



An Answer To The Mystery

At our general meeting on 12 February 2014 we were fortunate to be able to view a selection of recently digitised photographs from the extensive Shire of Eltham Pioneers collection. A number of images generated lively discussion and comments as we tried to identify various places, as well as some of the characters involved. One such image that baffled some of us was this photograph titled 'Eltham - R.C. Priest'.

While there were comments about clothing styles, there were also a variety of guesses about the make and year of the car pictured. A challenge was issued to members to undertake further investigations to try to identify the priest, as well as the car. Discussions even continued after the meeting had finished.

In the days following there were a few emails exchanged by certain members, with the car eventually being identified as a Unic Taxi, built in the United Kingdom about 1908, though the actual date of manufacture of this particular vehicle was also later questioned. Obviously this challenge was not going to be settled quickly!



Then, how to identify the priest standing next to the car, who is the person wearing the top hat, long coat and a clerical collar (a good clue). We expect that the other man with the bowler hat near the front of the car is the taxi driver, who looks like he is required to sit in the open exposed to the weather, while his passengers are well protected inside the cabin.

Through the detailed investigations of Maureen Jones (a.k.a. super sleuth) we now think that the priest is the Reverend John P. Carney who was born c1880 in Ballaghaderreen, County Mayo, Ireland and was ordained at All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland. He spent all his years as a priest in the Melbourne Archdiocese, arriving in Melbourne in 1902. He was appointed assistant priest at St. Francis, Melbourne, then at Castlemaine and Gordon. He left Gordon to be the pastor of the new mission of Diamond Creek "where he did fine pioneering work and put the parish on a good working basis." He seems to have spent about five years at Diamond Creek before moving to Footscray and later Yarraville.

So, as a result of some detailed research by some of our Society's investigative team we are pleased to advise that we have clarified a number of questions about this particular photographnow for the rest of the collection !

Next Meeting – Annual General Meeting

8.00 PM Wednesday 12 March 2014
Eltham Senior Citizens' Centre
Library Place, Eltham (Melway Map 21 ref J5)

Heritage Excursion

Eltham South farms
2.00 PM Saturday 1 March 2014
See further details on page 3

Annual General Meeting

Our March meeting each year is the Annual General Meeting, which includes the presentation of annual reports and the election of office bearers for the coming year. The official notification of the Annual General Meeting and the agenda were published in the January Newsletter.

As always, we are encouraging members to contribute to the operation of the Society by becoming an office bearer or committee member. Please give this careful thought and, if in doubt, discuss it with one of our present office bearers. We warmly welcome fresh ideas and enthusiastic participation in the tasks involved in running our organisation.

March Meeting

Stanley Simpson Addison M.B.E.

At our next meeting (AGM) Jim Connor will speak about the life and achievements of Stanley Simpson Addison M.B.E., who was born in 1880 at Aldinga in South Australia, which is approximately 45 kilometres south of Adelaide.

His significance to our Eltham district history mainly relates to when he lived at 'High Acre' in Kangaroo Ground, between 1947 and 1968, during which time he was actively involved in his local community, including as a councillor and Shire President for the Shire of Eltham. At one time he did own the Kangaroo Ground General Store.

However, this is only part of what was an interesting and varied life, which included experiences as a farm laborer, an apprentice blacksmith, a doctor's coachman, a laboratory assistant and a searcher for the Red Cross visiting field hospitals on the battlefields in Gallipoli and France, during World War One.

He was also involved in the Student Christian Movement. In this role he travelled around the world three times from 1908, until he resigned in 1914 to go on active service in the First World War.

Stanley achieved science and arts degrees and had a continuing interest in economics. On returning to Australia from England in 1920 he became the assistant registrar at the Melbourne University and played a substantial role in establishing the Melbourne University Press, where he became the inaugural Managing Director.

During the 1930s in Melbourne he presented radio broadcasts about international and economics matters and sat for sixty-five days on the Royal Commission on Banking. Later he became General Secretary of the Australian Red Cross.

