible that Tom started off at Bayswater and then moved back to Ringwood after Sam's tragic death in 1911. Tom eventually took over the Ringwood store, the name of which changed several times over the years. It became Falconer Bros. in 1919 when the four, Tom, Will, Horwood and Stan formed a partnership. In 1933, when the partnership was dissolved, it became T.S. Falconer and Sons.

It was quite easy to build up the business in Bayswater. For a few pounds they bought the stock from a trader who had gone bankrupt. There was another grocer in the area but he was unpopular, so Stan took the horse and went round the district visiting



First store in Bayswater, later demolished

properties and he soon received orders from almost every place. There was a Lutheran church there and the town was called German Town by outsiders, because nearly all the families living there were German. 'All the German girls were quite nice I found', commented Stan with a chuckle, 'they were good customers too.' There was no Boronia township at that time, only half a dozen houses.

When they bought the Ringwood shop there was no bakery in the area, so each morning someone would go to Mitcham to collect the bread from W.G. Town. Eventually they bought the business from him and built it up into a good delivery round. Later, while at Bayswater, they bought a little bakery business from a Mr. Thompson. He went all round the district with the deliveries, as far as Wheelers Hill. As Falconers already had a grocery round in the area it was possible to combine the two. Bread was bought from the bakery at Ringwood, the same baker supplied the Ringwood round also.

The whole area was not served in one day, the first day Bayswater would be served, the following day The Basin, Boronia and Central Estate. The Bayswater round went to Scoresby and Wheelers Hill, crossing through the middle of the area now occupied by the Carribean Gardens. Stan would deliver bread to the first house in Wheelers Hill, return and visit a dairy farm owned by Mr. Timms of Dandenong. He would make his way through the farm, across Corhan Warrabul Creek by way of a little narrow bridge, and come out by the big gates at Stamford Park on Stud Road. Deliveries were made to Stamford Park and to an old concrete house by the Stamford Park Hotel, O'Keefes lived there. The run was made three times a week. One day there had been very heavy rain and Corhan Warrabul Creek was flooded. Stan told the manager of Timm's farm that he couldn't get through. 'Well Stan', replied the manager, 'Just follow me', and he mounted his horse and led Stan and his dray across the flooded bridge. 'Things were too cheap then', said Stan. 'Still you'd go miles to serve a customer'.

In 1918 the brothers moved from their Bayswater store to a smaller one closer to the railway station. In 1922, two years after a railway station was opened at Boronia, Horwood and Stan opened a store there. The goodwill, plant and stock was bought from



1918, The Bayswater store on the second site closer to the station

R.S. Bettles. The store was situated on the north-east corner of Dorset and Boronia roads.

Stan took over the running of this branch while Horwood remained in the Bayswater shop. Many Sunday School pupils of the 1920's will remember the picnics held at Bayswater. For city children it was an exciting day. After the train journey there was a creek to jump over and many varieties of wildflowers to gather. Boys and girls walked together through the bush seeing the hills in the near distance. Falconer's store was near the station in this bushland setting.

Stan eventually left the Boronia shop and moved to Ferntree Gully. The Ringwood shop was sold in 1954 and was demolished to make way for the car park of the Eastland shopping centre. The early phone numbers of the stores were Ringwood 7, Bayswater 11, and Boronia was Bayswater 19; a far cry from the phone systems in use nowadays.

There were few amusements for the young and social life for many families centred around the church. The Falconers attended the Ringwood Methodist Church, and several of the family sang in the choir. Ringwood Methodist Church had the reputation of having the best choir in the district. The family enjoyed music. Horwood and Stan joined the Bayswater Brass Band, and Horwood later joined the Mitcham Choral society and became choir Master of the Church of England, Bayswater.

The annual Sunday School picnic was a popular outing, and always well attended. Another function which may have been attended by the younger members of the family was the Eastern Growers Excursion, first held in 1905. In 1912 the excursion was held on February 8th, and Messrs Huddart, Parker & Co.'s fine paddle steamer the "Hygeia" was chartered to sail to Sorrento. Special trains ran from Healesville and Warburton for the event. One of the agents for the sale of tickets was T. Falconer.



Ringwood Methodist Church Sunday School picnic at Crows property, Bayswater. 1st Light Horse Trooper, Sam Falconer, 3rd Light Horse Trooper, Tom Falconer. Will seated in back row. Photo taken between 1900 and 1911.

