

THE FIRST

ONE HUNDRED YEARS

By

R. S. Medew

and I. M. Bowman



A History of
The Medew Family in Victoria

~~John Cotton~~

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

LIST OF BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR

The Days of Thy Youth

Dawsonia

Daughters of Time

COVER ILLUSTRATION by Jill Deuter.

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

A History of the Medew Family in Victoria

by

R.S. Medew & I.M. Bowman

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FOREWORD

July, 1985.

It is said about his era that "we shall never see the likes of these men again". Robert Medew was one of these rare people, the generation that was still pioneering up to the beginning of World War II — and pioneering in what seems to us today to be quite close to civilization. (Although one has doubts about using the word "civilization" in the same sentence as one speaks of this man. His civilization was something quite different from what the term signifies today. His age was that of a man's word being his bond, a man's sympathy being a lending hand or a crumpled bank note anonymously left at the door of a neighbour down on his luck. It was a toil, it was a contentment, and it was faith.)

The faith of the Medew family and that of the Terrills was strong, deep, unwavering. (Robert Medew married Elizabeth Terrill, whose mother Isabella was my father's eldest sister. I recall with joy my holidays as a child spent in that good house — not the "good" of today, not bricks and mortar, but good as in "goodness".)

This family is fortunate in having a man such as Robert to chronicle their family. He writes as he lived, simply and well. His story of his father, Henry Medew, "On the Sabbath morn in the autumn of 1886 riding his horse across the plains from Lyre Bird Mound to the Tarwin", delights one. "His Bible was open on the pommel of his saddle; from this altar he noted the passages to be read...". The bringer of good news was on his way to read to the little congregation waiting for him in the cathedral of the Australian bush: beneath a gum tree.

Robert has etched here a picture of a land that once was and is no more. His place names, Binginwarri, Jeeralang, Jumbuk, Turton's Track, Beales' Ladder, and Koonwarra stir the folk memory of those of us born in this country of Australian born parents. We are now in the minority, our stories, endeavours, joys, fears, tears and loss could be swept away... no, never, not while men like this live to record it.

Any country is blest that has had not only this man but his daughter Mollie with her love, respect and duty towards her father and his story. A saga not only of a family but of a land is here.

PATSY ADAM-SMITH

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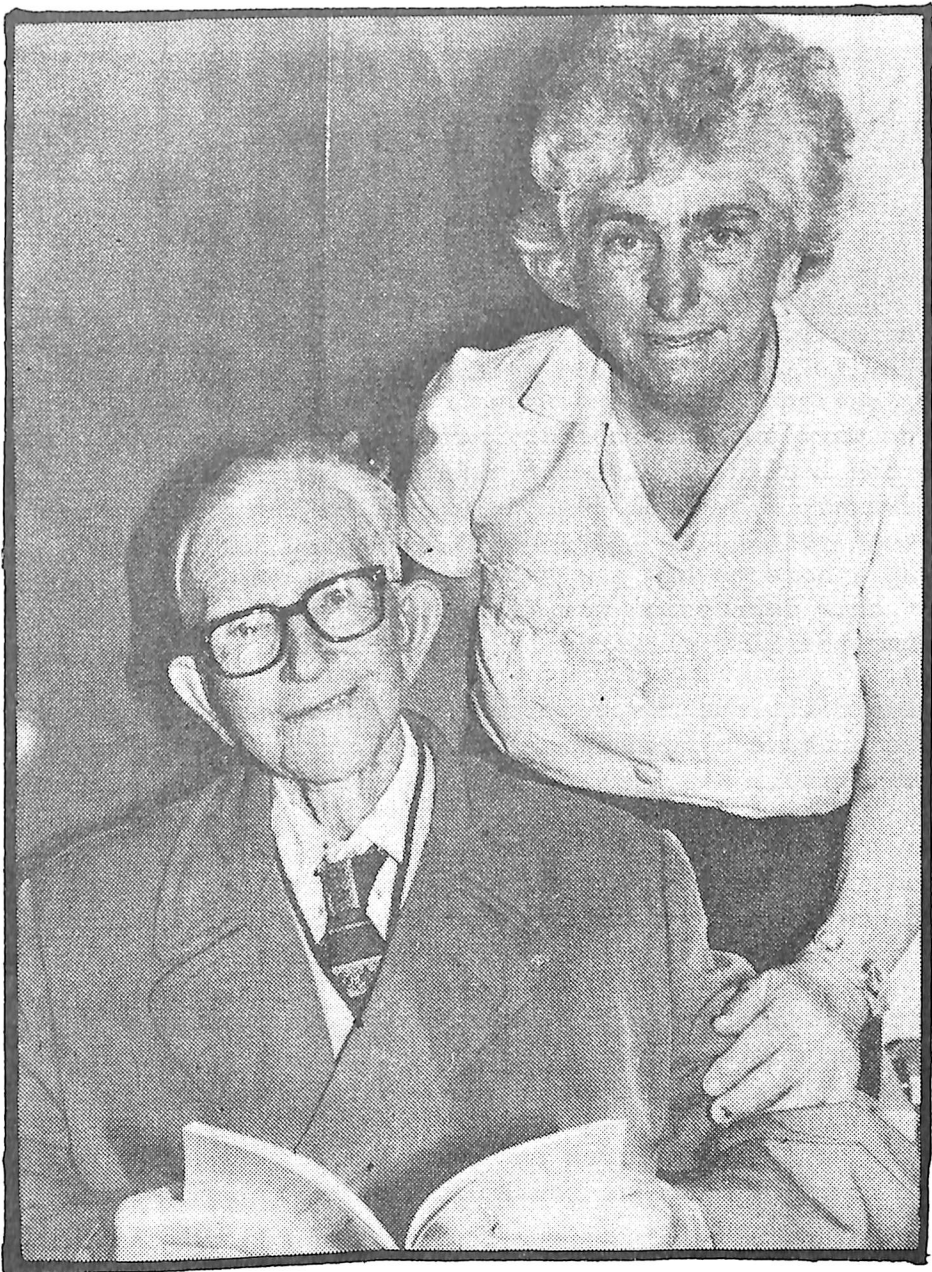
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Also to the publishers of the *Land of the Lyre Bird* for dates in connection with the history of the Lyre Bird Mound Methodist Church.

To those kind relatives and friends who have supplied information and photographs, the author gives his sincere thanks.

1988. Mollie Bowman wishes to thank Rita and Elma Thomas for loaning the extra family photos for inclusion in this family history.

Also her thanks to her cousin Catherine Jones for her generous assistance in having this second edition of *The First One Hundred Years* printed.



*Robert S. Medew, 93 years old, July, 1983,
and his daughter Mollie (Isabella) Bowman.
[Photo by courtesy of The Morning Bulletin.]*

During a sudden illness at the age of 93 years, Robert Medew was inspired to illustrate with family photographs the pioneer story he had written years before in *The Days of Thy Youth*. He planned to add what he knew of his grandfather, Charles Turner Medew, and also the more personal story of the birth of his own five children. *The Birth of a Family*, written at Mollie's request, has been in manuscript form for some years.

Robert had lived with his widowed daughter Mollie Bowman during his last 10 years. He shared with her his plans for his fourth book and fondly claimed her as his typist and editor.

After fighting a determined but losing battle against his failing strength, Robert Sutherland Medew passed away on the 2/1/1984 at the grand old age of ninety-four years.

Mollie completed the task of merging *The Days of Thy Youth* with *The Birth of a Family* using correct names of all people mentioned in this book.

The History of the Medew Family
in the Pioneer Settlements of South Gippsland, Victoria.

