

THE HISTORY OF THE FORMATION OF THE SHIRE OF WHITTLESEA.

This history is prepared by direction of the Shire of Whittlesea
May 1961.

Besides the Municipal story, appears many of the interesting
sidelights of other institutions and buildings.

A brief outling of the life story of some of the earliset pioneers
is added.

The narrative has been compiled by Mr. S.T.Grey, Leader Publishing
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FORMATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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As sermons may be learned from stones, so may lessons be learned from even such a prosaic thing as a Shire. The social requirements, and amenities of a municipality and its inhabitants, are more closely allied to our everyday life than even State and National Governments. Roads, Streets, drains and bridges may not be exactly considered as blessings, although the absence of them certainly produces curses.

Inconvenience and discomfort would be caused and suffered by the lack of these necessary adjuncts to our everyday existence.

Civilisation has brought with it such additional responsibilities and requirements that one is apt to consider at times whether it is at all worth while.

It is a well-known fact that we work a goodly portion of the year to pay rates, taxes and other expenses.

Do we ever pause to think of the comforts and conveniences we enjoy as the result of this? Back in the dark ages no councils existed, nor were there any taxing authorities except those which demanded revenue for the personal expenditure of the Federal Lord or Reigning Monarch. The first known tax was the window tax, and one dreads to think of the plight of poor unfortunates not able to meet the levy. They had to dwell in homes devoid of light or air.

For the Local Government. A brief history of Local Government in Victoria may aid in understanding the law. There are two types of municipal corporations in existence - Boroughs, including cities, and Towns and Shires.

Although They are dealt with in the same Act, and in a great measure governed in the same way, it will be seen that their origin was distinct and that, in the earliest stages of their history they developed along independent lines.

A separation from New South Wales in 1851 allowed Victoria to share in tentative efforts of the Mother Colony to establish municipal institutions. These were at first directed towards introducing an ambitious scheme of municipal government and met with little success.

There was however one notable exception, namely, the incorporation in the year 1842 by the New South Wales Act, of the Town of Melbourne. Eight years later the Act was extended to the Town of Geelong and the corporations of Melbourne and Geelong still remain under a different L.G. system from that of other municipalities in the State.

The first important move in N.S.W. towards the establishment of municipal institutions outside Sydney, which was incorporated about the same time as Melbourne was made in 1842 by Act 5 and 6 Victoria C 76, which provided for the formation of local districts under the Government of District Councils. This scheme proved a failure, mainly for two reasons, one being the qualifications of the electors and members of Council, which was to be the same as in the case of the Legislative Council, and the other, the imposing upon the districts the burden of furnishing one half of the revenue for the maintenance of the police force. These provisions were so unpopular, that, after some spasmodic attempts to put the Act into operation, it became practically a dead letter. Five years later a committee was appointed to consider the question of the construction and maintenance of the bridges and roads of the Colony, and it recommended the election of district councils

and local trusts to attend to the maintenance and repair of district roads and bridges, while main trunk roads were to be maintained and constructed from general revenue.

In 1850 an Imperial Act for the better Government of Her Majesty's Australian Colonies enacted that the District of Port Phillip should be separated from New South Wales and henceforth be known as the Colony of Victoria.

Owing to the rapid growth of the population attracted by the gold discoveries and the settlement which accompanied it, the necessity for some more effective system of Local Government soon became apparent.

Therefore, on July 14, 1852 the Legislative Council appointed two committees - one to enquire into the working of the District Council, which had been established in the colony under the N.S.W. Act, the other to enquire into the state of roads and bridges and how the fund for their construction and repair might best be expanded.

The first Committee reported as to the district council that their discontinuance was due to the arbitrary and unconstitutional nature of some of the provisions of the Act, the multifarious duties imposed on them, the expence entailed in carrying out their duties and the inadequate provision for raising funds for the purpose.

The committee recommended their reintroduction, however, subject to considerable modifications and the constitutions of roads districts and shires became an established fact.

The report of the committee of roads and bridges, however, was of great practical value; on it was based the first Victorian Act which dealt with the local government of country and urban districts.

The report contained an interesting account of the state of the country at the time and pointed out the urgency of providing suitable roads and bridges, as an aid to settlement and development.

It emphasised the importance of setting aside more and adequate funds for the purpose, and directed attention to the progress made in the City of Melbourne and showing the result of a well considered scheme of Local Government.

"Your Committee runs the report, would also point out what has been done by the Corporation of the City of Melbourne. By means of loans secured on their revenue and by the assessment of the citizens with little aid from other sources, and corporation has formed & metalled most of the streets in the metropolis, while the roads of the Colonies, under the charge of the Government, have generally been allowed to remain unimproved and neglected to such an extent to present in winter the wretched aspect of a succession of quagmires, impassable for wheel carriages adding to the cost of transport and making travelling almost impossible.

"But the worst feature of our State of the thoroughfares is the want of a sufficient number of bridges where roads are required.

"For the want of such bridges in the interior, lines of communications cannot be maintained during the raining season and in addition to the inconvenience suffered by the public from this cause, many human lives annually are lost in endeavouring to ford rivers."

Thus came into existence the road Boards and Shires of this State.

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COUNCILS ORIGINATED IN ENGLAND.

Local Government in Australia had its origin in England.

In England, units of local government such as townships or parishes, shires or counties, had existed since the ninth century when the country became a single kingdom. Later boroughs were created by royal charter, the first known charter of incorporation being granted to Kingston-upon-Hill in 1439.

These boroughs later became corporations with powers of self-government which modern legislation confirmed and extended. In former days much local government was carried out by statutory authorities for special purposes in boroughs as well as in country districts.

The modern system of boroughs was introduced by an Act of 1835, and representative county councils were created by the Local Government Act of 1888. There were about 15-000 separate local authorities in England approximately 13-000 of them being rural parishes.

Independence of Victoria.

The actual independence of Victoria dated from July.1. 1851, when writs were issued for the elections of the first Victorian Council. Mr. Latrobe was sworn in on July 15 as Lieutenant Governor.

Taking his station on the steps of the Government offices, at the foot of William St., he heard Captain Lonsdale read the commission in public and took the prescribed oath. A salute was fired, and from "His Honor", he became "His Excellency". On the same day, he issued a Gazette containing the names of the first responsible officials.

Captain^{LONSDALE} was made Colonial Secretary, while Alister McKenzie became Treasurer, Raymond Barry Solicitor General, C.H. Ebdon, Auditor General; W.F. Stawell, Attorney General, H.F. Gurner, Crown Solicitor; Robert Hoddle, Surveyor General; A. McCrea P.M.G.; and James Simpson, Sheriff.

The elections were complete on Oct.1. and among the twenty who were returned were John Fawkner, John T. Smith, Henry Miller, Dr. James Palmer, Francis Murphy, William Rutledge, and Peter Snodgrass. Melbourne returned J.O'Shanassy, J.S. Johnson and William Westgarth. Robert Hoddle was the man who planned Melbourne and was responsible for Punt Rd; Hoddle St; High St, and Epping Rd. This is still the most direct north-south route through the city.

Henry Miller was the owner of Mill Park, Bundoora.

Mr. Latrobe appeared in, with William Westgarth, the story of the German settlement in Thomastown.

So came into existence the State of Victoria and its Parliament.

Five Municipal Districts

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The colourful evolution of Local Government within the State of Victoria has its counterpart in miniature in the establishment of the Shire of Whittlesea. Growing from the scrub, the area which now comprises Whittlesea municipal district, originated from five roads Boards, created into three Shires, and later combined to form the present Shire.

The hundreds of square miles, extending from the northern boundaries of Preston and Heidelberg, to the great Dividing Range; on the west approximately from Macedon to Werribee and on the east along the Divide from Mount Dissappointment to Heidelberg at the Yarra River. (The area comprising the original five Roads Board.)

110 years ago it could only produce aboriginals, birds and animals with plenty of timber and swamp.

Such was the material from which the early pioneers had to build to produce a workable and satisfactory Local Government. The Roads Board concerned were Merriang, Whittlesea, Epping, Morang and Woodstock. These areas were located within the electoral districts of Burke or Upper Yarra (later to be known as Evelyn.)

These names are retained to this day although the area boundaries are materially changed.

By Act of the Victorian Parliament, then barely four years old, Roads Board were created in 1854, but several years were to elapse before the full impact of Local Government was felt. The first step in Local Government in this locality was the creation of the Epping roads district on July 25 1854, the southern boundary being Bell Street Preston, the balance of Preston being added on April 2 1860. A further addition to the area was made in April 29, 1864 when Northcote was added to the district, the area being divided into three ridings, viz - north, Epping and Preston, the latter included Northcote.

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The districts evidently being dissatisfied with the system, a petition was lodged, praying that the roads districts of Epping, Upper Plenty or Morang and Woodstock be amalgamated into one Shire.

This application appeared in the "Government Gazette" on August 26, 1870. The prayer of the petition was granted and on August 26 1870, the several Roads Districts mentioned were formed into the Shire of Darebin. Thus the Road District disappeared and the first Shire was constituted.

In response to an appeal set out in a petition on June 23, 1871, the Darebin Shire was divided into six ridings, Northcote and Preston, Gowerville, Morang, Epping and Woodstock. This immense area must have been too large and a petition was lodged on September 22 1871, praying that the Darebin Shire be divided into two Shires. On November 8, 1871, the appeal was granted, the southern portion being severed to constitute the Shire of Jika Jika.

The meetings of the Council were held at the Merrilands Hotel, which has passed out of existence. It was situated on the Epping road, north of the Reservoir railway station, in the vicinity of the Merrilands Estate.

Subsequently the Shire office at Epping was erected in 1874. On the amalgamation of the roads districts which took place in 1870, and the constitution of the Shire of Darebin, there were 22 Councillors Woodstock riding; G.D. McCormack (President), D. Gorman, A. Matchman, T. Bodycote P. McCoy, D.R. Sullman. Morang riding; G. Irish, J. Morris, A. Milson, R. Grant, T. Angus, J. O'Keefe, W. Patterson. Epping riding; E. Bastings, J. Graton, G. Plant, F. Thomas, J. Tyler, B. Johnson, W. Mitchell, R. Dodd, and J. Cleeland. The Secretary appointed was H.W. Patterson, Engineer B. Sheffield and the collector, B. Plant.

The valuation was £20,140, the revenue, £11,000, the area 124 sq. miles, rate 1/- in the £, toll collection £3,500, rate payers 930 and the number on the roll 900. The division between the two electoral districts, Evelyn and Burke, was a line drawn from Mount Disappointment, through Dandenong to Mornington. The Evelyn district was on the east of this line and the Burke district on the West.

The Evelyn district comprise the municipalities of Eltham, Lilydale, Whittlesea, a portion of Bulleen, Berwick, and Heidelberg. Within the Whittlesea boundary was Hazel Glen, Yan Yean, Whittlesea and Morang. In 1887 there was only 1,803 voters in this entire district. The Plenty River, and numerous creeks of excellent water were the means by which the land was drained. The water flowed into the Yarra Yarra, an aboriginal name meaning "ever flowing".

The Burke district was westward of the Evelyn district and covered many of the progressive suburbs of today. It also included a small section of Bundoora. In this electorate was the Shires of Darebin; Epping, Merriang, Thomastown, and Woodstock townships, and the Shire of Merriang with townships of Beveridge, Darraweit Guin, Wallan and Donnybrook. The principle streams are the Plenty River, Darebin and Merri Creeks. The number of large landholders in the Burke district were few. Of these are Mr. John Campbell, Bundoora, 4,851 acres; Mr. Charles Campbell, Wollert, 5,225 acres; Mr. Charles Brown-Fisher, Merriang; Hon. Henry Miller, Bundoora; Mrs. John Horton-Sherwin, Merriang, 5,611 acres.

In the division of the roads boards, the Darebin Creek played a big part for it divided Morang (east), Woodstock (north), and Epping (west).

The Epping Board was bounded on the west on an approximate line of the railway to Merriang, Broadmeadows and Pentridge. On the south-east was Heidelberg. The Morang Board controlled the vast tract of land from the Whittlesea division (now Masons Lane) to the Heidelberg Road Board boundary (about Grimshaw Street).

On the east was the timbered country of St. Andrews and Hurstbridge.

Most division lines, where a clearly defined boundary was not available, were drawn lines on the map and many became roads like Bridge Inn Road between Epping and Woodstock Boards. In 1874 the Epping and Merriang Board became the Epping Shire, in 1879 it was adjusted and redefined. In 1915 the Merriang section was united ^{to} the Broadmeadows and in 1955 a part of Broadmeadows at Somerton was annexed and added to Whittlesea. So the process of progress gradually became established and the pattern of Local Government took control.

Main Road

The main road in the area is Plenty Road, ^{now} known as High Street, and Upper Plenty Road, now known as Plenty Road. This thoroughfare was the original main road and it was proclaimed in the "Government Gazette" on September 1854 as follows - The Road commonly called and known as Plenty Road, commencing at Rellly Street (in Collingwood) in the City of Melbourne and from thence to the junction of the Epping and Upper Plenty Road to the Burke County, shall be deemed a main road within the meaning of the Act. (An Act for making and improving main roads in the colony of Victoria). The road thus laid out by Hoddle, Melbourne's planner, must be one of the first public thoroughfares in this northern area.

The outstanding peak

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Mt. Dissapoint, over 2,000 feet high was the main feature for all the surveys of Melbourne. It is not only a striking land mark, but possesses historic interest in the annals of the colony. It is an isolated peak, formed of course granite, clad in dense vegetation, and is the hill from which a party of early explorers first saw the country south of the dividing Range.

The nearest gold diggings were at Diamond Creek and St. Andrews.

EPPING'S EARLY CREATION.

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In the creation of Municipal districts by the recently created first Parliament of Victoria, Epping's name appears in the first list. It proceeded most other districts in the northern area by many years.

Collingwood and Fitzroy were but villages, Northcote unknown municipally and Preston referred to as Germantown.

With the separation of Victoria from N.S.W. and the rapid settlement in the nearer areas from Melbourne, Epping became a township with farms coming existence in all directions. So the landowners, desirous of better roads and the construction of bridges to facilitate the cartage of their products to the city, decided to apply for the establishment of a Roads Board to control the area.

The district produced the biggest bulk of the city's horse fodder.

The following house and land owners petitioned the State Government, August 1853, to form a Roads Board for the Epping District. Names of the petitioners were:- Robert Henry, Francis Thomas, Ben Johnson, Stephens Johns, William Ward, Chs. H. Bawker, Geo. Richards, Joseph Thomas, John Thomas, George Dyer, Graeme Brownlow.

The Government agreed to the petition and arranged the public meeting for Saturday, Sept. 16, at 1 p.m. in the Epping Hotel, Epping.

At the same time the area was defined for the Board. The Board was constituted on July 25, 1854.

The record of the beginning of the Board is lost. It remained in existence for 17 years 1854-1870, to be amalgamated into the Shire of Darebin. At its inception it appears that Francis Thomas and Ben Johnson were two of the original members and Thomas was still there in 1865 when the first records are available. In this year Francis Thomas is President. The known presidents are.

1865-6-7	Francis Thomas
1868	Ben Johnson
1869-70	Edward Bastings.

In 1865 the council was:- E. Bastings, D. Bowers, Thomas Mitchell, John Devine, James Tyler, Francis Thomas, F. Cleeland, Wm. Dodd, Richard Plant. J. Blackie Engineer and

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the Belmont Hotel was the Board office. The final council :- 1870, comprised-
E. Bastings, John Garton, George Plant, F. Thomas, James Tyler, Ben. Johnson, W.
Mitchell, J. Cleeland and R. Dodd.

Francis Thomas and Ben Johnson had been petitioners for the creation of the Board in 1853 and were still associated with the Municipality. Epping Roads Board no longer existed for the greater municipal district of the Shire of Darebin incorporating other areas now took over. The northern boundary was Bridge Inn Rd and its continuance east. About half way from Wollert to the Merri Creek and the line went south to where it intersected the Merri about the rear of Thomastown. It then followed the Merri to Bell St., Preston. Eastwards to High St., then north to Mahoney Road and again east to the Darebin Creek and north to Bridge Inn Lane. After several years, the area was extended to bring in the remainder of Preston south of Bell St., and all of Northcote.

ALL IN 1853.

The year 1853 was a most important year in the district's progress, for many events which would influence the future occurred in this year. The Epping township site was gazetted Jan. 20, 1853. The first deed issued for Wollert was July 18, 1853, when James Lewis, 960 acres, J. A. Henry, 158 acres, M. Lynch, 1200 acres, W. F. Cleeland 160 acres, A. Cameron, 160 acres, P. Courtney, 100 acres, and T. Brown, 158 acres became owners of considerable land in the area. The Board being elected on Sept. 16 1853, the meeting place was fixed at Belmont Hotel. Mr. J. Blackie of Preston was elected secretary and Mr. E. Sheffield, also of Preston, engineer. The area to be administered was 47 ~~xx~~ square miles. Ten allotments of land at 8/- per acre were sold in the Epping Township. Oct. 10, 1853. They were all of just over two roods (Approx half an acre). In Oct. 1853 the first titles for property gazetted for land sold to purchasers at Epping went to W. F. Cleeland, Robert Henry, John Wilson, Henry Raphael and Daniel Touhey.

HIGH STREET GAZETTED.

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With the sale of land in the Epping-Woodstock areas, the Victorian Parliament decided to open a road from Melbourne and commissioned the surveyor general, Robert Hoddle, to survey the route. The road was gazetted on Nov. 7, 1853, and it crossed the property of R. and R.S. Miller. But it was found that other land would be required and another act was passed on Dec. 17, 1853. Additional owners were Robert Campbell, Robert G. Henry and Henry H. Miller. The value of the land, 9 acres, and the construction would cost £857-7-. The work was gazetted on March. 2. 1854.

A track did exist to Mahoney's Road and it was from this point that the acquisition began. Mahoney's Road was used by traffic as a means to get to the Sydney highway.

SUNDRY EVENTS.

The Epping Race Club was flourishing in 1861 and on Jan. 5 conducted a most successful meeting. Officials were :- Stewards, J. Cleeland, H.H. Miller, J. Summers; judge W. Dodd,; starter, F. Cleeland.

The site for a public reserve was gazetted in Wedge St., Epping, on Sept. 22, 1862, The area was nearly two acres, On April 1, 1867, Mr. Mitchell protested against the payment of £10-16-8 made at the last Board Meeting to Mr. Devine for the use of an office at the Belmont Hotel, on the grounds that it was an illegal payment. Mr. Devine was a member of the Board and present when the money was voted. Mr. Dodd also protested. (Mr. Devine was the licensee) It was agreed to ask the Board solicitor for an opinion as to the legality of the member letting his office to the Board. Next month the legal opinion stated "that a member accepting payment for the hiring of his property would be incapacitated from holding his seat and be liable to a penalty. However, the member had not incurred these penalties because there was no contract and the member had not voted for or taken part in the discussion. Next meeting, after carefully considering the opinion, the motion was withdrawn. Epping Board members were concerned at the legality of employing day labor for the maintenance and construction of Board services. In 1868 a move for the abolition of a

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any day labor was defeated after legal opinion confirmed that it was legal to pay for such services. Following this decision, the engineer asked for the purchase of several three wheel road scrapers. On Aug. 8, 1868, this request was granted. The operation of the Health Statutes having been extended to the Epping District, the Board appointed the sargeant of police at Northcote inspector of nuisances, at a salary of £10 per annum. This was in June 1868.

EPPING)-- MORANG ROAD.

Following representations by Morang Board, Epping Roads Board decided to open a road from the Epping Township, across the Darebin Creek at Morang. On the Morang side, the road was to be opened through the property of Henry Miller (this was told in a Morang story.) In June 1868, Mr. Cleeland, a land owner on the Darebin, and in the Morang Board area, asked for a bridge to be built over the Darebin on a lane running to his property. The engineer estimated the cost at between £80 and £100. Later in the year, Epping agreed to provide the bridge from plans prepared, and a sum of £50 was provided for the work. Mr. Cleeland offered to provide the timber. On the Morang side work was authorised next year and the road became known as Cleelands Road. By common usage, both ends of the new road became known as either Morang Road, or Epping Road. according to which end you were at. It is by this name that it is known to this day. The road and the bridge was built to give a cross route and save the long journey via. Preston or Separation. The length of the road is not long while on the other side of the Darebin the ^{Morang} ~~Epping~~ ^{it} District was in extent one mile. Tenders for the fencing of the Epping-Morang Road was let from Morang Board. It was one chain wide by 80 chains long. This tender was lodged with Mr. John Hutchinson who lived on Plenty Rd. at the 15 mile post.

NEW POLLING PLACE.

The surveyor was authorised, following a motion by Messrs. Bastings and Mitchell on July 9. 1868, to have the old toll house, then erected at Wollert, where the tennis

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courts are, and re-erected on the site reserved for office purposes. This is the present site of the Shire Hall, The purpose of the move was to secure a polling place for the northern area. Prior to the move, the polling place was the Sexton's office at the cemetery. Next month, the engineer reported that the cost of removing the toll house was £8-10-0 and the secretary advised the gazettal as a polling place. Electors would not have to go the cemetery to vote.

EARLY PIONEERS.

Terence O'hern was born in Tipperary, Ireland, in 1816, and arrived in Victoria in 1841. He rented land at Preston for 10 years after which he purchased 238 acres from the Government, at Epping.

Mr. and Mrs. James Pratt of Epping were born in Queen's County, Ireland and married in Ireland in 1855. They landed in the Colony in 1856 and took up a farm at Epping. which his wife carried on while he engaged in road contracting until 1890.

Mr. John Ward of Epping was born in Wiltshire, England, in 1856 and arrived in Melbourne 1871. In 1879 he rented land at Epping and farmed there till 1884 when he purchased 158 acres also at Epping. He was the district champion ploughman.

Mr. Isaac Metcalf was born at Montreal, Canada, in 1833, educated in Liverpool, Eng. and arrived in Melbourne in 1852. For 23 years he was engaged in prospecting the principal goldrushes. In 1875, he entered the Education Department, as a state school teacher and in 1890, he was appointed Headmaster of the Epping State School.

Mr. William Creighton, Epping, was born in England in 1847 and came to this colony in 1856. He worked with his parents who also came with him and they worked as farmers for several years. When William was 27 years old he commenced a mixed farm on his own behalf.

Mr. Frederick Augustus Hunt of Epping was born in April 1860 in London. He served in the Zulu war and was invalided from the army and arrived in Melbourne in 1882. He joined the police as a mounted trooper and in 1887 was appointed to Epping in charge

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of the district.

Mr. Donald Gunor, Epping, was born in 1830 in Scotland and landed in Melbourne in 1854. He commenced carrying to the diggings until 1882 when he acquired 265 acres of land at Epping.

Mr. James Aitken of Epping, was born in Lenark, Scotland, in 1837, and landed in Brisbane in 1865. Eighteen months later he came to Melbourne to settle in Epping. in 1868, and worked at his trade as a blacksmith until 1873.

Mr. Thomas A. Ahern was born in Tipperary, Ireland, in 1827, and arrived in Melbourne in 1841. After farming for two years and gold diggings for several more, he purchased Mt¹/₂ Pleasant farm at Epping in 1857. The property was purchased from the Government that included 250 acres.

THE WOODSTOCK BOARD.

The fifth municipal district to be created to form the present Shire of Whittlesea was the Roads Board of Woodstock. It was second in creation only to Epping, 4 years its senior. It had an area of 43 square miles and little remains to tell of its activities.

The Roads Board of Woodstock, proclaimed in 1868 lasted only until 1870 when it became part of the Shire of Darebin. And like its neighbour to the south, the Roads Board of Epping, left little in the way of records to compile a history. Its area was north of Bridge Inn Lane, from the Darebin Creek which was the eastern boundary to about the Merri Creek which was the Western boundary. The municipal district which was on the western side was the Roads Board of Donnybrook, later to be divided and the Shire of Merriang formed. The Whittlesea and Morang Boards were then unknown.

The first records extant is in 1866 when the Board was 8 years old. The personnel of the Board was Tobias Butler, William Bodycoat, John R. Dods, Duncan McGregor, David Gorman and Daniel O'Sullivan.

The Clerk and Engineer was Edmund Sheffield of Preston. He occupied the position of Engineer with the Epping Board. There were 96 ratepayers on the roll.

Tobias Butler occupied the presidency until the last year of the Board's existence when David Gorman was in the chair. It was his job to wind up the Woodstock Board. In the next year, 1867, there were two new members when O'Sullivan and McGregor were replaced by William Fletcher and John Irvine. For the next two years 1868-9 there was no alteration but David Sullivan, Peter McCoy and Andrew Matchmagh and Colin Stewart replaced Butler, Irvine, Dods and Fletcher for the last year before becoming the Shire of Darebin.

The Darebin Shire came into operation in 1871 when the impossible number of 22 councillors constituted the council. In this assembly was D. Gorman, Thomas Bodycoat Peter McCoy, Andrew Matchmagh, David F. Sullivan. These 5 representatives with

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Colin Stewart who was excluded from Darebin, made up the final Board of Woodstock. The headquarters of the Woodstock area was the old hotel on the corner of Wallan and Donnybrook Roads.

Tobias Butler owned 2 square miles of land on the boundary of Woodstock and Whittlesea Roads Boards. It was north of the five mile frontage of J.H. Patterson who owned land from Bridge Inn Land. With the completion of the main road through Thomastown and Epping in 1854, the road was continued through to Wallan Wallan which was then on a bush track to Sydeny. The next road of any importance was the one to Donnybrook, then known as Kinlochewe. The name was changed to Donnybrook prior to the time of the formation of Woodstock Municipal district in 1858.

On April 1 1867, the Epping Board decided to proclaim as a common toll road, the road through the Woodstock area to the Junction (the junction of the Plenty Rd. and the Upper Planty Road, now known as High St. and Plenty Rd.)

This would permit the Epping Council establishing tolls on the road and as the residents of Woodstock would have no other course than to use this road to the City the Woodstock Board considered this to be unreasonable. So a deputation was arranged to meet their southern neighbours and protest. Accordingly Messrs. Dods and Butler waited on Epping Board June 3. 1867 and told them of their protest and outlined the reasons. But Epping, on the motion of Messrs. Mitchell and Dodd decided that "this Board is still of the opinion that the road should be proclaimed a common toll road."

While the proclamation was made, the Epping Board did not carry out its intentions for shortly after this date, all tolls were abolished.

The tolls had played a useful part in supplying funds for road and bridge maintenance but with the coming of the municipalities and the levy for rates, tolls were unnecessary.

WHITTLESEA BOARD AND SHIRE.

That section of the Shire, now recognised as Whittlesea, was a popular area for settlement and many squatters procured for themselves large tracts of land.

Most of it was procured from the New South Wales Government and the area was known as Tootourong. When the Lands Acts became law, most of the original occupiers were forced to register their properties, have it surveyed and brought into line with the needs of the newly created Victorian Parliament.

The first recorded control of the district was the formation of the Greensborough Land District under which most of the country was administered. This large tract of unsurveyed land was too much for the managers. It was subdivided and the Whittlesea end was excised and formed into a separate identity. On December 1, 1862, the Government proclaimed it to be the Whittlesea Roads Board and to function from February 22, 1863. It was finally gazetted on March 7, 1863, to become a separate district. The area of the new Board was 48 square miles.

Anticipating the declaration, a group of locals, through Mr. George Sherwin, on Feb. 14, 1863, requested the Government to convene a public meeting to elect a Roads Board for the area and to strike and rate and levy the land owners.

The petitioners were Henry Gibbs, William Ronald, C. McDougall, Robert Kelly, Alex. Crocker, George Taylor, A. Ashley, John Nelson, and William Cornfoot. The request was granted and a public meeting was held in Forbe's Hotel, Whittlesea, on Sat. Feb. 28, 1863, at 6. P.M.

The meeting was duly held and the Board elected but records do not indicate who the members were. Mr. George Sherwin is referred to as the chairman and as he occupied this position for five years, it could be assumed that he was the foundation chairman. He left the district after five years. The following is a list of Chairmen of the Board and Shire to its ultimate amalgamation to form the greater shire of Whittlesea.

1863-67	George Sherwin
1868-69	William Johnston
1870-73	Thomas Hughes
1874	Anthony Nicholson
1875	William Reid
1876-77	Thomas Hughes
1878	Andrew Nelson
1879-80	William Reid
1881-82	James Morris
1883	James Morris
1884	Walter Thomas
1885	James Ried
1886-87	Thomas Harmer
1888-89	William Timms
1890	William Ried
1891	Thomas Harmer
1892	Andrew Nelson
1893	John Daniel
1894-95	Richard Bassett
1896-97	P.W. Murphy
1898-99	William Reid.
1900	Chas. Draper.
1901	James Andrew
1902	Walter Thomas
1903	Chas. Draper.
1904-05	William Reid.
1906-07	Richard Willis
1908-09	John Mason
1910-11	William Reid
1912-13	Richard Bassett
1914	J. Cornfoot
1915	P. Murphy

In later life, Dr. Ronald, John Nelson and William Cornfoot are referred to as ex-members of the Board. If this is correct, there are only two names missing to complete the Board elected for the first year.

The first complete record is in 1865, two years after the formation of the Board when the members were- George Sherwin, Thomas A. Hughes, John Wishart, David Johnston, James Morris, David McAuley. The Secretary and Engineer was Thomas Thompson and the meetings were held in the Court House, just recently constructed. Indeed it was in 1862, on Feb. 17, that the Court of Petty Sessions held at Yan Yean, was cancelled, and on the same day, Whittlesea was gazetted as the future home of the local court. In the years from its inception to its subdivision into three ridings in 1870 and when the Morang Board was

Correction to Whittlesea Shire and Board.

Page 21 alter first three lines to read.

At the time of its proclamation as a Roads Board District Mr. George Sherwin was the first president and Mr. Thomas Thompson, Secretary. while the first members were Messrs David Johnston, John Wishart, Thos. A.L. Hughes and James Morris.

There were then 136 ratepayers and the annual revenue was £1272.

Mr. James Ryan was appointed Secretary anout 1869 and remained in this positioh when it became a shire. His son, James, entered the office to assist his father in 1889 and succeeded him as Shire Secretary.

amalgamated, the only alteration to the representatives was the replacement of MoAuley by George Christie. The three ridings were named North, Centre and South and the councillors elected were-- North; T.Hughes, A.Nicholson, and George Taylor Centre; James Morris, James Hardy and John R.Smith. and for the South; Robert Airey, William Reid and John Ryder. The secretary appointed was James Ryan and the Engineer, W.H.Lockwood.

New names which appear in the next ten years are : John Wishart, J.Coulthard, H.A.Macfarlane, John Gibson, George Dunlop, Henry Dasser, Robert Grant, Robert Slessor and Dr. Rolland, Medical Officer. In 1880, the council was (with the ridings renamed, Whittlesea, Yan Yean and Morang) -- Whittlesea: David Johnson, Gilbert Marshall and George Taylor. Yan Yean: Andrew Nelson, William Reid and Thomas Smith. Morang; Moses Thomas, Richard Bassett and Abraham Willis.

Up to 1900, little alteration was caused to the representation as most of the members had long years of service. New Names were ; Walter Thomas, Walter Harmer, John Kenny, W.J.Perkins, William Timms, John Daniel, Ed. H.Sewell, James Coulthard James Hardy, and Lewis Brock. Dr. Daniels had replaced Dr. Rolland and in turn was replaced by Dr. Stocks. At the turn of the century, the council was-- W.Timms, J.Coulthard, James Hardy, William Ried, James Morris, Richard Bassett. Lewis Brock, and Walter Thomas. Dr. Sutherland was medical officer and James Ryan, Junior, valuer and dog inspector.

Until the amalgamation of all the Boards into one shire in 1915, there were many alteration of personnel. New names were-- John Mason, R.Willis, L.W.Clark, F.Carter, R.C.Wilson, W.Crozier, A.Mitchell, G.Sutherland and A.Mitchell.

The last council from the old Whittlesea Shire was. -P.Murphy, G.Sutherland, Chas Mitchell, J.Cornfoot, W.H.Thomas, William Reid, W.Thomas, R.Bassett, and R.Morgan J.Ryan was Secretary and the engineer, C.McCormack. W.H.Lockwood retired in 1911 to be succeeded by A.G.Thomas and Frank Lock in 1914.