JUNE 23, 1916

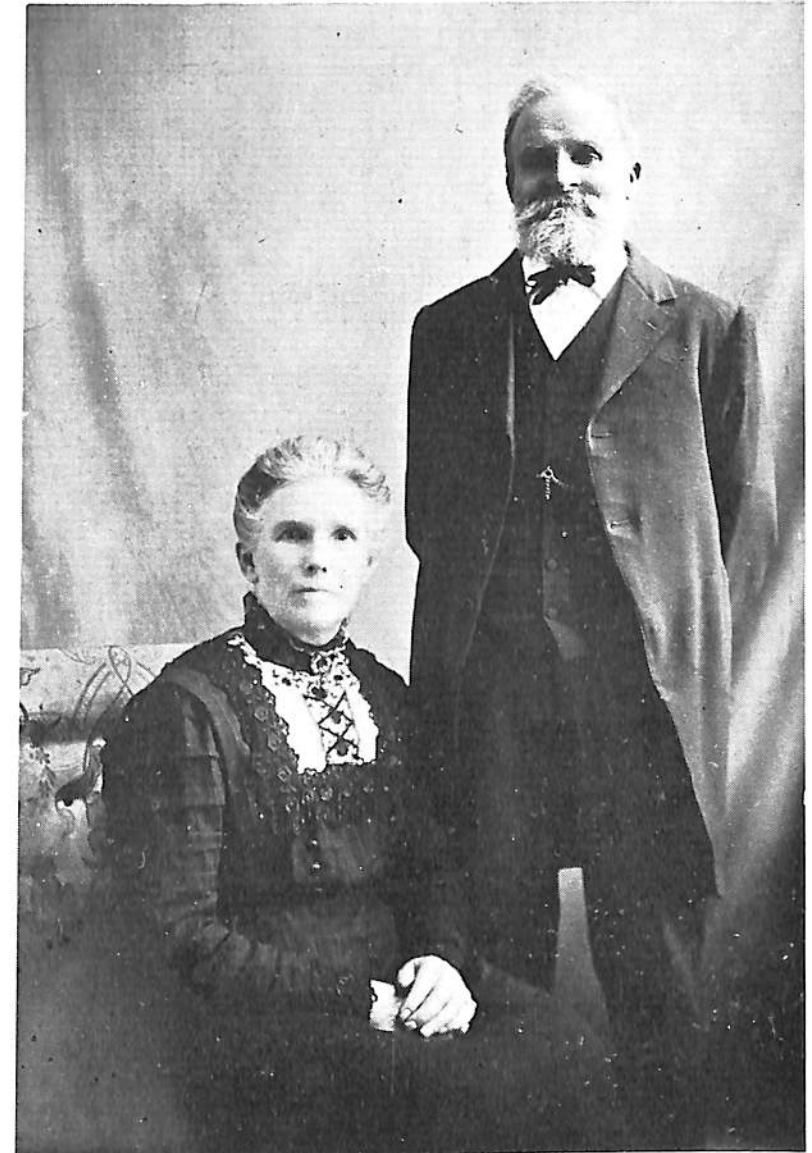
RINGWOOD NOTES.

The death occurred on Saturday, June 17, at his residence, White Horse road, Ringwood, of Mr. Thomas M. Falconer, a colonist of about 60 years. The deceased gentleman, who was in his 81st year, was well known and highly respected throughout the district. He was hale and hearty, despite his advanced age, up to within a week of his demise, when he had an attack of acute gastritis, and heart failure supervened towards the end. The late Mr. Falconer was born at Glasgow, Scotland, and migrated to New Zealand when a young man. He was married in the Dominion, and with his wife and family came to Melbourne in 1888 at the time of the Centennial exhibition. For a time they resided at Kensington, eventually coming to Ringwood about 20 years ago, where the family has lived ever since. A widow and family of seven children, all of whom are grown up, and live in various parts of this district, are left to mourn their loss. The remains were interred in the Box Hill cemetery on Monday, June 19, when a lengthy cortege comprised the funeral. The service at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. E. J. Little, of the Ringwood Methodist church, and the pallbearers were Messrs. Aird, sen., J. G. Aird, J. B. McAlpin, Chambers, S. Kennedy, and Laue.

Extract from the Box Hill Recorder, telling of the death of Thomas Meikleham Falconer.

In April 1909, the Ringwood Literary and Debating Society was formed, Mr. H. Falconer was elected secretary, (this was most likely Horwood as Henry was married with a family). In June 1909 a debate was held on the subject "Why don't men propose", and according to the Box Hill Report, 'Mr. S. Falconer (speaking from experience) and Mr. Jas Parker (from observation) thought that young ladies of the present day did not want to get married, since so many were in business and able to support themselves they refused to settle down to a hum-drum existence.' (Was this thirty year old Sam or twenty year old Stan who was speaking from experience?) From the photo of the Sunday School picnic it seems that Sam and Tom were members of the Light Horse, this must have been before the First World War as Sam died in 1911. Perhaps it was a voluntary unit to which they belonged.