PREFACE

The author of this book is a retired dairy farmer who, owing to ill health, left his farm and relatives in Victoria to settle, in 1928, on an irrigation farm in the Dawson Valley, Queensland.

The warm sunshine and dry, clear air of the Valley soon greatly improved the health of his wife and family and self.

However, a general depression, affecting all the people of Queensland at that particular time, had a retarding influence on his work of setting up a home on his new selection of Dawson Valley scrub land. The effect of this depression was felt through the years from 1928 to 1935 and, during the time of struggle for existence, the family endured many hardships.

Almost all the new settlers left their holdings and went to seek an elusive fortune elsewhere.

The author, his family, and a small but hardy band of pioneers, managed to hold on to their land and won through to better times.

During the years of his sojourn in this northern clime, he found time to meditate on his past life in the State of his birth, and from that distance, as from a great height, he was able to see deep into the heart of things and much that had puzzled him in the days of his youth was made clear to him.

After he and his wife had retired from farming and settled at Yeppoon on the central Queensland coast, he was able to write of his family's pioneering days. In this story, which is a true account of those early days, he had endeavoured to express his strong sympathy with his mother, the children and others who endured the hardships of pioneering life in that far south land of hill and plain.

FAMILY TREE

FREDERICK MADEW — ELIZABETH POLLARD of England.
Children: Henry, Gemima, CHARLES TURNER, William and Annie.

↓
Married MARY DUNSTAN BATTERSBY.

Children born to CHARLES TURNER and MARY MEDEW in England and Australia were: Charles Turner Jnr, Walter, Rosina, HENRY, Edwin, Annie and Elizabeth.

[CHARLES TURNER MEDEW JNR was accidentally killed soon after marriage.

WALTER FREDERICK MEDEW married FLORA BOYLE. Their children were: Catherine Elizabeth, Mary (Mayne), Jessie, Frederick, Flora, Amy, Rueban Stanley, Myra, Annie and Ellen.

ROSINA MEDEW married WILLIAM AUGUSTUS GRAUER, son of Charles and Louise Grauer. Only three of their eight children survived. One of two sons, Roy Grauer, joined the A.I.F. in World War I. He married Florence Foster. Stan and Rosalie live in Queensland.

HENRY MEDEW married CATHERINE SMART. Their children were: ROBERT SUTHERLAND, Henry Charles, William Edwin, Mary Elizabeth, John Wesley, Catherine, James Stanley, Ethel Louisa and Ruth Grace.

OF THIS FAMILY:

ROBERT SUTHERLAND MEDEW married ELIZABETH TERRILL. Born to them were: Aubrey, Henry, Sylvie, Isabella (Mollie), and Robert Leslie.

HENRY CHARLES MEDEW married GRACE MARSHALL. Born to them were: John, Gordon and Catherine.

WILLIAM EDWIN MEDEW married MARY FOSTER. Their six children were: Doreen, Albert, Norman, Lorna, Hazel and Elsie.

MARY ELIZABETH MEDEW married THOMAS LADSON. Born to Mary were: Mervyn, Iris, Beryl, Fred, Max and Dulcie.

JOHN WESLEY MEDEW married NELL DANKS. Their three children were: Elva, Ronald and David.

CATHERINE MEDEW married THOMAS LESLIE. Three children born were: Robert, Ruth and Hazel.

JAMES STANLEY MEDEW married NELL NORTHWAY. Children born to them were: Kenneth, Mervyn, Graham, Gwen and Ivan.

ETHEL LOUISA MEDEW married JOHN WHITE. Five children born were: Dorothy, Jean, Trevor, Frank and Heather.

RUTH GRACE MEDEW, unmarried.

EDWIN MEDEW (son of Charles Turner Medew) and wife Annie had one daughter, Jessie.

ANNIE MEDEW (daughter of Charles Turner Medew) married HARRY THOMAS (son of Jacob Thomas). Annie and Harry's children were: Grace Mary, Winifred Elva, Rhys William, Horace Osborne, Cornish Vincent, Rita Irene, Elma Jessamine, Olive Gwendoline.

ELIZABETH MEDEW (daughter of Charles T. Medew), unmarried.

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WILLIAM EDWIN MEDEW married ^{May 1914 - 6 children.} THOMAS LADSON. Born to Mary ^{Redfern (nee Medew)} were: Mervyn, Iris, Beryl, Fred, Max and Dulcie.

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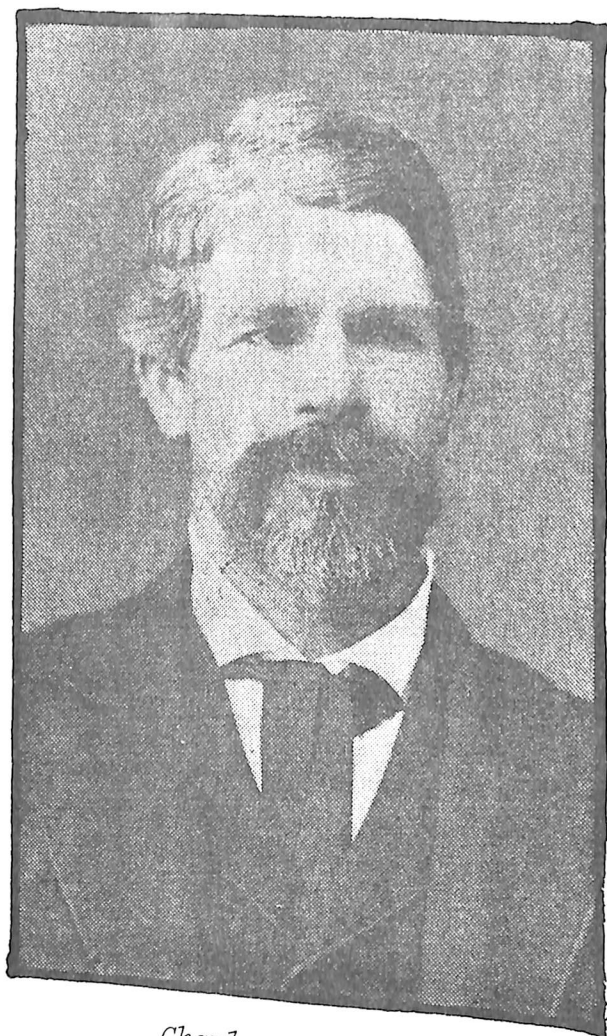
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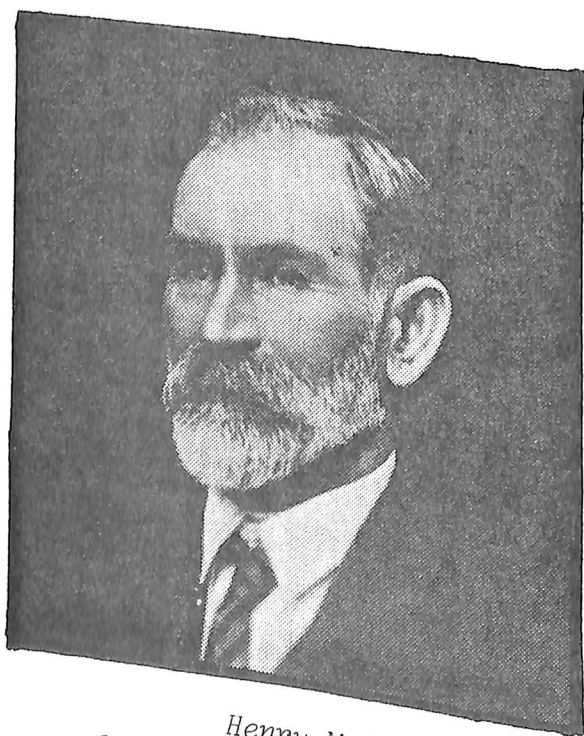
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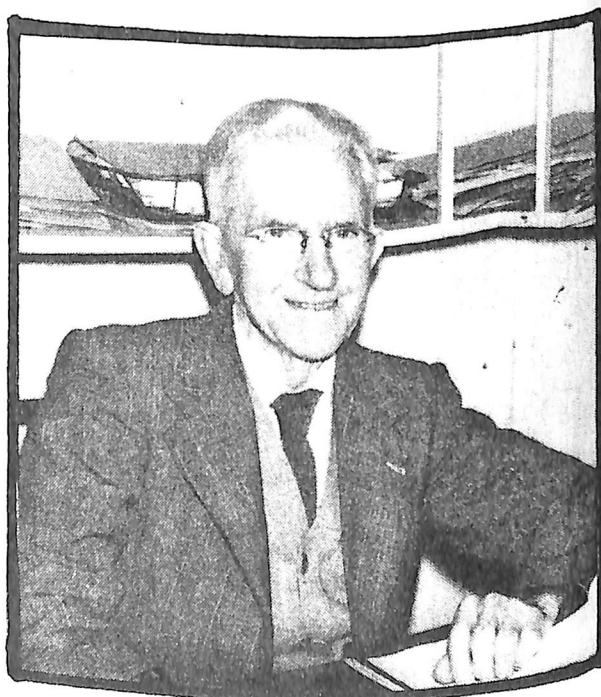
*Charles Turner Medew
as a young man in Victoria.*