A new and much larger Shire was created and with its inception went the old Boards Upper Plenty or Morang, Whittlesea, Woodstock and part of Merriang. A new era of Municipal control was ushered in.

The approximate boundry of the newly created Whittlesea Roads Boars was on the south, Mason's Lane, and in the north the almost impossible line to define of the crest along the Dividing Range. The west was the boundry of the Woodstock Board about the Darebin Creek while in the east was again an almost indefinable line of the Divide and the Diamond Creek.

THREE STORES

Before the days of the motor car, Whittlesea could boast of three stores. Known as Smith's, Lockwoods and Hardy's. Smith's store was where Searle's Butchery is now located. It was conducted by Mr. J.R. Smith, one of the districts earliest pioneers. Mr. W.H. Lockwood owned the next store and it was in the centre of the next block and is still standing. Mr. Lockwood owned was a most colorful character for he was not only the storekeeper, but the postmaster and Morang Roads Board Engineer. In December 1869, Messrs Hardy and Lockwood applied and obtained permission to erect verandahs in front of thier premises. Mr. Lockwood lived in the two story building in Church St., and next to the store. The third store was opposite the school and conducted by Mr. James Hardy. The building has long since been demolished. These three early pioneers with three others shared the establishment of the public hall and appeared in that story of the Whittlesea Mechanics Institute. Mr. Hardy represented the M.U.I.O.O.F.: Mr. Lockwood the I.O.R and Mr. Smith the G.S.A.

They were members of friendly societies actively functioning for many years. Mr. Chas. Howell of Forrest St., was secretary of the M.U.I.O.O.F. for 40 years until recently.

PALING SPLITTING

The area was heavily timbered with eucalyptus ranging from the White Gum on the flat

flat, the Messmate and Stringy Bark half way up the hills to blue gum and ash on the top of the ridges. Paling cutting occupied most of the industry, for little lumber was taken from this location. There was a continual stream of bullock waggons and carts conveying loads of palings to the fast developing metropolis. Palings were used for many purposes, besides fences, for wallins of shanty buildings, and for roofs. Indeed, it was the only building material available in many instances.

The original school, a private one, was on the corner block opposite the monument. Cobb Coaches came regularly to Whittlesea along Plenty Rd. The terminus was the Willow Tree Hotel on the corner of Forrest St. and the Main Rd. (Beech St.)

Horses were stabled there and the return trip undertaken next day. The half way house was at Bundoora, and the service terminated at Whittlesea.

When the hotel was delicensed, the headquarters of Cobb and Co. was at Whittlesea House and it remained there until the service was discontinued due to the establishment of the railways.

The first district land sale under the newly created State of Victoria was at Toorourong, near Plenty River, when 640 acres at £1 per acre were advertised for sale on May. 8. 1851. The first land deeds for land granted in the district was on Dec. 1. 1852, to James Smith and Robert Willan, 490 acres, Toorourong (later renamed Whittlesea), George Davis, 644 acres.

Several lots were also sold on March 24, 1853; 1000 acres, and in July a further lot was sold. The land was sold on Jan. 21, 1852, when four square miles were sold at £1 per acre.

The first tender for the improvement of Plenty Rd., was called on March 16, 1852. Tenders were to be sent to Duff's Inn, Pilgrim Inn, Plenty Rd.

The township of Whittlesea was gazetted on Sept. 19, 1853. There were few roads around Tommy's Hut. The main road to Yea was cleared in April. 1867.

Nov. 18, 1862, the Government gazetted as common land, all areas in the township area as unappropriated and next month ordered that the court should sit weekly. When the main road was defined it was not connected with the Whittlesea township but continued north to Wallan. A piece of land was donated to the Board by Mr. Thomas Wills to make a road as an entrance. That street today is Walnut Street. 1855- Landowners in Glenvale was Mrs. M. Harlin. The tax assessment was for 30 cows-30/-.

The Government called for tenders for the construction of a lock-up at Yan Yean March 6, 1855.

The Whittlesea Land Company, a speculative organisation which had sold considerable land in the Whittlesea District, went into voluntary liquidation in August, 1890.

LONG MUNICIPAL SERVICE.

When the Shire of Whittlesea was sub-divided into ridings in 1876, William Reid was elected for the Yan Yean section. He was still a member when the Shire was incorporated into the Shire of Darebin. in 1915. Elected in the following year 1877, Richard Bassett was elected to represent the Morang riding. He was also in the council when the end came. Land owners who were taxable under the Land Tax Acts in Yan Yean, 1854, included Emily Henrætta Bear and Morgan Bear. They had 1249 acres of first class land, valued at £4 per acre. Their land later was taken by the Victorian Government for the Yan Yean reservoir.

Whittlesea Shire adopted the Health Acts of 1883, in 1887 and it became by-law number 1. No.2 was for the control of cattle and horses staying ataying on the roads and this was adopted on April 29 1887. The Shire adopted the Local Government Acts on Aug.11, 1884. The President was Walter Thomas and the secretary was James Ryan. A grant of £400 was received by Whittlesea Shire from the Govt. to repair Linton's bridge on condition that the sum of £200 be contributed from Council funds. The work was carried out in 1884.

MORANG ROADS BOARD.

The Morang Roads Board did not last for many years, having been created in 1862, to terminate with the amalgamation of the Shire of Darebin in 1870. Prior to the creation of the Board, the land was administered by managers of the Farmers' Common of Upper Plenty. Officials were in turn, A.L. Wilton, F. Owens, A. Nelson, A. Willis, C. Creighton, G. Nash and R. Wighton. The Common remained in existence for several years after the creation of the Shire and was not fully absorbed until well into the 1870's.

For the Board's nine year's existence, John Wilton remained President until the last year when he left the district and Joseph Hutchinson had the duty of handing over his area to the newly created shire.

A petition was lodged with the Minister of Railways and Roads on Sept. 25, 1862, asking for the creation of a Roads Board for the district of Upper Plenty or Morang. Signatories were :- B. Boeken, John Hall, David Johnson, John Cockerell, Orr Fisher, Moses Thomas, John R. Smith, Fergus Clement, H. LaPataurel, William Tod, T. E. Vernon.

The request was granted and the meeting was called for Oct. 6 at 3 p.m. in Lamb Inn Plenty Rd., Mr. John Wilton J.P. signed the announcement. The gazettal of the formation was on April 20, 1863. The meeting was held and the first Board elected. It comprised John Wilton (President), D. Johnson, J. Hutchinson, J. R. Smith, Moses Thomas, R. Slessor, and J. H. Thomas as clerk and surveyor. That was the state of the Board until 1865 when Moses Thomas resigned to become clerk and surveyor.

John Boadle replaced him. In this year T. Creighton replaced Johnson and in 1867, W.

Cleeland took over from Boadle. The next change was when the district was sub-divided into divisions in 1870, the last year of its existence. The final Board consisted of J. Hutchinson, (Pres.), and George Nish, James Morris, Andrew Nelson, Robert Grant, E. Wyatt, Thomas Argus, John O'Keefe, William Patten, . James Ryan was appointed value

This was not the end, for many of the members were to be of service to the ratepayers of their district. Some were to serve on the wider municipal control of the Shire of

Darebin and later in to the Shire of Whittlesea.

The area of land under control of the Board was from Masons Lane, along the Darebin Creek until it crossed Plenty Rd., then south along Plenty Rd., to Bell St., Preston. It carried on eastward to the Heidelberg Board near the Plenty River, and north to, and including Arthurs Creek returning to the reservoir and Masons Lane. The area was about 48 square miles.

During the late 1840's large tracts of land were being occupied by settlers, then known as squatters. Victoria was still under the control of N.S.W. and there was no local municipal control. Bodies known as Commons were organised.

When separation was granted and the Victorian State Government instituted, these commons came under the control of the Department of Lands and managers were appointed. The managers varied from three to seven members, to be absorbed in Roads Boards and Shires.

The Board's offices were at Plough Inn at Janefield, now non-existent. It was located on the west side of Plenty Road near where the Presbyterian church is built. For the first Legislative Assembly seat in 1851 to cover most of the area now administered by the Shire of Whittlesea, Henry Miller, owner of Mill Park, was returned. He represented the South Bourke, Evelyn and Mornington division. Polling places were in Melbourne, Brighton and Dandenong and the Registrar was James Simpson, Mornington.

While the area, by present day standards, is large, the voting strength at that time was a little more than 1000 voters.

Of all the created districts now served by the Shire of Whittlesea, the Morang or Upper Plenty Roads Board had the shortest life.

But even if it was brief it lasted only a little over seven years, the time were merry, colourful epoch making ones. This was mainly due to the presence on the stage of a number of provocative and forceful characters. The most impressive personality surely was Moses Thomas, Preacher, Architect, Engineer, Baker, Mill owner, Wine grower, store-keeper builder, Clerk to the Board and in fact he was described in Parliament during the "water case" as "laird of Mernda".

If the place was called Thomastown it would be a fitting memorial to this remarkable man. His old home still stands on Plenty Road almost opposite the Mayfield Presbyterian Church. Other buildings which he erected are the Church, vicarage and parsonage at Whittlesea, Bridge Inn, and the Plenty River Bridge on the Bridge Inn road.

The mill he built is gone as is the store, but the bakery is still standing and the name of Thomas is still a respected one throughout the area. The name of the settlement known as Thomastown has no connection with the Thomas family. In 1867 the Government issued a list of Shires and Roads Board of the State, the statistics for the financial year 1865-66 make interesting reading.

Name	Ratepayers	Revenue	Expenditure	Salaries
Epping	432	£ 4129	£ 2378	£ 380
Morang	245	2866	3140	293
Whittlesea	138	1085	511	188
Woodstock	100	912	785	129

At this date Merriang had not been created.

The Bridge over the Plenty River at the gorge was built in 1866. The area was controlled by the Morang or Upper Plenty Roads Board and was on the parish road which separated Morang and Yan Yean.

In 1865 the Board discussed the possibility of having a bridge erected over the Plenty to give access to that section of the County known as Evelyn. The banks of the Plenty were steep and the river was a stream which made fording an impossibility,

With the finding of gold at St. Andrews between Hurstbridge and Kinglake on the Diamond Creek a quick route was necessary. The question of cost caused considerable debate and it was decided to approach the Government for a grant.

In April 1866 the Assembly decided to allocate £50,000 for bridges in the State and Morang was allotted £1,000. At the Board meeting of May 1866, the Engineer submitted plans in detail for the proposed bridge over the Plenty River, he was instructed to call tenders.

In June the tender of Thomas Sobey for the sum of £1746. was accepted and on August 17, 1866, the foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Wilton, wife of the Board's President Mr. John Wilton J.P., Wilton Vale Morang.

The report of the function as published in the Age told of a goodly muster of residents in the neighbourhood to witness the ceremony. A tent was erected and flags hoisted and altogether the banks of the Plenty presented a pleasing and romantic appearance for the occasion.

Mr. Moses Thomas the Secretary of the Board presented to Mrs. Wilton an elegant silver trowl with suitable inscription and expressed great pleasure in again presenting Mrs. Wilton with a trowel to preform a similar office for this bridge to that which she so successfully accomplished for the recently erected church.

The records do not disclose which building this was.

A bottle containing a record of the days proceedings with some daily papers and some coins were deposited in a cavity in the stone which was then lowered into its proper place and rapped several times, by Mrs. Wilton who declared it "well and truly laid".

After the ceremony, Mr. Wilton who had presided, expressed his gratification at seeing the work of the bridge carried so far. He was convinced of the great importance it would have for the district, in opening up the communication with the interior of the county of Evelyn, and the gold-fields of St. Andrews. The local member, Mr. Watkins and ^{STAFF} ~~his~~ ^{THE} secretary also spoke.

The contractor could have been experiencing some difficulty, for at the meeting of October 10, 1866, he was granted an extension of time to November 30, to complete the bridge. All tenders at this time carried a strict penalty clause.

Mr. Sobey had also granted a tender for much of the earth work necessary to prepare the ramps to the new construction. The bridge was completed and opened on February 12, 1867, the report of the proceedings read "the ceremony of opening the Morang bridge took place on Friday, there were present a large concourse of people including several ladies and the children numbering about 60 belonging to the Morang Sunday and Common Schools.

"A marquee was erected and gaily decorated with flags and evergreens. Mr. Wilton J.P. was unable to attend, and Mr. Moses Thomas was deputy ^{USED} by the Board to perform the ceremony of opening the bridge which he did in due form.

Mr. Watkins M.L.A. then congratulated the company upon the erection of such a substantial structure.

The party adjourned to the marquee for refreshments but rain came down fast and shortened what would have been a pleasant afternoon."

The Board received two memorials in January 1869 from ratepayers for the opening of a roadway through to Epping.

A roadway already existed from the Plenty River where a new bridge was built to a point about where the railway now crosses the existing Morang-Epping road. Henry Miller owned a square mile of country at which the road ceased. On the other side there was a survey road, from Epping to Millers property and it was this section which the ratepayers wanted opened.

The roadway on the Epping side was on the property of William Keith. Evidently there was some bridge structure over the Plenty on this road which could have been the reason for the road, for early records indicate that a flood washed away a bridge over the Plenty in the Morang area.

The Board heard evidence of the project in September 1867. Petitionists stated that to get to Epping, other than by trespassing, they would have to go via Preston.

Mr. Miller, who at this time was the registered owner of a considerable property throughout Victoria protested, because it would upset his arrangements by enclosing the area with a stone fence, the erection of a house and the planting of ornamental and other trees. He wanted to keep his estate of Mill Park private.

His objections were overruled and a provisional order was made for the opening. On the Epping side, the Epping Board was to construct their section to connect with the Morang effort. That story will be told in a future article. The Morang jurisdiction extended to the Darebin.

For the final year of its existence the Morang Boards election of its President made history. It became known as the "battle of the Chair".

On November 17, 1867, Mr. Wilton vacated the Chair, returning thanks to the members for the honour they had conferred upon him in returning him so often as their Chairman. He had occupied that position since the inception of the Board. It was the annual meeting and the Chairman must be elected.

Two candidates were then nominated, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Wilton the retiring Chairman. The voting was four all with Mr. Nelson voting for himself.

Mr. Wilton stated that the law allowed it but he did not think it right for candidates to vote themselves into the Chair and would therefore propose Mr. Hutchinson whom he thought had the best credentials having been a member since the foundation of the Board. Mr. Nelson said that this could not be done now as he was Chairman.

Mr. Hutchinson reminded him that the voting was four to four and called on him to decide the matter by lot, which he refused to do adjourning the meeting until December 7.

The Argus had this to say after outlining the dispute - "and Mr. Wilton proposed as Chairman Mr. Hutchinson, whom he thought had the best right having been a member since the Boards foundation." Curious that Mr. Wilton did not earlier discover Mr. Hutchinson's claim for distinction.

Mr. Nelson however said that there was no use in proposing anybody as Chairman seeing that he himself had the honour to occupy the position

"Then", observed Mr. Wilton, "as the numbers are four to four let it be decided by lot". Mr. Nelson could not see any necessity for this either. Section 129 of the Municipal Act sets forth clearly enough that the decision on such cases must be obtained by lot. Another comment, this time by the "Australian" which records "the members of the Morang Board seem to have elected their Chairman in a most curious manner, or rather they have not elected one at all. It seems that Mr. Wilton was the retiring Chairman and after presiding at the Annual meeting diffidently left it to elect his successor, or re-elect him if the other eight members thought proper. Four it seems were in favour of Mr. Wilton, whilst three were in favour of Mr. Nelson, whilst the latter voting for himself made the votes equal.

Mr. Wilton appeared to have returned at this juncture and declined to submit to lot, wherein it was contended that Mr. Nelson was Chairman. It is almost needless to point out that the whole proceedings was wrong.

In the election of a Chairman it does not go as a motion and ^{SECONDED} ~~amended~~ as in this case it appears to have been done. But leaving that out of the question as well as the undue diffidence of the one candidate and the uncommon confidence of the others, as the votes were equal, it was an imperative duty to decide the matter by lot. The neglect to do so clearly renders the election of Mr. Nelson null and void, and the rule to oust him would be granted as readily as it was in the case of the Eaglehawk Council."

The report of that case and decision published in the Bendigo newspaper was as follows:- "Some irregularities took place it appears at the selection of the Mayor of Eaglehawk. As there was a tie the election should have been decided by lot, instead of by a casting vote so there will have to be a new election."

The next step was at the adjourned meeting when all members were present and Mr. Nelson occupied the Chair. Mr. Hutchinson proposed that business be taken up where it left off at a tie and that the election should be decided by lot. To this Mr. Nelson and his party objected. Mr. Hutchinson then proposed "that this Board considering the illegality of Mr. Nelson attempting to fill the Chair and perform the duties of Chairman does ignore such attempts and elect a Chairman pro-tem from the members of this Board and carry on with the business."

This was carried and Mr. Hutchinson was appointed to the Chair pro-tem. The minutes of the last meeting were read, when Mr. Morris took objection to the words "pro-tem", stating that no such words were used when Mr. Nelson was appointed to the Chair at the Annual meeting.

The sense of the meeting was then taken as to whether the words were used or not, when it was carried that the words were used, and that the minutes were correct.

A motion was then carried that the minutes be confirmed, but when the Chairman was about to sign the book a rush was made by Messrs Morris, Irish and Nelson to seize the book. They did not succeed, the book having been put in the draw of the table and locked up. Mr. Hutchinson then adjourned the meeting for two hours. At two o'clock the Board members met again, all present, when it was found that during the interval Mr. Nelson had burst open the draw of the table and abstracted the minute book.

Mr. Hutchinson asked if Mr. Nelson would give up the book and allow the business to proceed, which he refused to do. The meeting was further adjourned to one week.

To permit the business to proceed Mr. Hutchinson proceeded in the Supreme Court for an ouster. Mr. Nelson was instructed to show cause why he should not be ousted from the office of Chairman of the Board.

After the taking of evidence, the Chief Justice is recorded as stating that - His Honor considered "that irregularities were committed on November 17, and December 7 - the action of Nelson being wholly irregular and unjustifiable from beginning to end."

But no decision was reached as the case was held in the judges' chambers and not before the court as the Act required. So the matter was deferred until the next Supreme Court in 1870.

No record is available of the decision but it must have gone against the Nelson faction for at the March meeting the books were available and the minutes confirmed except that part which was interlined and erased by the party holding the minute book during the deadlock.

At the further adjourned meeting on March 10, 1870, Mr. Hutchinson was elected to the Chair pro-tem, and at the regular meeting in April was elected for the balance of the municipal year.

Mr. Wilton resigned from the Board and left the district, to live in East Melbourne. A granddaughter lives in Caulfield and a grandson in Tasmania.

This concluded a stormy period in the Board's history. The next item of note was the termination of the Board, which was absorbed into the Shire of Darebin.

The first Australian member of the Nelson family of Doreen was Andrew Nelson, who took up land at Doreen in 1850.

His second son, Patrick, was born in Melbourne and went to his father's farm where he remained for over 50 years. His wife was a daughter of another pioneer, Patrick Hickey.

Andrew was born in county Cavan, Ireland in 1838 and came to Victoria with his parents in 1841.

He was engaged in gold seeking and after the death of his father, went to live at Yan Yean. He served for 20 years on the Morang Board and later the Whittlesea Council.

A site for a cemetery at Morang was gazetted on March 24, 1862. It was of five acres and located on property owned by J. Hutchinson, on the south side of the road just north of Morang Station and the west side of Plenty road.

The Trustee appointed in September after the gazettal were John Wilton, J.H. Walker, J. Hutchinson, H. Gemmell, J.D. Daniel and Thomas Boland.

Thomas Boland died in 1963, and Francis McGlinn replaced him. There is no evidence of the land ever having been used as a cemetery.

A Court of Petty Sessions was commenced at the Morang Post Office, January 19, 1863.

The Board's first tender was for half a mile of Plenty Road to be metalled. Tenders were called on October 20, 1862, and plans and specifications were available at the Board office, Tramway Cottage, Morang.

Early in the next year the tender of John Drysdale and Brothers was accepted. A tender by Overend and Robb for £774.14.0 for the maintenance of a section of Plenty Road was also accepted.

The first deeds to ownership of land in Yan Yean were issued on July 23, 1853, to Michael Molaughlin for 78 acres.

In September further issues were made to C.S. Sharp and J. Wilton 74 acres, Robert King 224 acres; John Witty 320 acres; John Mooney 316 acres; and P. Robertson 78 acres.

First impoundings in the Morang Pound took place in 1854. The pound keeper then was Joseph Hutchinson who replaced H. Foley.

A section of the area now known as Arthurs Creek was taken from the Greensborough Roads Board and added to the Morang District on August 24, 1863.

A further area of 550 acres was added to Morang on December 15, 1869. The Upper Plenty or Morang Roads Board was proclaimed on September 1, 1862 and the Board elected on October 6, 1862.

It represented an area 28 square miles, the Clerk and Engineer was Moses Thomas and the Board Office was the Plough Inn which was near the Janefield toll gate.

With the amalgamation of the Roads Board of Morang, Woodstock and Epping, the Shire of Darebin was ushered in to remain in existence for the next 24 years.

It was to have a stormy life and certainly started off "on the wrong foot". Every municipal representative on the three Boards were appointed to the newly created council. With each Board having its own "private fight" to continue all the warring elements was hardly the action of a legislator.

Re-defining, additions and losses of territory helped solve many of the major problems however. The Shire of Darebin remained in existence for 24 years to be incorporated into the Shire of Epping in 1895. Darebin came into existence in 1871 and only 5 members occupied the chair. The chairmen were:-

1871-8	G. McCormack
1878-81	P. McCoy
1882-91	W.H. Wilson
1892	J.S. Morgan
1893	W. Bodycoat
1894	P. McCoy.

In 1870 the Epping Roads Board was subdivided to bring in the area now known as Northcote. The President was E. Bastings and the representatives were:- (South) E. Bastings, G. Plant, J. Garton. (Central), which was Preston, F. Thomas, J. Taylor, Ben Johnason. (North) from Mahoney's Road W. Mitchell, R. Dodd, J. Cleeland. Next year, 1871, the Woodstock, Morang and Epping Roads Board was combined, and it contained the impossible number of 22 councillors. George D. McCormack was elected president and the members were: (Woodstock riding), D. Gorman, G. D. McCormack, A. Matchmagh, T. Bodycoat, P. McCoy, D. P. Sullivan. (Epping), E. Bastings, J. Gorton, G. Plant, F. Thomas, J. Tyler, B. Johnson, W. Mitchell, R. Dodd, J. Cleeland. (Morang), G. Irish, J. Morris, A. Nelson, R. Grant, T. Angus, J. O'Keefe, W. Paterson. The secretary was W. Patterson and the engineer, E. Sheffield. In 1872 the unwieldy 22 councillors were separated with the shire of Jika Jika. Preston and Northcote was excised to leave only six representatives again. G. D. McCormack was again elected to the chair with P. McCoy, J. Cleeland, J. Morris, A. Nelson and W. Lynch. The secretary and surveyor remained and James Ryan became collector

In 1873 the shire was sub-divided into three ridings:- Epping, Morang and Woodstock with the following members:- G.D. McCormack re-elected president, J. Cleeland, M. Farmer, W. Lynch, Robert Grant, J. Mann, A. Nelson, G. McCormack, D. Gorman and P. McCoy. In 1874 E.D. McCormack president and Robert Dodd replaced J. Cleeland. In 1875, same president and James Lewis replaced D. Gorman. In 1876 the shire was again altered and two ridings were established with president McCormack in the chair. The members were:- Alex. Beattie, Michael Parnell, R. Dodd, J. Lewis, M. Farmer. No change in 1877 and 1878 still the same president and three new members. P. McCoy, J. Mason and E. McLaughlin. In 1879 a change in chairman, Peter McCoy. The council, was now W. Wilson, P. McCoy, J. Mason, in the Woodstock riding with no change for Epping. For the next three years, P. McCoy was president. D. Gorman replaced J. Mason and J.D. Hearne, J.S. Morgan and T. Mitchell were three new Epping members. For 8 years Mr. Wilson was in the chair. In this time, Donald Fullerton, F. Peppin, M. Zimmer, T. Butler were elected. In 1892 J.S. Morgan president. C. Barry and J. Newton elected and John McDonald the next year when W. Bodycoat was president. In 1894 Peter McCoy president. The next year saw another alteration and the name changed to the Shire Of Epping. There was little change until all shires and Boards became united into the Shire of Whittlesea and with the exception of small changes in the area in 1890, 1895 and 1955, no great alteration has taken place. But in 1895, the name of the municipality was changed to the Shire of Epping. Redefining of the boundaries did not materially alter the area under control of the council.

THE SHIRE OF EPPING.

The following is the list of shire presidents for 21 years of the life of this shire:

1895	C. Barry
1896	J. McDonald
1897-8	B. McCormack
1899	J. S. Morgan
1900	W. Bodycoat
1901	B. McCormack
1902	P. McCoy
1903-4	B. McCormack
1905	N. Hansen
1906-7	J. S. Morgan
1908-12	B. McCormack
1913-14	J. Dea.
1915	B. McCormack

On May 23, 1890, the shires of Darebin, Merriang and Whittlesea were re-defined.

Small sections of land were removed from one shire to other shires to make a clearer division. In 1915, all the shires were re-grouped into one municipal district to be known as Whittlesea Shire.

A large area of land within the Whittlesea District and known as Epping, ceased to be so named when the shire was re-sub-divided in 1956. It had been known as Epping for 102 years. Prior to the re-subdivision, Whittlesea comprised three ridings, Epping, Merang and Whittlesea and was divided from north to south. The areas within these ridings contained the land under the old roads boards of the same name.

After the boundary alteration, now divided from east to west and the addition of a fourth riding, the names chosen were Whittlesea, Yan Yean, Morang and Thomastown. The old name of Epping was at last eliminated and ceased to exist municipally.

SOME EARLY PIONEERS.

Mr. Job Nash of Yan Yean was born in England in 1844 and came to the colony in 1863, carrying and gold-digging and fencing occupied his attention for many years before he purchased a dairy farm at Barber's Creek, Barbers Creek, Yan Yean.

Mr. Horatio Cooper of Bundoora was born in England in 1806 and was married in Oct. 1836 at Tasmania. Mr. and Mrs. Cooper arrived in Melbourne in Jan. 1837 to commence

a custom-house agency, had charge of government stores, and controlled the rations of the military. In 1839 he bought land at Bundoora where he engaged in dairy-farming on an extensive scale. He sent to Tasmania for brick-makers and it was his capital that started the first brick-making machine in the colony. His eldest daughter was the first child baptised in Melbourne.

Patrick Dynan came to Australia at the age of 12 years with his parents, natives of Ireland. He was married in 1879 and took up land at Yan Yean.

Edward Richard Crosswell was born in Wales in 1827 and came to Melbourne in 1856.

After managing several properties in various parts of Victoria, he purchased land at Yan Yean ten years later.

Peter and Charles Le Page were born in the English Channel Islands of Guernsey in the 1830's. They came to Melbourne in 1852 and after three years of the diggings, settled in Morang in 1855.

Mr. Charles Creighton of "Thorn Holm", Doreen was born in Gosforth, Cumberland, Eng. in 1845, and when 8 years old came to Australia with his parents, who settled at Bundoora where he was educated. After his schooling he worked on his father's property, but later acquired a property of his own at Hazel Glen. As a young man he took a great interest in the voluntary movement, and was one of the escort to the Duke of Edinburgh during his visit to Victoria in 1867. He was a ploughman of note and won many awards including a silver medal from the Port Phillip Farmers' Society in 1860 at a ploughing match held at Donnybrook.

He was a foundation member of the Agricultural Society and died in 1916. Mrs. Creighton lived for some time at Wollert and eldest son Tyson was a Whittlesea councillor for several years.

Mrs. Helen Boadle was born near Glasgow, Scotland, and came to the Colony in 1839 and, with her family, went up the country, where her father (who died in 1858) was a squatter in the Pkenty River District. She married Mr. Boadle in 1847 and lived on a farm at Bundoora until 1872.

Mr. John Creighton was born in Cumberland, England, in 1821. He came to Australia in 1856. In 1857, he purchased land at Bundoora.

Mr. George Gordon of Bundoora was born in Carnail, Scotland, in 1830. He arrived in Sydeny in 1858. He farmed at Bathhurst for 3 years and carted bricks in N.S.W. until 1874. He then came to Prospect Hill, now Bundoora to split wood and act as plough man for Mr. Miller. He next had the management of Craigeburn one of Mr. Miller's establishments, when he was appointed overseer at Mill Park. He remained at Mill Park, where he was in charge for many years.

Ex-COUNCILLOR B.J. McCORMACK.

Ex. Councillor Bartholomew John McCormack, J.P. of Woodstock died on Jan. 5 1956, aged 92 years.

Mr. McCormack, who was known to many of the older residents as "Bat", was for 19 years a member of the Epping Shire Council prior to its amalgamation with Whittlesea Shire Council and then served for another 31 years.

Actually, during his time, he had a break of one year, when he stood down at the expiration of a three-year term, and was re-elected next year.

During this long period of time, he was several times Shire President, and possessed not only a thorough knowledge of the Local Government Acts, but a highly developed sense of humor.

In 1946, November, Cr. McCormack submitted his resignation due to ill health. Advancing years had still seen him taking an active part in farming, and the dearth of manpower during the war years saw him, in his eighties, still doing a full day's work. During the 1944 harvest, he sustained a fall while stacking, and this led to a serious decline in his health. However, he continued to take an active interest in council affairs, freely placing at the disposal of his fellow councillors the benefit of his lengthy experience.

Came the time when he felt that his health would not enable him to do full justice to the post in representing the interests of the Epping Riding ratepayers, and he announced his intentions of resigning. At first his colleagues over-bore him, and persuaded him to continue, but late in 1946, he informed Mr. R.G.C. Cook (Shire Sec.) that he felt he should make way for a younger and more active man, and his resignation was accepted with regret. The Whittlesea Council earlier that year recognised his services by presenting him with an illuminated address to mark his 50th year of service.

THE SHIRE OF MERRIANG.

Of the five Roads Districts which combined to make the present Shire of Whittlesea, the Merriang area played the least important part. Prior to its declaration as a Shire in 1871, it was part of a Roads Board created on August 10, 1863.

This Board included all the land at Donnybrook to Wallan in the north and to Broadmeadows in the south.

Merriang was proclaimed in 1872 and continued to function until it was absorbed in the wider municipal sphere of the Shire Of Whittlesea in 1915.

Its location is in the north west of the area and only a small section came into the Whittlesea Shire. The approximate division with the Epping Board was a line about half way between Wollert and the Merri Creek. This line extended north also to form the division with the Woodstock Board. Whittlesea acquired a section of this land in 1955 when the area east of the Hume Highway, between Somerton and Kal Kallio was transferred from Broadmeadows. The Shire Presidents were:-

1872-6	F.R. Godfrey
1877	H. Sinclair
1878	J. Wilson
1879-81	J. Robertosn
1882-3	J. Malcolm
1884	G. Wilson
1885-6	W.H. Wilson
1887-8	J. Robertson
1889	W.J. Lobb
1890	G. Wilson
1891	S. Martin
1892	W.J. Lobb
1893	J. Robertson
1894	D. McBain
1895	C. Guthrie
1896-7-8	J. Robertson
1899	J.D. Smythe
1900 -1	D. McBain
1902	G.W. Firman
1903-5	J. Robertosn
1906	D. McBain
1907	J. Robertosn
1908-10	J.L. Webb
1911-12	H. Barker
1913-14	A.J. Stewary
1915	P. Harvey.

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With the amalgamation, all the prominent figures of Merriang dropped out of public life as it concerns this district.

Nathaniel T. Randall was secretary of Merriang in 1884.

When the Vermin Destruction Act of 1890 was introduced, Merriang Shire was the first Shire in close proximity of Melbourne to borrow under this Act. On June 13, 1890 the shire arranged a loan from the Government for £332. In the early years of the Shire's existence, Merriang obtained an overdraft from the Oriental Bank.

Races were regularly held at Donnybrook in the 1860's. The stewards were:- E. Bradley, J. Whitley, H. Mitchell. Judge. D.R. McGregor. Starter. G.M. Abbott and treasurer, John Johnston.