Thomas passed away on June 17th, 1916. On the 10th of July, Pat, unaware of his brother's death, wrote these lines. 'I don't go out at night, I prefer the Hoose. I am beginning to think I am aulder than I was in 1863 when I bid you "Good Bye"'. Although Thomas did not live to see the opening of the Boronia Store, he had seen the business prosper along with the district.



Eleanor and Thomas Falconer



Children in back row Harold, Keith, Vera. Children in centre row Nola, Thomas, Hilah, Howard. Children in front row Rene, Ronald, Norman, Margorie



THOMAS SAMUEL FALCONER the eldest son of Thomas and Eleanor settled in Ringwood after leaving the farm in Ferntree Gully. He carted wood from South Warrandyte to a bakery in Richmond for sixpence per dray load. He also carted antimony from a mine in Ringwood East where the Civic Centre now stands. The brothers Tom, Will, Horwood and Stan formed a partnership as Falconer Brothers. After his brothers extended the business to Bayswater and Boronia, Tom operated the Ringwood store. During the Second World War he joined the Light Horse Unit and as a guard at the Prisoner of War Camp at Murchison. After he was demobilized he became a packer in a large ware-house in Melbourne. He was a foundation member of the Ringwood Bowling Club.

He married Christina Kennedy, a member of a well known pioneer Ringwood family.



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Thomas' Descendants

THOMAS ANDREW HUGH FALCONER eldest son of Thomas Samuel worked with his father in the Ringwood shop and later on in Mitcham with Mr. E.H. Kemp a grocer. Later formed a partnership with Mr. Kemp and took over the Boronia Falconer's Store. After working with Mr. Ian Goode, who bought the Boronia Store, he transferred to Brockhoff's Biscuits as a sales representative.

Hugh married Jessie Bayley.

Their only child Christina Anne married Edward Plum an Industrial chemist and they now live in Queensland.

Their children are Cameron James and Amelia Catherine.

KEITH CONLIN FALCONER also worked with his father in the Ringwood shop and afterwards with Kemp and Falconer in Boronia. Keith served for five years in the army in New Guinea and Bougainville. After his discharge from the army he resumed work in the Boronia Store.

He married Marjorie May Palmer.

Their children are Barry Keith – his wife was Mary Elizabeth Gallaway. Their daughter is Colleen Mary and Timothy Francis is their son.

Wendy Christina their daughter married John Orr. Their son is Stephen.

COLIN LEGERTON also started his career in the grocery trade with his father in Ringwood, he then transferred to Moran and Cato. Colin did army service and rejoined Moran and Cato after his discharge. He then moved to Boronia and was employed in a self service grocery.

Colin married Shirley Joyce Wileman.

Their only child is Colin Charles and is a manager of the Robur Tea Company.



SAMUEL LEGERTON FALCONER worked in a grocery store in Cheltenham from the age of twelve years, until the family moved to Ringwood. He was working in a grocery store in South Brighton when the family opened the Ringwood store. He was described as having sterling qualities and a kindly disposition. He tragically took his own life in 1911 and the shock to the family was great. He had suffered from a nervous disorder and insomnia for several years before his death. The Box Hill Reporter in an article said 'The deceased was generally of a bright and cheery disposition, but his illness evidently preyed upon his mind . . . The funeral took place on Saturday, and the remains were followed to their last resting place, the Box Hill cemetery, by a large number of sympathising friends. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. R.A. Taylor.'

Samuel was thirty-three years of age when he died, he left no descendants.



Samuel Legerton Falconer, aged 8 years





PATRICK HENRY FALCONER spent most of his working life with Harrison Ramsay (Melbourne Importers) and became manager of their store. To help the war effort he worked at the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, during 1939-1945.

He married Emily Victoria Aird who in the latter years of her life received a Life Governor Certificate of the Box Hill hospital for services rendered.



Henry and Emily Falconer at their Golden Wedding Anniversary



Henry's Descendants

RONALD KEITH FALCONER, A.A.S.A., the eldest child of Henry and Emily Falconer was an officer of the State Savings Bank. During 1959 as Manager he opened a new branch of the bank in Bayswater. He married Una Kathleen Potter. They have a son Kenneth William, A.A.S.A. Lending Officer General Managers Department of The State Bank. He married Heather Ellic. Ronald passed away in 1983.

Their daughter Lynette Carolin was a telephonist. Married Andrew Thollar, who is a plumber. They have one daughter Andrina Cherrie and one son Kenneth David.

