
1872 EDUCATION ACT

After growing dissatisfaction with the State to aid religious schools, Victoria was the first of the colonies to introduce free, compulsory and secular education.

The Education Act of 1872 had harsh regard for the basic rights of the Catholic minority here in Bendigo. The Catholics wanted an independent system of education, so there was a great period of upheaval following the loss of state aid for education.

The Sandhurst Diocese was formed in 1874, two years after this act was passed so Bishop Crane here in Bendigo had to find the means to finance the Catholic schools himself. He called for annual gifts from his parishioners, he gave 100 pounds annually himself and the other priests also promised money. Bishop Crane also bought new priests in from overseas to replace the mainly lay teachers in the Catholic schools.

Catholic schools survived largely due to the communities scattered around Victoria and the drive and energy of the parish priests who were assisted by the financial generosity of many parishioners.

It was not only Catholics who gave support and were sympathetic - Mayor Lazarus, who was a Jew gave 5 pounds each year as did Cr Harkness who was a staunch Methodist.

The Hibernian-Australian Catholic Benefit Society was an important part of Bendigo's Catholic life and for many years raised money for the maintenance of Catholic Schools. In the early 1880's the H.A.C.B.S. decided to run the St Patrick's Day Sports. These sports became an annual event. They also raised money with Concerts and musical evenings.

The people that signed the quilt are predominately Catholics. Many were either members or delegates to the H.A.C.B.S, St Kilian's Branch and early in 1896 they also formed a female branch at St Kilian's.

A lot of Priests signed the quilt but no other Ministers or Reverends from any other denominations. Although Cr Harkness was a lay-preacher as was R O'Neill M.L.A.

A great majority of the people were interested in music or were members of the dramatic society of Bendigo.
We have identified the year of the quilt as **1895**, the year Lazarus was Mayor, but the signatures were put on at various stages.
Not before-

Bishop Reville spent the first part of 1895 in New Zealand, he did not return until March 21st, 1895.

After 4 June 1895

CR S RYAN was voted into council 4 June 1895, he took the place of Alf Bailes who retired. RYAN has Cr against his name BAILES does not.

KATIE WHELAN married on 22 June 1895. (So before that she would have been TOVEY)

B.LAZARUS was elected Mayor August 1895. He has Mayor against his name.

Before October 1895.

Herbert CREDGINGTON left for London October 1895, and was still away by March 1896.

AGNES CAROLIN married Nov 28th 1895, so after that she would have been Connolly.

G.H.HOBSON was elected onto council March 1896, on the death of Cr HEINZ. Hobson died in Feb 1897. He does not have Cr. against his name on quilt.

CR CONRAD HEINZ has his name on quilt, he died March 1896

H.M.MARKS elected Mayor August 26, 1896.

GOLDEN CITY FAIR of 1895

Held for ROMAN CATHOLIC CONVENT, Barkly Street.
December 10.1895

Concert was organised by MRS **TAMBLYN**.

MISS **COLGAN** contributed a number of items.

Card tricks by John **CLEARY**.

Valuable assistance was given by Mr **LAZARUS**

Stall no. 5. Misses COLGAN, **FINN, HAYES, McGINLEY, TOVEY, FEGAN.**

QUILT

We all know Evelyn Leamon died at Strathaven on July 24th 2002, and when they were clearing out her room they found the quilt.

Her obituary in the Bendigo Advertiser tells us a little of her life. Evelyn was born on 28th August 1907, to Flora & Walter Carwardine. She married Ernest Henry LEAMON in 1929, at St Paul's Church, but Ernest died of pneumonia in 1936, leaving Evelyn with two small children to raise on her own. Phillip & Noel.

Her obituary notice tells us she had to go back to work, so she completed a typing course and went back to live with her mother.

Evelyn's mother was Flora Constance Hill, she was also born in Bendigo in 1876, and she was a classical mezzo-soprano, winning the first Bendigo competitions in 1898. She refused a subscription from the people of Bendigo to study overseas, and on 10th October 1906 she married Walter Carwardine at St Paul's Church.

Musical family

Walter Carwardine was born in Bendigo in 1876, the son of Walter Henry Carwardine, from Bristol, England, a local soap-maker, and a prominent citizen who arrived here in Bendigo in 1866 and established his soap and tallow factory in Charleston Road.

He was a member of St Paul's Church and a member of the Musical society of Bendigo. Carwardine Street in East Bendigo is named after him.

(Walter's brother Guy Carwardine married Minnie Lansell, who was the daughter of William Lansell, George Lansell's brother.)

Evelyn's grandparents were Frederick HILL, a butcher from Mitchell Street, and Mary Ann KERSHAW. They married in Victoria in 1861 and had 10 children in the Bendigo, Inglewood, Raywood, Graytown areas. Two of those children died in infancy, the 7th child was Flora Constance HILL born in 1876.

Evelyn's grandfather Frederick Hill died on 25th April 1888. He left land at Neilborough, a weatherboard butchers shop, sausage machine, horse & cart, furniture and shares in a gold mining company. But he also had debts and by the time they were paid for his wife was left with the sum of around 200 pounds to care for a family of 8 children, the youngest was only 5 years old, ~~so Mary established a dressmaking business.~~ *continued to run the butcher shop in Mitchell St it was still operating in her name in 1901.*

Evelyn's grandmother Mary Hill lived another nearly 40 years after her husband's death she never remarried and died on 19 April 1925, aged 82 years, and was buried in the White Hills Cemetery.

She had been a colonist for 70 years, arriving in Australia with her parents John (an accountant) & Jane KERSHAW. They were natives of Rochdale, Lancashire, England.

On the quilt is the signature of M.A.HILL -

I have compared signatures on quilt and Mary's husband's probate papers and they are the same. So it looks like a person that signed the quilt also owned it. Or course her daughter Flora Constance Hill was 19 years old at this time and living at home so it may have been hers.

I think now we have proved that
this quilt has been in this ^{same} family
since its origins.

GENEALOGY

FREDERICK HILL (m) 1861.

Butcher of Mitchell St

Born 1834

Died 25 April 1888

10 Children-

MARY ANN KERSHAW

From Rochdale, Lancashire

Born 1843

Died 19 April 1925

Buried White Hills Cem.

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7th Child

FLORA CONSTANCE HILL

WALTER CARWARDINE

(m) 10/10/1906

Born 1876

Died 11 Oct 1959

Retreat road, Bendigo

Born 1876

Died 30/1/1937

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EVELYN CARWARDINE (m) 1929

ERNEST HENRY LEAMON

Born 28 August 1907

Died July 24, 2002

Strathaven, Bendigo

Died 1936

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PHILLIP & NOEL