His wife, Mary Medew.



*Henry Medew,
son of Charles Turner Medew.*



*Robert Sutherland Medew,
son of Henry,
grandson of Charles Turner Medew.*

Chapter 1

CHARLES TURNER MEDEW IN ENGLAND

Robert's grandfather, Charles Turner Medew, was born in Cheltenham, Gloucester, England, on the 29th of May, 1829.

An old picture of him was found at Grauers (his daughter's family) at Allansford, Victoria. They found written on the back of it, "Charles Turner Medew, son of an Earl."

The passage of time seems to have robbed his descendants of any solid evidence that Charles' father, Frederick Madew, was a connection of the Earl of Sandiwell.

Frederick Madew married Elizabeth Pollard in the Catholic Chapel in Cheltenham about 1824 or 1825. Their children were Henry, Gemima, Charles Turner, William and Annie.

Cheltenham in England lies on a shelf between the highest of the Cotswold Hills and the Severn Vale and enjoys an even climate.

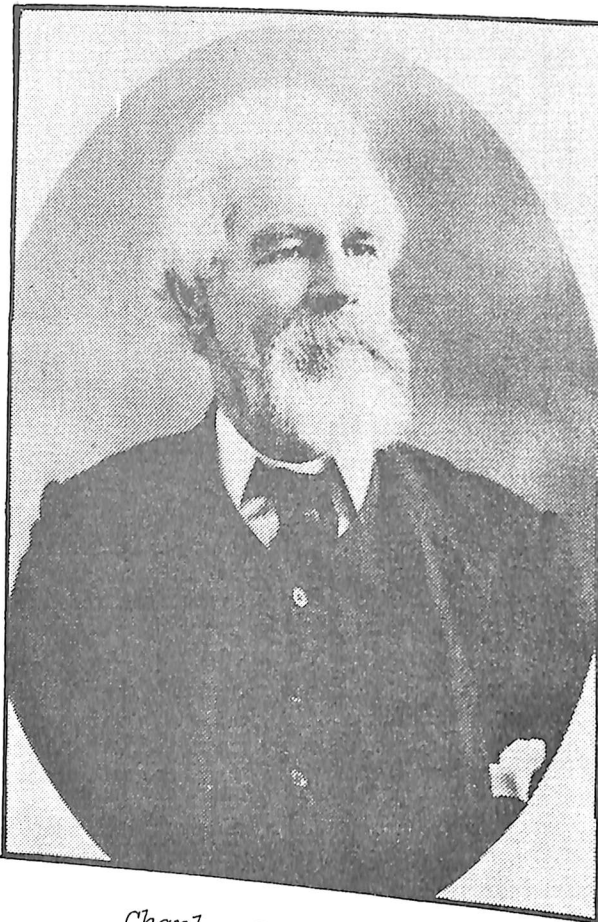
Early in the 18th century there was a chance discovery of a spring with healing medicinal waters, and in 1738, the well was enclosed. Tree-lined walks were laid out and an Assembly Room was built. However, it was not till the visit of George III in 1788 that the town gained its first distinction as an inland spa resort. The seal of Cheltenham's reputation was finally set when the Duke of Wellington discovered the waters to be beneficial to a liver disorder often brought on during tropical service. The fame of the place spread to all parts of the country. Large scale development of the town was undertaken by men of vision and taste, with the help of eminent architects. They planned on a lavish scale and the result was an elegant Regency town.

Many cities and towns have fine examples of Regency buildings but none is so completely "the Regency Town" as is Cheltenham. The town's oldest building is St Mary's Parish Church dating from the 12th century.

Cheltenham lies a little north of Gloucester, both cities between the Severn River and the Cotswold Hills which run in a north-easterly, south-westerly direction, bounding the Vale of Evesham. This central part of England, famous for its great oak trees, has remained an agricultural area where fruit growing is carried on. The beauty of the Vale in the springtime with the profuse plum blossom is a delight to behold. The Vale of Evesham is truly "The Flower of England".

Surely the environment of Charles Turner Medew's youth must have influenced him in his love for the great oak trees and for the art of building which became his trade. He became a skilled cabinet maker and stone mason, and it is supposed that he may have attended a Technical College for this end.

Charles met and fell in love with Mary Dunston Battersby, a young lady ten years younger than Queen Victoria. Mary returned Charles' love and eventually they were married.



Charles Turner Medew.



Mary (Dunstan-Battersby) Medew.



*Left: Cpl. Henry Madew . . .
of the 97th (Earl of
Ulsters) Regiment of Foot.*

Meanwhile, during 1854 to 1856, the Crimean War was raging and Frederick Madew's firstborn son, Henry, had joined the British Forces.

Russia in the 1850's had begun building up a strong fleet of warships in the Black Sea. Russia was not communistic in those days. She was governed by a king and queen who had advisers just as Britain has today. Indeed, the king of Russia was often a cousin or relative of the king or queen of England.

But Russia was walled in on every side by snow and ice in the north and the narrow Bosphorus Strait her only exit past Turkey to the Mediterranean.

Britain and France feared that Russia was preparing to go to war with Turkey. They ordered Russia to take her warships out of the Black Sea. Russia refused and Britain and France declared war. Russia was no match for the combined fleets of the British and French. They soon cleared the Russian warships out of the Black Sea.

It was a different matter when they came to fight Russia on land. They suffered heavy losses and, besides that, when winter set in, they were not able to bear the cold of the Crimean area. Large orders for blankets and even paper to wrap around themselves were sent home to Britain. The hospitals filled up with the sick and the wounded. Further battles only led to further heavy losses.

The British people began to protest against the losses of young men, many of them firstborn. Sir John Bright felt impelled to make an impassioned speech in the British House of Commons appealing for an early end to the Crimean war. "A war," he said, "which neither the British or the Russians could win."

He referred to the anxiety of the parents waiting at home for their distant son to return and warned that many such homes may be rendered desolate when the next mail shall arrive. "The angel of death has been abroad throughout the land. You can almost hear the beating of his wings. There is no one, as when the firstborn was slain of old, to sprinkle with blood the lintel and the two side-posts of our doors that he may spare and pass on. He takes his victims from the castle of the noble, the mansions of the wealthy and the cottage of the poor and lowly, and it is on behalf of these classes that I make this solemn appeal. I tell the noble Lord (the Prime Minister) that if he be really honestly, and frankly to endeavour by the negotiations about to be opened at Vienna, to put an end to this war, no word of mine will be given to shake his power for one single moment, or change his position in the House."