HILDA IRENE studied Commercial Art and then trained as a Mothercraft nurse at the Methodist Babies Home. She was appointed as a Staff nurse after which she was employed at Epworth Hospital as their first Mothercraft nurse. Married Thomas Sharp Butterworth who was a Clerk of Works for the Housing Commission and Soldier Settlement Commission and then Senior Clerk of Works for the State Bank. During the second World War he was a Lieutenant in the 9th Division, serving in New Guinea and Borneo.

Their daughter Margaret, a nursing sister, married Dr. Wilfrid Brook M.B., B.S.Melb., M.S.Monash, F.R.C.S.Edin, F.I.C.A. Their three children are, Peter Norman, Lynda Margaret and Jennifer Anne.

Their son Robert Thomas F.A.I.V. is a Registered Valuer for the State Bank. Married Noelle Pollard, private secretary. Their children are Philip Robert and Mark James.

HAROLD LESLIE after Primary School attended Kingswood Grammar School. He was employed by General Electric and British Dye Stuffs. He then bought a General Store in Wandin. He married Ilma Giles. Ilma passed away at Boronia in 1983.

Their son is a store manager married to Patricia Chandler. The children are, David Leslie, Timothy John and Deborah Gayle.

Ruth Ilma their daughter married Ronald Bailey who is a merchandising officer of the Export Department of General Motors Holden. Their daughter is Naomi Louise.

HILAH, a private secretary, did a teacher's course for teaching Adult Lip Reading after her hearing loss was diagnosed. She started the first lip reading class on the Mornington Peninsula. With another teacher she wrote a book, "Lip Reading and Hearing Rehabilitation - A Home Study". Married L. McDonald Thomson who joins Hilah in her love of Scottish Country Dancing, teaching at the School for Deaf "DELGANY" at Portsea.

Their daughter, Phyllis, became a Captain of the Glen Iris Girl Guide Company. Married to Geoffrey Thornhill, Dip.C.E., M.I.E.Aust., A.A.I.M. She has a son, Donald.





ELEANOR the elder daughter remained a spinster who lived with and later cared for Grandma Falconer in her latter years. Auntie Nell always had a keen sense of humour and was loved by all her nieces and nephews and later by her grand nieces and nephews who all knew her as Auntie Nell. In her later years she lived with her brother Tom in a house near the Bayswater railway gates.



Eleanor Jane Falconer



MARGARET, the second daughter was an inspiration to all who knew her. She had a remarkable strength of character and a strong creative personality. She married William Jenkin Kingham who became a partner in the printing firm of Johnson, Fear and Kingham. He died during his 101st year.



Wedding photograph of Margaret Falconer and William Jenkin Kingham.



Margaret's Descendants

BRIGADIER HOWARD STANLEY KINGHAM, O.B.E., E.D., J.P., only son of Margaret and William Kingham left Melbourne High School to do an apprenticeship in process engraving.

He left for the Middle East on the first troop ship as a Major with the Royal Australian Ordnance Corps. Recommended for O.B.E., citation being efficient service under difficult conditions. During 1943 he became Director of Ordnance Services. When discharged from the Army he became a Director of the Argus newspaper, later purchasing a newsagency in Northcote. As a result of thirty years as a member of Wesley Central Mission Management Committee an aged care home has been named the Howard Kingham Lodge.

He married Evelyn Prowse. Howard passed away at Bunyip on Sept. 23rd 1982.



Named after H.S. Kingham in honour of 35 years service to Wesley Central Mission

David Howard Kingham is their elder son. He is the fourth generation Kingham connected with the printing industry and now owns his own business in Carlton.

He married Janice Lorna Redfern, B.A. Grad.Dip.Lib. They have two sons, Daryl Robert and Stuart David, and one daughter, Melissa Leigh.

Rex William, A.A.S.A. Senior, A.C.I.S., their younger son is an accountant. He is Finance Manager of Gadsden Aust. Ltd. Coburg. He has attained the rank of Major in the Royal Australian Corps of Signals.

He married Elizabeth Rosamond Hawker, who was a private secretary. Their children are Joanne Elizabeth, Craig Richard and Meagan Louise.

Elizabeth Margaret Joan, the only Kingham grand daughter was educated at Methodist Ladies College and is now a secretary at the Box Hill Community Hospital.

She married George Stevens, an Electronics Technical Representative.

NOLA ELEANOR is the only daughter of Margaret and William. Her secondary education was received at Methodist Ladies College. She then became a private secretary. As a widow she now lives in a Town House in Deepdene and is a voluntary member of the Kew Citizens Advice Bureau. Nola married Ian Goode who was a principal of a Metallurgical Business, Glover and Goode and later operated self service grocery stores. Ian died in 1966.