Amongst the early pioneers were:-

Mr. William Hamilton Wilson of Merriang was born in Victoria. He was a councillor of the Merriang Shire Council for 6 years and also in the Darebin Shire Council for 10 years.

Mr. Andrew Mulchinagh of Woodstock was born in 1830 in County Clare, Ireland, and at 13 years of age came to Melbourne with his parents. In 1847 he purchased a large holding at Woodstock

THE GREATER WHITTLESEA SHIRE.

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With the construction of the railway and the progress of the district around the turn of the century, municipal control was not keeping pace with the area development. The Local Government Department decided to amalgamate the Shires of Whittlesea and Epping (1915) into one Shire. This terminated the two shires and ushered in the greater shire of Whittlesea.

With the exception of an additional area of land from the City of Broadmeadows, on the east of the ^{the} Hume Highway, no other major alteration has since taken place.

The additional land was once part of the old shire of Merriang and was taken over from the control of the Shire of Darebin when it was created in 1871.

Reasons given for the alteration were a more easily definable shire boundary and being contiguous to Epping, fitted into the shire pattern. Previously the boundary was along fences, creeks and little used roads. The new boundary, the Hume Highway, created a natural municipal division.

In 1916, the greater shire of Whittlesea came into existence, It included the Shire of Epping, a section of the Shire of Merriang and the old shire of Whittlesea.

At last, all the municipal districts from the Hume Highway to Arthurs Creek and from the northern boundary of the southern area to the great divide came under one control and with little alteration still preserves the area of 55 years ago.

The Shire presidents were	1916	L.W.Clark	1940-45	T.Hurrey
	1917-21	L.W.Clark	1946-52	J.Balharrie
	1922-28	B.McCormack	1953	T.Hurrey
	1929	D.Murphy	1954-55	L.Mitchell
	1930	B.McCormack	1956	J.Balharrie
	1931	L.W.Clark	1957	M.MoPhan
	1932	M.A.Ferguson	1958-59	V.Michael
	1933	J.Downie	1960	L.McArthur Smith.
	1934	H.K.Deering	1961	
	1935 -39	R.S.Smith		

The following records of the year 1865-6 shows the revenue and expenditure by all the Roads Boards in the northern area and the number of ratepayers therein.

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Name	Ratepayers on roll	Revenue	Expenditure on works	Expenditure Salaries
Broadmeadows	222	2-699	3-040	553
Donnybrook	174	4-375	2-378 2-117	555
Epping	492	4-129	5-676	380
Greensboroygh	120	960	1-168	71
Heidelberg	186	2-571	1-355	446
Pentridge	219	1-375	3-140	251
Upper Plenty	245	2-866		293
Whittlesea	138	1-085	511	188
Woodstock	100	912	785	129

It will be seen from this list, that the Epping Board had the greatest number of ratepayers but Donnybrook the biggest revenue.

Donnybrook included Wallan Wallan and in 1871 was separated and the Shire of Merriang created.

The Greensborough and Heidelberg Boards contained vast tracts of country. Pentridge was later to be known as Coburg. Thirty square miles of Broadmeadows land was annexed to Whittlesea Shire in 1955.

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MERENDA FLOUR MILL.

Mernda once boasted two flour mills. One was owned by Mr. A. Willis and little is known of its history. Reference is made to the two mills in the report on the site for the Yan Yean reservoir. The other mill was designed by Moses Thomas in 1853 on the banks of the Plenty River, then a well-flowing stream. Water was diverted into a race to drive a 24¹/₂ foot cast iron Pelton (wheel), having an axle one foot in diameter. The wheel operated until 1863 when a flood swept away the mill dam which had been created to feed the mill race. The mill cost £6000 to construct and proved a great acquisition to the district. Bakers from all over Victoria sent their grain in bullock wagons for gristing. These wagons carted the flour, bran, pollard etc. Capacity of the mill was three tons an hour, which was big, even by today's standards. In 1863 Yna Yean reservoir had been built and one night a surge of water from this reservoir flooded down the Plenty to put the mill out of action. With the diminishing flow of water in the Plenty, the days of the water wheel were past.

Mr. Thomas repaired the mill and powered it with steam engines. It continued to grist until the time of his death when it was sold to Yarra Falls Flour Milling Co. Some of machinery was still in use up to a few years ago.

From 1863, the mill continued to function for several years. All the time, the water flow in the Plenty River consequent on the storage continued to diminish, until the flow practically ceased and Mr. Thomas claimed compensation. He took the case to the S Supreme Court and had Messrs. Cleeland, Slessor, Tatterson and his son, Walter as witnesses. On Saturday Aug. 8, 1868, the case was lost with each side paying their own costs. The other side was the Governor of Victoria. Not satisfied with this result, Mr. Thomas petitioned all members of Parliament and had the matter ventilated in the State house. This time he was successful. This action prompted the following editorial in a morning paper, August 12, 1868.

"The use of a mill is popularly understood to be the grinding of corn. The mill that grinds no corn may, however, be valuable to its owners in a number of ways. The mill

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may be a good thing to have blown up-to, be burned down-to, be compensated for- to be re-built-to be left without water power, etc. All these are uses to which a mill may be put. There is one mill in Victoria which promises to be historical. This remarkable mill has the misfortune (or good fortune) to be built on the banks of the Plenty River. When the river was tapped for the purpose of occasionally permitting water to flow from it for the filling of the Yan Yean reservoir, the mill now and again was short of water. So Parliament was moved, a commission appointed, compensation awarded, and money paid in the usual way. But the mill, having been a victim of one element, soon became the prey of another. Instead of too little water there was too much fire. The mill was burned down. Being rebuilt, it had been a second time burned down, and £700 insurance money claimed. Singular to say, an enquiry was instituted and more singularly, a coroner's jury came to the conclusion that the burning down of the mill was wilfully caused. The mill has had almost as many adventures as that Irish gentleman who boasted (abroad) that he had been shot, hanged, burned, drowned and transported- all of which in a limited sense truly he had been a patriot. There is something academic amongst mill owners. Another of them is about trying on the water deficiency dodge, and as it has been worked so well here, there will be another case for compensation by the Legislative Assembly. I think it is made clear that mills have also other uses than grinding corn."

PARLIAMENTARY REPORT.

The matter was mentioned in the State House by W. Watkins, M.L.A., and "the Argus" reported as follows. Settlers on the Plenty River.

Mr. Watkins M.L.A., called attention of the State Government (Feb. 25, 1870) to a portion of a speech made by the President of Lands and Survey, "that the rights of persons on running streams (as in England) ought to be respected," and asked whether it was the intention of the Chief Secretary to bring in a bill or place

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on the Estimates an amount sufficient to compensate equitably persons who owned property on the Plenty River, and had suffered loss in consequence of the diversion of this river into the Yan Yean reservoir. Mr. Macpherson (Chief Secretary) replied that it was not the intention of the Government to bring in such a bill, and that they did not propose to place a sum of money on the estimated for compensating persons who owned property on the Plenty River, until it had been ascertained by a committee or otherwise that such compensation should be provided for."

In the same session of Parliament, a week later, Mr. Lobb, M.L.A., gave notice that he would move that a select committee be appointed, comprising of Mr. J. Macgregor, Mr. E. Cope, Mr. W. Watkins, Mr. D. Thomas, Mr. P. Hanna, Mr. W. M'Lennan, and the mover, for the purpose of investigating the claim made by Mr. Moses Thomas for loss sustained by him in consequence of the diversion of the Plenty River into the Yan Yean reservoir; three to form a quorum, with power to call for persons and papers.

REPAIRING THE MILL.

The second time it was burned down was in July 1868. Mr. Thomas wrote in his diary, August 12, 1868, "Inspected Willis' mill and reported to Mr. Gill". As there was a claim for £700 insurance, the Mr. Gill could have been the Insurance Co. inspector.

Mr. Thomas records a few days later. Estimated cost of rebuilding Willis' mill

Cost of building	£382-6-6
Supervision	£ 20-0-0
Incidentals	£ 10-0-0

£412-6-6

The mill referred to here is the second mill and was not the property of Moses Thomas. It was the second mill referred to in the editorial.

Moses Thomas was presenting his case to Parliament for his own mill and it was referred to as the "water case" in Court and in Parliament.

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Evidently the case caused considerable controversy for the following letter appeared in "The Argus" on Sept. 16, 1868.

The Moses Thomas Compensation Case.

To the Editor, Sir.

Will you kindly oblige me by stating that Mr. Moses Thomas is no relation or acquaintance of mine. I never saw him in my life except at the first and only meeting of the committee I was able to attend. Similarity of surname may lead to false impressions on the public mind. Signed, David Thomas. M.L.A.

That the action of Moses Thoams was unpopular with a section of the Victorian Parliament is evident by this letter published by Mr. David Thomas the member representing Sandridge (now Port Melbourne), and a member of the select committee.

There is no record of the mill "being burned down for the first time" although the leading article indicates that the mill was new and then burned. It could only have been new from rebuilding, as it had been in operation for many years at the time of this report. The mills are but a memory for all traces of their existence have been obliterated by time. But in its day, was one of the attractions of busy Mernda.

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ACTIVITIES AT MERNDA.

The Mills Family have been associated with Mernda for over 100 years. The first Mrs. Mills was a daughter of Mr. John Cockerell and they settled at the cross-roads where the old "smithy"- a remnant of the wheelwright days still stands. Moses Thomas and John Cockerell were related by marriage. On the Mills side, there is a link back to the "seventies" with the Smith's of "Rose Hill", and the Creightons of "Thorn Holm" in the person of Mr. Thomas James Hicks. Mr. Hicks and Miss. Mary Cockerill were married in 1899 and resided at "The Highlands", Doreen, from whence the 3 children of the union- Mable (Mrs. Graff, of Mernda), Hilda, (Mrs. Mills, of Caulfield) and Elsie (the late Mrs. Charles Draper)-- attended the local school until 1905 when the family moved to "Blink Bonnie" Arthur's Creek, and in 1914 to "Braeburn" Mernda. The Mills family allied themselves with good works, and especially were linked with Mayfield Presbyterian Church, where they were superintendents of the Sunday School for 20 years. Later, Mr. Hicks and his brother-in-law Mr. Charles Creighton were inducted as elders.

Whittlesea districts residents remember the Hicks family with respect. The father, a man who worked amongst men was a fine Christian gentleman who showed his zest in his family toil, expressing his faith in God, and showed faith in his fellow man irrespective of class or creed.

May 21, 1870, Mrs. Greigson of Victoria Parade, died, aged 86 years. This lady came to the colonies in the 1810, with Governor Macquarie, her husband being a corporal in the 73rd. Regiment. After a four years' residence in Tasmania and Paramatta, she accompanied her husband to India, from whence he was invalided after long service. Mrs. Greigson again came to Australia in 1839, landed from the first free immigrant ship that reached these waters, the David Clarke. Her husband died in 1855. She has left a large number of descendants here.

The Griersons

The Grierson's came from Kennilworth, Scotland. A daughter became Mrs. John Cockerell. William Cockerell, a brother of John Cockerell landed in Tasmania in 1804. In 1854 John Cockerell purchased the property at Mernda from his uncle John Grierson. The old house still stands. Mr. George Cockerell was born there. One building in Mernda which ceases to exist is the Rechabite Hall. It was a wooden building and was erected on the south side of the house next to the school ground. The Rechabite lodge was a flourishing organisation in the district for many years but with the removal of the old and decaying building to do service as a store room at Kinglake, the lodge ceases to flourish so actively. It is today carried on in a private home.

In 1870, William Hunter, a former member of the Yan Yean tent of the order of Rechabites, sued the committee of the lodge for cancelling his membership. It appears that tea-meeting ticket money paid in did not tally with the tickets issued to him. The Bench ruled that the charge of fraud was not sufficiently proven in the absence of satisfactory books and documentary evidence showing the state of the account against Hunter, and ordered his re-admission.

On Jan. 4, 1868, Mr. Moses Thomas, Board Engineer, applied to Whittlesea Court on behalf of Duncan McDohald for a licence for Bridge Inn. Another hotel was Lamb Inn, which still stands in Plenty Rd., about half a mile on the Whittlesea side of Bridge Inn Road. It was once owned by Mr. Gilligan who published an advertising card extolling the virtues of the district. The wording of the card would do justice to the advertising of popular resorts of today,

The Plough Inn conducted a regular race meeting. On Jan. 1862, the officials were: Stewards- J. Smith, H. Yend, S. Cole and J. Greenway. Judge-- Joseph Hutchinson, Starter- F. Cleeland, Treasurer, J. Peacock. Clerk, F. D. Hamilton.

The second meeting was held in October of the same year., when J. Cleeland and T. Creighton were stewards. J. Greenway was one of the contractors for the Mance and Parsonage at Whittlesea. J. Peacock was the licensee of the Peacock Inn in Northcote.

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Marsh Farm at Morang was leased to Mathias Popple and Thomas Popple in Feb. 1868. The Mayfield Presbyterian Church, Mernda was built in 1860 by Moses Thomas and deeded to the church trust, in 1875, three years before his death. The church was built on his property, producing the stone from his own quarries, preparing his own plans and, being and ordained minister, on Sunday Oct. 23, 1860, he conducted the first service and preached the sermon.

The first impounding at Morang pound was Oct. 31, 1851. The poundkeeper was W.C. Walker.

The first land sale at Yan Yean was in 1852 on Lot 6 when 640 acres were sold; on the following day 1216 acres were auctioned. The price was £1 per acre and it was sold under the Lands Acts which gave purchasers many years to pay for their allotments. The second sale was March 20, 1855, when 460 acres in 15 different allotments were sold. The price this time varied from 30/- per acre to 50/- per acre.

The Yan Yean village reserve, the town area, was gazetted on Tuesday, Feb. 18, 1868. For £30 per year, A.G. Stanbury obtained the lease of the Mernda bakery from Moses Thomas in May 1868. The lease was for 12 months and a condition was the re-building of certain out-houses and repairs and additions to the main building. Prior to this date, the new owner was employed as the baker by Mr. Thomas.

The Morang store in 1868 was owned by James Cairns.

WHITTLESEA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

The first Whittlesea show was held at Upper Plenty, near the Yna Yean Reservoir on Tuesday May 3. 1859.

A large poster was printed and letters sent to the landowners of the district, extolling the virtues of the Fair, and exhorting them to attend.

Contributions were also sought. It is on record that the Gentlemen of Upper Plenty were liberal according to their means, and the show society of today was formed.

Here is the circular in the form it was issued, and £30 was raised.

"The Gentlemen of Upper Plenty and neighbourhood are respectfully informed that the first Whittlesea Fair will be held on the first tuesday in May.

Some small expense will be incurred in stationery, placards and advertising in the weekly and daily newspapers, which it is proposed to defray by voluntary contributions. Considering the great distance from, and heavy expense incurred in sending the produce of this locality to any market, the situation of Whittlesea on the route from the interior, and in the centre of one of the most thriving farming districts in the Colony, the number of horses and cattle reared, the quantity of grain, fruit and vegetables grown in the neighbourhood, and the convenient distance for buyers from town, the Committee feel very sanguine of success in the undertaking. It is desirable that all who are interested in the welfare of the district will come forward with energy, earnestness and unity of purpose and assist in making this First Fair in the Colony one that will be in every respect creditable to the people of Upper Plenty."

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

In the first subscription list, appears the names of many of the first district settlers.

James Smith (Shamrock and Thistle)	1- 1- 0
Wm. Watson, Plenty River	1- 0- 0
John Abbott (Lamb Inn)	1- 0- 0
Geo. Forbes (Whittlesea Inn.)	1- 1- 0
William Hefferen	1- 0- 0
Patrick Kenney	1- 0- 0
James Patten	1- 0- 0
Charles McDougall	1- 0- 0
Henry Gibbs, J.P.	1- 0- 0
Thomas Roe	1- 0- 0
Robert Bruce	1- 0- 0
Thos. E.L. Hughes	1- 0- 0
William Lewis	1- 0- 0
Geo. Taylor, Jnr.	1- 0- 0
William Graham	1- 0- 0
Andrew Nelson	10- 0
A. Willis (Plenty Mill.)	10- 0
Francis McClean	10- 0
Wm. Johnstone	10- 0
Mr. Daniel (Yan Yean)	10- 0
Graham Cade	10- 0
Mr. Gamble	10- 0
Thomas Norman	10- 0
Ewen Robertson	10- 0
Robert Christie	10- 0
Thomas Wilson	10- 0
Robert Robson	10- 0
Alexander Downie	10- 0
John Morley	1- 0- 0
G. Nicholson	1- 0- 0
W. Braithwaite	1- 0- 0
Moses Thomas	1- 0- 0
David Johnston, Jnr.	1- 0- 0
Alex. Crocker	5- 0
Mr. Maxwell	5- 0
Samuel Evans	1- 0- 0

This original subscription list was located by Mr. J.C. Gibbs, who was Postmaster at Whittlesea for many years., and with it was a letter written by Mr. Anthony Nicholson, of "Lampleigh Hall ", on July 22, 1879, to Mr. Chas. Cookson. The letter stated:

"Dear Sir,-- I beg to enclose you the particulars of the Whittlesea Horse and Cattle Fair, etc, etc., the first Fair established in Victoria. May 3, 1859, and prospered well till the disease called plural pneumoniaset in, and then

the people began to be afraid to bring their cattle to the Fair, amongst strangers, for fear of the disease, and the Fair began to fall off, but it still holds on along with the Horticultural Show, which will be held on the first Tuesday in October, 1879, where there is always a good Show of Entire Horses, Bulls, Cows, Sheep, Poultry, Pigs, and Farm Produce, as any in the country, considering not being stall-fed; also a good mustering of the Fair Sex, from a long distance, to see who gets the prize for the best Butter and Cheese. The competition is numerous. Hurrah, Hurrah for Whittlesea, with kind respects to all old and enquiring friends, when you publish in the newspaper, please to send me the "Alexandra Times"; also send a copy to the "Evelyn Observer." about a month before the Fair, as the proprietors has been asking when the first Fair was established, you can give them the particulars. I remain, Yours respectfully, ANTHONY NICHOLSON."

OTHER CLIPPINGS

From a couple of newspaper clippings which were attached, and appear to be from the "Argus" of early August, 1922, it would appear there had been a controversy raging as to the earliest show in Victoria.

A Correspondent signing himself "Mansfield" stated that in 1855 a show was held under the auspices and management of the Port Phillip Farmers' Society, at the north end of Elizabeth Street, between Sydney and Flemington Roads. The letter added that the writer had an oil painting of a shorthorn cow and calf which had won first prize at that show.

The second clipping stated that in the office of the Royal Agricultural Show Society had been found a prize schedule of a show held by the Port Phillip Farmers' Society in 1854. (The date of the clipping is not given)

56

EARLY HISTORY.

At the centenary show in 1959, there was displayed many souvenirs of previous exhibitions. The main purpose of getting together as many as possible of these old cards and schedules was to try to trace some of the earliest history of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society and its former officers.

Some prize cards date back to 1890. Due to many changes of secretary, the early records of the Society have been lost. From the cards the following information has been obtained--

1890-- James Andrew, treasurer, B.D. Sutton, secretary.
1893-- James Andrew, treasurer; W.H. Loolwood, secretary.
Another card dated 189- bears neither name of treasurer or secretary.
1901 - J.E. Steer, secretary, (no treasurer stated).
1904-5-6-7- J.E. Steer.
1908- I. Mason, treasurer; J.E. Steer, secretary.
1909-10-11- A. Cockroft, treasurer; J.E. Steer, secretary.
1913-14-15- G. Sutherland, treasurer; J.E. Steer, secretary.
1919- R.E. Dawson, President; J.E. Steer, secretary.
1926- C.W. Andrew, treasurer; John T. Butson, secretary.
1927- John T. Butson, secretary (treasurer not stated.)
In 1914, Mr. J. Cornfoot was President, and there was some items of interest in the

general regulations of the Society's Schedule for that year. For instance, the show was held on Thursday, Nov. 12, 1914; entries closed on Tues. Nov. 10, but late entries could still be lodged providing double entry fees were paid.

The membership fee was 10/- allowing two entries and admitting one lady and gentleman to show; two tickets, six entries; non-members 1/-; children half price.

The list of committee donations gave the following names:- Messrs J.H. Cornfoot (Pres.) C. Creighton and W.H. James (vice-presidents) L.C. Brook, G. Sutherland, Jos. Coulthard, James Coulthard, Bassett Bros, A. McArthur Smith, A. Clark, D.A. Hutchinson, J. Mann, P.W. Murphy, J. Lodge, H. Johnstone, W. Thomas, A. Mason, John Mason, H. Batten, R.E. Dawson, J. Downie, J. Herbert, T. Nicholson, C.W. Andrew, C. Mitchell, E. Jeffrey, Jas. Murphy, Thos. Hurrey.

Additional names mentioned in the 1915 schedule under committee donors were

Messrs. J.W.Muller, J.E.Steer (sec.), H.Coulthard, A.Clark, E.Batten, J.Thomas,
F.J.Pearce, C.Exton.

Mentioned in the private donation list for 1914 were many names still well
known in the district:- Findon Harriers' Hunt Club, V.C.Reid, Capt. J.A.S.Balmain
M.J.S.Gair, Job.Smith, J.Cotcain, Jos. Mason, W.C.Anglis (M.L.C.) R.C.Harris,
W.H.Wilson, -Mornane, A.E.Goodall, W.A..ea, W. Kendall, M.Appleyard, C.C.Gibbs,
W.McDonald, Sassella Bros, T.M.Browne, W.H.Edgar, J.Ryan, Miss. B.B.Reid,
McArthur McLeod, N.McKendrick, T.Smith, W.Slessor, R.H.Harrington, Miss. Laidlay
J.T.Hennesy, J.E.Crawley, D.Murphy (Glenvale).

Additional ones mentioned in the following year's list were :- J.Mulkearn,
J.Farrell, M.McNab, D.Cornfoot, Mitchell Bros., C.J.McCormack, J.A.Butler,
A.A.Brahe, E.Hehr, Thos. Glover, L.W.Clarke, Goss Bros., A.Best, W.Olney,
H.M.Sneddon, Thos. Furphy, Mrs Caine.

Add Whittlesea Agricultural Society.

The story leading up to the first show as published in the "Evelyn Observer" Sept. 19, 1879.

The Whittlesea Fair will be held this year, on Oct. 7, and it is purposed to give some account of its career, as it was the first Fair established in the Colony. and since its inauguration a new generation has sprung up and the "old folks" gone, this sketch may not be altogether uninteresting. In Dec. 1858, some residents of the Upper Plenty determined to try the experiment of establishing a Fair, and a meeting was called for the purpose. The night was dismal; it did rain or rather pour down, and Messrs Nicholson and Cookson were the only persons to put in an appearance. What was to be done? Adjourn the meeting? No such thing. The host (could not have a meeting but at a public-house, you know) was duly elected Chairman. The meeting was very unanimous. What one proposed the other seconded, and so on till a good start was made. The next meeting began with "At a meeting of the committee appointed to consider arrangements for the holding of a Fair etc.". At this meeting a code of laws was drawn up, the name to be submitted for approval at a public meeting called for Jan. 26. 1859. In the meantime Mr. Nicholson was successful with a subscription list. On looking over this list it is surprising how few of the subscribers still remain in the district. As they are the pioneers it will not be out of place to give a few names whose owners are still remaining in the district after 19 years since the first show. They are:- Messrs Nicholson, Ronald, Hohnston, Kenny, Patton, Taylor, Robertson and Maxwell. In other parts of the colonies:- Messrs. Sherwin Cookson, Graham, Christie, Gibbs and these who have passed away:- Robson, Cooker, Thomas, Wishart, Smith, Forbes, Heffernan, McDougal, Roe, Hughes, Lewis, Cade and Mosley. Application was made to the Government for three acres of unoccupied land in the township and preparations began erecting the present yards; before the completion of which it was decided to use Mr. Johnson's yard. Mr. Cookson was the school teacher and Mr. Nicholson, the publican.

First subscribers.

The following is the first subscribers to the Society:-

A. Nicholson, James Smith, Wm. Hefferen, Geo. Sherwin, Wm. Watson, Patrick Kenny, David Johnston, John A. Bott, James Patton, T.T. Wishart, George Forbes, Chs. McDougall, Henry Gibbs, Thomas Roe, Robert Bruce, Thos. E.L. Hughes, Wm. Lewis, George Taylor William Graham, Andrew Nelson, A. Willis, Francis McGlean, Wm. Johnstone, F. Daniel Graham Cade, M. Gamble, A. Maxwell, Samuel Evand, Thomas Norman, John Morley, Germaine Nicholson, W. Braithwaite, Ewen Robertson, Robert Christie, Moses Thomas, David Johnstone Jnr. Thomas Wilson, Robert Dobson, Alexander Downey, Alex. Crocker. Mr. Anthony Nicholson was secretary.

Successful event.

This Fair was a grand success. Stock fetched rattling prices. Mr. Maxwell had an offer of £20 for an ordinary cow-this will give you some idea of the state of the market. The farmers pulled together with a will, brought in stock and produce and even the Goulburn settlers sent in fat cattle, The Fair was the means of doing much good in the way of improving breeding, it opened the eyes of the farmers to the difference between good stock and worthless rubbish. It would, if possible, be a great contrast, and a feather in the caps of the young gentlemen, if the stock brought forward in 1859 could be put in one yard, and those shown at this show-1879-in the other. There is now a good show of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, farm and dairy produce more especially is the competition keen in dairy produce. The young ladies who take the prizes for butter would themselves be worth competing for by all the young farmers in the colony. Nor is the difference less marked in those who attend on pleasure or business bent. Then were a few pioneers; the rest, returned miners just settling down on farms, runaway sailors, blackfellows with their lubras, piccaninies and dogs. Now are the jolly, well-to-do farmers, with their growing up or grown up sons and daughters. From far and near they came, the young folk neatly dressed, well behaved, hale and hearty and strong; able to take the place of the old folk when the latter shall be called to join the great majority.

What is described as an unfortunate happening was the spread of pleuro pneumonia which resulted in the death of thousands of cattle in 1878.

The "Evenly Observer" reports that the introduction of pleuro pneumonia into the Colony by the late much respected Mr. Bodle resulted in the loss of many cattle. The report continues; the disease spread rapidly up the Plenty district and those who were fortunate in having healthy herds took the wise precaution not to let them stray in the paddocks.

This caused a considerable falling off of cattle entries for several years. The animal sections have always proved a big attraction and they hold still, their place today. Mr. Bodle was one of the early district pioneers and his name appears in both Janefield and Whittlesea stories.

6.

THE SITE FOR THE YAN YEAN RESERVOIR.

Before white men colonised Port Phillip district, the site for the Yan Yean reservoir had probably been used as a ceremonial ground by the natives of the Yarra tribe. The name Yan Yean is an aboriginal term meaning "young men", and for untold centuries the tree covered valley witnessed the sacred rites carried out in making the young men fully fledged members of the tribe. Hidden from the prying eyes of the native women, Ryder's swamp was admirably suited for the purpose; it had privacy, water, game and firewood, four indispensable components of an aboriginal ceremonial ground. The earliest white settlers in the Yan Yean district arrived about 1839 when 9060 acres of Crown Lands in the parishes of Yan Yean and Toorourong were sold in Sydney for £50808. With the small hamlet of Whittlesea as the hub, the district soon became popular as a pastoral and agricultural centre. The names of the first settler settlers have been perpetuated in such features as Cade's Lane, Sherwin's Range, Bears Castle, etc.

Thomas Bear's land encroached on the site of the proposed Yan Yean reservoir, and Bear's castle, a wattle and daub structure complete with battlements, still overlooks the reservoir from the north. Of its origin, nothing is known for certain. One story relates how Mear's farm labourers built it as a gesture to their master, while he was away in Melbourne on business. Another states that it was built as a protest against natives who still roamed the district in the early 1840's. It is however remarkable that the "castle" escaped unscathed during the stirring days at Yan Yean a decade later when hundreds of workmen and their families arrived in the district to work on the water scheme.

On Aug. 5, 1853, a week after the Board finally decided to carry out the Plenty River scheme tenders were called for grubbing and clearing of the site of the proposed dam.

This previously purchased by the Board for £5,417 covered an area of 1436 acres. The successful tenderer was William Mc Namara who had been the contractor for the Manchester Water Works prior to his arrival in Victoria. McNamara submitted a tender for £7,902.10.9.

On leaving the Reservoir, the water was conveyed in a pipe line for 7 miles at a distance of 247 chains from the reservoir it crossed the Plenty River on a stone bridge which also served as a turnpike road.

A bridge over the Plenty which carried the tramway and pipes cost £13,232.0.0 and the Merri Creek bridge, as a tubular girder one imported from England cost £7,700.0.0.

An open aqueduct was used to South Morang when pipes were again used to the city.

In his report to Parliament on the water supply James Blackburn who proposed the Yan Yean system wrote - "There are two mills in the Plenty and I fear that the junction of an aqueduct with the river would be above them."

His main worry seemed to be the mill on the Lower Plenty.

This, he calculated, would require 16,000 gallons per minute which would seriously decrease the available quantity.

To cope with this he proposed a large storage for at least 18 months supply and to allow for evaporation and the mill.

The Plenty River was discovered by Gellibrand on February 12, 1836, and so named by him because it was "the only stream except the Barwon River deserving of the name river."

YAN YEAN TRAMWAY

Built primarily to overcome the hazards of execrable roads and to facilitate pipe laying, a tram road 19 miles long was laid adjacent to the route of the proposed pipe line between Yan Yean and Melbourne.

Starting at the Yan Yean end the first 7 miles were built by contract by McNamara and Whitehair, the contractors for the corresponding section of the pipe line. Their price of £450 per mile was considered so favourable that the Commissioners asked them to extend the tram road a further 5 miles at the same price. Another firm completed the work.

The tram road comprised two red gum rails laid on hardwood sleepers, iron rails being used only for the first 75 chains at the city end of the line. This was by the Exhibition gardens in Nicholson Street where land had been acquired for a station. The 75 chains ended about the present North Fitzroy railway line.

The station at Nicholson Street comprised an area of 24 acres and extended from the Exhibition gardens northward to Riley Street and eastward to Fitzroy Street.

The route then continued along Brunswick Street, across the Merri Creek bridge and followed the pipe line in St. Georges Road near the reservoir.

The pipes imported from England for the aqueduct were loaded onto trollies drawn by horses. On the completion of the pipe line, the tram road, which by then had reached the end of its useful life, was not taken up but left to decay in the changeable climate.

The hardwood sleepers were first to disintegrate.

The tram road again sprang to prominence a decade later when, in 1866, the Government appointed a select committee to ascertain what advantages would be conferred on the Whittlesea district if the tram road was re-opened.

Twenty years of intensive agriculture had so seriously depleted the natural fertility of the district which till then had been regarded as the granary of the city. The grain was milled at the mills on the Plenty River.

It was the water requirements of these Mills that had worried Blackburn when he was formulating the Plenty River scheme.

However, in the 1860s the main worry was the lack of fertility of the land and someone suggested the re-opening of the tram road so as to bring Melbourne's night soil to Whittlesea, where it could be used as a fertiliser.

The land needed manure and the authorities were at their wits end to find some convenient place of disposing the liquid waste of the city. The re-opening of the tram road offered a convenient solution to the problem and accordingly, a select committee was formed to go into the matter. That the committee was favourable to the scheme is evident in their report to the Government in which they stated "Your committee in conclusion begs to report to your honorable house that from the evidence adduced they are of the opinion that the re-opening of the tram road, would as a commercial transaction be remunerative, and afford inestimable advantages to the districts of East Burke and Evelyn by adding to the population, increasing the value of property, creating employment for people, and further relieving the northern suburbs of Melbourne of the dangerous and offensive nuisance."

One vital fact was overlooked, portion of the Whittlesea districts formed part of the Yan Yean catchment and one shudders to think of the effect of the purity of Melbourne's water supply had the scheme been carried out.

History does not record who enlightened the Government on this point, but needles to say the scheme fell through as much of Melbourne's night soil continued to be emptied along the edge of our main arterial roads or surreptitiously siphoned into the Yarra at the Johnson Street bridge at the dead of night.