But the British and the French were stubborn. Having started the war, they were loath to give up. Eventually they had to do so, when both sides realized that they were fighting a useless war in which neither side could win.

Peace was finally declared by the Treaty of Paris in 1856. Russia agreed to keep her ships out of the Black Sea and not to fortify Sebastapol. Britain and France agreed to keep the peace with Russia.

Henry Madew was killed during this foolish and needless war which brought a great grief upon his parents.

Question: Was the marriage of their younger son, Charles, also a disappointment to Frederick and Elizabeth Madew? He who was christened Charles Turner in the Catholic Church in Cheltenham had fallen in love and married Mary Dunston-Battersby in Hackney Old Church (C. of E.) near London. Had Charles married a girl below his station as well as of a different faith?

Mary Battersby was born in 1829 at Commercial Road, Limehouse, East London. East London was reputed to be the poorer part of London.

Was there a rift between father and son and a bitterness to explain Charles' change of spelling his name from Madew to Medew?

Perhaps it was just the wish for change and a new life which persuaded Charles and Mary to leave their homeland.

One son, named after his father, was born to them before they made arrangements to leave England and voyage to Australia as assisted immigrants. Shipping records show they embarked on the barque "William" of 704 tons, with a crew of 29, Master Milton, and 282 passengers. The good ship "William" left Plymouth on the 4th of November, 1856. Among its passengers were:

Charles Turner Medew of Middlesex, London, C. of E.,
carpenter (literate),
and his wife, Martha (Dunston-Battersby) Medew, C. of E.,
(literate), and infant son, Charles Turner.

(Martha could have been a second Christian name or one usually known by the family.)

Again, the question of the change of spelling from Madew comes to mind. A clerical error on the ship's records, perhaps, which Charles decided to stick with in Australia? A rumour handed down was that Charles did not like being nicknamed "Mad", so changed his name to Medew. Whatever the cause or reason, it is left to his descendants to speculate. They may also wonder if, in later years, Charles had any difficulty in explaining the changed spelling of his name when making a claim for a share in his father's Sandiwell estate.

After a voyage of 61 days, the "William" berthed on the 25th of January, 1857, at Port Fairy in Victoria, Australia. Port Fairy was called Belfast at that time.

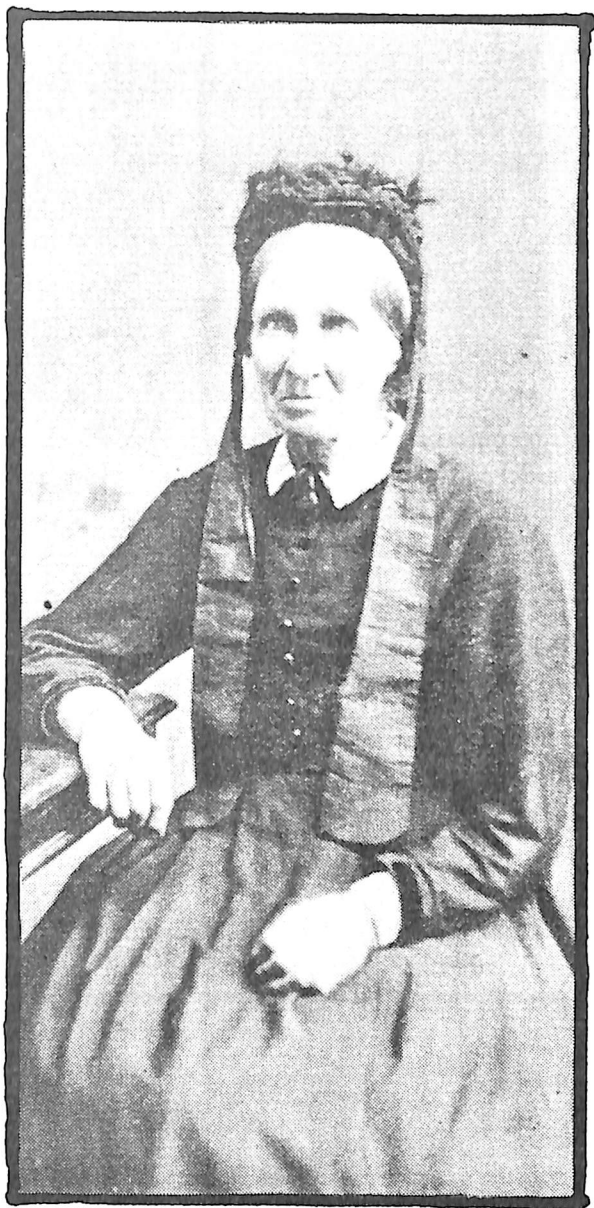
Port Fairy had become the "birthplace" of Victoria in 1810 when Captain James Wishart, a sealer, sailed into the bay to seek shelter. He returned to its shelter from his sealing expeditions for many years afterwards, naming it Port Fairy after his cutter "Fairy". Actual settlement of the surrounding rich farming lands did not begin until about the 1840's.

When Charles Turner Medew arrived there on the good ship "William", there was a gold rush on since gold had been discovered at Ballarat. All immigrants, either for gold or settlement, were put to shore at Port Fairy which was 18 miles, or 29 kilometres, west of Warrnambool.

Most of these immigrants from the "William" were given employment at Dunmore, Tower Hill, Mt Rouse and other places in the Western District.

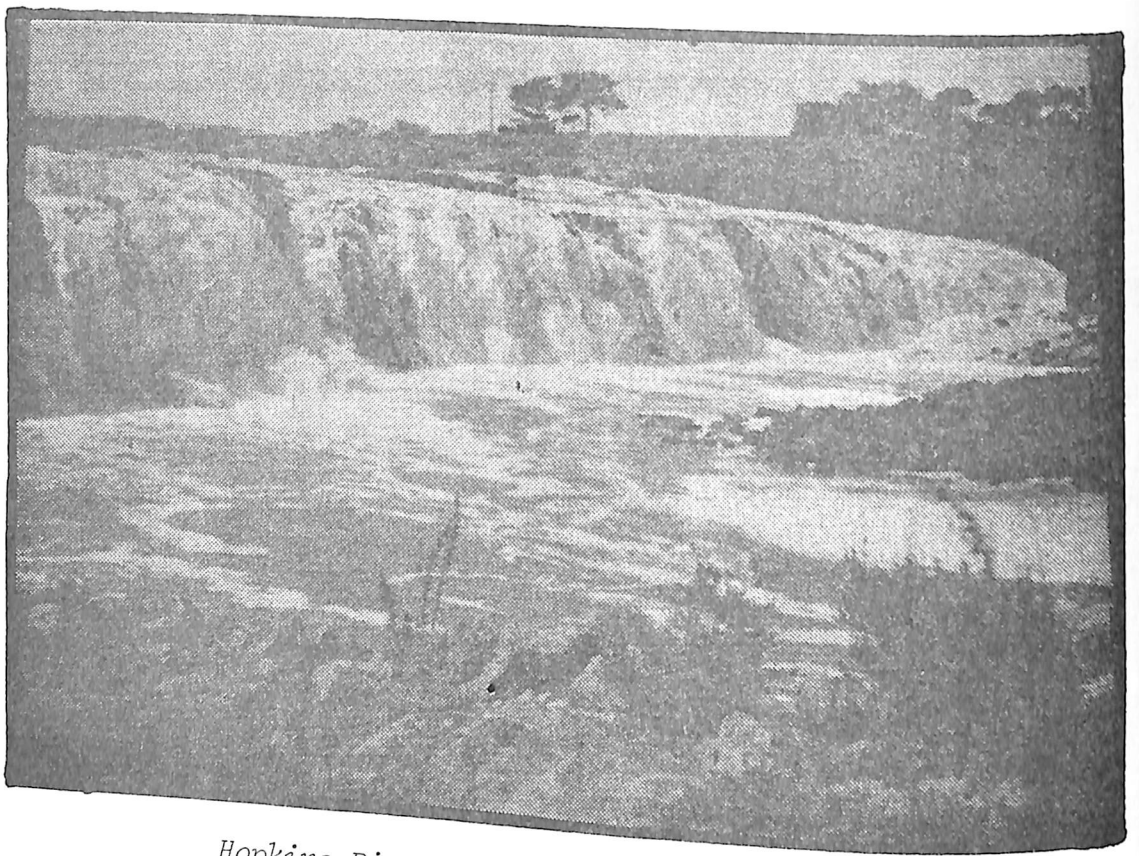
Right:

*Elizabeth Madew
(nee Pollard),
mother of Charles T. Medew.*



Left:

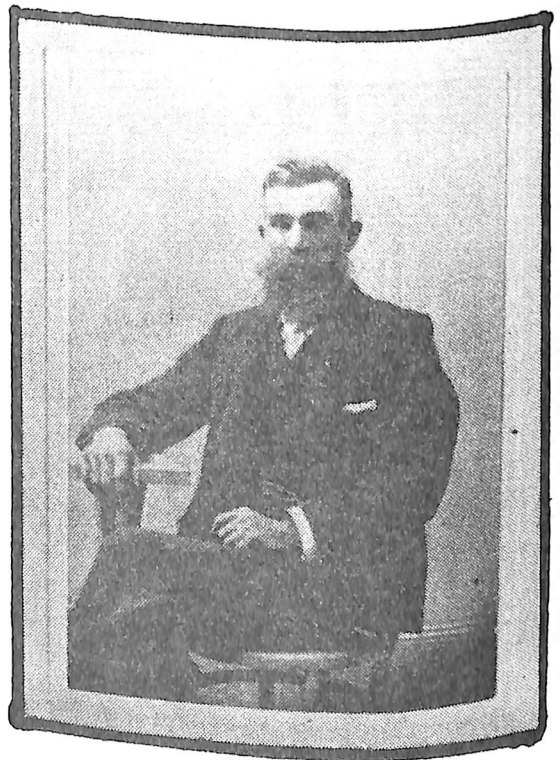
*Grandmother of
Charles Turner Medew.*



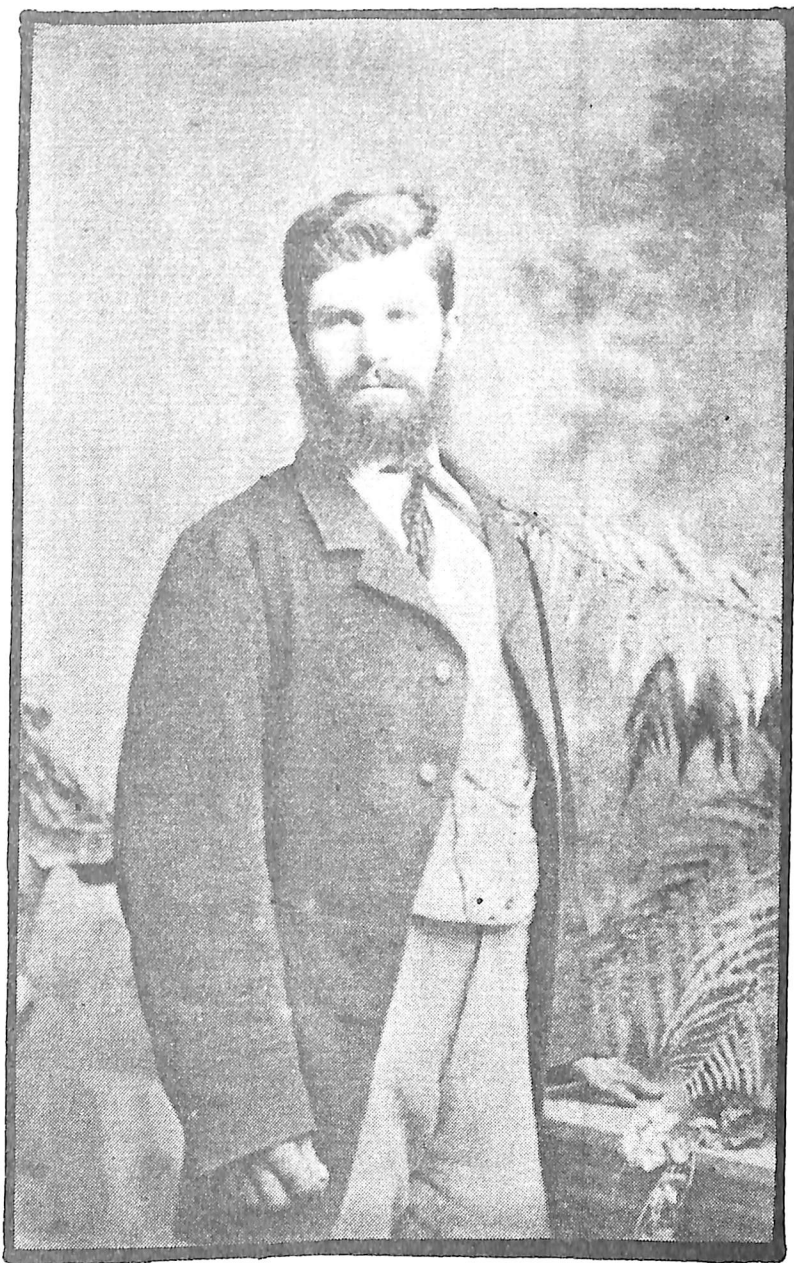
*Hopkins River Falls, Warrnambool, Victoria.
(Photo by Capt. F. Hurley)*



*Flora (nee Boyle),
wife of Walter Medew.*



*Walter Medew,
known as "Wattie".*



Charles Turner Medew Jr.



*Augustus and Rosina Grauer,
daughter of Charles Turner Medew.*

Chapter 2

CHARLES TURNER MEDEW IN VICTORIA

Charles Turner Medew took his wife and son to Warrnambool after arrival at Port Fairy. Warrnambool was a growing tent city at that time. Thousands of migrants and gold seekers were coming in, not only from England but from the goldfields of California, U.S.A.

Situated on a spectacular coastline, Warrnambool is in close proximity to waterfalls and dramatic crater lakes and other notable features. It has a favourable climate and the rich volcanic soil of the area helps create a high productivity rate in the primary industries.

Whalers and sealers were considered to be the first white men to land in Warrnambool Bay.

Charles apparently tried the goldfields at Ballarat at some time for he had said when he came back that he would have done much better if he had taken with him the box of tools which he had shipped out from England with him.

For a time, the Medews lived at Woodford on the Merri River, six miles from Warrnambool.

In 1866, Charles selected land at Allansford and lived there within hearing distance of the cascading Hopkins Falls for the following 19 years.

Children born to Charles and Mary Medew were: Charles Turner (born in England). Born in Australia were Walter, Rosina, Henry, Edwin, Annie and Elizabeth.

Tragedy fell upon Charles Turner Junior when he was a young man in his early twenties. Shortly after he was married, he was killed by a falling limb from a tree which struck him on his head.

Walter Frederick Medew was born on 3/5/1858. He married Flora Boyle in 1880 and they lived for over 25 years in the home which Walter built at Mepunga East and reared a family of nine. One son, Reuban, died at the age of three months.