Rev. Geoffrey Ian Goode, Lth.Dip. in P.S., is an ordained Uniting Church Minister and has studied Hospital Chaplaincy at the Austin Hospital.

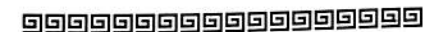
Geoffrey married Catherine Wilson. Their four children are, Margaret Ellen, Barry George, Roger Geoffrey and Ian Francis.

Rodney Francis Goode, B.E. (Civil) F.I.E.Aust., M.A.S.C.E. is a Civil Engineer and a principal of the consulting engineering firm of Camp Scott Furphy Pty. Ltd.

Rodney married Joan Denise Larkin. Their two daughters are Tania Gail and Lisa Jane.

Maxwell Alexander Goode, Radio and Television Certificate R.M.I.T., T.U.C.C.P., head of radio production and services Phillip Institute.

Sandy (his familiar name) married Maureen Louise Canny, A.A.S.A., T.T.C. Their daughter is Emma Louise and their son is Jonathon Paul.



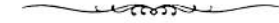


WILLIAM ALFRED FALCONER bought a general store in ELWOOD after the partnership "Falconer Bros. General Store" was dissolved. The sale of liquor offended William's principals so he disposed of the liquor licence which action and the onset of the depression resulted in the disposal of the business and the removal of the family to Ripponlea.

After several years the family moved to Box Hill. For sixteen years William worked with a firm managed by his son Norman. William met Ethel Rosalene Gill whose father owned an orchard in Ringwood. This began the association between the Falconer and Gill families eventuating in the marriage of Will and Ethel.



Will and Ethel.



William's Descendants

NORMAN ROBERT, is the elder son of Will and Ethel. Owing to his mother becoming seriously ill when he was very young he was brought up by his Grandmother Gill.

He became Manager of an Engineering firm. He married Jean Ruby Collister who is deceased and he is now married to Catherine Ryan.

Robert Charles, eldest son of Norman and Jean, is a Primary School Teacher and outstanding Victorian Athlete. He has represented Victoria at many State and Australian events.

He married Marjorie Shaw, T.P.T.C. They live in Yarra Glen and both teach at Lilydale West School. They own and live at Undarra Stud where they breed top Arab Horses. Their children are Jennie and Benjamin Shaw.

Lawrence Norman, second son, is an Assistant Manager of Paint and Paper a subsidiary of Dulux Australia Ltd. He was the half mile champion at Upwey High School and became a member of the Mountain District Athletic Club.

He married Lynette Ryan and their daughter is Sharon Louise. Lawrence now resides at Cranbourne with his second wife Leny and three stepdaughters.

Barbara Elaine, only daughter of Norman and Jean was a Ledger Machinist in the Accounts Branch of A.H. McDonald, later transferred to Administrative quarters of Australian Red Cross Society.

Barbara is married to Grant Lamped a Radio Technical Officer with the Department of Aviation. They live near Lancefield and have established "Serendipity Southdown Stud". Their children are Kerry, David and Shirley.

MARJORIE ETHEL was the elder daughter of Will and Ethel. She married a farmer and lived in Whorouly. Unfortunately she contracted a severe illness and died some years ago. The family were all distressed as she was so popular with us all. She married Ron Nicoll, they had three daughters.

Beth Margaret, the eldest daughter trained as a General Nurse at Prince Henry's Hospital. She completed a Midwifery course at St. George's Hospital, Kew and a Coronary Care course at Bethlehem Hospital in Caulfield.

Beth married Graeme Seers who has completed his Diploma of Technical Teaching, also completed a rigorous Mountain Craft and Youth Leadership course with the National Fitness Council of Australia.

Their children are Andrea Jeanette, Jeffrey David and Peter Allan.

Shirley Anne, the second daughter of Marjorie and Ronald Nicolle, trained as a Kindergarten Teacher after leaving Wangaratta High School.

Shirley married Geoff McKernan who is Assistant Regional Director of the Country Fire Authority in Wodonga. Shirley teaches part time at a Wodonga Kindergarten.

They have twin daughters Denise Frances and Sally Nicole.

June Eleanor, the third daughter is a B.A. Dip. of Soc. Studies. She matriculated at Wangaratta High School and then attended Melbourne University where she graduated as a Bachelor of Arts and Diploma of Social Studies. June worked for some years at the Royal Melbourne Hospital in Medical Social Work. She then became a Lecturer at the Preston (now Phillip) Institute of Technology. She is on the Australian Committee researching aspects of social work and welfare studies.