Members of the select committee, formed on April 27, 1866, were Messrs Balfour, Love, Hope, McLelland, Eabling, Davies, and Watkins. The first hearing was on May 1, 1866. The witnesses examined were James Ryan farmer Yan Yean, Moses Thomas farmer and storekeeper Morang, John Higgs school teacher Morang, John Wishart farmer Whittlesea, John Blackie Epping Roads Board Clerk Preston, Thomas Mitchell Northcote, Thomas Riley contractor for the tram road, J.E. Austin civil engineer Fitzroy, J.W. Gilchrist Town Clerk Fitzroy, and G. Francis civil engineer for the Board.

Messrs Ryan, Wishart, Higgs and Thomas claimed and were paid expenses.

John Ryan in his evidence said he was a farmer at Yan Yean and collected the statistics under the Registrar General's Department. He told the enquiry that thousands of bushels of wheat and oats had been produced in the district, but owing to the lack of manure production had fallen rapidly.

One question asked by the Chairman, Mr. Watkins, typifies the trend of the questions "In saying a great portion is out of cultivation you assume that if the ground was replenished with manure the production would be considerably increased". Ryan answered "I think when we get the manure from Melbourne instead of ten thousands bushels we should get ten hundred thousand bushels of wheat."

Moses Thomas was the next witness and he gave a long and involved reason for the use of manure on the soil. He replied to a question about Ryan's assertion that his estimate was ridiculously low.

Regarding the tramway Mr. Thomas said "it soon rotted to peices after the dam was completed." The line was never finished to make useful for anything but carting pipes." It took three horses to bring one pipe and they were plunging over the top of the sleepers. They got into holes between the sleepers and one horse went up to its shoulders. Several horses were lashed and had to be destroyed.

Latterly they had brought the pipes by road rather than use the tramway.

Moses Thomas stated he had lived in the vicinity of the Plenty for the last 20 years. This would place his arrival in the district as 1846.

Mr. Francis gave 83,000 as his estimate to construct a tram road for steam engines.

It appears from the evidence that the primary objective of the deputation was to secure a railway to Whittlesea and beyond. The members seized upon the desperate plight of the northern suburbs to dispose of their night soil to aid their case.

While the members of the northern roads board desired the night soil for a fertiliser the members from Fitzroy were concerned with its disposal. That the tramway was not constructed and in due course the train line was laid to Whittlesea is an established fact. The coming of the train is the subject of another story. The night soil disposal became intolerable and a sewerage system was eventually completed.

ST. PETERS CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Peter's is the second oldest Catholic Church in Victoria outside the metropolitan area.

No record is known to exist of the actual building of the church, but early newspapers show the foundation stone was laid by Bishop Goold, after celebration of High Mass in a marquee, on November 5, 1865. (St. Augustine's Keilor was opened in 1863.)

In the 1860's Epping was already a flourishing township of 300 people. It had two hotels and coaches changed horses there for the journey to Morang, Whittlesea and other outlying settlements.

Name of the builder of this picturesque church seems lost in antiquity but research in 1949, shows that tenders called in January 1865, were forwarded to Mr. Thomas Mahoney at the office of Mr. Alfred Kursteiner, a city architect.

The following year tenders were called for joinery work for the roof. But the Roman Catholic Church was active in the district long before St. Peters was built.

As far back as 1848 only a few years after Batman arrived at Melbourne, Priests from St. Francis' (Victoria's first Roman Catholic Church) visited Epping, then known as Darebin Creek.

Devine services were held in the home of Mr. Alexander McKillop who had arrived in Victoria 10 years previously.

In March, 1849, Bishop Goold was pressing for the establishment of a school at Darebin Creek, but it was years before the move succeeded.

Three years later a school of 30 children was opened in a badly furnished 20 ft. by 8 ft. building loaned by a parishioner. The teacher was Miss Sarah *Nolan* *She took over from Mr. John Rogers who had conducted the school* *for some years*

Records show that representations were made to the Lands Department in July 1852, for two acres of land adjoining the grant made to the Church of England.

The application was reinforced by the fact that private buildings were then being used for Divine Services and school.

In 1863 (when apparently the land grant had been made) a building was erected for both church and school.

At that time, the Pastor was Rev. Mr. Patrick Dunne (Catholic Priests at that time were commonly referred to under the title of "Mr."). Father Dunne was in charge of the Pentridge (Coburg) mission - established in 1851 - of which Darebin Creek (Epping) was part.

Pastor Dunne was first pastor in a mission of staggering proportions at a time when travel was slow, tedious and some times dangerous.

His territory included Brunswick, Essendon, Keilor, Williamstown, Bacchus Marsh, Ballarat, Castlemaine and Bendigo, and stretched north to the Murray.

During his eighteen months pastorate the first gold rush to Ballarat occurred and the intrepid cleric packed his traps and went along to attend to the spiritual needs of the diggers.

One of the sidelights of the gold rush was that not only did a greater part of Father Dunne's congregation flock to the diggings, but the contractor and all the workmen on the building of the "headquarters" church at Coburg decamp as well. The church was not completed for some years.

About 1910 the big Coburg mission was subdivided, and the parishes of Heidelberg and Coburg (which embraced the churches of Epping, Woodstock, Mernda and Whittlesea) were formed into a new mission.

There was no residence in the district, and the present presbytery at Epping was built in 1912 at a cost of £1,500.

Today the residence, old and mellow, is still one of the finest houses in the district.

Considerable alterations, renovations and improvements over the later years has outfitted the church with taste, beauty and dignity, in which the fundamental Gothic Architecture has retained its character.

St. Peters School, standing in the church grounds has many pupils attending, coming from Thomastown, Lalor, Mernda, Yan Yean, Whittlesea and Wollert.

It is conducted by Sisters of the Good Samaritan with the assistance of lay teachers.

CHRIST CHURCH WHITTLESEA

On June 13, 1863 a meeting was held in the Whittlesea School house for the purpose of electing trustees for the land granted for Church of England purposes by Thomas Willis, and for appointing a building committee and collector. The Chairman (Mr. George Sherwin) explained the objects of the meeting and conditions of appointment. The following were elected trustees Messrs Anthony Nicholson, Thomas Hughes, Henry Wordsworth, and Charles Cookson.

The members elected to the building committee were, Messrs G. Sherwin, Henry Gibbs, D. Johnson, D. McAuley, H. Wordsworth, C. Cookson, T. Hughes, W. Jolly, and James Hardy.

The Treasurer appointed was Mr. R. Onslow and collectors Messrs Johnston and McAuley (Whittlesea to the Gap); Messrs Cunningham and Jolly (back of the town); Messrs Hughes and Nicholson (the town) and Mr. Whyteman (Deep Creek.).

On September 12, the second meeting was held with the following members present - Messrs Sherwin, Cookson, Johnston, T. Hughes, A. Nicholson, O'Rourke Jolly, H. Wordsworth and Hardy.

Getting right down to business, the Committee were determined not to let the grass grow any longer on a "spot for a church" and it was decided to call tenders for the supply of bricks and that the architect be asked to submit plans for the construction of a church not to exceed £600 including furnishings; the church to be built of blue stone foundations with brick walls and slate roof.

The Treasurer (Mr. Olsen) submitted his resignation and Mr. Wordsworth was elected in his stead, and thus occupied the dual position as Secretary and Treasurer of the church and parsonage fund.

At the October meeting, three tenders were received for the supply of bricks. William Gardiner 45/- per thousand, J. Nelson 33/-, and E. Lyons 23/6. With the acceptance of the last tender, the following conditions were imposed:- That the bricks be made of clay, properly tempered, thoroughly burned and subject to approval and to be completed within three months.

The November meeting considered a tracing of the plans submitted by Alfred Smith, architect, Bank Place Melbourne.

The meeting agreed to the draft, and application was made to the church authorities for permission to build.

The committee members, evidently had been considering the plans during the interval between meetings, for at the December meeting it was resolved to advise the Architect that the committee would consider an enlarged plan in order to accommodate 100 persons, and that an amount be increased to £1,000. The church authorities and architect were advised of the altered conditions. So the year passed with most of the spade work done.

The year 1864 opened with some debts, little money and plenty of legal and other difficulties. At the January meeting, concern was felt at the amount outstanding, and a guarantee of £200 was provided by members. Despite the lack of finance, the members arranged to meet and select the spot for the Church.

Little activity took place until June 5, when it was moved that tenders be called for the construction of the church; and on June 20 another meeting accepted the tender of Mr. Nelson. Meetings were then held close together, for on June 20 at a further meeting it was recorded "that the church now to be built by Mr. Nelson be built north and south as near as the nature of the ground permits."

At the same meeting arrangements were made for the laying of the foundation stone, the purchasing of a trowel and refreshments to be provided at the ceremony. Messrs McAuley and Johnston were appointed building inspectors for the construction.

The first person asked to perform the ceremony declined, and the records do not disclose his name. No record of the actual person who laid the stone is recorded in the minutes of the committee. Until recently it was not clear who performed the laying of the foundation stone, but the matter was settled beyond doubt a few years ago when a nephew of the person concerned, now living in London sent a photo of the towel inscribed with the name and date of the opening. The inscription read - Whittlesea Christ Church Foundation Stone laid by T. Willis Esq. July 1964.

Mr. Willis donated the land for the church.

October was now reached and the work in progress. No minute was made of the actual laying of the stone.

A tea party was proposed and a ladies' committee formed. Money was again becoming a problem, for an approach was made to the church loan fund. The problem of a full time clergyman was also considered.

With payments outstanding for the builder and brickmaker, the following members were elected a committee to guarantee a sum of £200 to be borrowed from the Colonial Bank - Messrs Sherwin, Johnston, Nicholson, Hardy, Hughes, Cookson, McAuley, and Wordsworth.

The bank reply must have been satisfactory for a credit of £250 was accepted in April.

The church was now nearing completion, for in August 1865 the committee took over the structure from the builder, and arrangements were made for the inside fittings. The appointment of a resident Minister at a stipend of £150 per year was discussed and the Church Authorities were to be approached. No satisfactory reply being received in November, the committee decided that a direct approach appeared the best method of securing results so a deputation was agreed upon.

With the church complete, the Archbishop of Melbourne was invited to open the building.

The year 1866 was now in February. It was decided to provide luncheon at the dedication, and a 20 pound bell be purchased at a cost of £20/15/- On February 13 the Archbishop suggested that the opening could be on February 25 or at a tea meeting on the following Monday February 26.

The suggested full time Minister was Rev. W. McYennetts whose appointment was accepted by the committee. The Archbishop confirmed the date as Sunday February 25 at 3 p.m. and advised that he would stay three days with Mr. John Sherwin.

The following is an extract from the minutes of the opening ceremony.

"His Lordship opened the church on Sunday and a collection made amounting to £16.4.9. His Lordship met the building committee and a conversation took place on church-matters."

The meeting was held in the hall, and after tea, in consequence of the great number present, all adjourned to the church.

His Lordship opened proceedings with a prayer, and the Treasurer made a statement as to receipts and expenditure. Then followed a long speech, after which Messrs Sherwin and Johnston moved that a plain tablet in memory of the Late Rev. W. Copeland be procured.

(Rev. Copeland was drowned in a water hole at Harrow Vic.)

In March the committee became concerned when the Bank asked for repayment of the money loaned. Several letters passed between the two bodies until Mr. Hughes agreed to advance the amount.

Fencing was agreed upon and tenders were called. The committee had a difference of opinion with the Rev. Mr. McYennetts and his appointment was terminated on December 31 1866.

So the church still flourishes through times of plenty and in times of famine, the spiritual influences are continually spread throughout the district.

Names in the story

David Johnston was born in county Down, Ireland near Belfast in 1815. He arrived in Melbourne in 1835 and went to Heidelberg, where he engaged in farming. In 1843 he moved to Whittlesea and took up farming.

Addition to Christ Church of England, Whittlesea

The Anglican Church in Whittlesea goes back to a date much earlier than the erection of the church. Before the separation of Port Phillip from N.S.W., grants were made by the government for school and church purposes. That allotted to the Church of England was the half block bounded by Lime, Laurel and Church Streets, right back to the Presbyterian Church boundary. The land was granted for the purpose of erecting a school house, and master's house. The school house came into being in 1854, and the first master being Mr. G.A. Cookson. In 1854 the school building was licensed as a place of worship by Bishop Perry, and remained as such until the opening of Christ Church in 1866. The first minister of the district was the Rev. Wm. Copeland, whose home was situated on the east of the Yan Yean Reservoir. He ministered to the spiritual needs of the people at Merriang and Donnybrook. Mr. Copeland was later moved to Harrow, in Western Victoria where he met an untimely end by drowning as he returned from a wedding during a very wet season. Although Mr. Copeland never ministered in Christ Church, being drowned before its erection, a tablet has been erected to his memory. After the grants from Sydney of the land for church purposes, A Mr. Wills, a pioneer of the district gave 15 acres of land for the erection of church and vicarage, which is in use to the present time. Mr. Copeland was succeeded by Rev. W. McJennett for a short time, then Rev. H.C.E. Morris, Rev. T.R. Neville, who is the only Vicar to be buried in the local cemetery, then Rev. B.N. White, 1887. Rev. J.T. Spurling, 1889; Rev. J.A. Priestley, 1891; Rev. E. St. John Chase, 1894; Rev. H.F. Miller, 1896; Rev. E.C. Know, 1898; Rev. E.C. Thompson, 1903; Rev. G. Chapman, 1906; Rev. W.D. James, 1915; Rev. T. H.R. Croker, 1919; Rev. L.D. Merideth, 1924; Rev. A.L. Pearce, 1925; Rev. E.A. Freeman, Rev. R.D. Rowell, 1931, Rev. A.D. Page 1935,

MERENDA METHODIST CHURCH

The Mernda Methodist Church celebrated its 100th birthday on Sunday, October 29 1956. There has been so many local Methodist adjustments and readjustments of the places in the neighborhood of Preston since the early days of the church in this locality, that one scarcely knows where to begin the history of the Circuit.

When these places first began to be recognised from the Methodist outlook, they were looked upon as part of the Brunswick Circuit.

In 1855 they were attached to the Pentridge Circuit, which at that time comprised Pentridge, Thomastown, Irishtown (Now Preston), Mickleham, Phillipstown, Rocky Waterholes, Back Creek, Tullamarine, Plenty, Doutta Galla, Box Forest (now Heidelberg), and Greenborough.

The Rev. Barnabas Shaw-Walker had charge of the circuit with Messrs B. and S. Johnson, Kendall, Hall, Thomson, Standing, McClure, Fletcher, Koyler, Grimshaw, R. Sidebottom, Wilson Abbey and Butt as local preachers.

Long walks, often eight to ten miles were necessary to reach the quarterly and local preachers' meetings, which were held in turn at Pentridge, Irishtown, and Thomastown.

FATHER OF CIRCUIT

Only July 14, 1840, there landed in Melbourne a man who may be looked upon as the Father of the Preston Circuit, and who deserves a full record in its history. This was Mr. S. Jeffrey, Snr. who came of a sturdy north of Ireland Presbyterian family.

In a great revival of 1833, in the County of Tyrone, where he was born, he joined the Wesleyan Methodist Church, being then in his 29th year.

The biographical sketch which was read in the Preston Church at the Memorial after his death says:- "On the 14th of July, 1840 he reached the good land of Victoria at the end of a dreary voyage of over six months, and on the same day of the same month, 51 years after, he reached the Better Land."

Melbourne was then only four years old when he arrived. It had only about a dozen houses, with one place to worship, whose congregations were called together by a bell hung in the fork of a tree.

What is now known as Collins Street, was then covered by gum trees. Mr. Jeffrey used to tell, among his reminiscences, that for some time after his arrival all that one now sees from the top of Rucker's Hill, Northcote, looking towards Melbourne was virgin wilderness.

For a few months after his landing Mr. Jeffrey managed a sheep station but in February 1841 he bought land at Irishtown (now Preston) and settled there, engaged in agricultural pursuits. By perseverance and industry he established a comfortable home and reared a large family, all of whom he was allowed to see well provided for. All his sons survived him; and at his funeral the unusual sight was seen of six stalwart sons carrying their father to his last resting place. During the 50 years of his residence at Preston, he steadfastly helped in every good work for the benefit of the district.

Preston, in the beginning of its day, was called Irishtown, and was part of a valuable sheep and cattle station, whose headquarters were on the site now occupied by the Yan Yean Reservoir.

CIRCUIT ALTERATION

In 1863 Irishtown and Heidelberg formed the nucleus of the Preston and Heidelberg Circuit which included Preston, Heidelberg, South Preston, Thomastown, Wollert, Yan Yean, Woodstock, Linton, Eltham, Greenborough and Alphington with Rev. F.E. Stephenson in charge. Two years later Rev. J.S.H. Royce was appointed.

At Thomastown, Wollert and Greensborough services were built and services regularly held.

At Yan Yean Mr. King gave an acre of land and the first church was built upon it in 1856. This was superseded in 1888 by one of the prettiest churches in the State. Several well-known names were connected with the place. Such as R. King, J. Horner, Turner, Lucas, Hunter, S. Jeffrey Jnr. and M. Jeffrey.

In 1870 a church was built at Whittlesea, and two years afterwards new churches were erected at Hazelglen and Greensborough.

The Rev. W. Harris was appointed to the Circuit in 1890 and he resided with Mrs. Freeman at Whittlesea.

Rev. Ralph Brown took charge of the Circuit in 1882 when a great church-building era set in. The first built was at Fairfield Park then followed South Yan Yean (now ~~Mernda~~ Mernda) Bundoora and South Morang.

At Thomastown one of the oldest residents Mr. John Bower and Miss Craig opened a Sunday School in 1851, when services were held in Mr. Thomas' home.

For some time services were held at Woodstock on a farm belonging to Mr. Fletcher, but the congregations were small and the difficulty of securing preachers considerable; consequently this place ceased to function.

Wollert was another of the outlying places. There was a church and a regular preacher.

AT YAN YEAN

The church at Yan Tean has a peculiar history. The Rev. Barnabas Shaw-Walker reports that he stayed at the house of Mr. Robert King. He held a service there one night but was at a loss for a precentor, when someone offered to whistle a tune. The accompaniment thus provided answered very well and the hymns sung melodiously.

This service was not in vain, for Mr. King offered forthwith a site for a Wesleyan church.

The church was soon opened for divine worship, and Mr. King's house became a warm and welcome preacher's home. A wooden building used as a common school and church was put up at "Separation Township" so called because it was established during the year 1851, when Victoria set up a State for herself. It stood there for 33 years and was built in 1856.

When the present church was built, the old wooden structure was removed to a position next to the brick church, to be removed later to make way for the brick Sunday School and sold by tender to Mr. Len Young of Dorren for a shed.

In April 1892 the following places separated and formed the Alphington and Heidelberg Circuit; Alphington, Heidelberg, Templestowe, Fairfield and Ivanhoe, leaving to the Circuit; Preston, Thomastown, Bundoora, Yan Yeans South Whittlesea, South Morang and Wollert.

Since the formation of the Circuit until 1892, the following ministers were in charge : Revs. F.E. Stephenson, J.S. Royce, A. Stubbs, J.W. Tuckfield E. Davies, Charles Dubourg, Richard Hart, P. Ussher, Edward King, J.B. Smith, Ralph Brown, James Lowe, Samuel Adamson, S.C. Plockart, J.H. Tuckfield and D.S. Lowe.

CHURCH REMOVAL

The following is an extract of a report on the removal of the church. "A contractor for the removal greatly under-estimated the difficulty of the work, and it is well for him that there were in the neighbourhood a number of good Methodists who had good horses and willing hands. He bought only five horses, but those bretheren yoked sixteen horses to the building; and even then, so great was the strain, owing to the soft ground that it took them from early morn till 2 p.m. before the work was accomplished."

CHURCH AT BUNDOORA

In 1848, a class met at Mr. A. Hurlestone's mill on the Plenty River between Janefield and Greensborough and Mr. Grimshaw, Snr. walked three miles to lead it. There was preaching at Darebin Creek (now Alphington) and Greensborough alternatively, until Mr. Horatio Cooper was offered Bundoora, and it was thought that a central church there would meet the needs of the whole district. Finding that Thomastown members were intent upon having a church of their own account, however, this was abandoned, and the use of Mr. Cooper's school room was gladly accepted. Mrs. Cooper, sister-in-law of Mr. Witton, arrived in what was then called "the Port Phillip settlement" on January 1, 1837. Bundoora was commenced during the term of Rev. J.S. Royce. While the congregation was small at first, it gradually increased.

At Linton (now Hazelglen) there was an interesting congregation, amongst whom were four brothers and their families - Messrs James, Patrick, Hugh and William Reed. Also Messrs Abbey and Grimshaw.

RAILWAY LINE COMES

Just prior to the building of the brick church the railway was constructed to cut off a portion of Mr. McLaughlin's property.

This portion was secured by the trustees and due to the energy of Rev. R. Brown, Miss McLaughlin, and Messrs Horner, Jeffrey, Turner, Mason and Smithson, the present church was built.

With the name of South Yan Yean, much confusion was caused between this area and that of Yan Yean. A move was made to have the name changed and Mernda was selected.

A SHED NOW

The original church was sold at auction to Mr. Len Young of Yarrambat. It was re-erected on his property 19 years ago and now does duty as a shearing shed. With the exception of a lean-to on one side the building is the same as when constructed 100 years ago.

The timber is still sound although the floor shows considerable wear. Commenting on the iron roof, Mr. Young stated that when he purchased the building there were three shingle roofs with the iron on the top of the lot.

When one shingle roof became weather beaten, fresh timber was put over the old roof with a further layer of shingles. This was done three times with the resultant space between each roof. A dray load of rubbish, mostly birds' nests, was removed from the roof. This weight of material had made it top heavy, to cause the lean on the building which had given the church members so much concern.

MINISTERS IN CHARGE

Some of the ministers in charge of the circuit are:- Revs. Semmens, Clarke, Hobbs, McIlroy, Jackson, Jones, Collocot, Taylor, Allsop, Tregear, Plumb, Sutherland, Apted and Tippet. Home Missionaries:- Messrs Gay, Shuey, Richards, Gronow, Lester, Bartram, McOrist, Hooper, Taylor, Verrier, and the present minister Mr. J. Dickinson.

SECONDARY SCHOOL HISTORY

Very little is known of the early days of commencement of the Sunday School.

In 1860 Mr. and Mrs. Turner and family settled in Yan Yean and it was not long before Mr. Turner, who was also a local preacher, was conducting Sunday School assisted by Mr. William Horner, Miss Loudon, Miss Bowken and others.

A very fine library book which was in the possession of Mr. C. Turner bears the inscription "No. 40 Yan Yean Wesleyan Sunday School, 1865".

During the "seventies" Mr. Turner removed to South Morang and the work was carried on by Mrs. Carr, assisted by Mrs. Tatterson. Later Mr. C. Turner, Miss Elizabeth Turner, Miss McLaughlin and Miss Cunningham were included among the workers.

SCHOOL CLOSED

There were approximately 65 houses in Separation from which most of the scholars came. Mrs. Carr died in 1885 after a year's illness, the attendance dwindled, and for lack of teachers, the school was closed.

Mrs. Horner re-opened the school with eight scholars on June 29 1890 and a few months later was joined by Mr. Wells who became Superintendent.

The attendance increased rapidly and an organ was urgently needed.

Mr. Davies organised a tea meeting and a children's concert resulting in £18 being cleared. The organ was then purchased.

In 1899 Mr. Wells left the district and Mr. T. Hurrey was elected as Superintendent in his stead.

Amongst the many teachers who have carried on the work of the Sunday School are :- Mr. Eddy, the Jeffrey family, Mr. Popple, Mr. Know, Mrs. Paget, Mr. Arthur Wellman, Mr. C. Turner and Mr. and Mrs. Turley.

Cr. T. Hurrey is still Superintendent after 60 years a teacher and 56 years as Superintendent.

THE PARSONAGE.

In the early twenties Cr. Hurrey purchased the present parsonage from Mrs. Jamieson for £450 and after several doctors and paris priests from Epping had rented the place, Rev. J. McIlroy became the first minister to reside in it.

The present brick Sunday School was erected at a cost of under £2,000.

Much voluntary work was given particularly in the foundation work and this helped the Committee to have such a fine school room built free of debt. A new vestry was added to the church in 1956.

SPRINGFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BUNDOORA.

Most of the pioneers of Victoria were devout Christian people, trained in spiritual values, regular attendants at services and energetic workers for their church. This was the atmosphere in which they had been brought up in their native land. What is more natural than in their new land, their thoughts and activities would turn to their religious observance.

This was the reason that the Presbyterian adherents of the districts of Springfield, Greenfields and Bundoora congregated together to form a church and in time to erect a building for public worship and the centre of their religious activities.

From Scotland, many families came to the district and amongst those, the following names are still known locally--Creighton, White, Luderman, Brock, McFarland, McKimmie Harmer and Clements. With others, they laid the foundation of their Scottish religious beliefs, erected the church and showed the way for their descendants to follow.

The Cleeland family was not the original owners of the land in this area. They purchased it from the first owners and records disclose that they arrived about 1853. They built a home, following the architecture of the day, towards the end of what is now McKimmie's Lane and named it "Springfield." Services were held in this home and it was from here that arrangements were made for the construction of the church.

Mr. W.R. Cleeland donated the land for the church. The family owned a strip of land on the south end of what was later to be "Mill Park" when purchased by the Miller's. When the church was built, the name "Springfield" was added to the title and so it became Springfield Presbyterian Church. In early records, the district is referred to as Springfield, to distinguish it from the hill on which the garage is built on Plenty Road about half a mile further south, and named "Greenfields". Early P.O. records call the area Greenfields, and later, Bundoora is used.

Early Ministers.

The original Cleeland home was burned down about 1916 when a family named Sparkes was living there. Sparkes children attended the Sunday School and were recorded on

the roll between 1903 to 1906. At the rear of the Cleeland holding a family named Kingston lived. Prior to the church opening, the first minister was Rev. S.A. Hamilton but Rev Peter Gunn, who was in charge of Campbellfield and preached at Heidelberg and Epping, was often in the pulpit. Rev. Hamilton was followed by Rev. George Adams to 1865; Rev. I.F. Hill to 1867; Rev. A. Morrison to 1869; and Rev. W. Souter from about 1870. The rev. Souter's name first appears on Yan Yean cemetery register in 1873. The next record is in 1900 when Rev. Jenkins is in charge. Other ministers who follow were Revs Green, Law and Morton. In 1910, Rev. Douglas Bruce was inducted but during the war 1914-1918, he was overseas as a padre with the forces. He returned, but died after a collapse during one of the first few Anzac Day marches.

During the war years, Rev. Harris replaced him. After the death of the Rev. Bruce, Rev. Raff became the minister. He was responsible for the church's renovation and personally oversaw the interior of the building. Rev. Phillips followed and with his the circuit was reduced to the status of a Home Mission Charge. Over the years, fortunes have fluctuated, and over the last 6 years, when the church was again elevated to a full church, the congregations have grown with the resultant added enthusiasm.

Church built.

The construction of the church commenced in the middle of 1861 and by October was complete. With the passing of time, the earliest records of the building are lost but Sunday School books indicate that the first meeting held in the church was Oct. 22, 1861. The first secretary was the school teacher, John Peacock who commenced a school in Janefield in 1850. Mr. William Brook was the secretary for many years and he lived in a home on the hill at the rear of the garage. Mr. William McKinnie lived in "Springfield" prior to the occupancy by the Sparkes family. It is from this family that the lane obtained its name. The church building is of bluestone, quarried nearby. Its approximate cost would be under £400 and would have taken about 4 months

to build. With the exception of a drop in the north east corner causing cracks in the wall, the erection is still solid. In keeping with tradition, a bottle containing papers, coins and records of the days activities were deposited under the foundation stone of the building. When repairs were being effected to the porch a few weeks ago a search failed to locate the bottle.

Personalities.

Continuing in active participation with the church is the Clements family. The first member was Mr. Robert White, a scottish pioneer. He died in 1900 and was buried with his wife, who predeceased him many years, in Preston General cemetery. Mrs. White died during a typhoid epidemic which caused the deaths of many of the district earliest settlers. Their daughter married into another pioneering family- the Clements and their son, Mr. Robert Clements still resides on the farm purchased more than 40 years ago. The family is carried on through Mr. Jim Clements and his daughters to make the fifth generation actively associated with the church. As a lad, in his teens, Mark Clements came to Bundoora and married into the White family. He had previously lived at Dixon's Creek near Yarra Glen. He became the father of Robert who in turn is the father of Bob, Jim and Gordon Clements.

Mrs. K. Souter, Roberts St. Essendon is the greatgranddaughter of Mrs. Brock, later to become Mrs. Hurst. Her son, Williams daughter became Mrs. Gambel who is the mother of Mrs Souter, Mr. Souter is the grandson of the Rev. W. Souter. The trowel which was used to lay the foundation stone was in the keeping of Mr. Edward Gambel for many years but was destroyed when his house was burned down at Derraweit a few years ago. One of Rev. Souter's sons is Mr. Ewan Souter of Greenvale.

Rev. Souter, as a lad, came to Australia, landed in Sydney and came to the Bendigo goldfields where he "struck it rich", He sold his claim for £1000, returned to Scotland and graduated as a Minister to return to Australia and became the officiating clergyman at Whittlesea. He then married a Miss. Robertson, daughter of Ewan Robertson, Eden Park, another district pioneer.

Foundation Stone Ceremony

The following report of the laying of the foundation stone, which appeared in a morning paper, tells the story of the ceremony.

Springfield Presbyterian Church. January 10, 1861.

On Thursday last, the first stone of the new Presbyterian church was laid at Janefield by Mrs. Brook, lady of Alexander Brook Esq. J.P. of Overtown.

The Presbyterians in that part of the P enty district were later formed into a congregation by the Prespytery of Melbourne and, having called a minister (the Rev. S. Hamilton) to settle amongst them, they resolved to erect a house of worship. a site for the same has been gratiutously granted bt Mr. William F. Cleeland, Esq. of Springfield. Plans for the building were prepared by Mr. Scanlon, of this city, and a contract has been entered into for the erection of the house. When finished , it will be a handsome bluestone building.

The ceremony of laying the first stone was observed on Thursday last when a considerable number of people attended the intering services of the day. The Pastor havine engaged in praise and prayes, the Rev. David Boyd of Heidelberg read a suitable protion of Scripture and the Rev. Peper Gunn of Campbellfield, delivered a very appropriate address to the infant congragation; after which, Mr. Cleeland presented a silver trowel to Mrs. Brook, with which that laet proceeded to aly the stone, praying God's belssing to attend the work. A bottle, containing a document historical of the movement, was deposited beneath the stone. The Rev. S. Hamilton having addressed the people, and Mr. Gunn having engaged in prayer, the services of the day were brought to a conclusion.

70th Anniversary.

The following is a repring of the 70th anniversary services from the "Preston Post" April 1932.

Janefield Presbyterian Church.

The Presbyterian church of Janefield held oen of the largest congregations it has

ever known on Feb. 28, the occasion being the 70th anniversary service. The Rev. Jas. Raff of Cowes, a former Minister of the Whittlesea Charge, conducted the service. and all were pleased to meet their much-loved Minister and friend again. Through his untiring efforts of the present Minister, Rev. Mitchell and members of the congregation, many of the former members and adherents of the church were communicated with, and the congregation on that evening comprised visitors from many of the suburbs of Melbourne as well as from different parts of the country. The Rev. Raff, in a helpful and interesting address, emphasised the need for a greater feeling of love and brotherhood amongst the people of the present day. The singing by the Sunday School pupils was a special feature.

Three anthems were beautifully rendered, and the Rev. Raff, who started the Sunday school during his ministry in the Whittlesea Charge 11 years ago, spoke most appreciatively of the way the work had been carried on since that time.

The minutes of the first committee meeting were read by the Minister. The members of the first committee were Messrs A. Brock, R. White, R. Slessor, W. Shillinglaw, J. Swan, W.F. Cleeland, A. Stuart, Joseph Duff and J. Peacock. The late Mrs. A. Brock laid the foundation stone of the church in 1861 and the beautiful silver trowel presented to her on that occasion, and now held by her son, Mr. William Brock, was on view.

At the close of the service, Mr. Wm. Brock, on behalf of the committee expressed pleasure at seeing so many old friends back in the =Janefield Church, and thanked the Rev. Raff for his presence and help.