The family moved about 1907 to Camperdown and worked on a dairy farm for the Lucas family. They moved to Terang briefly and then to a farm at The Sisters. Finally, they moved back to Terang where they resided in Lyon Street.

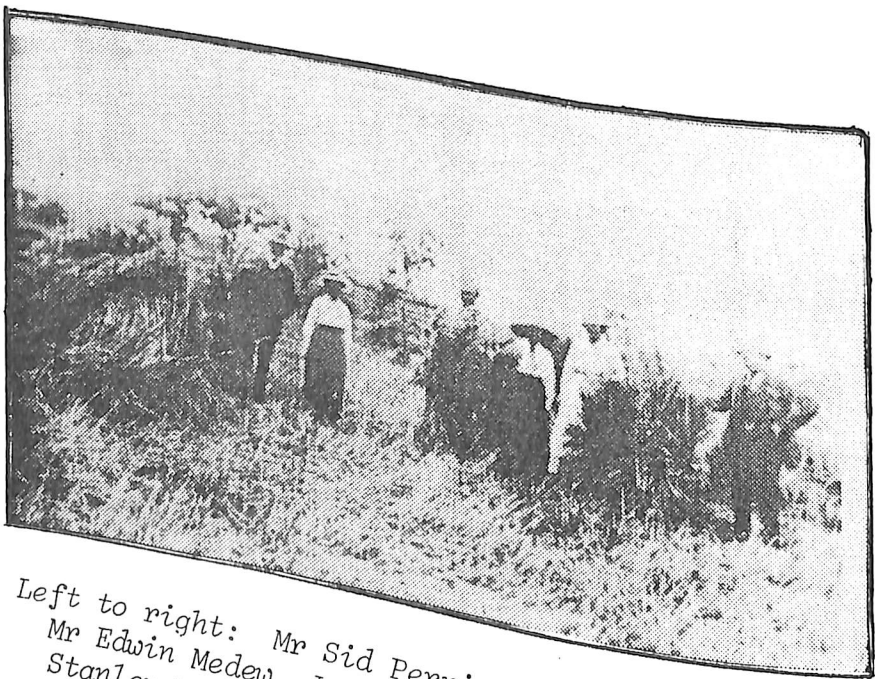
Walter was well liked and was called 'Wattie' by everyone. He died suddenly on 5/9/1924.

His wife, Flora, became a very good and well loved midwife. After the deaths of a daughter and daughter-in-law about 1916, she began rearing her five grandchildren. She died in Terang on the 23/11/1953.

Rosina Medew married William Augustus Grauer. William's parents, John Charles Grauer and Louise (nee Tasler) had married at Endower, Germany. They came to Australia in a sailing ship, arriving in Melbourne around 1855 or 1856. Buying a horse and dray, they loaded their belongings and set out on the 190 mile trip to Allansford which was then called Tallangatta. There they built their new home, a modest dwelling of the times, on the land they had selected. Work began of clearing their selection which became an excellent dairy farm, and is still in the Grauer family.



*Edwin and Annie Medew and
daughter Jessie.*



*Left to right: Mr Sid Perrin (Snr), Mrs Medew,
Mr Edwin Medew, Jessie Medew, May Perrin,
Stanley Perrin (Cambooya, Q.)*

There were seven children but five were lost in one week with typhoid fever, leaving the one boy, William Augustus, who was born on 30th March, 1863, and a girl Annie.

William married Rosina Medew at St John's Church, Warrnambool, on January 21st, 1885, both at the age of 21 years.

Eight children were born to them, but only three lived to marry. One of Rosina's sons, Roy Leslie Grauer, who was born at Allansford on the 4th of July, 1892, joined the A.I.F. in the First World War. In the 46th Battalion, he saw active service at Gallipoli and in France during 1915-1918.

After returning from the war, Roy Grauer married Florence Foster on February 11th, 1920. Their first son lived only three days. They had two other sons and a daughter.

Roy Grauer died on the 12th of July, 1978.

Henry Medew left the Western District to work and take up land at Koonwarra to the east of Melbourne. As a pioneer settler in the early years, he was able only to build a simple log cabin on his small farm near Lyre Bird Mound. His story is recorded by his son, Robert, firstly in *The Days of Thy Youth*, and now in the following chapters of this book, this time using the proper names.

Edwin Medew must have left the West also about the same time as his brother, Henry, and obtained work about the same district as his brother.

A Mr Jim Landry has kept the diary which belonged to his father who had lived in the Koonwarra-Leongatha area. An entry in the diary states that Edwin Medew was paid six shillings for slashing dogwood and bracken fern. Jim Landry showed this diary to Robert Medew in early 1975 when Robert revisited his father's old Sunny Hill farm at Koonwarra. Robert had flown from Queensland to Victoria to attend the Medew Family Reunion which was held in the South Hazelwood Hall on the 28th of December, 1974, and at which some 150 persons were present.

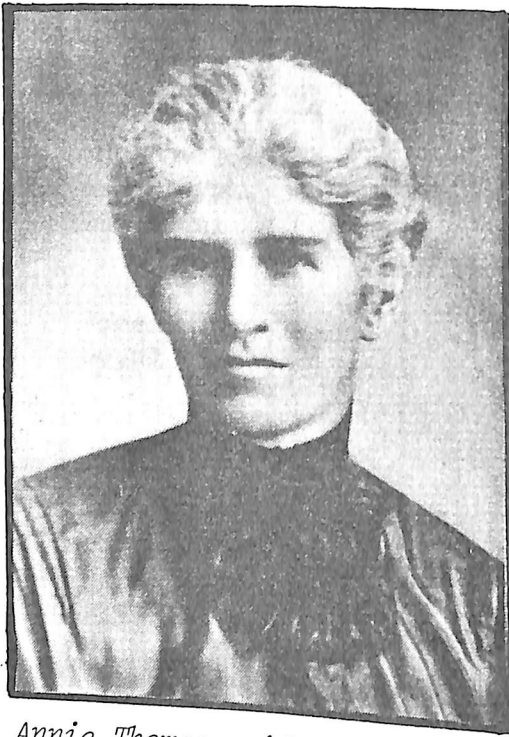
Edwin Medew and his wife Annie had one child. They went to Queensland and selected land near Toowoomba. Their daughter Jessie attended the Cambooya State School and her name was entered on the school roll there, in 1910. However, a few years of drought persuaded Edwin to sell and return to Victoria.

Charles Turner Medew also left Allansford and followed his son Henry to Gippsland. Together with their two daughters, Annie and Elizabeth, Charles and Mary lived for a time with Henry on "Sunny Hill" farm.

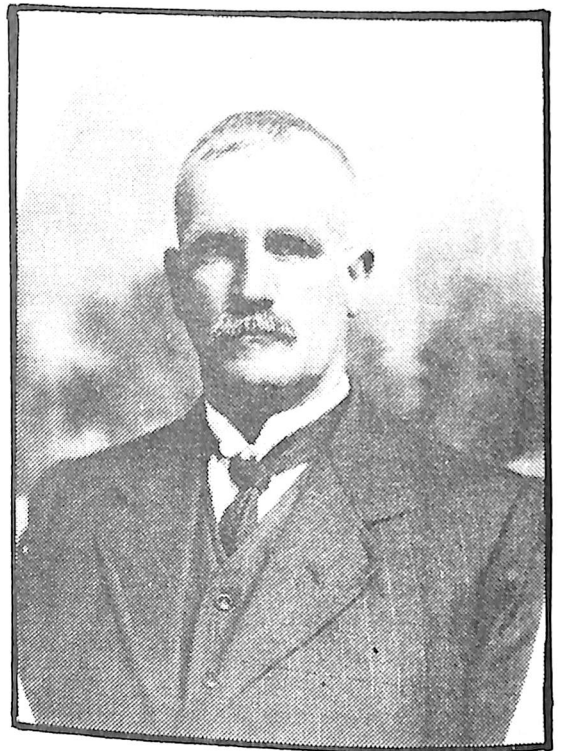
Henry's log cabin was used as a kitchen onto which Charles built a fine two-roomed house. The beauty of the finely panelled, stained and grained front door and brown dadoed walls of the home was to become a source of wonder and delight to young Robert in his tender years, a few years later.