June married Ian Allan who is on the teaching Staff at Preston East Technical School. They have two daughters Malita Collette and Nicole Maree.

VERA the second daughter of William and Ethel married Paul Bodmin McLaren of Adelaide who served as a Navigator with the R.A.A.F. during the war and rose to the rank of Flight Lieutenant. Now retired, he was General Manager of Eudunda Farmer's Co-op. Society. Vera passed away in 1983.

Kay McLaren, Bachelor of Science, their daughter, is at present completing an Honor Course, Psychology, married James Patrick Quinn, B.Sc.Dr. Ph. of Strathalbyn, South Australia, is engaged in research into in-vitro fertilization.

Their twin daughters are Joanne Louise and Katherine Jane.

Ian, son of Vera and Paul, is a Foreman Printer with Murray Pioneer, Renmark, South Australia and is married to Narelle Jones from Loxton, South Australia. They have three daughters, Kirsty Lee, Jodie Kim and Megan Lyn.

ALAN WILLIAM, the youngest child of William and Ethel, after attending Brighton Technical School started work as a boiler-maker with The Victorian Railways, he then became a technician with the P.M.G. After studying accountancy he worked with the Taxation Department.

Alan married Dorothy May Kerr and they now live in Queensland.

Their daughter Janice Elaine trained as a nursing sister. Married Dr. Michael Raymond Giles. They also live in Queensland.

Ian William, their eldest son is a Master Builder, he married Pamela Joy Gardner. They now live in Warrandyte. Their daughters are Trudy Anne, Kim Marie and their son is Adam William.

Bruce Alan their second son has a degree in Behavioural Science from La Trobe University, Psychologist. Bruce married Julie Mogford and they have two sons who are Andrew William and Mark Lee. They live in Beechworth.

Neil Brian, the youngest son has a Science Degree from Melbourne Technical College. He is a Computer Auditor. Married to Annette Roads.



HORWOOD LINSDELL FALCONER was the seventh and last child of Thomas and Eleanor to be born in New Zealand. After leaving Ferntree Gully primary school he worked in the cycle shop of the P.M.G. Melbourne. Soon after this he joined his eldest brother in the Ringwood Store, then at the Bayswater No. 2 store with his brother Will. This store was opened in 1909. In 1918 Horwood and Stan went into the smaller store near the railway line. Stan and Horwood continued as Falconer Bros. first in Bayswater then a shop was moved to Boronia from Bayswater where a dwelling connected with the shop was built. Horwood married Allison Adams who worked with Horwood in the store which was later converted to a Self Service Store.

Horwood and Ella shared their love of music by both becoming members of the Mitcham Choral Society.



Bayswater Brass Band, Stan and Horwood, in centre



Horwood and Ella's Wedding Photo.

Horwood's Descendants

DR. IAN GORDON FALCONER, M.B., B.S. did his secondary schooling at University High School and won a scholarship to the University Medical Faculty. As a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery he was appointed Resident Medical Officer at Mareeba from where he flew in the Flying Ambulance to serve in the flooded Gulf Country. He received a full time appointment as Senior Demonstrator in Anatomy (Melb.).

He married Elizabeth Benzies a nurse who became his receptionist at his Bayswater practice. This practice extended to include five partners. In 1978 Ian began working on his own doing home visits only. He is an accomplished musician and is involved in Church activities.

Ian and Elizabeth have five children who are, Diana Beryl, Peter Ian, Bruce William, Andrew David and Lisa Jane.

During 1980 Ian travelled to ROTHESAY on the Isle of Bute which is situated in the Clyde Estuary west of Glasgow and there discovered the graves of our Great Grandfather, Patrick Falconer and his wife Margaret Burrell nee Meikleham.

He sent money late in 1981 to Rothesay for the head stone to be cleaned and the letters recoloured. This he did on behalf of the family as a whole.

ROSEMARY RUTH FALCONER, B.Mus., did her secondary education at Methodist Ladies College. Then attended Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music and graduated as a Bachelor of Music. Rosemary taught music in Bayswater.

She married Gordon William Bear, a school teacher. They now live in Hervey Bay, Queensland. Their two daughters are Leanne Allison and Merrilyn Ruth.





STANLEY FALCONER, youngest child of Thomas and Eleanor and the only one not born in New Zealand. He was born in Kensington after the family arrived from New Zealand.

