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Your grandfather in middle
holding a baby. Last Knud
name, my mother on his
left in white velvet hat.
Fred & Martha Singer far right.
All others are my relatives on
mother's side.

Many peoples come to Knox

(Courtesy of the Knox Historical Society)

AS we witness the continuing influx of new residents to the City of Knox, you will also have noticed the large number of different European nationalities represented.

British, German, Austrian, Dutch and Italian families almost equal the number of Australian-born families moving into this area.

A recent survey of one class at a high school in Knox revealed 12 separate countries as the birthplace of the parents.

Yet a study of the history of Knox reveals that this present influx is only one of a number of waves of migrants who have settled in Knox since the mid-1800's, and

these migrants have generally come from many different countries.

After the early pastoralists, many of whom were Scottish farmers, like the first white settler in Knox, James Clow, the pioneer settlers began to select land in the 1860's after the great goldrushes. Among these were many Germans, most of whom arrived in the colony in the 1850's, and they settled the Wantirna and Bayswater areas in

particular. The influence is reflected today in the large number of streets named after these families, names like Pach, Sass Zeising, Kleiner Piergrosse, Neuman Mau, Finger, Schul Albrecht, Schooling and so on. Many descendants of these German families remain in the area, though some cases with anglicised spellings, as result of the Great War. The Pach family, for example, is now known as Peck, and the Neumann's became Newman.

Another influx of Europeans occurred after World War One. Many Italian families came to Scoresby in the 1920's — the Zarr Pepercelli, Ajani and Muratore families figure prominently in community life there between the wars. The Alberni brothers from Spain were responsible for the opening of the brussel sprout market in Sydney during the depression years. Many of these families are still operating orchards and market gardens in the Knox area. A browse through the Ferntree Gully cemetery will clearly show the influence of the Italian families in Knox from the earliest days.

Another prominent pioneer family was the Ingwersen family, who originally came from Denmark. One of their early relatives is mentioned in the Dandenong Advertiser about his illicit stills!

So it seems that Knox has always had a rich

So it seems that Knox has always had a rich multicultural background. Certainly the orchards, market gardens and small farms have attracted people with a farming background from many different countries. Even our present day State politician, Steve Crabb, would not have been out of place in the Council debates of the 1800's, where members of the Dobson family argued the point in their pronounced north of England accent!

Please ring Tony Scollary (870-8939) or John Waterhouse (754-5797) for further information about the Knox Historical Society or if you can assist us in any way.