Henry's plans for marriage were delayed for two or three years while his parents shared his home. Finally Charles selected a town block at Ringwood. He was the original purchaser from the Crown in 1887 of C.A. 32, Section C, township of Ringwood.

There he built a small home for his wife and two daughters still with them. They moved to Ringwood and settled in the new home on January 20th, 1888.



*Annie Thomas, wife of Harry
Thomas, daughter of C.T.
Medew.*



*Harry Thomas, son of Jacob and
Elizabeth Thomas.*



*Grace Thomas when young
(daughter of Annie and Harry).*

Charles certainly justified his entitlement as to the nature of the occupation he had chosen. His chimneys - the finely designed interior open fireplace for the front room, with its perfect curve of the arch under the mantelpiece - were the admiration of all. This work he did for many residents of Ringwood. He was well known for his fine building work and stone masonry.

Just after moving in at Ringwood, Charles selected some adjoining land so that he had a total area of three-quarters of an acre. Being a keen gardener, he worked his land intensively, planting an orchard of fruit trees and growing vegetables at the back besides a flower garden in the front of the house. Along his drive he planted oak trees which were fine large trees by 1910, and those which remain are magnificent trees today.

The land is still in the possession of Charles' grand-daughters, Rita and Elma Thomas. During the last years of their sister Grace's life, the three girls had had their new home built on the original allotment.

Grace Thomas died in January, 1980, at the age of 88 years. Their mother, Annie Medew, had married Harry Thomas, son of Jacob Thomas of Lyre Bird Mound.

In his retirement, Charles Medew experimented with model helicopters. About 1910, at the age of 80 years, he was able to raise these helicopters to such a point of efficiency that, just with an elastic wound propeller, when released they could fly upwards to the height of the large oak trees.

In the company of his close neighbour, Mr Lew East, whose hobby was copying models of the then famous monoplanes and biplanes, Charles Medew also tried his hand at building model planes.

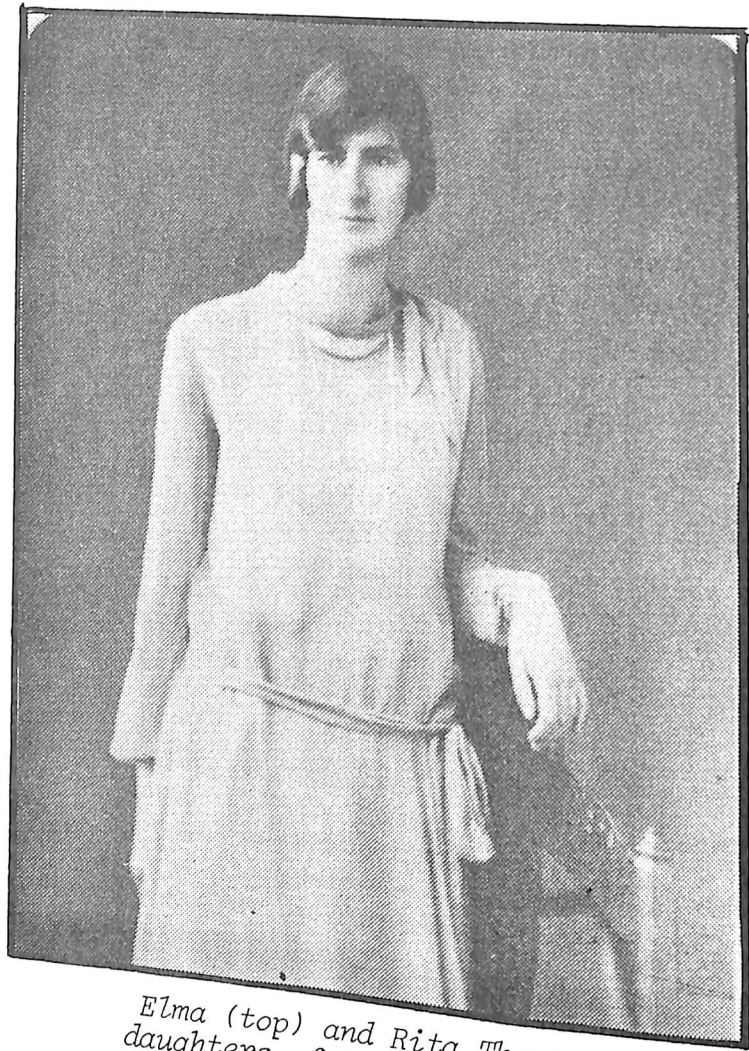
Charles and Lew shared their hobby, working together in Charles' workshop which proved a convenient workplace. Both men were experts in wood carving and could plane timber down to card-board thinness for the wings of their model planes. There was no balsa then, and the small planes were not lightweight, even though East and Medew were skilled woodworkers. Nevertheless, their models did fly upwards to 40 or 50 feet.

In 1910, Charles obtained plans and made a model of the Wright Brothers' biplane entirely of wood, with laminated wood propeller and driven by twisted elastic bands. This model remained in his workshop for many years after his death until one day it was noticed by Sir Ronald East as he was visiting Grace Thomas whom he had known from youth.

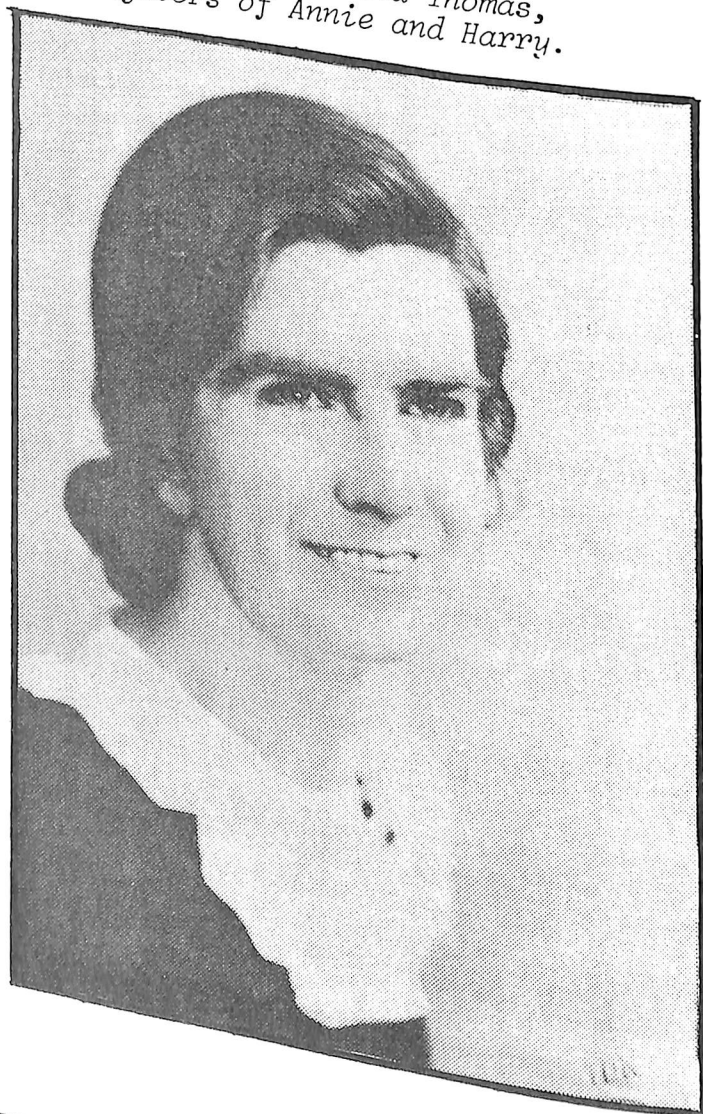
Sir Ronald East, former Chairman of the Victorian Irrigation Commission, was a son of Lew East, close neighbour of the Medews and the Thomas's at Ringwood. Knowing that Charles' perfect model was possibly the oldest model of the Wright biplane still in existence in Australia, he obtained the Thomas sisters' permission and used his influence to have it placed in the Melbourne Science Museum.