He attended school in Mentone and Ferntree Gully, eventually joining the Falconer Bros. store in Bayswater from where he delivered groceries to customers in Bayswater, Boronia and The Basin. They bought a Bayswater bakery round, collecting the bread from Ringwood for delivery with their groceries. The deliveries were extended to an area known as Germantown, where a number of German families lived and proved very good customers. There was a Lutheran Church there. Another area Stan served was Wheeler's Hill and through what is now the Caribbean Gardens down to Stamford Park on Stud Road, often having to cross the flooded Corhanwarrabul Creek in his horse drawn vehicle, led by a farmer on horse back. He travelled many miles to serve the people.

He then had a Falconer store in Boronia and whilst there married Ellen Lillian Eva Beazley-Tribe who was an excellent business woman helping Uncle Stan in the business. Auntie Nell is known to all of us as Boronia Nell, even after they for many years had the Ferntree Gully Falconer Store from which they retired during 1950.



THE ROSE SERIES P.2882
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THE CROSSING, BORONIA, VIC.



Stan and Nell on their Wedding Day.

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Stanley's Descendants

BETHA MARGARET, after leaving Methodist Ladies College trained as an Air Hostess and then did a Legal Accounting Course in a Solicitor's Office. Betha is married to John Gifford a Shoe Manufacturer.

Their children are Michael John Stanley and Anne Helen.

FRANK STANLEY (B.E.(CIV.)M.I.E. Australia a Bachelor of Civil Engineering was concerned with the building of La Trobe University. He married Seigrig Maria Reuter an assistant in a School Bursars Office.

Their children are Paul Robert, Katrina Marie and Mark Stanley.

PETER DAVID, B.Ec.Hons., M.H.R. for Casey from December 1975 to March 1983. Previously being Private Secretary to Sir Ian MacLennan who was Managing Director of B.H.P. Peter was a Management Consultant until elected to the House of Representatives. Peter married Helen Elizabeth Lynne Ackerly who is a graduate of the Kindergarten Training College.

Their daughters are Tara Jane and Kristi Lee.



PETER ~~FRANK~~ Falconer with Malcolm Fraser and Sir Billy Sneddon
(Published with permission of The Waverley Gazette)

THE PAKENHAM GAZETTE

and Berwick Shire News

BUNYIP FAMILY RE-UNION AT

"Farnborough Farm," the 134 acre dairy property of Brigadier Howard Kingham, O.B.E., of Bunyip, was the venue for the re-union of the descendants of his grandparents, Thomas Meikleham and Eleanor Jane Falconer, on Sunday, April 4.

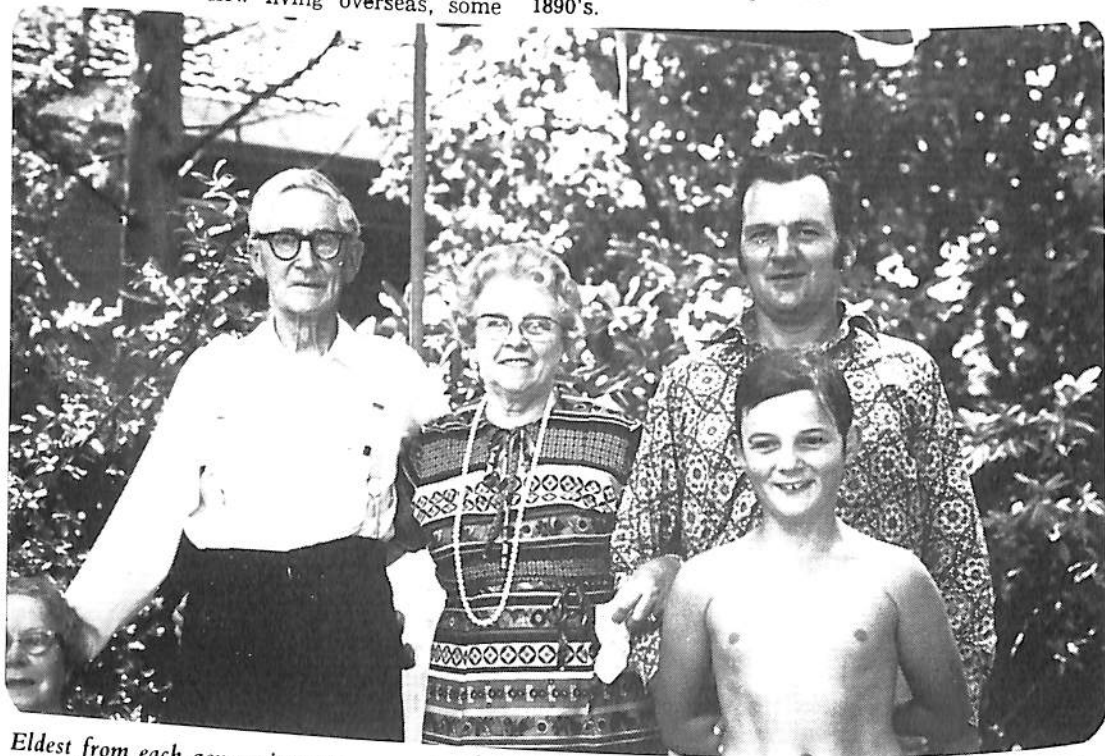
Seventy six people representing four generations of Falconers attended the re-union and whilst some of the descendants are now living overseas, some

travelled from interstate and Victorian country centres to be with their relations.