At a public meeting of the teachers and children of the Springfield Presbyterian Church Sabbath School held on Sunday, January 21, 1861, it was proposed by the Rev. S.A. Hamilton, Minister, that the children should raise by a public collection amongst their friends to enable them to procure books for the school and assist with the house of worship.

This proposition was cheerfully agreed to by those present and collection books were then distributed to the following persons: John Brook, Adam Bell, Miss Shillinglaw, Timothy Creighton, Sarah Swan, Agnes Brook, Ameilia Kippin and Henry Luderman.

On the recommendation of the members of the school, Charles Creighton was appointed Secretary and Phillip Shillinglaw treasurer of the Sabbath School. The next meeting was held on Tuesday April 30, in the Janesfield School house when the following amounts of money were handed to the treasurer:- T.

Creighton £1/1/-, J. Brock £2.1.0; Samuel Shillinglaw 6/-; Jane Shillinglaw 14/-; Charles Creighton £2.0.0; Timothy Creighton £1.13.0; Adam Bell £1.5.0; Sarah Swan £1.12.6; Henry Luderman 8/-. The meeting was adjourned until May 9, when the following were present: the Minister Rev. Hamilton, teacher; Phillip Shillinglaw and Charles, Timothy and William Creighton, Ernest Sizing, Adam Bell, Samuel Shillinglaw, John M. Hamilton, Alexander White and Sarah Swan.

The following amounts were recorded: Samuel Shillingley 5/6, Miss Brook £1.0.0; Adam Bell ~~reported~~ reciving a bible from Mr. Clay.

The first books for the school were purchased by the Minister and the cost was £2.17.0.

The first donation from the school was for £2.0.0 donated ~~by~~ to the Hall of Commerce in Melbourne for the purchase of books and tracts for the Presbyterian Church in Victoria. The secretary, Charles Creighton in his letter to the Hall of Commerce secretary stated that as the church was now being built, the committee could not afford a bigger donation.

The next meeting, October 22~~nd~~ 1861, was held in the church and the sum of £16.5.0 was handed in from the collectors.

There is a gap in the records between March 1868 and 1903 when the scholars listed are: Teacher, Miss Medhurst and Elizabeth Clements, Maud McKimmie, Maggie Sparkes, Robert Clements, Jinnie McKimmie, James Sparkes, Bradley Blanche, Cissie Mooney, John McKimmie, Diassey Clements, Reginald Blanche, Violet McKimmie, Alex Clements, Alan McFarlane, Lizzie Saunders, Ada Saunders, Dolly Saunders, Frank Harmer, Blanche Harmer.

Miss Merhurt became Mrs. Hitt of Thomastown. Elizabeth Clements was better known as Mrs. Raff, school teacher at South Morang. The McKimmie's shifted to Thomastown. John is deceased. Maggie Sparkes became Mrs. Hudson and lives in Regent.

Her brother Jim has died. Robert Elements and Alan McFarlane are still on the original farms. Alex and Daisy Clements reside in Ballarat.

Violet McKimmie is Mrs. George Andrew, Frank Harmer lives in the Goulburn Valley and Blanche is Mrs. Dave Mann.

MORE ABOUT EPPING BOARD.

In November 1866, the councillors present at a meeting held at Thomastown were Messrs Bastings, Cleeland, Devine, Dodd, Mitchell, Plant and Johnson. Bastings, Plant and Johnson have their names perpetuated in streets in Northcote. Johnson was Benjamin Johnson, Northcote baker and founder of the estate agency of Gray and Johnson, still operating. Cleeland was buried in the Epping Cemetery, Devine was the licensee and no record remains of the Dodd family.

Ben Johnson was one of the petitioners to the government in 1853 to form a Roads Board and was elected to the Board at its inception. The meetings were held in the Belmont Hotel. A few days later in the month, the annual meeting was held and Mr. Francis Thomas was elected president. The secretary was J. Blackie with Mr. Sheffield, engineer Mr. Saunders, who had been absent at the two previous meetings attended in December. A tender from Mr. Conrad Stark for £50 to rebuild the bridge in Westgarthtown. Council considered this offer but it was not accepted until four months later. At the Feb. meeting in 1867 at Merrilands (the hotel) consideration was given to the payment of £45-4-0 an account rendered by Mr. Cantlin for fencing Campbellfield (now Mahoney's) Road. The account was paid. Six pounds were allowed for pitching in front of Mr. Tulloch's hotel in Epping. It cost £7 to complete and the licensee completed the work. For 13 months office rent, Mr. Devine was paid £10-16-8.

The Council office was evidently not at the meeting place. A Mr. Devine was also a Councillor, it could have been one and the same person. Work on Cemetery Road East and West was authorised in March 1867. The road running through the Woodstock district to the junction was declared a "Common Toll Road".

At this time there were two places referred to as The Junction. The first, and possibly the one considered, was at the junction of Plenty Road (now High St) and Upper Plenty Road (now Plenty Rd.) or on the corner of High St. and Westgarth St. South Northcote. This declaration gave the Board the power to control the traffic erect tolls, and generally manage the route as a public highway of today.

First Dog Inspector.

A dog inspector was appointed and Mr. Maynard became the first person to occupy this position. In June 1867, Mr. Thomas Goodman asked Epping Board to open a road through to the Morang area. The road was to be known as Springfield Road. Opposition came from a landowner by the name of Fullerton who stated that there was no public road through his property but merely a track to permit access to the Darebin Creek for water. In August, it was proposed to appoint a valuer but the idea was not carried. The name of Mr. Willis was added to the Thomastown ratepayers roll. Mr. William Mitchell became a member of the Board to become the second Mitchell on the council. The surveyor was instructed to report on the best means of constructing footpaths and approaches at Epping.

The rate was fixed at 1/- in the £b. at the October meeting. A quarry hole on the Main road (High St.,) caused the Board some concern. The engineer was instructed to fill it. The Epping Board's first piece of municipal equipment was a road scraper purchased on Aug. 3, 1868. In May, tenders were called for the Board's printing. The printing of books, forms and balance sheets is a big item in municipal expenditure. Epping Roads Board members received for the first time a copy of the Local Government Acts in July 1869. In August 1869, the first roll was prepared for the Legislative Council elections. It was similar to the ratepayers roll.

Land Valuations.

In 1885, the Victorian Government made a valuation of land in the State on which Land Tax was paid. The following list of landowners is the one effected in the Shire
Mr. and Mrs. M. Bear, Yan Yean, 683 acres, value £2732. Mrs. E. Porter, Bundoora, 780 acres, £3120. Mrs. M. Christie, Bundoora, 749 acres, £2996. James Brown, Bundoora 884 acres, £2652. Henry Brook, Bundoora, 887 acres, £3219. Chas. Campbell, Wollert 842 acres. £15-675. Samuel Gardiner, Bundoora, 1597 acres, £4791. William Francis Lynch, Wollert, 1870 acres, £5610. Henry Miller, Morang, 5182 acres, £15-546. Malcolm McLean, Bundoora, 1690 acres, £5070. Thomas Serrell, Whittlesea, 1272 acres

£2816. The Darebin Shire ordered the construction of a one chain road by 168 chains (just over two miles) from High St. to Plenty Rd. at Bundoora. And Settlement Rd. came into being. Prior to this, there had been a track across land owned by Messrs. Hall, Gibson and McKenna and on the creek, Robert Campbell. Between these two owners there was 1376 acres. It is an interesting conjecture as to why the bend was allowed to remain. On the Bundoora side, the southern boundary of the road was the northern boundary of the Thomastown small allotments as created by the government on the Brook estate for Cleser Settlement. This area extended to the west to where Settlement Rd. runs north and south. Records disclose that Epping or Morang residents wishing to travel to each other, were forced to go via. Bridge Inn Land or through Preston or take the winding lane through Settlement on private property. On the Epping side was the road was on the boundary of two original grants. There was a distance of about 300 yards to connect the two ends of the road. So the bend was allowed to remain.

Early Pioneers.

Born in 1840, in Cumberland Eng. Mr. James Coulthard emigrated to Australia on the sailing ship "Commodore Perry" in 1862. On arrival in Victoria, he obtained a position at Bundoora and after 12 months his employer, Mr. Boadle, appointed him manager of a farm at Whittleseawhere he remained for 20 years. At the time he went to Whittlesea, the country was in a wild state and much burning and clearing had to be done before the land was in order for grazing and dairying. After a year's break near Wangaratta, he returned to Whittlesea in his old job and a year later rented the farm he had managed for so long. In 1890 he purchased "Wildwood". Mr. Coulthard has been a renowned ploughman and was the owner of the first furrow plough, reaper and binder and separator used in the district. He served for 12 years on the Whittlesea Saire Council and was a foundation member of the Whittlesea Agricultural Society. Sons are Joseph and Henry and daughters married into the Downie, Zimmer and Downie families.

Gilbert Marshall was born in Tasmania in 1835 and came ~~to~~ with his father and the rest of his family in the train of John Pascoe Fawcner to Victoria. His brother was the first white child born in Victoria. Mr. Marshall snr. took up land at Glenvale some time after landing in Victoria. Gilbert had many experiences with the blacks and at the age of 18 years, he went with his father at Glenvale where he remained for a few years. Stock riding took him away from the district until 1856 when he married. He settled in Whittlesea and is credited with suggesting the scheme for bringing the waters of Wallby Creek to the Yan Yean. He received a cash sum as compensation for having shown the surveyors the ground. He was on the Whittlesea Shire Council for several years.

Robert and Mary Armstrong came to Australia from Ireland in 1854 and settled at Yan Yean. After a few years they purchased "Conron Grange" Whittlesea. Their first daughter, Mary Ann, born at Yan Yean in 1863, was brought to the new property when she was a few weeks old. Her father died when she was seven weeks old and her mother was left to rear a family of three sons, the eldest Charles, and two daughters. She died in 1900, aged 64. Mary Ann married Richard Batten in 1886. Mr. Batten was the son of a pioneer of Whittlesea and he died in 1910.

EPHING SHIRE HALL

Throughout the municipal history of the State of Victoria, councils have often been faced with litigation when capital works projects have been decided upon. The building of roads, bridges and halls have been the subject of legal battles.

The Roads Board, later the Shire of Darebin and now the Shire of Whittlesea, has had the same experience for the building of the Shire Hall was the subject of a Supreme Court case in July 1871, when ratepayers petitioned F.E. Beaver a member of the State Cabinet who on their behalf applied for an injunction to restrain the Darebin Shire Council from proceeding with a contract to erect a Shire Hall at Epping. Fortunately for the Shire, the injunction was refused.

It was back in July 1867 when Mr. Dodd, then a member of the Epping Roads Board, (before the Darebin Shire was created) moved that an application be made to the Government to reserve a portion of land at Epping for office purposes.

Land had been selling rapidly in the area and evidently Mr. Dodd was sufficiently far sighted to realise the need for the future.

Since its inception, December 12, 1862, meetings of Epping Roads Board had been held at Thomastown.

Four years later, in November, it was decided to hold future meetings at Merrilands Hotel, and the February meeting 1867 was held there.

Application was made to the Lands Department and later in the year 1867, advice was received of the granting of a piece of land (lot 20) in the Township of Epping. This land is about where the Preston Quarries now operate, and it did not satisfy the councillors.

In December 1867, Epping Board appointed a committee, comprising the three north subdivision members Messrs Dodd, Cleeland and Mitchell

to inspect the site and report at the next meeting.

January 1868, report from the committee which recommended that as the site was inconveniently situated, application be made to the Department for the south east corner, lot 22, of a subdivision in High Street. That is the area of land on which the Shire Hall now stands.

In June of the same year the Government granted the Board the piece of land suggested, and the Board owned its first property.

In 1871 the hall was completed after the case for an injunction had been heard in the Courts.

While no records exist of the work entailed in preparing plans, calling for tenders and letting the contract, much of the detail was supplied in the evidence at the Court.

At that time there was 22 councillors and evidence states that nine were against the proposal. The report at the hearing makes interesting reading, and is as follows:-

"The bill stated that the Road Districts of Epping, Morang and Woodstock were on the 26th September 1870, united under the Shire Statute, No. 358, into a Shire, and were duly incorporated as such. The said Road Districts are now divided into three ridings, Epping,riding, Morand riding and Woodstock riding. Mr. G.D. McCormack is President of the Shire, and he and all the Councillors are made defendants. A rate was struck in September last for the current financial year, the estimate of receipts and expenditure previously made showing revenue £6,025, and the expenditure of equal amount, including a sum of £1,100 for a bridge over the Merri Creek and a Shire Hall. The actual revenue of the Shire provided to be very much less than was anticipated by the estimate, and by an account made up by the Finance Committee to the 30th March last, it appears, as the fact was, that the liabilities of the Shire exceeded the revenue by £1,819, without including the £1,10

for the bridge and Shire Hall. The Council, it was alleged, were already provided with suitable and convenient offices within the Shire under lease or contract for a period of which more than two years was unexpired, but a majority of the Councillors were desirous of at once building a Shire Hall, and had entered into a contract with Mr. Thomas Mitchell for £628 for that purpose, notwithstanding a protest from the dissentient Councillors (nine in number). The defendants (the Councillors) were, it was submitted, trustees of the Shire mentioned in Sec. 196 of the Act, and had control over large sums of money, but those sums were insufficient to discharge the liabilities now unpaid, and ought to be applied towards paying the same, and there are no funds now available for the Shire Hall. The bill was verified by an affidavit of Mr. Beaver, Mr. McCormack and other Councillors filed an answering affidavit to the effect that the receipts were much larger than it was supposed they would be in September last, as the receipts on account of tolls on the Northcote road, which previously belonged to the Epping and Morang Road Board, now belonged to the Shire. The contracts for the maintenance etc. of roads were for £3,00, but there was a condition in the contracts that they might be stopped at any time if the Shire had not funds, whereas the contract for the hall could not be stopped without subjecting the Council to an action. It was agreed last year by a majority of seventeen to three, that it was advisable to erect a hall, but no steps were then taken for an injunction. The estimate for the hall was also approved of by a large majority, and no steps were then taken. The contract was executed on the 13th April, this year, yet it was not till a fortnight afterwards that the bill was filed. In fact, the opposition to the work was now occasioned by the fact that the Northcote and Epping members could not get the hall built at Preston.

"The present hall was at Preston, but it was only leased from the Foresters, at £20 per annum.

"It was small and inconveniently situated, for instead of being near the centre of the Shire it was only three miles from the southern and seventeen miles from the northern boundary of the Shire. There were ample funds available for the work, but even if there were not, it was submitted that no ratepayer could pick out which work he had the privilege of saying should be executed."

Social Centre

The Hall was built and has been the social centre until recently when the Council decided to use it as a Municipal Chambers. Prior to that, all the district events were held there. Memories of the "T" shaped building, with the stage on one side and the inadequate appointments, the rough floor (original wide boards) is well in the minds of many ratepayers. Last year the building was reconstructed at many times the cost of the original structure to bring it into a modern chambers commensurate with the rapidly expanding municipal district.

Names in the story

Mr. Patrick McCormack with his wife, Bridget, came from Limerick Ireland, about 1850 and engaged in a carrying business to the goldfields.

He later rented and then purchased a farm at Craigieburn. His second son was Mr. B.J. McCormack who worked on the farm and later bought further land. He was elected a member of Epping Shire Council, prior to its amalgamation with the Whittlesea Shire. The McCormack family was one of the earliest to settle in the Woodstock district.

Bartholomew John McCormack was a member of the Spping Shire for 13 years and with the amalgamation served the Whittlesea Council for another 31 years. He died in January 1956 but had resigned from the Council ten years previously. He was 92 years of age when he died.

MAHONEY'S ROAD.

Mahoney's Road is Shire's southern boundry on the west side of High St. This roadway seperated the City of Preston from the Shire of Whittlesea, but both councils maintain control of the road.

It is the cross road linking High St., or Epping Road with the Sydney Rd. at Campellfield. In the early days it was a bush track which bullock wagons used to reach Sydeny Rd., on their way to the northern farms, and even Sydney. They had to ford the Merri Creek.

The Mahoney family was a large one and inhabited the bluestone homestead, which is in the Shire of Whittlesea.

The boys were of powerful physique and were wonderful horsemen.

They carried on a mixed farm, diarying and agriculture. Paddy Mahoney was a horseman and a warm favourite with the Govenor of Victoria, Lord Hopetown (later the Marquis of Linlithgow) in the hunting field when the hounds chased stags- specially brought to the hunt- and the prevalent foxes.

The bluestone homestead, built from the quarried stone nearby still stands to bring back memories.

Near the Merri Creek, on the southern side of Mahoney's Road, early settlers came and went. The mark of the plough furrows in old cultivated areas, heaps of stones marking what was once a home, an imported bush planted by some homeloving housewife, all these and nothing else tell the sad story of these early settlers who, unlike the Mahoney family, could not face the poverty and hardships of those days when farm produce was so cheap that the land could not give those who worked long hours sufficient to keep hunger at bay. Disperited and desperate, they left thier homes and sought employment from other more prosperous areas or else tried their luck in the gold rush.

Nothing tangible remains of their fight against nature but the things-few and unimportant—that nature has not been able to hide with the ravages of decay and time, .

Further south , near High St., and almost on top of the hill which slopes to the north to end in a deep gutter, through which flows the excess water from the small clearing reservoir to overflow at Edwardes Lake spillway, was a homestead that had defied time for many years and was only demolished a few years ago. This farm was worked by the Baker Bros. as an efficient unit, used for dairying and agricultural pursuits.

The crops of wheat, oats and barley came right to the fence which formed the eastern boundry of the farm. Following their removal, F.J.Vincent took over. He was connected with a large suburban milk round, and the large milking sheds-antiques,weatherbeaten and neither rain or wind proof, clattered with the milking of a heard of cows numbering hundreds, that added to the din and confusion with their bovine indignation and revolt against authority.

Many deserters from ships found their way the F.J.Vincent, who was a kind-hearted person in a belligerent physical exterior. He never lacked labor.

In the same vecinity was the hotel-a wooden structure-the Merrilands Hotel. It was built on the crest of the hill on the bush track, Epping Road,and little of it is known.

Council meetings were held in this hotel (The Epping Roads Board). Les. Bastings one of the council members records that on one occasion, when members were assembled to hold their meeting, they found that there had been trouble and most of the furniture had dissapeared.

"They had to gather empty cases to sit on before proceeding with council business".

The trouble was evidently loss of business and surrender of licence owing to the hard times with the resultant loss of spending on alcoholic beverages.

Teamsters had to pass-or perhaps stop-- at the Woodstock Hotel -- the ruins of which are just off Epping Rd., towards Somerton, the Harvest Home Hotel, until recently a heap of stones about a mile north of Epping township., two hotels at Epping-one now delicensed and the other rebuilt and licenced, the Belmont Hotel and the Merrilands Hotel.

Beer was cheap,three-pence a glass, four-pence a pint--the road was dusty,the sun hot, the journey long and monotonous, so the long string of horse drawn drays of firewood, plodded along.Must we concede that a drink in these circumstances was most welcome.

The days of the streams of people going to the diggings, the construction workers on the new Whittlesea line with their thirst a custom had given increased revenue to the adjacent hotels and those over the highways. The Merrilands hotel evidently felt the stress of finance and the rest goes to a score of memories.

When the excavations were made for one of the first houses in the vicinity of the area on which the Merrilands Hotel was built, some of the old foundation stones were unearthed. The last tangible link was lost and forgotten.

Evidently the Belmont Hotel was destroyed by fire and the present brick structure was erected. When F.J.Vincent vacated the farm, the subdivision experts created Merrilands Estate. The old homestead gradually disappeared under the stress of age and weather. Mr. Leedeman pastured sheep on the estate and progress seemed stemmed for all time.Much to the disgust and annoyance of users of Epping Rd., the area of the farm between the drain and Mahoney's Rd.close to Epping Rd., was used as a night soil depot for a number of years.

THE NAMING OF WHITTLESEA.

The name of the township of Whittlesea has existed for over 100 years. It is almost as old as the State name here, but its historical name goes back to the remotest period of English history.

The Whittlesea district in Victoria was first settled in 1837 when George Sherwin came to Port Phillip and took up a large acreage of land along the Plenty River. George Sherwin was born in Parramatta, in New South Wales, in 1819 and was one of four brothers, William, George, John and Thomas, whose descendants are still resident in this district.

In 1838 Robert Hoddle, who laid out the City of Melbourne, surveyed it into allotments, and the district around Whittlesea was then known as the Parish of Toorourong. The early spelling of the name Tooroorong became changed to the substitution of a "u" for the fourth "o" in the early 50's.

The first sale took place in Sydney, N.S.W., May 8, 1839. Victoria was a part of New South Wales until 1851, when it was declared to be a state.

George Sherwin occupied an area of about 795 acres although no record of its purchase could be found.

Thomas Wills purchased 13-979 acres at 15/- per acre. Other lots of 640 acres were sold for £384 cash. The land at that time was heavily timbered.

In 1853, the village reserve was divided into allotments by assistant Surveyor, Robert Mason, who named this allotment "Whittlesea" after the town of Whittlesea, Cambridgeshire, England, where he once lived.

The historic market town of Whittlesey is situated near the northern borders of Cambridgeshire, 75 miles from London on what was once a low island surrounded by a swamp.

Evidence of a Roman track, which passes through it, speaks of its antiquity. The name "Whittlesey" is Anglo-Saxon, the ending "ey" meaning island or brink.

Sye, name has been variously explained as meaning "willow isle" or "Hwitel's Isle". (Hwitel being the deminutive of Whire, a personal name) or the Isle of Wise. (the Wits, in fact) The place is first mentioned in 937 A.D. when Ethelwold, Bishop of Winchester bought the Whittlesey S. Mary Abbey, which he was refounding after destruction by the Danes.

Domesday Book (William the Conqueror's survey of England, made in 1086) refers to it under the name of "Witesie".

On April 13, 1244, the town was destroyed by fire and over 44 persons lost their lives. Again in 1277, the whole manor was burned. In 1379, after a dispute between the Vicar of Whittlesey S. Mary and Thorney Abbey about his emoluments, a "composition" was effected. A payment is still made to the Vicar by the owners of the rectorial title.

Cambridgeshire is a flat and treeless country and the name of "Fens" given to its northern areas sufficiently implies its nature. To Bishop Morton of Ely goes the credit of the first attempt (1479) to drain this region and bring it under cultivation. In the course of his endeavours, he shortened the course of the meandering river Nene. The drainage work was continued in the 17th and 18th centuries and completed by the extinction of Whittlesey Mere. In 1851 Dutch engineers were employed in the later years. The town drainage still awaits drainage perfection.

Antient parish registers still in existence, showing that several well known names in the district go back a long time. Marginal notes in the registers reveal the disconcerting fact that on two occasions, at the baptism of girls they were accidentally given boys names.

The inhabitants of Whittlesey have been noted for their longevity.

Tombstones reveal the name of one man who reached 102 years but this record is eclipsed by that of an old lady who reached 104 years.

A farmer's notebook of the 17th century reveals that greyhound racing was then popular. In the excitement of the day's sport, a spectator lost his hat and went home with someone else's. The aggrieved gentleman called at midnight to demand restitution. The diary records that the culprit came down stairs "which he broke thru' Johnson's Head." This incident, which reveals Whittlesey and the full blooded folk, was happily settled out of court.

Whittlesey was the birth place (in 1788) of General Sir. Harry George Wakelyn Smith. His Governorship of the Cape of Good Hope led to the adoption of "Harrysmith", "Ladysmith" (after his wife) and "Whittlesea" as place names in that colony. Until recently, the official spelling in town documents, etc. was "Whittlesea" but discovery of an ancient document revealed the correct spelling. The local council and the post office amended their spelling but the railway station retains the less ancient spelling.

Whittlesea, Victoria is not steeped in history like its English counterpart. The earliest recollections of the district are now second hand, from parents to children who have now become the oldest district residents.

Aboriginal settlements on the land now covered by the Yan Yean Reservoir and at Eden Park were common sights to the first settlers.

With most of the flat land from the mountain edge, covering all the low lying areas to Mernda, a swamp abounding in game with plenty of water and lush growth, the aborigines found plenty to eat, drink and live peaceably. The game consisted of kangaroo, wallaby, possum, native cat, wombat and abundant bird life.

The land was heavily timbered to provide Melbourne's building requirements for many years. Lumber is still taken from the Kinglake areas although that section of the Dividing Range is slowly being cut out.

It is difficult to imagine the district with its sparse red gums being timbered and a continuous traffic of carts carrying sleepers and pailings helped to swell the toll gate fees collected for many years.

Many Plenty Road, Preston storekeepers were entirely dependent on the trade from the woodcutters for their livelihood. As time progressed, the land became cleared, grazing, dairying, fruit growing and wheat growing all in turn had a place in the district's economy. Today the chief pursuit is dairying with sheep running a close second.

Thomas Sherwin was born in Parramatta, N.S.W. in December 1819 and educated in King's School, Sydney. He worked for several years with his brother, William on William's property. Later he joined his brother, George at Cowra. In 1838 he came to Victoria (then called Port Phillip) by water, and was associated with those who were on the first agricultural return made in Victoria. He was engaged in cattle dealing in the valley of the Plenty River for six years before removing to Mulwala. After six years he returned to the Plenty and purchased land at Whittlesea. He was appointed to supervise the erection of fences which enclosed the aqueduct connecting Jack's Creek with the Yan Yean. He married Miss Hancock in 1841.

Reverting to Whittlesey England and its importance and antiquity as shown in the Doomsday book, it having been granted as early as A.D. 664 by Wolphen, King of Mercia to his new monastery of Medishamsted, now Peterborough. The monastery was destroyed by the Danes in 876. In 1870, it reverted to the crown, several grants were made of it by different kings and Charles II in 1662 conferred on Edward, Earl of Sandwich, the office of Keeper of Whittlesey Mere.

EARLY PLOUGHING MATCHES.

Makers of Agricultural Machines in the years 1875-6 conducted ploughing competitions in Victoria. Agricultural Societies took up the competition to have this sport on the schedules for many years.

Local champions listed were William Mahoney, Thomastown; George Sparkes, Epping; T. Oliver, Campbellfield; and two brothers Greighton from Whittlesea and two others out of the district.

As the beginnings of the Whittlesea Show were closely allied with ploughing matches, no doubt, excerpts of a report of one of these fixtures held at Coburg by the Victoria Agricultural Society (now the Royal Victorian Agricultural Society), should prove of interest--more so because a number of Whittlesea districts' residents participated.

This report was extracted from the "Evelyn Observer" of May 17, 1878.

"The annual ploughing match in conjunction with the Victoria Agricultural Society was held yesterday on the farm of Mr. W.H. Smith, Newlands, Coburg--upon the same spot as that upon which the match of 1876 took place.

In the attendance of competitors there was just a slight falling off from the previous year, there being on that occasion thirty six ploughs engaged, and on the present thirty-four. There was, however, a very large number of spectators present, including a goodly number of the fair sex, who took a lively interest of the performances of their sturdy friends, and acquaintances upon the furrowed field.

The work performed in the respective classes was of first quality and the judges found considerable difficulty in deciding, where all was so good, as to which was really entitled to the prizes offered, this being especially the case in Class B in which there were eleven competitors, six of whom had to be placed for prizes.

The arduous task was at length successfully accomplished, and the awards appered to give general satisfaction.

LIBERAL PRIZES

The prizes offered were very liberal, a valuable addition being made to the Champion Class prize s in the shape of a handsome cup, of the value of twelve guneas, to be won twice by the same competitor before becoming his property. This, with the addition of £6 offered, was won for the first time by David Harris , of Broadmeadows, with a Tynan plough. The second and third prizes were respectively awarded to T.J.Olliver, Campbellfield, and D.Bond, Broadmeadows, who both used Lennon's ploughs.

The other competitors in the class were Richard Bassett, Hazel Glen; W.Creighton Greensborough; J.F.Poynting, Melbourne and Alfred Olliver, Campbellfield.

The judges in this and in class A were Messrs.J.McLeod,Kilmore; P.Egan, Brighton and W.Turner, Pentland Hills.

In Class A there were nine competitors, the first prize being won by W. Young of Preston, with a Lennon Plough; second J.T.B.Ritchie of Coburg (Geo. Grand and Coy.) ; third, Chas. Norris, Campbellfield (Gard and McCallum); fourth, David Anderson, Woodstock (Lennon) ; fifth, William McKimmie, Janefield.

The other competitors were-- J.Williams, Campbellfield ; F.Bodycoat, Woodstock; Jas. Hitch, Portarlinton; and R.Dewer, Tullamarine.

The large number of eleven entries were made in Class B, the first prize being pulled off by John Pardey of Coburg, who used a Lennon plough. W.Johnston, of Hazelglen, came second with a plough by Henderson and Co; and Lachlan McFarlane, of Janefield, who used one of Jas. Hay and Co.'s impliments, third. John Sparks, of Janefield, who ploughed for Robert White, was fourth; J.Brittler ploughman for A.Cameron, Janefield fifth and C.Maltzahan, Campbellfield, sixth.

There were five other competitors, viz. T.Vaughan, W.Matthews, M.Lynch, J.Runioan and T.Jackson. The judges for this class were Messrs. W.Ritchie,Coburg; Joseph Bond,Heidelberg; and Ewen Robertson, Whittlesea.

In Class C there were six entries, the first prize being gained by J.Sullivan, Gowerville; Second, F.W.Williams; third, F.Bond; fourth, J.D.Bassett; fifth J.Mann, and sixth, John Creighton. The prize for the best crown in this class was awarded to J.Sullivan, and the best finish to F.W.Willimas.

There was only one entry for the double furrow ploughs--Class D viz. that of Robert Know of Shepparton, and to him the prize was awarded, the plough used being one of Lennon's make.

In this and class D the judges were Messrs. M.Ritchie, Bulla; T.J.Oliver, Campbellfield; and Joseph Mitchinson, Bundoora.

The whole arrangement for the match, under the suterintendance of the committee and efficient sceretary, were admirably carried out, no hitch of any kind occuring to mar the pleasure of those attending this annual popular rural gathering.

THE DISTRICT EXHIBIT

District older residents are intensely proud of Whittlesea's impressive record of awards for District Exhibits at the Melbourne Royal Show.

Of the actual 38 District Exhibits competitions staged, Whittlesea won 26 first prizes, 10 second prizes and two third prizes and was never displaced.

So impressive was the district's record that in 1958, the people past and present who arranged and staged the exhibits were honored by the erection of a Memorial Entrance to Whittlesea showgrounds.

Many well known district personalities devoted a lot of time and effort to preparing and staging the exhibits and the memorial was a fitting one.

The history of the exhibits is taken from the official records of the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria.

The District Exhibit Competitions were inaugurated at a meeting in June, 1902 but it was not possible to stage the first competition until September, 1903. Seven entries were received and a most attractive non-competitive exhibit was forwarded from Queensland.

The following are the official results.

1903. 1st. West Bourke Ag. Society. 68 points, 2nd. Shepparton and Tatura, 46, 3rd. Whittlesea Ag. Society. 45 points.

1904. 1st. West Bourke, Lansfield and Whittlesea Ag. Society combined. 2nd The Tatura and Goulburn Valley area.

1905. Whittlesea Ag., Society, 72½ points, 2nd. Romsey and West Bourke and Lancefield 71½ points.

1906. 1st, Whittlesea and Arthurs Creek.

1907. 1st. Whittlesea Ag. Society.

1908 In this year the District Exhibits competition was sub-divided into two zones. The Northern Districts was won by Stawell and the Southern districts

results were 1st. Whittlesea Ag. Society; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh.

1909. 1st. Bacchus Marsh; 2nd. Whittlesea.

1910. 1st. Bacchus Marsh; 2nd. Whittlesea.

1911. 1st. Bacchus Marsh; 2nd. Whittlesea.

1912. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh.

1913. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh.

1914. 1st., Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh.

1915. 1st. Bacchus Marsh; 2nd. Whittlesea.

1916. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh.

1917. 1st. Bacchus Marsh; 2nd. Whittlesea.

1918. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh.

1919. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh; 3rd. Murrumbidgee and Wagga; 4th. Maffra.

1920. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh; 3rd. North Gippsland.

1921. 1st. Whittlesae; 2nd. Murrumbidgee; 3rd. Bacchus Marsh.

1922. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Bacchus Marsh; 3rd. Sale.

1923. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Sale.

1924. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Sale.