Sir Ronald East wrote a book about the East family in which he mentioned a notable day for Charles Medew.

"It was a wonderful day for old Mr Medew when, in May, 1914, Lew East took him to see an aeroplane - a Bleriot monoplane similar to that which first flew the English Channel in 1909 - actually fly into the air with its French pilot, Maurice Guillaux. The first flight in Australia had been by Houdini, in March, 1910, in a Voisin biplane. In October of that year, J.R. Duigan made the first flight in an Australian machine, designed and built by himself. Harry



*Elma (top) and Rita Thomas,
daughters of Annie and Harry.*



Hawker brought a Sopwith plane to Melbourne in 1914 and gave exhibition and passenger flights, but Guillaux was the first to show looping-the-loop and upside-down flying with his machine. In July of that year, Guillaux carried the first Australian airmail from Melbourne to Sydney."

Robert Medew first met his grandfather, Charles, when he was fifteen years old, rising sixteen. His father, Henry, had taken him along with him on a trip to see his parents at Ringwood.

Charles was a lover of classical music and his ability to quote Shakespeare indicated that he had had a good education.

Robert saw many signs of his grandfather's interest in art and architecture when he took them to visit the city of Melbourne. They started out early in the morning on the workers' train.

Charles spent part of the early morning showing Henry and Robert around the Town Hall and St Paul's Cathedral, then went on to the main Library and Museum building in Swanston Street. He spent nearly all that day showing them through the Art Gallery and Museum. They had a meal in the building and then, after completing the Museum tour, went to see the Library with its towering walls of bookshelves and ladders for the attendants to climb. The middle reading arena covered, perhaps, the size of two ordinary hall floors.

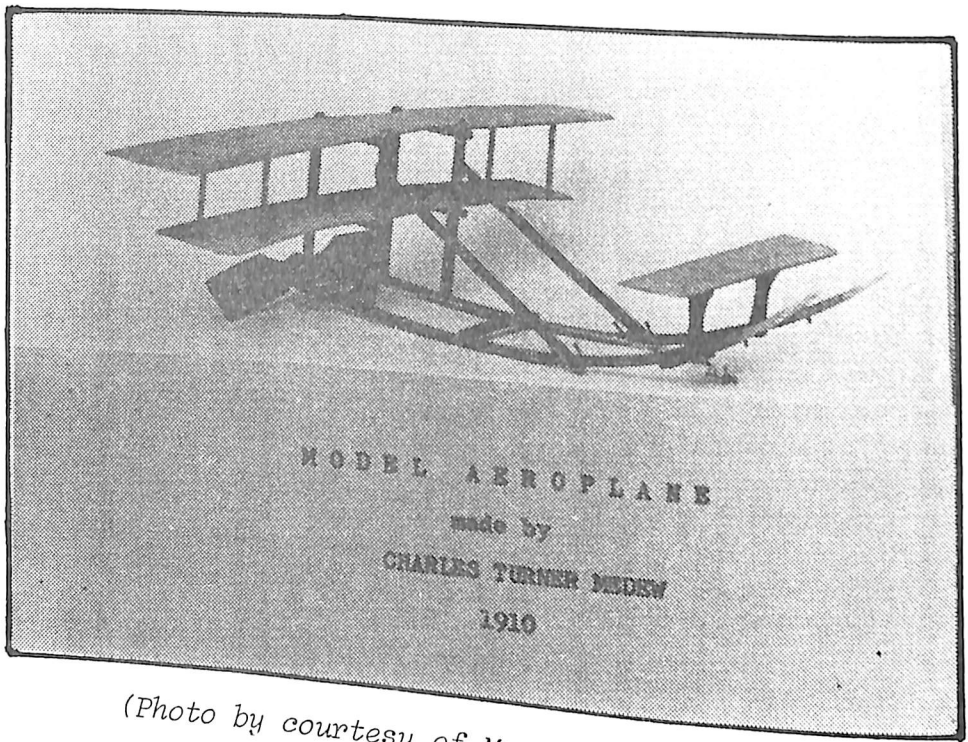
Charles was delighted to see the great interest which was aroused in his grandson. It was Robert's first time in Melbourne since his birth and the trip opened up many feelings for art and culture which had before lain dormant in him.

The following day, Charles took them through the Botanic Gardens which are bounded on the north by the Yarra River, the east by Anderson Street, in the south by Birdwood Avenue, and in the west by the grounds of Government House. The site for the Royal Botanic Gardens was chosen in 1845 by Charles Labrobe, Superintendent of Port Phillip District. In March the following year, John Arthur, a landscape gardener from Scotland, was appointed as the Gardens' first superintendent. Planting began when two hectares were fenced off. Later the area was expanded. There are four English elms (*Ulmus procera*) planted by Arthur still standing in the Gardens today.

Situated at the southern side at a bend in the Yarra River, the Gardens are approximately two kilometres from the centre of Melbourne.

There was some problem with flooding which was overcome considerably by straightening the bend in the river by enlarging the lagoons. This gave the Gardens another 16 hectares and allowed construction of an ornamental lake. Existing islands were relandscaped and Long Island, a fourth island, was created. Promontories were constructed to give the lake an irregular perimeter. On the islands were clumps of bamboos, weeping willows, tree ferns, dracaenas and papyrus, and the lakes were a place where numberless waterfowl from all parts of the world seemed perfectly at home.

Charles delighted in conducting his son and grandson around the broad garden beds and gently sloping lawns, along the walks to the picturesque lakes and over the Rustic Bridge. They admired the comprehensive collection of living plants from all over the world,



(Photo by courtesy of Museum of Victoria)



*Rita and Grace Thomas. Late 1970's.
Their grandfather C.T. Medew's tool shed behind.*

some grotesque, some of peculiar interest, some of exquisite beauty.

There were other attractions of interest. Before leaving the Gardens, they went to see the Temple of the Winds, which structure was one of Guilfoyle's achievements. William Guilfoyle, a nurseryman and plant collector who was appointed Curator of the Gardens in 1873, had been responsible for the relandscaping of the Gardens.

Charles, Henry and Robert finished their tour by walking right through to Government House and all around it.

When Charles Turner Medew's parents died in England, Charles sent papers to London claiming a share of his father's Sandiwell estate. There was no doubt that the estate was of considerable value, for Charles had told his sons that the rents from the estate which included a lot of London property were £60,000 per annum.

Edwin Medew, believing his father to be a spendthrift, remarked to his brother Henry, "I would like to see the Old Man get that money, just to see how fast he could spend it."

For two years, Charles had correspondence with solicitors in London in connection with his claim. At last he was notified that he would have to go to London and put his plea before a Court of Law. As Charles did not have the money to go, he had to give up his claim for a share in his father's estate and be content with the fair living he was making from his work about Ringwood.