In warm sunshine the families enjoyed a barbecue lunch and meeting relatives some of whom they had not seen for many years.

During the afternoon hay rides around the farm provided amusement for the young children. A specially prepared cake to celebrate the occasion was cut by Stan Falconer, one of the two surviving sons of the late Thomas and Eleanor Falconer.

The Falconers migrated from Scotland, and after settling in New Zealand for a few years arrived in Melbourne during the 1890's.



Eldest from each generation present at the 1974 reunion, Stan Falconer, Rene Butterworth, David Kingham and Daryl Kingham.



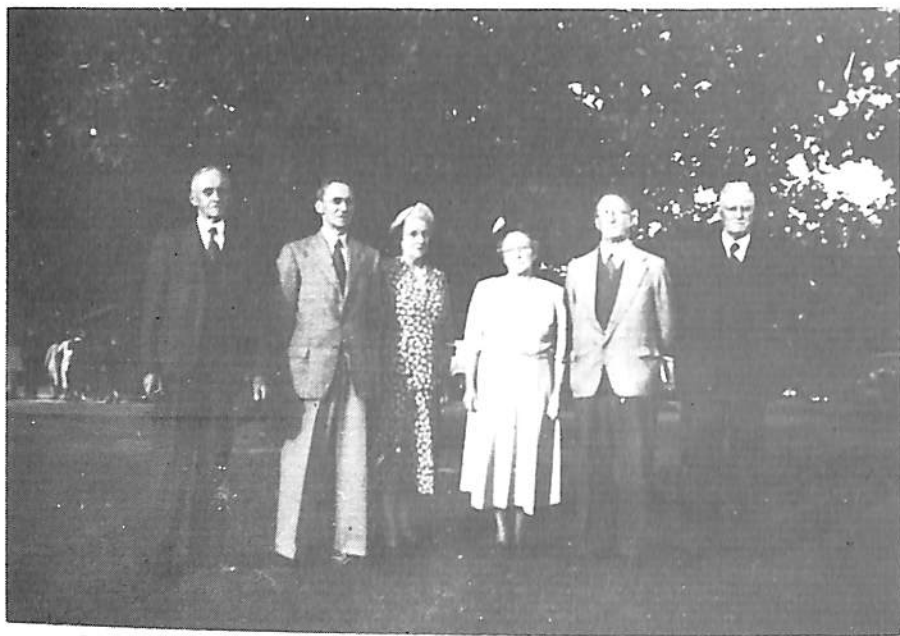
Will Kingham and Stan Falconer reminiscing at a reunion at Howard Kingham's farm



Thomas Meikelham Falconer's grave in Box Hill Cemetery



Grandma Falconer as her Grandchildren remember her.



The Falconer family taken at Wattle Park, where the first family reunions were held. From left to right: Henry, Stan, Margaret, Nell, Horwood and Tom.

The 1983 reunion, lower photograph, after many years reverted to the same venue.



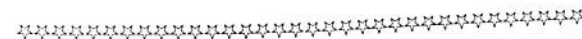
COPY OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY DOROTHY FALCONER
after the 1975 FAMILY REUNION

What a happy day we have had at a family reunion on the banks of the Bunyip River which flows through Kingham's farm in BUNYIP. Adam Falconer (our grandson) is the 100th descendant of Thomas and Eleanor Falconer, so received a pewter mug suitably inscribed and presented by Uncle Stan.

In this busy world of ours Uncles, Aunts and Cousins are rarely visited as our immediate families take up so much of our time. A family reunion with eighty relations attending allowed us to keep in touch and learn of the latest marriages, births and alas deaths also.

The family tree is of interest to all and we hope the reunions will continue.

We all appreciate Tom Butterworth's attention to detail in compiling the Family Tree and keeping it up to date so assiduously. Thanks too to Rene Butterworth for her secretarial work, as she notifies all families of impending reunions. We thank her too for the minutes and records she keeps of each reunion.





A load of happy Falconers at a reunion at Bunyip