Our Society has recently been fortunate to receive, from the family of Stanley Simpson Addison, the donation of a collection of his personal papers, documents and some photographs.

At this meeting we will explore his extraordinary life; we hope you can join us. As at all of our meetings, new members and visitors are most welcome.



Stanley Simpson Addison

March Excursion – Eltham South Farms

In Newsletter No. 213, November 2013, there was a brief history of the parkland currently being established at 2 Bell Street Eltham, part of the former Fabbro Farm. It included reference to a number of small farms and market gardens that previously existed along the western side of the Diamond Creek at Eltham South.

For our excursion on Saturday 1 March we intend to walk around this area that is now parkland and residential subdivisions. It will include a traverse of the perimeter of the Bell Street land, and then on through the park known as Barak Bushland.

We will discuss the former farmers such as the Falkiners, Wests, Fabbros and Bollas and note the locations of their houses.

Maurie Fabbro was the last of the family members to use their land for market garden purposes. Some people may remember him in the fields tending his row of artichokes and other plantings.

One of Eltham's oldest houses is the former Souter farmhouse now incorporated into a modern house. Although it is hidden from the street we can walk through this property to view the house.

This walk is about 2.5 km in length and will take 2 to 2.5 hours. It will start at 2pm at the south eastern corner of the carpark of the Eltham Leisure Centre. Access is from Brougham Street (Melway ref. 21 H7).

The walk will include some rough ground so sturdy footwear should be worn. This free walk is open to the general public as well as Society members. Dogs are not permitted on Society excursions. The phone number for contact on the day is 0409 021 063.



The former Fabbro family home



Souter Cottage with later extensions

2014 Program

Our program of activities for 2014 was distributed with the January Newsletter. It is also available on the Society's website. Additional printed copies are available on request.

This year marks the centenary of the start of World War 1 and this will be commemorated at our November meeting, which will include a talk by Ross McMullin. 2014 also marks the centenary of the death of famous artist Walter Withers. Andrew Mackenzie's talk at our September meeting is a response to this centenary. We hope to commemorate both of these anniversaries in our heritage excursions program during the year.

Early Eltham

The following article and images were originally published in the Australasian newspaper on 2 May 1903. We thought that it might make interesting reading.

“ELTHAM. A POPULAR HOLIDAY SPOT. By L.J.J.

The village of Eltham, with its 377 inhabitants, is prettily situated on the Diamond Creek, a tributary of the Yarra, 16 miles from Melbourne. Yet, in spite of it being so easily accessible from town, few people are aware of the beauties of this early settlement.

Prior to June last year one had to journey by coach from Heidelberg to Eltham, but now the railway conveys passengers through from Melbourne to Eltham, first-class return, for 1/9. The opening of this extension to Eltham was the last ceremony performed by Lord Hopetoun, on June 5, 1902, prior to his departure from Australia. Sauntering through the township one autumn morning recently I was constantly reminded of scenes characteristic of Surrey or Sussex villages.

There is the village pond (so essentially English), reflecting in its clear water a quaint cottage, dwarfed by a huge gumtree, an old smithy, and a hostelry, built quite fifty years ago, the flooring-boards of which the landlord informed me with pride were of Singapore cedar, and quite fit for another fifty years' wear. Then there are the village school, the shoemaker's, the drapery store, and the butcher's shop, all seemingly as they were when first they were erected many years ago.

Poplars grow to a great height at Eltham, and just now they are to be seen in new autumnal tints. The already leafless fruit trees on the slopes of the creek denote the near approach of winter. Orchardists were taking advantage of the recent rains, and were busy ploughing and harrowing between the trees, while the magpies and other birds were picking up worms and grubs on the newly-turned soil.

The busy time for Eltham is the holiday season, and then the inhabitants are put to their wits' ends to provide for the rush of picnic parties, cyclists, and other excursionists. Outside almost every cottage is a notice stating that "summer drinks and hot water" are obtainable."

This article from: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/138684152>

Our thanks to Alan Sheehan for bringing this article to our attention.