Special prizes of £150 were awarded to the Agricultural Society whose members gained the greatest number of points in the Farm Produce Section.

1st. Whittlesae, 2nd. Bairnsdale.

The Walker and Hall Shield, valued at 50 guineas, was also offered to be won three times, not necessarily in succession. Winner 1925. 1st. Whittlesea.

District Exhibit Competition. 1925. 1st. Warrnambool; 2nd. Whittlesea; 3rd. sale.

1926. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Warrnambool; 3rd. Swan Hill.

Agricultural Society Competitions. 1st. Whittlesea 1

Walker and Hall Shield 1926; Whittlesea.

1927. 1st. Warrnambool; 2nd. Whittlesea; 3rd. Wangaratta.

Agricultural Society Competition-1st. Whittlesea.

Walker and Hall Shield won outright by Whittlesea. This shield was presented to Mr. C. Exton, of Kinglake, in appreciation of the work which he had done for the Whittlesea District Exhibit.

1928. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Wangaratta; 3rd. Warrnambool.

Agricultural Society Competition--1st. Whittlesae. The second Walker and Hall Shield, 1928. Whittlesea.

1929. 1st. Wangaratta; 2nd. Whittlesea; 3rd. Warrnambool.

Agricultural Society Competition 1st. Whittlesea.

Walker and Hall Shield. 1929. (~~The second Shield was won outright by Whittlesea and retained by that Society to hang in the clubrooms on the Society's Ground,~~) Whittlesea.

1930. 1st. Wangaratta, 2nd. Whittlesea, 3rd. Warrnambool.

Agricultural Society's Competition 1st. Whittlesea.

The second Walker and Hall shield was won outright by Whittlesea and retained by that society to hang in the clubroom on the Society's ground.

1931, 1st. Wangaratta; 2nd, Whittlesea; 3rd. warrnambool.

Agricultural Societies Competition and Walker and Hall shield discontinued to be replaced by State Agricultural Championship-Special prizes of £215, open to residents in any electoral district -- six entries-1st. Evelyn Electoral District.

1932. 1st. Wangaratta; 2nd. Warrnambool. 3rd. Whittlesea.

State Agricultural Championship. 1st. Rodney. 2nd Evelyn.

1933. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Sale; 3rd. Warrnambool.

State Agricultural Championship. 1st. Evelyn.

1934. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Sale. 3rd. Warrnambool.

State Championship. 1st. Evelyn. A medal commemorating the centenary was awarded to the Whittlesea Agricultural Society.

1935. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Warrnambool .3rd. Sale.

State Championship 1st. Evelyn.

1936. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd, Sale ; 3rd. Warrnambool.

State Championship. 1st. Evelyn.

1937. 1st. Whittlesea; 2nd. Sale; 3rd. Warrnambool.

State Championship. 1st. Evelyn.

1938. 1st., Whittlesea; 2nd Sale; 3rd Warrnambool.

1939. 1st. Whittlesea. 2nd Sale; 3rd. Warrnambool.

State Agricultural Championship prize discontinued.

1940 to 46. Second World War-- no district exhibit.

1947. Competition resumed. one entry 1st. Whittlesea.

1948. Competition discontinued, but Whittlesea Agricultural Society staged a non competitive District Exhibit.

1949. Non- competitive exhibit.

1950 Non-competitive Whittlesea exhibit for the last time.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

District Exhibits.

1st.	2nd.	3rd.
1904		1903
1905		
1906		
1907		
1908		
	1909	
	1910	
	1911	

1st.	2nd.	3rd.
1912		
1913		
1914		
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1920		
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1924		
	1925	
1926	1927	
1928	1929	
	1930	
	1931	
		1932
1933-39		
1947.		

Of the 38 actual District Exhibit Competitions staged, Whittlesea won 26 first prizes, 10 second prizes, two third prizes and were never unplaced.

In 1904 and 1906, Whittlesea combined with other districts to win.

Agricultural Society Competitions

1925 to 1930. 1st. Whittlesea.

The Walker and Hall Shield 1925, 1926, 1927. Won outright.

Second Walker and Hall shield. 1928-1929, 1930. Second shield won outright.

State Agricultural Championship.

1931. 1st. Evelyn Electoral District.

1932 " Rodney " "

1933 to 1937. 1st. Evelyn.

LALOR.

The area of land, located between Thomastown and Epping is known as Lalor.

The name is taken from the Peter Lalor Co-operative Housing Society formed in 1947 to construct a housing estate of 217 acres which is now this township.

Peter Lalor was a leader in a disturbance on the Ballarat gold field in 1954 was the Government was opposed by miners who demanded the abolition of the licence tax.

The incident is known as the Eureka Stockard. Peter Lalor later became a member of parliament and a cabinet minister.

In 1947, a group of ex-servicemen connected with the Trades Hall, decided to form a Co-operative housing society for the purpose of building homes, subdividing and selling land. The original society was exclusively for ex-service members but it was later extended to accept any prospective home purchaser. Registration was effected under Company Law within the Friendly Societies Act. In the beginning the registration was refused until the proposed society agreed to act as contractor and erect homes for a contract price.

With all these formalities completed, three parcels of land were purchased from Mr. Heppell (136 acres) and Mr. Maltzahn (67 acres).

It was anticipated that 900 homes would be built in a scheme costing seven millions, With the completion of the legal formalities, purchase of the land and the commencement of building, the Society soon ran into trouble. With estimates for homes at the lowest margin of profit necessary for administration expenses and the continual rising costs, the members were soon in financial trouble.

Other smaller items continued to add to the over-draft to cause the Society's downfall. After a few weeks, the War Service Homes Department took over the project, completed many homes and soon had the area being gradually built up. The average take over price for each allotment was £32 and with the steadily

increasing land values, the Department could have recouped any loss sustained in the original resumption. About 160 homes were taken over in the early 50's while today that number is trebled.

Most of the streets in the area are named after V C winners, men of renown and prominent personalities.

Ruthven, Derriok and Middleton are V.C. winners while Rochdale Square is named after the Yorkshire town where the Co-operative movement commenced in the early 1850's. Members who were responsible for the movement at Lalor were Messrs. Alf Greenwood, Leo Purcell, W. Fox and William King, and the first house was completed in 1948. On the property was a complete tile making plant, Hardware store, plumbing service, and pre-cutting and joinery shop. When the society went into voluntary liquidation, the assets were auctioned. As one Director stated "they went for a song". When the council constructed the roads and paths in 1960, the once unfinished township became a trim and desirable suburb.

While the story of the Eureka Stockade does not fit into a Whittlesea History story, it is interesting to recall the events of one of the history making highlights of Victoria.

Many incidents on the Ballarat goldfields had aroused a feeling of antagonism to the authorities. The killing of a miner, and the corruption of the officials, and the miscarriage of justice in trials did little to create a feeling of confidence in those in authority with the thousands of miners operating on the diggings.

A reform movement was started and the first meeting of the Ballarat Reform League was held on Nov. 11. 1854. Ten Thousand men are said to have assembled on Bakery Hill. They carried a resolution that it is the inalienable right of every citizen to have a voice in making the laws he is called upon to obey, that there should be no taxation without representation, and that therefore the following political changes should be demanded.

1. A full and fair representation.
2. Manhood suffrage.
3. Abolition of property qualification for members of the Legislature.
4. Payment of members.
5. Short duration of Parliament.

In addition to these the Ballarat Reform League demanded the alteration in the government of the gold fields, and the total abolition of the licence tax.

They were acting strictly within their legal rights in forming a League to agitate for these alterations, but unluckily there was at the meeting some talk of a revolutionary nature and Governor Hotham despatched additional troops to the area. The miners looked upon the concentration of troops as a threat to freedom of discussion.

A deputation was sent to Melbourne with the demands and in the meantime several incidents occurred resulting in a death and several woundings.

On Wed. Nov. 28 1854, at least ten thousand miners assembled around a platform to hear the deputation report unsuccessfully. Indignant speeches followed from Lalor and others. A resolution was carried that the members of the League burn their licences, and pledge themselves to take out no more.

Fires were lit and licences were burned by the score. The authorities decided that they should, at once, bring the matter to a head and ordered a "digger hunt" for the Gravel Pits district on Nov. 30, the last that ever took place.

The police and later the soldiers were resisted and the riot act was read. The crowd dispersed and the military made the diggers show their licences. Eight prisoners were taken. At 3 p.m. in the afternoon an impromptu meeting

was held again on the Bakery Hill, Peter Lalor, an Irishman, son of a former member of the House of Commons, became the guiding spirit. Drilling commenced and he warned them of the coming fight but entreated them to let no distruction of property or pillage or plunder sully the cause they had to fight.

Preparations were ^{made} ~~made~~ ^{and} for a seige [^] on December, 3. 1854, at daybreak hte soldiers attacked the defences. Their training and the bayonets sooned turned the defence into a rout.

While many of the insurgents escaped, one hundred and twenty five were captured. forty were wounded and eleven were dead. During the fighting Peter Lalor had been hit by a bullet and he fell apparently dead.

During the confusion he was dragged away by friends and escaped to the ranges where a doctor amputated his left arm. The total killed on both sides were twenty eight. Four days after the fatal sunday, a Commission, after taking evidence of their grievences, brought down a report in March 1855 which met the miners wishes in every way.

In the end , the diggers sucured a moral triumph.

in 1874, Peter Lalor became Monister of Customs in the first Berry @overnment.

YAN YEAN RESERVOIR

Whittlesea played a major part in Melbourne's water supply. With the addition of many sources of supply, the district contributes a lesser part than it did one hundred years ago, when the metropolis was supplied entirely from this district.

To ensure a clean supply, a large tract of country was used entirely as a catchment and is not used for any other purpose.

The early settlers in Melbourne were mainly dependent upon the River Yarra for their supply of water, but most of the residents endeavoured to conserve rain water as much as possible in portable receptacles of various kinds then obtainable. The most convenient site for access to the river in 1835 and the years immediately following was near the Queen's Bridge which now connects Melbourne with South Melbourne.

There was a ledge of rocks at this point extending above the bed of the river, but this natural barrier did not prevent the saline water of Hobson's Bay making itself manifest in an unpleasant manner at high tide.

An attempt was made to raise artificially this rocky obstruction with the object of stemming back the tide, but the work was not properly carried out, and other sites along the river's bank were selected to obtain water of purer quality.

Private enterprise established rough pumping plants, and it is asserted that water was sold in barrels at prices varying from 2/- to 10/- per barrel. Attempts were made to obtain water by sinking wells, but the efforts were not attended with much success. Following the practice which had been established in London and elsewhere with most lucrative results, an endeavour was made to form a company for the supply of water to the public, but beyond passing a number of resolutions at a meeting held at the Lamb Inn, Melbourne

in May 1840, five years after the foundation of the young town, no definite action appears to have been taken in this direction.

The Melbourne City Council was formed formerly constituted in 1842, and a few years afterwards the city surveyor propounded a scheme for conveying the river water to a large filter at the north eastern corner of Elizabeth and Flinders for public sale. This scheme was not properly carried into effect until the arrival in 1849 of Mr. James Blackburn, a civil and hydraulic engineer, who was in after years to become a benefactor in the rising community by selecting and reporting on the site now occupied by the Yan Yean Reservoir.

The early methods of Mr. Blackburn, however, proved fairly successful, and cheap filtered water was made available by laying pipes from the River to the site mentioned, and distributed by the usual portable loads.

In this scheme Mr. Blackburn was associated with Mr. Frederick Cooper, Chemist. The ability possessed by the former soon led to his appointment as city surveyor. Notwithstanding the occasional admixture of salt water, the old original site of the Yarra near the Falls Bridge was used until 1857 for the supply of water to Emerald Hill, (now South Melbourne,) Sandridge (now Port Melbourne) and the shipping in Hobson's Bay.

Towards the end of that year the secretary to the commissioners of sewers and water supply wrote to the Board of Directors of the Hobson's Bay railway company suggesting that, in view of the company taking portion of the lands near the falls and interfering with the works of the Commissioners, the company should construct a new race, replace the boiler of the pumping plant, and make good all connections to the satisfaction of the engineer, as well as permit the water main laid along the line and over the new railway bridge

These requests were duly complied with.

The various local river systems were abandoned shortly after 1857 upon a permanent supply becoming available from the district north of the city.

Yan Yean System

In 1850, Mr. Blackburn in a report to the Council of the City of Melbourne pointed out that an abundant and perpetual supply of water could be obtained from the Creeks and springs flowing from Mount Disappointment, and which were united to form the Plenty River.

After careful exploration he, on August 9th 1851, submitted a full report, confirming that which he had previously made, together with plans for utilising the several creeks at the southward of Toorourrong, and closing the outlet from the valley and swamp at Yan Yean with an embankment. Work on the reservoir was commenced on December 20 1853 by the first sod being turned by the Lieft. Governor Charles Joseph LaTrobe, and the waters from the Yan Yean was formerly turned on in the city on December 27, 1857, by general McArthur, representing the Governor, Sir Henry Barkley.

The principle work was the construction of an earthen embankment, 49 chains long, 30 feet high and 20 feet wide at the top. It was 602 feet above sea level. The embankment forms a lake covering an area of 1,300 acres, the slopes of which have been rendered picturesque by planting a large number of pines and other trees. The lake has a maximum depth of 26 feet and an average of 18 feet. Its total capacity of 6,400,000 gallons. The Mains from Yan Yean to Melbourne consisted originally of three sizes, the first length from Yan Yean to Morang 7 miles, being 30 inches in diameter; the second from Morang to Preston, 6 miles, 27 inches in diameter, and the third from Preston to Melbourne, 6 miles, 24 inches in diameter.

The Plenty River is formed by the junction of the mountains streams known as Jacks Creek, the eastern and western branches of the Plenty and Bruce's Creek, together with their numerous tributaries. These streams have their sources in that portion of the dividing range of the State known as the Plenty Ranges.

The central mass of these ranges called ^{the}Mount Disappointment by Hume and Hovell when discovered by them in 1824, because the explorers could not see the ocean as they expected, is situated due north from Melbourne and 33 miles distant.

It attains an altitude of 2,700 feet above sea level, and is plainly visible from any elevated part of the city. When the Yan Yean water was brought into consumption in the city the number of homes supplied was about 6,000 although the population of Melbourne and suburbs was nearly 100,000. The population of the metropolis continued to increase, and necessitated the laying of further lengths of sub-mains and reticulation pipes to supply the increased number of houses.

With this in view, the 30 inch pipes forming the portion of the main from Yan Yean to Morang were lifted, and relaid along side the 27 inch pipes from Morang to Preston, their place being taken by an open aqueduct lined throughout part of the way with stone and part with brickwork and cement. The aqueduct is capable of carrying 33,000,000 gallons per day. It crossed the Plenty River on a stone bridge of a single arch of 45 feet span. It is known as the Morang aqueduct and terminates in a small square pipe-head reservoir, 14 feet deep, capable of holding three million gallons. This was completed in 1876.

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In 1879 the level of the water of the Yan Yean reservoir had fallen very low, it became evident that the works which had been designed a quarter of a century before to supply 200,000 people at the rate of 30 gallons a head per day were inadequate for the population, which had increased to about 256,000, requiring

water in the hot weather at the rate from 80 to 90 gallons per head per day. While another scheme was under construction it became evident that if some more speedy method of augmenting the Yan Yean supply were not adopted, Melbourne might suffer from an insufficiency of water.

Mr. William Thwaites was therefore sent to examine the sources of the King Parrot Creek on the north of the Dividing Range, with the view of diverting water thence into the Plenty watershed. Many additional pipe lines were laid and suburban service reservoirs constructed, but during the hours of the greatest demand in hot weather, great difficulty was experienced in keeping up a good pressure in the mains in the high outlying districts of the metropolis. The investigation in the Plenty Ranges to the north of the Dividing Range proved so satisfactory that the Water Supply Board recommended the construction of the Wallaby Creek Aqueduct. This work was carried out in 1883 and diverted the water of the Wallaby Creek into the Plenty watershed.

The additional supply of good water obtained from the Wallaby Creek enabled the water from Bruce's Creek to be dispensed with. It was more or less polluted owing to the large amount of settlement on its watershed. For this purpose a diversion channel, a mile and a half long was cut from Bruce's Creek, before it entered the Plenty River at Whittlesea, to a point of the river below the Yan Yean off-take.

The quality of the water in the reservoir was further improved by the exclusion of the waters of the western branch of the Plenty River and Scrubby Creek, which flowed for a portion of their length through settled country. When this was effected by the construction of the Toorourong Reservoir and a new aqueduct to Yan Yean in 1885, the whole of the supply to Melbourne was collected from land entirely uncultivated and unoccupied. The Toorourong Reservoir was formed by the construction of an embankment across the valley of the eastern branch

of the Plenty, immediately below the junction with Jack's Creek . The area is 36 acres with a capacity of 60-000-000 gallons.

In the year 1886, the Silver Creek Aqueduct was constructed and thereby the waters of Silver Creek and the tree tributaries were diverted from flowing in to the King Parrrpt Creek and discharged into the basin formed by the Wallaby Weir, and thence by the Wallaby Aqueduct, Jack's Creek and Toorourong Reservoir to Yan Yean. The constant inflow of the fresh cool mountain streams into the Yan Yean had a most beneficial effect on the water, as, the temperature was reduced, the growth of conferea had ceased. This was source of inconvenience to the consumer during hot weather, discoloring the water and causing it to have an unpleasant flavor. Today Melbourne is considered to have one of the purest water supplies in the world.

Late in 1960 the aqueduct between Yan Yean and Preston was replaced with a large main to add to the supply of the northerh suburbs.

The scheme envisaged prior to 1850, continued to be improved to meet the growing demands of 1961.

THE MEANING OF YAN YEAN.

As to the meaning of " Yan Yean", Mr. Edward Finn in his chronicles of "Early Melbourne" records that he was informed by Mr. William ~~Exasta~~ Thomas, Assistant Protector of Aborigines, that the word meant " young men" and that they were associated with certain tribal rites upon the natives reaching manhood.

Mr. Finn adds that his own belief was that "the proper native name, of the place is Yan Yan, after the Chief so called, one of the eight aboriginal magnates who sold the country to Batman". Ryder's Swamp (hte neuleus of the Yan Yean Reservoir formed portion of Yan Yan's territory. The name "Yan Yan", is the sixth in order on the two remarkable deeds dated June 6, 1835, one conveying to Batman and his heirs the tract of country estimated to contain 500-000 acres, which included Melbourne and the surrounding district, and the other 100-000 acres of the Geelong district.

THE DAREBIN CREEK BRIDGE, WOOLERT

This is the story of a bridge and a road, the boundary between the Roads Boards districts of Epping and Woodstock. Today that road is Bridge Inn road. The story commences before 1867 when the roadway was declared on the boundary of the two districts.

It seems possible that some track existed when the Boards were created in 1862 for it is reasonable to assume that the original survey for the district divisions picked a track as the only reasonable definite division in the thickly timbered area.

In the days of this story the rivers flowing south to the Yarra Yarra were not the nearly always dry and over large gutters known today. They drained large tracts of well wooded country and as recorded in Melbourne's early history, supplied a continuous stream of clear and clean water.

Rivers flowing south in Whittlesea district were the Plenty River (tapped for the Yan Yean supply) the Merri, Darebin and Diamond Creeks. The streams presented a crossing problem for the pioneer who desired to travel from east to west. Settlers found the Darebin Creek a real problem particularly on the boundary road between the Epping and Woodstock Boards.

To make matters worse, no road crossed the creek at a "particularly dangerous part". Ratepayers had two problems, an almost impassable road and the need of some means to cross the creek. Deputations had waited on both Boards asking for attention to the road so the Epping Board decided to take action after Woodstock Board suggested a joint work.

Thirty chains of roadway was the first suggestion. In April 1867, the surveyor (Mr. Sheffield) was asked to inspect and report to the next meeting regarding the state of its service.

Next month, Mr. Sheffield said it was in much the same condition as other cross roads in the district. In September of the same year, Mr. Jeffrey an early settler, asked the Board to construct a bridge over the Darebin Creek on the north road boundary.

To help his cause, Mr. Jeffrey presented a petition with the signatures of over 60 ratepayers of the Epping district requesting the construction of a bridge.

Mr. Bastings moved and Mr. Mitchell seconded that, upon a sum being placed upon the estimates for the erection of the bridge, the Government be appealed to for assistance and that the Morang, Whittlesea and Woolert Roads Boards be requested also to urge the Government to the claim for the bridge in question.

That the sum was placed upon the estimates was doubtful, and apparently there was a lack of any action by the Boards. It was not until April 1868 when Mr. Jeffrey again appealed to the Board for a bridge. It was to be put over a dangerous part of the Darebin Creek, said Mr. Jeffrey, but he was dissatisfied for he was informed that "no funds were available". But both Boards did agree to construction of a part of the north boundary road, for which each Board's share would be £54.15.0.

In September a further deputation and a petition to both Boards again pressed the claims for the bridge. The Epping Board appointed Messrs Bastings, Tyler and Plant with the surveyor to wait on the Roads and Bridges Department asking for a grant of £500.0.0 to construct the bridge.

Next month the deputationists advised of their unsuccessful approach. Not to be outdone, the Board this time applied in writing for the sum of £500.0.0 suggesting it be placed on the Government's next years estimates.

Success crowned this effort for in September two months later the Roads Department advised that a sum would be placed on the 1869 estimate to build a bridge over the Darebin Creek.

In July 1869 a further 10 chains of the north boundary road were approved for construction.

That the bridge and road was completed is an undeniable fact but the bridge costs and relevant dates were lost.

Although the bridge is some twenty feet below the roadway level it has served its purpose well for nearly a century. Its sturdy construction should ensure its use for still another one.

Mr. Edward Bastings was the first President of the Epping Roads Board. He was born in London and arrived in Victoria in 1849 and commenced business in Melbourne. He remained in the city until he opened a store in Northcote in 1854 to 1886. After the creation of Shires he was the President of the Darebin Shire Council, and later in the Jika Jika Council. He also served in Northcote Council for many years.

Mr. Samuel Jeffrey "Rockbank", Mernda, was born in Preston in the early 40s. His parents arrived in Australia in 1835 from Northern Ireland and land was purchased at Preston. The land selected was the hill with the frontage to High and Tylers Street and extending north. The house which was erected was referred to as the only house north of the Yarra.

In about 1850 the land was selected at Mernda under the settlement Act and 330 acres named Rockbank were farmed.

Samuel Jeffrey Jnr. became its owner and he was the settler who presented the petitions to the Board of the bridge construction. His son Mr. J.T. Jeffrey still farms the same property with the assistance of his son Arthur who represents the fourth generation to own the original holding.

A NEW ROAD

AND WHITTLESEA STORIES,

The Shire of Whittlesea gave notice of its intentions in 1889 to open a new road through Yan Yean, passing the southern slopes of the reservoir. This new road would replace a road known as Grimshaws Road.

The land was owned by the Yan Yean Land Company, a speculative land selling organisation. The road is the one existing today and leads through to the eastern boundary of the Shire on the south side of the Yan Yean.

It was the boundary road of the Morang and Whittlesea Boards.

Today it is Masons Road, east and for the making both Boards each contributed the sum of £180.4.6,

In 1908 Mr. C. Gibbs took over the general store and newsagency (where L.J. Martins store is located). Prior to this, the store belonged to Mr. McKenzie of Preston and it was managed by Mr. Charles Wilmot. In 1911 Mr. Gibbs built a new store on the opposite side of the road and the family traded there until Mr. Ivan Gibbs closed the business in 1956.

The Whittlesea bowling club was formed in 1955 and completed the next year.

The initial President was Constable Sam Snell, then stationed at Whittlesea. An enthusiastic committee of district residents soon had the land cleared and prepared for the building of a pavilion and the laying of the green. The completion of this sporting facility was a triumph of district enthusiasm and co-operation.

BEARS CASTLE

On the north of the Yan Yean Reservoir and on the highest spot for miles stands the historic Bears Castle.

To the south is the broad expanse of water of the Yan Yean. To the north is the wide valley of the reservation extending to the hills of the Great Divide. On the east, across the five mile valley are the hills and ranges of the Divide to Healesville and beyond, on the west, is another broad valley extending to Melbourne.

Truly a magnificent spot for this historic building. Prior to the construction of the reservoir and the acquiring of the land as a water reservation the area was owned by a family named Bear.

The ownership of about 1400 acres was granted by the New South Wales Government when the original sales were made in Sydney. With the erection of the reservoir, the Bear family received compensation from the Victorian Government and their name dropped out of the district history with the exception of the memorial to their name still standing as a silent guardian over the beautiful water reservation.

The history of its construction is lost with the passage of time, but its remains have changed little in the lifetime of many of the residents of Whittlesea. Within the reservation area it is protected from vandals and screened by rows of large pines and other trees.

The construction is about 20 feet square, 25 feet high and is roofed with shingles. On the stone foundation the main walls over a foot thick are of wattle and daub with doors and windows on each side. Each corner is rounded like the turrets of a castle while one has a hand made brick top ~~xxxx~~ as if intended to be ~~xxxx~~ used as a chimney. Several girders of tree trunks span the building half way up as though a separate store was intended.

Some time in the early forties a wealthy grazier named Bear, owner of properties in New South Wales and Queensland purchased land at Toorourrong stocked it with sheep and placed a sheppard, from his home town in England, to tend the flock.

When leaving for his home, the sheppard asked him what he would do and receiving the reply "go and build a castle like at home". The man took him at his word and commenced operations.

When Mr. Bear returned next year, he found the place partly completed. Mr. Bear instructed him to complete it.

The windows and doors were originally made from forked limbs of trees and in one corner was a fire place. An adjoining corner hides a quaint spiral stairway, the steps being rough stone barely 18 inches wide. The buttress above the stairway is hollow and could be used as an observation tower. Slots have been cut in the sides and give access to the ramparts. The roof, pyramidal in shape, is constructed of thin saplings laid closely together, and which, probably in the first place was covered with some form of thatch. The building was tenanted by a former Governor and is one of the few memorials of the "golden days".

The building could have been used as a protection against weather by the sheppards, but the doors and windows on every side would not give much protection from the cold.

As a place of safety against aborigines it again would have been ineffective. The supposed reason for its construction was told to one of Whittlesea's oldest families, Mr. J.R. Gibsons. In relating some of his experiences in 1932 Mr. Gibson told his story regarding the building of Bears Castle.

It is a district historic highlight, and being on protected land, could stand for a long time as a memorial to the district pioneers.

EARLY DISTRICT PERSONALITIES.

Patrick Kenny was born in County Clare, Ireland in 1803 and came to N.S.W. in 1835. It was in 1844 that he came to Victoria and a few years later he commenced farming at Glenvale. He continued with this occupation until 1884 when he went to live in the township of Whittlesea. He died in the same year.

Mr. Thomas Glover was born in Belfast, Ireland, in 1839, and when 24 years old came to Victoria and settled at Whittlesea, where he spent most of his life. After renting "Summer Hill" for many years he eventually purchased it in 1886. His son, also called Thomas, married Mrs. Copeland, a daughter of Mr. William Johnston of Whittlesea and had two sons and three daughters. Mrs. Glover's father came from Ireland in 1835 settled first at Heidelberg, later going to Whittlesea where he rented "Conron Grange" and carried on mixed farming. Thomas Glover was born in 1875 and after completing his education, commenced farming on his father's property.

The Glover family has been closely associated with the farming life of Victoria for over a century, and was one of Whittlesea's oldest resident families.

Ewen Robertson was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1816, arrived in Melbourne Oct. 27, 1837. He was engaged as a shepherd for two years then started farming on his own account at Beveridge for five years and for a similar period on the Darebin Creek before purchasing 1000 acres at Whittlesea in 1854. Their home "Breadallane" was at Eden Park. The family shifted to Northcote in 1908. The electrical business established by the family still operates in High St., Northcote.

Mr. James Andrew born in East Palford, Devon, England, in 1827, arrived in Adelaide in 1850, sailed for Melbourne immediately by coastal vessel. He worked in a Collingwood quarry removing earth, carrying stones for stonemasons, mowing hay in Campbellfield farm at Darebin Creek (Epping) and Kangaroo Ground before he purchased nearly 400 acres at Whittlesea early in the 1860's.

Mr. Thomas G. Micholson of Glenvale was born in Cumberland, England in 1844 and in 1851 came with his parents to Melbourne. In 1861 they went to a farm at Glenvale and after many years drained and cleared the property.

Donald McIntyre, a native of Argyle, Scotland, born in 1842, arrived in Melbourne with his wife and children in September 1857. He was engaged in harvesting for a short time before renting a Whittlesea farm owned by Mr. Ewen Robertson for seven years. He then purchased the property.

Mr. Thomas Butcher of Glenvale, born in Feb. 1822 in Yorkshire, England arrived in Australia in 1844. He commenced business as a blacksmith in Little Collins St., and later worked in a local foundry. Several years later he removed to Glenvale where he conducted a blacksmithing business. Mr. Butcher made the first ironwork for a bridge over the Yarra River.

Mr. W. Gardiner of Glenvale was born in Galloway, Scotland in 1818. He came to Victoria in 1851. After several years shearing and gold-seeking in Queensland and Victoria he purchased large holdings at Glenvale in 1869.

Cesar Clements of "Rosebank Farm" Whittlesea, was born in Devonshire, England in August 1812 and came to Australia in 1853 in the ship "Anglesea" landing at St. Kilda. He rented a property in the Plenty District for about 30 years (the family afterwards purchasing it) and carried on mixed farming until his death in 1891. His wife was Miss Batten of Yan Yean and there was a family of two sons and two daughters. After the death of Mr. Cesar Clements, his family carried on the farm until the death of Mrs. Clements in March 1916 at the advanced age of 92 years. The Clements family is one of the oldest in Upper Plenty.

The property in the Plenty which was rented was that of Mrs. Margaret Gibbs estate in Glenvale.

James Patton of Glenvale was born in County Antrim, Ireland, in March 1912 and landed in Melbourne in March 1944. After 3 years as a brick layer in Melbourne he started dairy farming at Glenvale, where he also kept a hotel for 33 years.

HOSPITAL COMMITTEE FORMED.

The first committee of the Melbourne Hospital and Benovelent Asylum was formed at a public meeting called by George Sherwin at "Rosley Vale", Upper Plenty when Dr. Ronald, was in the chair. This was Feb. 1867.

Messrs. Wishart, Cairns, McAuley, King, Mason, Hurrey, McLaughlin, Thomas, Crocker, Emms and Bodlewere elected to the Committee. Mr. Moses Thomas was elected Secretary. A tea meeting was proposed by and Mr. Thomas, in his records, states that £40 was paid to the hospital. Labourers wages at that time was around the £1 per week as against about £15 per week of today, the return in todays value would be £600.

For the next year the sum of £80 was paid to the hospital and £40 to the Asylum. Life memberships were awarded to John McCauley, teacher, Glenvale; George Walker, farmer, Plenty; A. Henderson, dairyman, Fitzroy; Hugh Sinclair, farmer, Wallan; John Laidlaw, Janefield; Moses Thomas, Morang, and James Patton. The auditors appointed were Messrs. Crosswell and McCauley. ~~Nov 1862~~ the

THE CEMETERY AT YAN YEAN

The cemetery has its place in a Shires history as many of the earliest of pioneers now rests in its hallowed ground. Longfellow has said "I like that ancient saxon phrase which calls the burial ground, Gods Acre".

Within the Shire exists public cemetery reserves, there is one at Yan Yean and another one at Epping. Both are controlled by locally elected trustees for the Health Department. Other burial grounds exist at churches but by Act of Parliament 1890 the Health Department took over control of burial areas in Victoria and administered them under trusteeship.

Both Yan Yean and Epping Reserves could be considered to be in operation about 1852 although no local records exist pinpointing their commencement. Head stones in both places indicate the approximate year but as there are many graves without stones and many with smashed headstones, it is difficult to ascertain the exact date of the first burial.

Grave markers in anything less durable than stone or marble have long since decayed. The official records in the Government Gazette, August 14, 1854, confirmed that the Yan Yean cemetery was sanctioned by the Governor in Council in that year. The record is on page 7130 Vol. 12. It is considered that Epping cemetery was founded about this time.

At Yan Yean

+ The first recorded name on the existing register of Yan Yean cemetery is that of William Johnstone aged 62 years buried on October 1, 1855. This could have been one of the cases where the original burial was in a different part of the cemetery, however, and was later moved to the correct and final resting place.