Village Pond



Hostelry, Eltham



Drapery Store, Eltham



Do You Have One Of These Medals?

By Jim Allen

During World War One a Welcome Home Committee was formed to identify, confirm, and acknowledge the sacrifice made by Eltham Shire servicemen who fought overseas during the conflict.

Once a serviceman had been identified as having left for the front or as serving overseas the committee forwarded a wallet to his parents for him. It would appear that this was not a conventional wallet as we know it, but a pouch to hold tobacco.

As the war progressed and as groups of servicemen returned home, and were discharged, a welcome home function was held in their local area in their honour. Unfortunately this was often a bitter sweet occasion, with joy being expressed by the families whose sons had returned and sadness for those whose relations did not return and were buried where they had fallen, or were now in an overseas war graves cemetery. There was also the sad situation of servicemen returning home who were shell shocked and had horrifying injuries.

To commemorate the occasion the welcome home committee decided that mementoes in the form of a medal should be presented to the returned servicemen and also to the nearest relations of those who had fallen during the conflict. To cover the cost of the medals, functions were held throughout the district. Generous donations were also given to the cause.

The medal raised is described as being of a pretty design, not too large (about the size of a 50c piece), golden in colour with the image of an Australian soldier shown on the face. The other side of the medal was engraved with the following:



<i>For those Killed</i>	<i>For those who Returned</i>
Rank Initials Surname	Rank, Initials, Surname
From	From
Eltham	Eltham
We won't Forget	We Honour You
Great War 1914	Great War 1914

We are fortunate that the Reverend T.W. Sapsford kept minutes of the Welcome Home Committee and the description of the medal is taken from these documents. Similar details are also mentioned in the Eltham and Whittlesea Advertiser and Diamond Creek Valley Advocate dated the 16 November 1917.

It is also noted that there were variations to the above presentations. Steele Creek made the decision that funds raised would go towards medals for returned soldiers and enlarged photos of fallen soldiers for presentation to parents who had lost their sons.

If on checking you find that you have one of these medals the Eltham District Historical Society would be very interested to see it.

References used for this article are taken from Saint Margaret's Parish Archives and The Eltham and Whittlesea Advertiser and Diamond Creek Valley Advocate.

Members' Projects

A number of our members are currently working on various historical projects that include research, writing articles, representation on committees or working groups and the like.

Harry Gilham's work on the Eltham Cemetery and local war memorials is well known to members. We have previously reported on Maureen Jones' work on the history of Montmorency.

Two members who have recently been producing a large volume of work are Jim Allen and Alan Sheehan. Jim has been working on the history of the Research area and also on local War Memorials. He represents the Society on Nillumbik Shire Council's Memorials Advisory Committee. Recently Jim has been in contact with Research resident Barry Philip who has provided a collection of old Research photos for the our records.



Research Scene with Eltham Barrel

Alan Sheehan began his work researching information on Eltham Football Club, "The Panthers", and their home ground at Eltham Central Park. He has expanded his work to cover Eltham history generally. His research of local paper and internet sources has produced a wide variety of historical information, much of which has not been previously recorded in our files.

A photo of Lloyd's Store, Eltham discovered by Alan on the State Library of Victoria website does not appear in the Society's collection. This store has now been identified as being in Main Road almost opposite Dudley Street and is shown in two photos on pages 32 and 33 of "Pioneers and Painters"



Lloyd's Store, Eltham c1916-1922

And Also

It is good to see an increasing number of members assisting at our records workshops, particularly the Monday morning sessions. If you would like to assist but cannot come on the specified dates then individual arrangements can be made for appropriate tasks and dates. Some jobs can be done on a "take home" basis. Talk to a Committee member if you are interested. Coming dates for our scheduled workshops at our Local History Centre are:

Tuesdays 7.30 pm 4 March and 1 April, **Mondays** 9.30 am 17 March and 21 April

Contacts for the Eltham District Historical Society

- Jim Connor, President – Telephone 9439 5916
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- David Johns, Treasurer / Membership Secretary – Telephone 9434 3357

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