The inscription on the oldest headstone records the following obituary:
"erected by David Johnston to the memory of his beloved son, John Alexander Johnston who departed this life May 14, 1853, aged 17 years and 8 months. Also to the memory of his father, William Johnston who departed this life on January 8, 1855 aged 63 years, and also to the memory of his beloved wife, Elizabeth May, who departed this life on May 6, 1869, aged 64 years. "

Rev. W. Copeland, Church of England Minister, officiated at most of the early burials, other clergymen whose name appear in the register are 1866, Rev. MCJennetts, C.of E.; 1867 Morris, C.of E.; 1867, William Souter, Presbyterian; 1873, C.Dubourg; 1874, R.B. Dickson, C.of E.; 1875, T.R. Neville; 1877, H McComas and Keason.

The following names are taken from the register but only for the first few years - No.1 William Johnston, Whittlesea farmer aged 62 years died 10-1-55; No.2 John Alexander Johnston aged 17 years died 1855, his son. This entry is in conflict with the headstone over the grave which dates the death of the son of William Johnston as 1853. He was evidently re-entered with his father in 1855. No. 3 William Armstrong 2 years, from Yan Yean 18-2-55; No. 4 Robert Forbes an infant from Whittlesea 14-4-55; No. 5, Mary Roberts, 36 years and infant from Morang 15-5-55; Sarah Viner, 40 years, Yan Yean, 14-6-55. completed the burials for this year.

In 1856 No. 7, John Hawkins, 40 from Woodstock, No. 8 Frances Kennedy, 60, Upper Plenty, 15-5-56. No. 9 John Lynn, 2 years, Whittlesea, 13-7-56; and J. Martindale, 3 years son of the grave digger from Yan Yean, 13-7-56.

The cemetery had a quite time until 16-3-57, when No. 11 is the year-old child, William Hunter, from Morang.

During this year, Catherine Tanner, Woodstock; Elizabeth Stachen, Whittlesea; Henry Thompson, Yan Yean; Hugh Clement, Morang; James Lockwood, 14 day-old son of the future sexton, engineer, trustee and chairman; Robert Ward, Morgang; Rupert Stewart, Whittlesea; and John Jobson Whittlesea, completed the internments.

No. 21 is Elizabeth Merilies, Yan Yean in 1858, and No. 22, Sarah Tonkin 60 years from Whittlesea 14-2-58, completes the first page of the huge register.

The cemetery served the country from Morang to Upper Plenty and from Woodstock, to include all the area now controlled by the Board of Works. Its present area for internments is somewhat larger today with the populating of land to Kinglake and Strathawen.

Trustees meeting

The earliest existing record of trustees activity is in 1866 when the minute book records a meeting of trustees held on September 1866. Members present were Messrs Hughes, Glenvale; Ronald, Johnson, Whittlesea; Ryan, Yan Yean; and Gibson Daisy Hill Whittlesea. Mr. Thomas A.L. Hughes was elected Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and it was resolved to have 50 copies of the rules and regulations printed; also 50 placard noticed, to be posted from Janefield to McDonalds Gap, calling upon persons who have taken interment allotments, to apply for their deeds which can be obtained from the Sexton on payment of 5/-.

Mr. Richard Hicks, Doreen was appointed Sexton. From the foregoing it would appear that the committee had been functioning and that trustees existed prior to 1866 for this fact is substantiated by the following record in the register:

Several strangers were interred by J. Martindale, Yan Yean (the grave digger) in the Church of England section for the year 1854/55 of whom no record was kept.

A piece of land was donated for the cemetery and was originally owned by Doctor Ronald. The first trustees of the Yan Yean cemetery were George Sherwin, William Ronald and David Johnson, this was on August 17, 1854. Tenders for fencing, grubbing and clearing, let in 1854, were opened on January 11, 1855. The tenders were addressed to James Sherwin, Derangderville, Plenty River.

On February 14, 1867, permission was given for the remains of Mr. & Mrs. Downie interred in the wrong section, to be moved and reinterred in the correct place. Doctor Ronald was given similar permission for a niece, Elizabeth Merillies. Plans and specifications were to be prepared for a culvert and main front gate. No record of the tenderer or price is made, but at the next meeting on June 26 1867, Mr. Lockwood was paid the sum of £14.0.0 for a contract which could be assumed to be the culvert and gate. The problem of grass evidently troubled the management of the day (it is still the major problem of all cemeteries to this day) for Mr. Hicks was allowed £1. for cutting and removing the grass from the ground.

As both Yan Yean and Epping cemeteries are of 2 acres, this was quite a job with hand scythes. Mr. Lockwood, whose name keeps appearing in almost every Whittlesea story was appointed Sexton on March 27, 1869, for Mr. Hicks had resigned, evidently from some dispute regarding fees collected, for he was allowed 3 months to pay the money over to the committee.

He gave the members a promissory note for £5.0.0. Mr. Sherwin was requested to remove a fence on the grave of the late Mrs. Turner as he had paid for one allotment only, and not for two, which had been fenced.

The balance sheet as presented showed a credit of £16.14.8 and the promissory note of £5.0.0 with debts of £14.15.0. By present day standards, these amounts represent a child's back-yard bazaar, but ~~xxx~~ with the comparable figures of today.

Burials then 5/-, today 5 guineas, plus grave digging, it is not hard to understand the earnestness of the trustees to administer the cemetery in the best possible way. The number of burials to date (March 1961) is 2,365.

Mr. John Johnston was paid £8.10.0 for cutting grass and digging paths. It was decided to advertise Mr. Lockwood's appointment as Sexton in one of the local papers. This could only infer that there was more than one local paper. The Evelyn Observer was being published about this time and covered ~~xxx~~ an area from Yarra Glen to Wallan. The name of the other publication is unknown. Over a year elapsed before the trustees again assembled, for in May, 1869, Mr. Johnston was paid £8.10.0 for certain improvements and tenders were called for the drainage of the western boundary. The grass was again troublesome, for he was asked to again rid the cemetery of this pest.

In 1870 the trustees thought it was time to take stock and the Sexton was directed to revise the register, correct the peg numbers, place them in their correct places and prepare a plan of the cemetery.

The place had now been functioning for about 17 years and Mr. Lockwood was instructed to carry out this work for £6.0.0. Tenders were called for 200 new iron pegs. By March 1871, settlement caused the need for some definition of the cemetery area, particularly as Plenty Road was traversed more frequently and portion of the cemetery was used as part of the roadway.

The secretary was instructed to interview the Crown Lands Department, to secure a survey plan of the area. He was allowed £1.0.0 for his expenses.

This amount does not seem adequate for a days journey to Melbourne, possibly a day or two in the city and another days travel home. In July 1871, the trustees received the plan but this did not appear to satisfy them, for Mr. Lockwood was instructed to search Government records to ascertain the extent of the cemetery. Mr. Lockwood did so, produced the particulars required and was allowed £1.0.0 for his services.

The necessity of some small building being erected for the transactions of the Sexton was considered and the sum of £20.0.0. was voted for the purpose. In March 1873, Mr. Lockwood presented plans for a building and the trustees agreed to call tenders. Tenders for the building was received on March 26 1873, David Johnston £22.18 and John Simms £26.0.0. Johnson's tender was accepted. The removal of the remains of Mr. John T. Higgs, father of Mr. R.N. Higgs of Yan Yean, and his daughter from Yan Yean to Melbourne was approved.

The secretary was allowed £3 for his years work (the allowance today is £5) No meetings took place until next March 1874, and the secretary was allowed £2 there being only one meeting for the year. The Sexton was allowed a like amount for drawing the plans of the new building. The necessity of shrubs and trees was discussed at the April meeting. This was possibly the action from which the present pine trees resulted. In May 1875, tenders for the fencing of the area was received and Mr. James Patton at £2z 8/- per rod was accepted. For ten years Mr. Hardy had acted as chairman, but on April 13, 1878, Mr. David Johnston took his place, Mr. Hardy had died. A curious entry in the register records the burial on the 2nd/12 of the man, name unknown, about 70 years, laborer of Woodstock, buried in the strangers section, W.H. Lockwood, undertaker. In March 1877 Mr. Lockwood resigned intimating that he was unable to carry out the job due to pressure of work, he had become Shire Engineer.

He had been in office for 8 years. Mr. John Gibson was appointed treasurer, a position held by Mr. Hardy, and Mr. William Gibson became Sexton. The Whittlesea Shire President was asked to convene a meeting to elect a trustee to replace Mr. Hardy. Mr. Ryan advised the trustees on April, 13, 1878, that Mr. James Hardy was nominated at the public meeting. He was welcomed to the committee.

Mr. Moses Thomas applied for three allotments outside the demonination to which he belonged. This application was granted. A board with the scale of charges to be erected on the office was decided as a meeting in the Royal Mail Hotel March 19, 1879. The normal routine meetings continued until April 1882 when Mr. William Gibson resigned as Sexton. The name of Dr. Ronald disappeared from the list of trustees and Mr. James Ryan appeared as secretary. Dr. Ronald died in 1882 and in May 1882, Mr. Geo. W. Smith, Whittlesea was appointed Sexton.

The name of Mr. James Bett as a member of the committee appears in the minutes of the meeting on March, 15, 1884. He owned a store in Whittlesea near the hotel since burned down. Betts Lane is named after him. April 1889 saw the death of Mr. John Gibson, a member for 23 years. Mr. James Hardy was elected treasurer.

May, 23, 1891, the following trustees were elected:- David Johnston, James Ryan, W.H. Lockwood and Adrahah Willis. During the latter part of 1890 Mr. Hardy died and Mr. Willis was appointed to fill the vacancy, and next year, Sexton G.W.

Smith resigned. Mr. James Gook Clark was appointed to the position Sept. 26, 1891, and next year Mr. James Ryan was appointed Secretary. He had occupied that position in a temporary capacity since the death of Mr. Hurghes. His salary was £3-3-0 as secretary and £2-2-0 as treasurer. On Oct. 6, 1891, Messrs Lockwood and Ryan moved that Mr. Willis be chairman as Mr. Johnston had to retire. He had been a Trustee for 24 years. He died in 1894. Little activity took place for the next 5 years when Messrs. P. Gillian and J. Daniel were elected to the committee (June 2, 1900) and Mr. R.S. Wilson was appointed secretary after Mr. Ryan resigned.

He had been a trustee for 34 years. Mr. Willis died in 1903 and in 1905 Mr. Wilson resigned to be replaced by the present secretary Mr. J. Maxwell, Plenty Rd. Yan Yean. Mr. Lockwood's name disappears from the records in 1912 after first appearing in the workings of the Trust in 1867. For over 40 years he had played a big part in the conduct of the Cemetery. His work is only excelled by Mr. Maxwell.

OTHER TRUSTEES.

Other trustees who have been elected to the committee in later years are J. Cornfoot, T. H. Hurrey, Alf. Gale, W. J. Macdonald, J. T. Danaher, James Clark, G. Sassella, P. W. Clark and Robert Willis. Mr. Willis, Morang, was appointed to represent the Presbyterian Church in 1908 served on the committee until 1944 when he died with 36 years of service. Mr. K. McPhee replaced him.

In 1916, Cr. T. Hurrey became trustee and is still in that office after 45 years service. For long public service, the records of men who have served Yan Yean cemetery must surely be an outstanding example of unselfish devotion to the cause of others. There must be a reward. Emerson wrote "Serve and thou shall be served." "If you love and serve men, you cannot by any hiding or stratagem, escape the remuneration."

NAMES IN THIS STORY.

The following paragraphs contain a brief history of several of the persons named in the story:-

Dr. William Ronald was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1808. He was medical officer of the "Moffatt" and went from Sydney to Launceston in 1841. Dr. Ronald and his wife came to Melbourne on the "Cotsair", the first steamer from Tasmania, and they settled in Whittlesea March 1, 1842. He died in 1882 and practiced his profession until his death.

Mr. James Ryan arrived in Australia in the early days of this state from Limerick, Ireland, and was appointed Shire Secretary of the Shire of Whittlesea at its inception, having been previously secretary to the old Morang Roads Board.

He held the position of Shire Secretary until 1889 when his son who still lives at Mernda, was appointed in his stead. During their long association of 62 years with the Shire, both Mr. Ryan and his father have contributed much for the progress of the district.

Andrew and Ellen Downie came to the Whittlesea district in 1846 with their son, Andrew. They took up land at Woodstock where Andrew engaged in a carrying business to the gold fields. He later took up farming, remaining on the land until his death in 1928. His son John, commenced in business as a contractor for several years when he acquired land at Whittlesea. Mrs. Downie was a daughter of James Coulthard, a district pioneer. The family represents one of the older families settled in this old district. Mr. John Downie was for several years a member of Whittlesea Shire council and Agricultural Society.

Henry James Johnston "Conron Grange" Whittlesea was a native of Ireland and arrived in this country in the early days. He purchased land at Whittlesea where his son, Henry James, was born in 1870. The family was renowned for the quality of its Ayrshire stock. Mr. Johnston married a Miss. Glover, daughter of a pioneering family.

Moses Thomas (Mernda) was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1825 and came to Melbourne in 1841. He was educated for the Ministry and spent some time in a Scottish school before in 1852, purchasing a property at Morang. He carried out farming pursuits, built a flour mill and was for some time Engineer of Morang Shire.

John Gibson landed in Melbourne in May 1848 from Ireland when he was 16 years old. In 1852 he purchased a section of land at Whittlesea and in 1860 he married Margarey Johnston, a daughter of another pioneering family.

John Daniel, born in Aberdeen, Scotland arrived in Victoria in 1853 and engaged in farming at Mangaroo Ground. For several years he traded in horses and purchased

his property in Whittlesea in 1887.

William Cornfoot came to Australia in the very early days and established the first store in Whittlesea. His son James Henry, was born in 1866. He was educated locally began ploughing at 11 years of age and when 15, worked the first binder which came to Whittlesea. At 29 years of age he acquired a property which he held for about 20 years, then purchasing "Park View". He was for 25 years a Whittlesea Councillor a member of the Agricultural Society and Mechanics Institute, He married Miss. Brown, daughter of a pioneering family and a daughter became Mrs. George Cockcroft. On both sides of the Cornfoot family, is one of the oldest in Whittlesea.

James Clark was born near Whittlesea in 1844 and first started farming in 1860. After farming for 2 years he was engaged in the butchering trade at Glenvale for 8 years when he returned to Whittlesea to carry out his trade as a butcher.

John Maxwell arrived in Melbourne with the earliest of the the pioneers and purchased land to the north of the Whittlesea township. The property is where Mr. Walter Andrew now resides. He had a large family and one of the boys was named Samuel. Mr. Samuel Maxwell worked on the Board of Works until he died in 1892. His son James, was born in 1878 is the present secretary of the trust. Mr. Maxwell lives in the old homestead, south of the cemetery on Plenty Road.

THE MECHANICS INSTITUTE, WHITTLESEA.

A small library, commenced in the early 1870's at Whittlesea was without a home, languished for the lack of enthusiasm of its members and for the want of a place to house the volumes and for readers to browse through books and papers.

But a move was started to rectify this omission, and, although several years were to elapse before the building was completed, a new life for the library was commenced. With all the amenities of today, with its speedy communications, quick transport availability of the necessities of life "around the corner", it is difficult to visualise the town of Whittlesea 100 years ago.

It was then part swamp and part heavy timber with a few holdings and fewer families. Working from early morning to late at night in an endeavour to clear the land, the residents had little to look forward to but work, eat and sleep.

About this time, three friendly societies were in existence and a movement was started by members of the societies to form a committee to consider the desirability of taking steps to revive the question of having a public hall or Mechanics Institute erected in the township. A meeting was called on Feb. 8, 1878 when Anthony Nicholson and James Hardy represented the Loyal Whittlesea Lodge I.O.O.F.M.U.; William White and John R. Smith representing Whittlesea Lodge C.S.A.; and W.H. Lockwood and John Nelson representing Dawn of Day Tent. I.O.R. were present.

The meeting decided that, to fill a great want, steps be at once taken to get a public building erected under the patronage of the Friendly Societies for public meetings and to be called a Mechanics Institute. It was decided to erect a building by public subscription and that an application be made to the Government for a subsidy. The local member of Parliament, Hon. Robert Ramsay, M.L.A. would be asked his advice of the procedure to obtain the money.

To promote the scheme a public meeting was called on Feb. 18, 1878 in the school at 7 p.m. The meeting was called at this early hour possibly to permit the meeting to conclude in daylight so as the residents could find their way home amid the trees,

MUST BUILD FREE LIBRARY.

The secretary, W.H.Lockwood, also asked Mr. Ramsay how much had to be raised to qualify for the subsidy and at what rate the Government will subsidise local contributions. He said it was proposed to call the building a Mechanics Institute as there was a small library started some years ago, Mr. Lockwood considered a building would resuscitate the library and be a great district benefit.

When Mr. Ramsay replied, he told the committee that no grants were made for building Mechanics Institutes but only free libraries. He advised the members on the method of applying for grants. The public meeting was duly held and those attending and entering into the debate were Messrs. Clover, J.W.Gibson, J.Nelson, William Whyte, W,H, Lockwood, John Riddle Smith, Richards, Simpson and Brewer. It was decided to call the building the Whittlesea Free Library and that a grant of crown land be obtained for its location. Two sites were suggested, the present one and the one where the Masonic Temple now stands. The amount to be expended to be no less than £300 of bricks with shingle roof. At a meeting on July 29, 1878, the secretary reported the reception of a cheque for £50, a government grant towards the building. He was instructed to enquire if the school ground and buildings can be purchased and on what terms. It can be inferred from this decision that the school numbers had diminished following the completion of Yan Yean and other water works.

On Dec. 4, 1878, the following members were elected trustees:- Messrs W,H,Lockwood, D.Johnston, J.rd Hardy, D.McAuley, J.R.Smith, W.Whyte and W,Mitchell. Activity ceased until Sept. 9, 1879, when a public meeting was called to formulate a collection scheme and plan the size of the building. Two new names appear in the minutes, Messrs Kenny and Jackson. The Crown Lands Dept. advised the committee of the granting of the site, two roods, near the bridge. A fortnight later, the first contribution, £5-18- was received when the meeting was held in the old store. Plans for the building would be produced at the next meeting, Mr. Lockwood advised, and the next meeting was called for Oct. 7. 1879. He duly produced the plans which were adopted. The committee was

finding money difficult for a lack of district interest for the next meeting was held on Aug. 2, 1881, one year and ten months later.

TENDER FOR THE BUILDING.

At this meeting, the Treasurer, on leaving the district, resigned and Mr. Coulthard replaced Mr. Whyte. It was resolved to proceed with the erection of the building in accordance with the amount subscribed and that as far as it proceeded for another year. On July, 18, 1882, two new names appear, Mr. Lording and Mr. Clark, and tenders were called for making and burning 50,000 bricks. On Aug. 15, 1882, five tenders were received, with the successful tenderer being John Pimm at 20/- per thousand. Oct. 12 saw half of the bricks made, but not burned, so tenders were called for firewood to burn them. A week later tenders were received from Gilbert Marshall 15/- per load, James Coulthard, 9/- and James Dynan 13/- with Mr. Coulthard successful. On Nov. 4, half of the bricks were burned and the brickmakers paid for half of the contract. Mr. Coulthard was also paid £9 for 20 loads of wood. As the balance of the bricks were made, fresh tenders were called for an additional amount of wood & in this Mr. Coulthard was beaten by 1/- per load by Mr. R. Batten.

Another spell until Oct. 29, 1883, when it was resolved to call tenders for the building's erection. With adverts in the "Evelyn Observer", now the "Whittlesea Post" tenders opened on Nov. 12 for £325 were considered too high and fresh tenders called. At the next meeting a fortnight later another tender for £343 from Mr. Thompson was received and the Committee decided to accept the tender of Mr. Scott for £325. New year, and the building well under way, the foundations laid in Jan. with the main structure showing promise in Feb. Collectors were appointed and the entire district canvassed for donations towards the cost of the erection. On March, 7, 1884 arrangements were made for the opening.

A tea meeting, with tickets at 7/6 double and 5/- a single was decided. Forms to be purchased and trestles and boards secured for tables and platform.

Other arrangements were a speaker from the Ministry and a fence around the brick hole now considered the swimming hole.

On March, 18, 1884, the final arrangements were made and the date fixed, April 16 would be the big day in Whittlesea's history. With three members of Parliament present Messrs, Langridge, C.levien and R.Harper, the chairman, Mr. Smith, outlined the events leading up to the opening. Each of the members complimented the Organisers and committ and a sumptuous repast was provided. The troubles of the committee with the hall management now commence. Lamps, steps to service the lamps, tins to hold kerosine and cleaning the building and sundry other details occupy many meetings. Lectures, letting of the hall for lodges, meetings and the purchase of a piano are the subject of considerable correspondence for over the 12 months while the hall is being established. The Melbourne Public Library is asked for the supply of books to supplant the stock. In May, 1887, the debt on the hall is cleared. Over the years the library has continued to function, with times of popularity and times of depression. The reading taste has changed dramatically over the period of the library's existence. Few books appearing in the original list remain. The exception being the Bible, Dickens works and a few of the well known novelists of the day. The rest of the books are non-existent. But the spirit which drove the originators to formulate the library still survives in the members who now control the destiny today, after 82 years.

Mansion Behind Preston Cemetery

Many who have travelled north along Plenty Road over the old stone bridge and climbed the hill past the Preston cemetery must have looked at the mansion on the western side and wondered at the extent of the surrounding picket fence. This was and is still known by many as Bundoora Park.

It takes its name as does the expanding area nearby from the Parish Keel-Bundoora prominent on all land transactions. This area of Bundoora Park was heavily timbered^{EP} and a few of the original trees still stand to indicate the type of timber~~ed~~ which had to be cleared.

The Gardiner family built the first homestead and farmed the holding with special attention for pedigreed cattle. Mr. Gardiner was one of the first to import shorthorn stock into Victoria.

The homestead after many years was used as a home for the gardner when Mr. J.V. Smith purchased the estate from the Gardiner family.

Mr. J.V. Smith had the Lynwood Grange Estate at Baringhup before coming to this property - Bundoora Park, which is on the extreme boundary of our city area.

Mr. Smith built his mansion home of approximately 20 rooms of two story brick with a surrounding garden area of ten acres. In addition a five roomed brick house was built for the stud groom and 16 stalls were provided for pedigreed yearlings. Large exercise yards were fenced for the stallions as Bundoora Park was to become a famous and well established stud farm.

An interesting link was the erection of a large iron building to hold the open hay grown on the farm area. The iron was purchased when Paddys Market in the city was demolished and re-erected as a fodder shed.

This oaten hay was cut into chaff on the estate and used as the basis of feed for the horses.

To this was added the green grazing area to which special care was given. Every year the whole grazing area was carefully raked, and all fallen limbs removed so that no harm could come to the brood mares and their foals.

Top dressing with superphosphate produced luxuriant growth of Kentucky Blue grass which had been specially imported and planted, as special fodder for these extra special animals.

To keep out intruders and to protect the pedigreed horses and mares, and foals, Mr. Smith built a 6ft. 6 ins. picket fence, topped with two strands of barbed wire along the Plenty Road frontage and the north and south boundaries with the Darebin Creek as the estate's western boundary.

A supply of water was stored in a large square tank on the elevated ground on the Estate, nearer the creek boundary.

A three inch pipe was laid from the Yan Yean reservoir to bring water to the tank from which it was piped to all parts of the estate.

In this protected area, with the luxuriant grass provided, many hares made their homes.

Coursing clubs used to hold drives on the estate to provide sport at the different plumpions in the city area.

A strict watch was kept on any attempt by fence scalers to shoot the hares and many who tried were caught by horsemen patrols.

A severe reprimand and caution followed but often a dead hare was discreetly hidden in the trespassers vehicle when the lecture was given.

Mr. Smith was a well established stud master. To the estate he brought the stallion Main Sail, and later added Wallace, a son of the famous Carbine.

His progeny were some of the best stayers in turf records and sporting readers will remember many famous names to add to Trafalgar and Lady Wallace.

Men prominent in Australian racing history sent selected stock to Bundoora Park for breeding purposes. Such owners as the late E.E.D. Clark, Sir Tartan Sykes and the Mulcahy family of Western Australia. were just a few of the many breeders who visited this famous property.

To these we must add racing identities such as Mr. James Scobie, who trained Mr. Smith's racing string, as well as for the late E.D. Clark .

The famous jockey Boby Lewis was associated with Mr. Smith. The yearlings were broken in on the estate and were eagerly sought after by buyers at the Melbourne March thoroughbred sales.

Stud grooms led them to the Reservoir Railways Station to be transported to Newmarket for the sales. In those days, a rough track was used. This joined Plenty Road and High Street.

On this private road (not recognised by many as such) was a toll gate operated by Mrs. Peirey who demanded a toll of three pence per head for the yearlings. Mr. Smith settled for two guineas and everybody was satisfied.

About 1916-17, the whole of the estate was purchased by the Federal Government for the Repatriation Department to build many establishments for use of returned men as rest homes and for other medical rehabilitations.

At a later date the Police Department took over the southern part of the estate as a depot for police horses.

Here training, agistment and horse husbandry were effectively carried out. Some black trackers often prominent in police work were also stationed there.

The original stables and house of the estate's stud groom, were taken over and formed the integral part of the buildings on the depot which was also used as a stud farm.

Across the road, was a large farm, owned and managed by the Bamfield families. This was purchased by the Government and Mont Park became another soldier rehabilitation centre, and mental institution under Government guidance.

This farm in its original area was one of the largest dairy farms in the district, and 500 cows were milked by hand. All fodder was grown on the farm, giving much employment to carry all the requirements of this huge undertaking.

BANKS.

The Oriental Bank was an institution founded in 1851 and was connected with many eastern business houses. It was wound up in 1884 and re-constituted as the New Oriental Bank the same year.

This was eventually wound up in 1893 when the land boom caused many financial institutions to close up.

The Commercial Bank was founded in Victoria in 1866, and commenced business in temporary premises at 22 Collins St. Since that time, it has made a steady progress in the State. In the early days, the bank was purely a local one, but in 1878 the Australian and European Bank was absorbed and a progressive policy pursued.

Over the long years of its existence, several banks have combined and many branches opened throughout Australia.

The bank opened a branch in Preston in 1939, extended to an agency in Reservoir in 1946 which was awarded branch status in 1953.

Reservoir sent out an agency to Epping in 1953 and later in the same year to Thomastown. In 1959 Thomastown became a branch and in turn opened an agency at Lalor On June 22, 1959.

Sundry Items.

In August, 1868, Mr. W.E.Cleeland fell from his horse and was killed. Mr. Cleeland then a member of the Morang Roads Board, was the owner of considerable property between Epping and Morang. His brother, Joseph was a member of the Epping Roads Board and owner of land to the north of Epping.

The first contested election of the Greensborough Roads Board was August, 1866.

The candidates were William Wilson, J.W.Britnell and J.Iredale. The result was a win for Britnell (43 and Iredale (31' with the defeated candidate, Wilson scoring 30 votes. The boundry of the Greensborough Board was the eastern boundry of the Morang Board and the southern boundry of the Whittlesea Board on the eastern section.

The Rifle Clubs Registration Bill was passed in September 1885. The Arthurs Creek and Mernda clubs were registered about 10 years later. The rifle range was located at Strathewen under the lee of the Kinglake range.

October 23, 1885, Licencing Magistrates were appointed for Whittlesea. Thomas Serrell and Chas. Draper, and for Epping, William Hamilton and Wilson and Thomas Bodycoat.

In 1886, grazing rights were allotted to A.H.Macfarlane, Yan Yean 5360 acres at an annual rental of £11-3-6. At Morang, George Fowles secured 18 acres for £2.

LAND SETTLEMENT ACT.

A new land Amendment Act introduced by Grant in the Legislative Assembly in 1869 permitted any person over 18 years of age to peg out and apply for an allotment of not more than 320 acres either before or after survey.

A licence to occupy for 3 years at 2/- a year per acre, was then issued; the land had to be fenced and one tenth of it cultivated within 2 years. At the expiration of 3 years the occupant could either pay 14/- per acre, the balance of the full price of £1 per acre, or he could continue to hold the land at 2/- an acre each year, with the understanding that as soon as he had paid £1 per acre in all he should receive a Crown Grant.

This law came into force in February 1870, and during the next 5 years, 4-500,000 acres of land were occupied on these terms. This provided a vast addition to the resources of the colony.

Quite a number of district settlers owe their success to the provisions of this Act. Most of the original pioneers secured their holdings by this means.

CROWN LAND.

When land became Crown Property and Acts of Parliament were necessary to control its sale and lease, the State Government in 1856 enacted regulations for the purpose of sale of lands which shall be distinguished into three classes:

Classification. 1. were town lands which were within the limits of any City, town village or hamlet or within any locality which may be proclaimed into one of these categories.

Class. 2, comprised lands which might derive increased value from their vicinity to the above clause.

Class. 3, was the remainder of land. There were certain exceptions and Class 4. covered these. Each separate class had a fixed price and conditions of sale so this could have been Victoria's first price fixing.

Owners of first class land 1885 were: Mrs. Mary Martin 748 acres Value £4 per acre at Bundoora. Mrs. Esther Porter Bundoora, 780 acres also £4 per acre valuation.

Mining Company Formed +

The registered office of the Whittlesea Tribute Gold Mining Company registered under the Mining Company's Act April 2, 1885, was at Whittlesea Hotel and the Manager was Arthur James Lording.

The place of operation was at Glenvale and the value of the Companies property including claim was £6,000. There were 24,000 shares at 5/- each, and it was fully allotted. The shareholders were; William Timms Hotel keeper Whittlesea 2,750 shares; Gilbert Marshall butcher Whittlesea 2,000 shares; Richard Pennard, carter Reedy Creek 2,000 shares; John Barson, miner Glenvale 2,000; Arthur Lording farmer Whittlesea 2,000 shares; Charles Johnson, miner Glenvale 2,000; James Hardy Whittlesea storekeeper 1,200; Robert Hill, miner Glenvale, 1,000; Elizabeth Timms Whittlesea 1,000; Margaret Patten Whittlesea 1,000; Thomas Wilson, farmer Barbers Creek, 1,000 shares; James Clark butcher Whittlesea, 1000; Robert Hughes, farmer Glenvale 1,000; James Coulthard, farmer Whittlesea 1,000; Jane Lillington Whittlesea 1,000; Alfred Lording, grazier Morang 1,000; George Giessing, taylor St. Kilda 500 shares; Thomas Tozer, machinist Melbourne 500 shares.

Another name on the claim was the Justice of Peace who witnessed the application. He was T. Serrell of Whittlesea.

The Whittlesea Tribute Mine made its 16th penny call on October 22, 1886.

Mining continued with no success for a few more years.

The Elector Act passed in 1888 appointed the following electoral registrars:

Whittlesea, W.H. Lockwood; Woodstock, Owen Quinn; Yan Yean, J. Ryan;

Morang, Walter Thomas and Epping, James Ryan.

Mechanics' Institute

There were few of the institutions of a great city which Melbourne did not possess before the end of 1847. First in order came the school of Arts and Mechanics' Institute founded in November, 1839, whilst the town was yet very young.

The location was in Collins Street where the Athenaeum Theatre now stands. This was the first Mechanics' Institute in Victoria and from this beginning, institutes and free libraries came into existence in most country towns in the State.

The landowners of Mernda (then known as Yan Yean) realising the need of a social centre for the growing district, decided to take some action to erect a hall.

Mernda was then on a direct route from the city to the timber country around Whittlesea. In 1888, meetings were held in the State School and a fund raising committee was formed. Arrangements were made to purchase a piece of land and the allotment on the north-east corner of Plenty Road and Bridge-Inn Road was selected.

The land originally belonged to W.J. Perkins who made a gift to the Institute Committee on condition that a hall was erected.

The donor also owned the hotel which was purchased from the Thomas family.

Cobb's coaches used the Bridge Inn as a changing place for horses to and from Whittlesea. The sale yard was on the site, but with the building of the hall, it was shifted to the present spot where a lease was obtained by the auctioneers.

When Council considered making the hall the Municipal headquarters, it was investigated by councillors with a view to taking the building over but they finally rejected the proposition.

With the possibility of Mernda eventually becoming the Council centre, a block of land was purchased at the rear of the hall and is still in the Council's possession.

Mr. Perkins, a member of the committee, was elected to the Whittlesea Shire Council in 1885.

A rough plan for a building was agreed upon and a Melbourne architect was asked to complete the drawing, prepare specifications and call tenders for the work. Tenders eventually were let at a cost of £530.

The first recorded meeting was on September 22, 1888, after the foundation stone was laid, and again the meeting was held in the school. The committee members who were present were John Horner, president; Walter Thomas "The Populars" Morang; secretary; S. Jeffry treasurer; and Messrs J. Shanks, Brompton, Mason, Perkins and Bassett. These members evidently were occupying the position as committeemen until a public meeting was held to elect them as a permanent committee. Mr. John B. Steer was added to the list.

A balance sheet of the activities already held was presented to the committee. A tea meeting and concert in August returned takings and donations totalling £36.17.4. Tickets sold £19.5.0, collection £3.9.4, and "Laid on the Memorial stone" £14.3.0. Evidently the building was in the course of erection.

The secretary was instructed to arrange for the local member of Parliament (the Hon. C.H. James) to open the building.

Arrangements for the opening were made and tenders invited for much of the furnishings - tables, frames, trestles, etc.

To enlarge the committee the following names were added - Messrs McSweeney, Hicks, Hickey, Hardesty, Daniel, J. Cockerell and E. Perkins. At the October meeting an account for £4.4. was passed for payment to a firm of Melbourne solicitors for preparing and conveyancing land to the trustees.

Plenty Road carried a big traffic of horse drawn vehicles, carrying palings to Melbourne and Bridge Inn Road had been formed after the construction of the Darebin Creek Bridge. The building contractor was also a Mr. Baird.

Filling around the hall was necessary and the Whittlesea Shire Council was asked permission to take 50 loads of filling from the Separation Hill near R. Harvey's property.

The hill is still there with the road running around it.

The Shire Engineer was Mr. W.H. Lockwood who figured so prominently in the Yan Yean Cemetery story.

The foundation stone which was the "Memorial Stone" mentioned earlier was purchased in the City and Mr. R. Cockereil carted it.

The November meeting saw the hall almost completed and arrangements for purchase of a looking glass and many sundries occupied much of the time. It was agreed that the opening night should be November 19, 1888, and that the Hon. C.H. James, R. Harper and E.H. Cameron M.Ps, and other leading gentlemen be invited to be present.

Among the latter were included the local policemen, constable Mills and three persons all of whom could have been church officials, Mr. Jenkins, Mr. McWhirtre and Fr. Callaghan.

A tea meeting and concert with an afternoon fete was the manner in which the hall was to be opened. Evidently the building was not completed in time as a meeting held on December 8 made many decisions for the opening.

Mr. Thomas to provide the butter, fruit and milk; and Mrs. Thomas arrange the tables; Messrs Bassett, Hicks and Jeffrey were doorkeepers. Mr. Perkins to arrange music and "that Mr. Thomas attend the Court in reopening of Library" whatever that may be.

The date fixed was December 26 and a bazaar was arranged for the afternoon and for three nights following to sell the goods. The minutes do not disclose who opened the hall or of the days success but lists donations to the value of £225.

The foundation stone was laid by Robert Harper M.L.A. on September 12, 1888. It was carted from Melbourne by Mr. W.G. Cockerell from the firm Henderson and McCracken monumental masons of Spring Street.

Mr. Cockerell carted a load of wood to the city in the dray on the previous day and returned with the stone. There was no difficulty in loading it at the mason's yard because a crane was available but the difficulty of taking it off the dray presented a problem.

Eventually it was decided to tip the dray up and let the stone fall to the ground. This was done and it was man handled to its final resting place. The bazaar appeared to be successful for the following receipts are recorded: Mrs. Thomas £60.11.6; Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Horner £57.18.0; Mrs. Janet Thomas £32.0.0; Mrs. Perkins and Mrs. Flower £5.0.6; Mrs. Cockerell £11.17.11 with sundries and tickets to a total of £188.0.8.

On February 18, 1889, Messrs Thompson and Andrews were appointed auditors. The meeting decided to fence the property on all sides with a picket fence. The contractor was Mr. Frazer and a ten foot gate and a four foot gate was to be included in front of the property.

Arrangements were also made for the purchase of a piano and a tank.

In August of the same year the committee proposed to erect the caretaker's cottage and stables. Rough plans were prepared and these were presented to the architect of the building, Mr. W. Braid.

At the October meeting members considered letting the hall to the Whittlesea Shire Council for Council meetings, at £7.10.0 per year. This amount must have been considered excessive or the Council did not desire to move from the place it was then occupying at Yan Yean Hotel, because this matter was not raised again until nine years later.

The tender of Mr. Martin of £232 for the caretaker's cottage was accepted. A Government subsidy was received in May of 1890 of £199.4.9 and Dr. Sutherland was added to the Committee. The position of caretaker was advertised in the Evelyn Observer (now Whittlesea Post).

His duties were to be to keep the place in order, attend to the management, and report to the Committee. He would be granted the use of the residence but would have to pay 5/- per week rent.

At a meeting of the Committee on September 15, 1891, the South Yan Yean Cricket Club were allowed the use of the hall for meetings.

With the resignation of the previous caretaker, Mr. Wall was elected to the position in place of Mr. Perkins.

Nominations for the committee and management were called and on March 11, 1893, the following nominations were received: Messrs S. Jeffrey, James Thomas, W. Hardesty, Dr. Sutherland, P.M. Ryan, James Whitter, J. Mason, Dr. Stock, E. Bassett, J. Giddens, H. Bassett and Moses Thomas.

The voting resulted in Dr. Stock and Mr. J. Giddens being eliminated but at the August meeting Mr. Giddens became caretaker.

The first life member was Mr. Walter Thomas and the minutes of October 1, 1894 included the resolution to elect him "on the payment of £3.3.0." Mr. H. Bassett resigned and Mr. H. Gillen replaced him.

With the previous offer to the Council unsuccessful a further offer for the use of the building for Council meetings at £5.0.0 per annum was accepted and the Council meeting commenced in the Mernda Institute in 1898.

With the turn of the century a lecture was arranged by a Government expert to discuss the question of industries suitable to the district. While the Committee members of 60 years ago were far sighted their efforts were less rewarding.

A loan arranged by the Committee sometime previous - no particulars of the transaction are recorded - £20 of the £300 was repaid to Mrs. Boreham.

Next year James Watt resigned and Mr. H. Anketell was elected. Next year Dr. Sutherland died and Dr. Peipers (possibly his successor) acted in his place. The Mernda rifle club was granted the use of the hall for one year for £1.0.0.

The present Secretary is Mr. W. Couper elected in 1949 and the President is Mr. Allen Wright.

The hall now 73 years old has served the district as a cultural and social centre. The fence is fit only to be removed and the woodwork of the buildings shows the ravages of time, the library also has ceased to exist.

Mechanics Institutes were associations formed originally to improve the education of the working men and to instruct them in their trade, but later the aim was broadened and the Institute became a popular agency for adult education.

The germ of the idea came from a class formed in 1800 by George Birbeck in Glasgow Scotland, for journeymen mechanics. The first Institution in the full sense of the term was organised also by Birbeck in London in 1842.

The earliest attempt to form a Mechanics Institute in Australia was made in N.S.W. in 1826 by the Schools and Church Corporation when it called for applications for persons willing to undertake the management for evening schools and Mechanics Institutes for young men, which it was proposed to form at Sydney, Parramatta, Liverpool, and Windsor. Nothing however came of the proposal.

Early in 1827 the Master Tradesmen of Hobart took steps to organise the VanDiemensland Mechanics Institute. The object of which was said to be "the protection of trade and the promotion of knowledge amongst its members."

The Institute was established, and in 1829 the Lieutenant Governor Col. George Arthur granted it a piece of land for the erection of a building. In February, 1833, Major Gen. Richard Bourke Governor of N.S.W. wrote to the Rev. Henry Carmichael of Sydney requesting his opinion on the possibility of establishing a Mechanics Institute. As a result a meeting was convened in Sydney on March, 1, 1833, when a provisional Committee was formed and a code of Rules drafted for the proposed organisation.

It was decided to hold classes in various subjects, on four nights a week, to organise a series of lectures and to establish a library.

A house on Church Hill was provided by the Governor for the use of the Institute. In 1840 the sum of £200.0.0 was placed on the estimates as a subsidy for the Organisation. In 1835 a Mechanics Institute was formed at Newcastle, Adelaide in 1838, and Melbourne in 1839.

In the course of time in spite of the provisions in many cases of some Government subsidy the institutions found difficulty in paying their way and many of them built billiard rooms to augment the income.

They also began to cater for popular reading tastes by purchasing more works of fiction and ultimately abandoned the idea of providing educational facilities for their members, becoming merely recreation halls in which capacity they still exist in many places.

Names in the Story

Richard Bassett founder of the Australian branch of the Basset family was born in Cornwall England in 1838, arrived in Victoria in 1859 and selected his property at Hazel Glen, (now Doreen). He was a Whittlesea Councillor for 36 years and was a member of the Road Board prior to the establishment of a shire Council.

He died in 1913 at the age of 76 years and his wife died the same year aged 77 years. There was a family of 8 sons and 1 daughter.

The late Mr. Richard Bassett was a splendid example of the old pioneers, whose work, carved from the virgin bush of Australia will stand as a monument to them for all times.

Mr. Alfred Bassett of Diamond Creek was a son of Richard Bassett. For some time he worked with his father and brothers in farming pursuits and then opened a store at Arthurs Creek.

After some time he went to Diamond Creek.

Erskine Mark Bassett was born on his fathers property November 4, 1868 educated locally and assisted on the farm. He later took over portion of the property.

He married Miss Reid a granddaughter of one of the first family's to settle there. Other members of the family who were born and worked on the family farm were Ellen, Francis, Richard, Frederick, and Frankland.

Frankland married Miss Laidlay daughter of an old pioneer of Doreen and Frederick married Miss Bower of Thomastown a daughter of Samuel Bower one of Thomastown's early pioneers.

The Basset family have been an inspiration and an institution in the district for over 100 years.

William Hardesty was a native of Kentucky U.S.A. Born in 1833 and after several gold-seeking ventures arrived in Melbourne in 1855.

After he visited the Beechworth goldfields he settled in Morang.

John Mason arrived in Victoria in 1847. The diggings attracted his attention until 1853 when he purchased and farmed land at Yan Yean. Mrs. Mason had arrived in the colony in 1848.

TOMMY'S HUT

Old residents and people with a feeling for history still find it hard to think of Kinglake West as other than "Tommy's Hut", a name by which the area has been affectionately known for well over a century. But some of the newer residents have expressed curiosity as to the origin of the name.

The name actually is redolent of the hardy, bearded pioneers who carved the modern Australia out of the virgin bush and laid foundations for rich farms, towns and cities of today.

There are many who feel the name "Tommy's Hut" should be preserved in a similar way as in such places as Fisherman's Bend, Rishcutters Bay and other picturesque names of pioneering days.

The origin of the name goes back about 120 years ago. There was a hut on the site of Kinglake West belonging to a man named Tommy Gibson.

Tommy was a palling (or shingle) splitter, who used to wheel his pallings to Whittlesea in a wheelbarrow.

Tommy's was not the only hut in the area and the place became a half-way stopping place for those travelling from Whittlesea further afield.

Later Tommy's hut became a sly grog shop and meeting place for the few other bushmen in the area. When the area began to open up "Tommy's Hut" became the junction of Flowerdale and Kinglake roads.

Later narrow gauge tram lines were laid down to haul timber, berries, potatoes and other farm produce to Whittlesea. "Tommy's Hut" was the junction and shunting point for the tram lines. The tram trollies were first drawn by bullocks and later by horses.

Today Kinglake West is a typical Australian township nestling 2000 feet up in the Plenty Ranges and serving a prosperous farming district. A bitumen road runs through it now to the Kinglake National Park and township.

It is also the junction for the road to the Goulburn at Yea via Flowrdale.

However the memory of a pioneers humble home which became the meeting place of other hardy bushmen, still lingers on in the name of "Tommy's Hut", a name by which the locality of Kinglake West is fondly known.

THE GERMAN STORY

The heads of Port Phillip Bay, surely must have been a heartening sight to a boat load of sea-weary German immigrants to a new, and they hoped, better land, when after six months voyage from Hamburg, they sighted our coast for the first time since leaving South Africa.

Hopes were high. They were mostly of Lutheran faith and the person responsible for their immigration was to be on the dock to welcome them.

That person was William Westgarth, Melbourne businessman, Parliamentarian and himself a pioneer from England. He was the first President of the Chamber of Commerce.

Many of the Germans, sturdy farmers from Saxony, Wuerttemberg and other principalities, were escaping their native land to avoid military commitments imposed upon all Germans under the federation of the various separate states under Bismark.

The ship which brought the migrants to Melbourne was the "Godeffroy", which arrived on February 11, 1849. Other ships soon followed from Hamburg such as the "Wappaus", in March; "Dockenhuden", in April; "Emmy" in December and "Pribislav" in February 1850.

Many deaths occurred at sea. The privations of the living must have enhanced the beauty of the Heads and enriched the anticipated landing in Melbourne - their new home.

William Westgarth writes - "When I made my first home trip in 1847, I resolved to open, if I possibly could, German migration to Port Phillip. Quite a number had already been settled, some from the earliest years in South Australia where their industry, frugality, Sobriety and general good conduct made them excellent colonists."

"My first step on arrival was to write to the Commissioner of Immigration an appointment since dispensed with, pointing out this South Australian success and suggesting that a certain charge upon the Colonial Land Fund authorised in special cases of emigrants and aid of £18 per head, might be made applicable to German vine-dressers, emigrating to Port Phillip.

" I received a most cordial reply from the Colonial Secretary, Lord Grey, highly approving of the project and saying that the aid asked would be forthcoming for properly qualified German vine-dressers.

"Armed with this letter, I went to Hamburg and Bremen and met Mr. Edward Delius who had been agent in the work of the previous migration. My visit to Delius resulted in my proceeding at once to Selisia, where I got as far as Liegnetz. Here I met a number of the peasantry, all eager to hear about Australia, friends of some of them being already there. Hearing that a Moravian headquarter was also there, I introduced myself stating that I was a subject of, and personally acquainted with their brother Moravian Mr. La Trobe. (then Governor of Victoria.)

"I found other La Trobes there, his relatives or namesakes. Several of the body spoke good english and I got fairly on with the peasantry, explaining the class entitled to the assistance in emigrating and that to vine-dressers only would the aid apply.

"I left them with the understanding that they would make up a party and communicate with Delius. About six months later, I went again to Hamburg, this time to see the first party - which eventually arrived in Melbourne on the "Godeffroy".

Mr. Westgarth describes the landing and subsequent trials of the Germans at length. He states that he and Captain Stanley Carr (Secretary to Lord Grey) then on a visit to Melbourne took up in trust for such Germans as desired, and had the means of payment, one of the square miles of surveyed land.

as yet unapplied for, about 12 miles north of Melbourne, which was divided amongst them in lots as agreed upon.

During this time, 1850, the German Prince of Schleswig-Holstein was on a visit to Melbourne and he was under the care of Captain Carr.

The nineteen-year-old Prince met many German nationals then in the colony.

Before quitting the Colony Mr. Westgarth said he found considerable progress (at Micklenbury), then Westgarthtown and later to become known as Thomastown) in the form of a scattered village with a little Lutheran Church and some show of gardening and culture.

They seemed delighted to stick to their German speaking and would not even try to speak English. One amusing feature in the scramble as to allotments was that each tried, in most cases, to get trees and stones in preference to clear land, as if they were so much additional wealth. The trees had firewood value but the stones were more than they bargained for. We secured the land at £1 per acre. Many more Germans have since settled on the land.

So was created the Germantown of the Shire and many of the descendants of those pioneers occupy the original holdings of their forefathers.

The settlement was north of German Lane, now Main Street Thomastown, to the farm of the late Mr. Ben Seeber, halfway to Epping and opposite Lalor Station, a square mile to the Merri Creek.

Among the families who migrated to Victoria are the Seebers, Karstens, Oldenburgs, Maltzahns, Wuchatschs, Siebels, Schultz, Graffs, Zimmers, Ewarts, Winters, Ziebells, Gruetzners, Youngs and Nebels.

The signature of William Westgarth appears on the title of John Wuchatsch's farm.

The title is dated May 2, 1851, and had also the signatures of 16 pioneers who had bought some land in this section. The names of John Wuch-atsch, Christian Ziebell, John Maltzahn, John Gottlob, Frederick Winter, John Grafe, John Zimmer are still remembered by the older people of today.

The settlers built their own home from bluestone quarried on their land, with walls 15 to 20 inches thick. They fenced their properties with stone walls and subdivided the plots.

They are still seen today and give the place a romantic air, although many families have left the district.

The decendants of these hard working pioneers live in Epping, Wollait, Preston and elsewhere.

The Church was built in 1856 of bluestone, quarried on the spot. Unlike many other churches in Melbourne which have their land as a grant from the Government, these people had bought the land for the church and its nearby cemetery.

They regarded the church as something essential to their ways of life and with all the hardships and difficulties of the pioneering days, they met on Sundays for divine worship.

The cost was £380.19.8 according to the balance sheets which were found when renovating the church.

The Government donated £82.10.0, T. Timm £3.0.0, Gottlob Siebel and H. Sandmann £10.0.0; collected by Mrs. Fiedler £146.16.0; from English neighbours £2.12.0; collected at the £14.15.2; expenses were opening on November 17, 1856, for wood, iron and wages to Mr. Bormann, £54.7.6; for 19 bags of lime, £4.15.0 for stone splitting and bricklaying to Messrs Biner and Kringel, £181.0.0. to carpenter Boelke, £134.0.0.

The first trustees were Johann Wuchatsch, Gottlob Siebel, Leberecht Fiedler. The first school teacher was Gottlieb Renner who was later succeeded by Johann Stanger.

The Thomastown Church was linked with the German Lutheran Church in the city across the road from St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Pastor Matthais Goethe, a distant relative of the poet Goethe, dedicated the church on November 17, 1856, and held service every other Sunday evening in Thomastown.

In the morning the school teacher conducted the service in German. The school was closed in the seventies when the new Education Act abolished religious instruction in favour of the more secular education.

The first minister, Pastor M. Goethe, was a great scholar, hailing from the Rhineland. He went to England and received a call from Dr. Lang, founder of the Australian College in Sydney, to join the teaching staff of his missionary institution.

In 1852, he came to Melbourne and accepted a call to be the first pastor of the German church in Melbourne. Pastor Goethe led a very active life; he attended not only to the spiritual needs of the German immigrants, in Melbourne and suburbs, but went further and established congregations in Thomastown, Doncaster, Berwick, Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong.

Pastor Goethe left Melbourne in 1867 for California, chiefly for health reasons.

He died in Mexico City, where he was buried in October 1876, his successor was Pastor Hermann Herlitz who is still remembered by the older generation. He was elected President of the Lutheran Synod of Victoria, an office which he held with great dignity for over 40 years.

Once a month he held service in Thomastown on the fourth Sunday afternoon. One of the farmers called for him at Reservoir in a hansom. His successor was Pastor K. Gutekunst (1914-1923) who returned to Germany.

Then came Pastor Theo Frank (1923-34) and the present incumbent, Pastor E. Steiniger.

In the old cemetery near the church under the shadow of the pine trees, the old pioneers have found rest from their labors.

The graves have been sunk through solid rock. One can learn a lot of history from the inscriptions on the tombstones. Some are written in German, a puzzle to the many visitors who are attracted by the picturesque Lutheran Cemetery in the old days, called "God's Acre."

On the grave of Ziebell and Winter you can still find the original name of Westgarthtown.

There is an old Wendish Prayer book of the Wuchatsch family. The Wends are a Slavonic race living in Saxony. Most interesting is the passport of John Wuchatsch, dated back to 1849.

Mr. Ben Seeber has a similar passport of his father and Johann and shoemakers diploma, a big sheet like a newspaper, issued on November 3, 1852 in Ochringen Wuerttemberg.

There was double wedding in the Westgarthtown Church on November 1, 1864, of Johann Christian Seeber and Johanne Wuchatsch and of Johann Wuchatsch and Johanne Caroline Grafe. On the marriage certificate it says: "at Kilbundora"

After the death of the original trustees there were new ones appointed in 1887: Gottlob Ernest, Schultz George, Niebel Louis Maltzahn. They were followed by John F. Siebel, Albert Wuchatsch, Ernest William Mathzahn, Ben Seeber, Henry Ziebell and Norman Young.

The church was renovated for its centenary celebrations in 1956 and in the last few years, membership had increased by the arrival of many New Australians.

William Westgarth returned to England and his subsequent life is unknown. The Prince returned to his homeland only to find that it had been taken over by the new German Empire. He sought refuge in England being related to Queen Victoria. The German immigration enmasse was not persevered with but the pioneers and decendants have surely played a big part in the development of the country. Germantown and Westgarthtown have vanished from place names, but many original homes still stand. The church is still there and used, and many of the original pioneering family names are still common place in Thomastown.

Mr. G.H. Schultz was born at Wellersdorf, Germany on February 10, 1835 and landed in Victoria in 1849. He died at Wollert in 1914 after 65 years as a colonist. His wife was born in Gramschütz, Selesia, Germany February 19, 1824, came out to Australia and married Mr. Schultz here. She died at Wollert February 8, 1911. Their son Charles was born on the property "Ivybank" Wollert in 1870 and educated at the local school. He joined his father on the farm. He married Miss Hemple a daughter of a pioneer settler of Arthurs Creek and there was a family of two sons two daughters.

John Zimmer, a native of Saxony, arrived in Melbourne in 1850 where he remained until his death. His son, Michael, worked on his father's farm before entering the carrying business. After the gold rush, he selected a property at Epping and died in 1892. At the time he took up the Epping farm the blacks were numerous; they camped and held their corrobories on the farm. He married a Miss Graff (they both came to Australia on the same ship). Mr. Zimmer was a member of the old Darebin Shire Council. His son, George, was born on his father's property at Epping in 1872.

Mr. John Siebel of Epping was born in Prussia in 1821. He landed in Melbourne in 1849 and purchased land at Epping in 1850. In 1858 he commenced business as a dairy farmer.

Mr. George Nabel of Epping was born in 1818 in Prussia and came to this Colony in 1854. In 1856 he bought a large tract of land at Epping. He was married in Germany in 1850.

The Whittlesea Agricultural Society

With all their difficulties of presentation those sturdy pioneers sowed the seed that was to develop into the tree of today - the sturdy Whittlesea Agricultural Society, that has built up a record of excellence of achievement that cannot be bettered among the numberless agricultural societies of the State.

Only twenty years before the name of the colony had been changed from Port Phillip to Victoria it was a mere 8 years since it had been declared independent of New South Wales.

Prosperity brought a large number of settlers, which induced much speculation with its consequent embarrassment and insolvency. In the years of its declaration of independence with Sir Henry Barclay as Governor, the province offered a reward for the discovery of gold.

This was soon claimed for it was actually found near Melbourne and was profitably worked in August 1851. By October 700 people were at Ballarat, with another 10,000 people around Mt. Alexander.

In 1859 the year that saw the birth of the Whittlesea show, the production of gold was still very great.

The Parliament of the State had opened on November 26, 1857 and four administrations had been formed by 1860.

This then was the local atmosphere that surrounded the producers along the Plenty river in a momentous year of the Whittlesea Show Society's birth.

It was a self-contained little colony at that early date, with small interest in world affairs because of the paucity of world news.

Although a cable had been laid between England and United States two years before it had failed in the same year and a new company was not formed until 1860.

As far as Australia was concerned all news was completely local and even in a colony itself it did not travel fast.

Maybe it was a good thing for our forebearers as it must have enabled them to concentrate on their show organisation with an intensity not possible in these days of radio, picture shows and television.

Probably the monthly hop up to Tommy's Hut and sojourn in the adjacent sly grog shop was the only diversion for the adventurers.

Nevertheless, 1859 was an eventful year in the world. It was the year that the Mayor of Melbourne returned from his protracted voyage to London, whither he had journeyed personally to convey the congratulations of the citizens to Queen Victoria, on the marriage of the Princess Royal.

Queen Victoria's consort, Albert was alive then, for he did not die until two years later.

While the Mayor was in London, Edward, Duke of Somerset, became First Lord of the Admiralty, and Tennyson's "Idylls of the King" was first published. In this year 1859 too, J.R. Smith published a facsimile of "Biblia Pauperum" (the Bible for the poor) which had been compiled by Bonaventura, general of the Franciscans about 1260.

Smith's facsimile was a copy of that printed early in the fifteenth century, consisting of engravings illustrating scripture history, with texts.

Another important book to make its appearance in this year of our first Whittlesea show, was Allibone's Dictionary of English Literature.

But our forefathers were not distracted by the happenings of the outside world and their project - the Whittlesea Fair, received all their concentrated attention.

News was indeed slow to travel in those days, and it was doubtless months after it at all, that they heard of the considerable events happening on the American continent.

One of the most momentous perhaps, was the excitement at Harper's Ferry, a town on the borders of Virginia and Maryland. Here, one, John Brown, variously known as Captain Brown, "Old Brown", was quite a colourful character.

He was a prominent leader in the violent conflicts in Kansas during the agitation respecting the question of becoming a slave state, and he was a complete monomaniac on the question.

He contended that all means for annihilating slavery were justifiable, and he gathered a band of desperadoes which so annoyed Missouri and other slave states that a reward was offered for his head.

Just about the time our forbears were finalising the details of the first Whittlesea fair, Brown had arranged for the successful issue of his insurrection to such an extent as to devise a provisional government and a new constitution.

On the 16th of October, he and his band, aided by a mob, seized the arsenal at Harper's Ferry, stopped railway trains and cut telegraph lines.

Quite a military conflict occurred in which many insurgents were killed, but, as I said before, news was slow to travel and it is doubtful whether our forefathers ever heard of it.

On the other hand, an incident had occurred in China waters that was just as bloodthirsty but had a flavor of international friendship that was quite heartwarming.

The English fell into a warm engagement with the Chinese on the River Peiho and were getting something of a trouncing when an American Commodore - one Tatnall - rushed his ship to their assistance.

In explanation of his action the Commodore merely shrugged his shoulders and muttered - "Well, blood is thicker than water" - a spirit that could be abroad to advantage in this world of today, 100 years later.

And then, when the year had just about ended, John Brown, the American insurgent before mentioned, was caught tried and executed - momentous enough in America, but thanks to the absence of radio insufficient to cast even the slightest cloud over the success of the show at the foot of the Plenty ranges.

Even at home, it is doubtful whether local news disturbed them much. In the excitement and pleasure of the Fair, it was probably weeks before the participating farmers knew that coincidence with their own big function, Queensland was to become autonomous and be made a province.

Stuart's explorations were current, but since there was no daily bulletin pounding in their ears from blaring radios, they perforce had to wait to read of his achievements at their leisure.

Even the news of the welcome nuggets which had been found at Ballarat the year before, was just filtering through to the soaks in the "sly-grog" up at Tommy's Hut.

Allso different from today, when we get even the insignificant dark corner news with our toast at breakfast.

Back in 1859, it is doubtful if even one member of that first show committee knew that Buenos Ayres, which had seceded from Argentine in 1853, had become reunited in this year of 1859.

But if they didn't know the things that occurred in the outside world, they most patently knew the potentialities of their district.

With their poster of 1859, calling in the phaetons and buggies of the Upper Plenty, the drays of the foot-hills and the packhorse from Tommy's Hut and beyond, they laid a foundation stone that has been well built upon.

Today, from the dust of early structures has arisen the fine buildings of the Whittlesea showgrounds, from the egg and spoon races and hop step and jump has come the varied programme of wood chops, of hacks and horses, cattle and sheep - the pavilions of hand-work and the products of farm kitchens - in short a programme of competition and entertainment that show societies anywhere else in the State would find it hard to equal.

ROAD TO THE PLINTY.

Coach drivers, teamsters and carriers travelling along Upper Plenty Road towards Whittlesea found the going hard.

The hill at Bundoora was exhausting for thier animals, it was known as Emms hill, named after one of the district's first settlers, Mr. William Emms.

He was responisble for the establishment of the first store, post office and Methodist church, While the store and post office still survive, the ohurch building was removed many years ago. Bundoora Park. Travelling north along Plenty Road on the western side is a mansion still known to many as Bundoora Park. It takes its name from the expanding area nearby from the parish of Keel-Bundoora, prominent on all land transactions.

The Gardiner family built the first homestead and farmed the holding with special attention for pedigree cattle. The land was heavily timeberd chiefly with red gum. The estate was later bought by Mr. J.V. Smith who built the 20 roomed mansion still standing.

The Bridge over the Darebin

In the early days, settlers found the ford over the Darebin Creek dangerous and a small wooden bridge was erected. As time went on, the bridge would not stand the inoreasing traffic and the present stone and concrete bridge was erected. Dates and constructional costs are not available and the stone bridge has stood the stress of the early vehicular traffic- bullock wagon, spring cart, dray, buggy and the motor traffic on this road has shown that the bridge is too narrow and the approaches dangerous. A new concrete bridge with better graded approaches is rapidly nearing completion to give a greater and kless dangerous flow of traffic. Traffic flowed, for the first time, over the new bridge during the last week

In August. The original Crown grant for the Kindsbury area was awarded to Neil Campbell. It was from Plenty Rd., along the Darebin Creek to the present alignment of the Commonwealth land. On the other side, John Brown owned a mile frontage right through to the Plenty River, approx. $4\frac{1}{2}$ square miles. Campbell's property to a line due west from the present road to Greensborough was the Thomastown closer settlement area. Many blocks were sub-divided from the original Brock holding. On the east side of Plenty Rd., where the school is located, John Gardiner owned a square mile. There was an allotment of 79 acres owned by R. Hadley on the rise in Greensborough Road. From Settlement Road north, on the western side of Plenty Rd, to about McKimmie's Lane, John Gardiner owned the land to the present pipe track. Thomas Wedge and William Wood owned the west side to the Darebin Creek.. From McKimmie's Lane north on both sides of Plenty Rd. George Coulatook owned a square mile.. The Miller family later purchased one of these (the western) area. Miller owned a square mile further north and it was across this land that the Morang Board constructed a road to Epping. Over the years, the land has changed hands many times and the original settlers have been lost by time.

The district oldest building

The oldest building in the district is at Bundoora. Located at the Post Office and store the rear section of the building was built in 1834. Built of wood, the construction is without nails, being dovetailed and fitted in place. Still in use the low built room was the store for three years until the present front section was built in 1837. The post office was opened for business in 1862 when W. Emms was postmaster. He remained in charge for many years and with his family did not relinquish ownership until 1936, a period of 74 years. Other postmasters in charge were B. Guilding until 1944, then the present family of Mrs Taylor and her brother Mr. L. Fraser. For 100 years the Post office has been in charge of three families.

The Brook Family.

In 1835, John Brook accompanied John Batman on a visit of inspection to the shores of Port Phillip. He returned to Van Dieman's Land with the firm conviction that he had seen the broad acres to suit his pastoral activities. A year later, he left Tasmania, with his two sons James and Henry and arrived in Port Phillip in June 1836. The family came prepared as they brought sheep, cattle and all the machinery necessary for their new acreage. They landed at Port Geilibrand near Williamstown. The family pastured their stock for a few months in the vicinity of the bay; which was later named Hobson's Bay after Captain Hobson. The family followed the stream now known as the Saltwater (Maribyrnong) River, grazing the area and finally reaching a favorable location on the creek, named Emu Creek, a short distance from the town of Sunbury-then a vast area of heavily timbered country. They "squatted" here and named the homestead "Bullanda" later known as "Bolinda Vale". Here John Brook died in 1856. A son, Alexander Brook married Elizabeth Clarke, daughter of Lewis and Rachael Clarke, on June 28, 1853. The Clarke family took over "Bolinda Vale" when Alexander Brook moved to the Darebin Creek area in 1856, and named the new holding "Overtown" in the parish of Keelbundoora- the name which appears on many land titles even today.

He bought large areas of land with frontages to Epping Road. The Epping Road frontage began at the northern boundary of Preston and extended to a spot opposite Thomastown. The whole area went through to a point adjacent to the northern boundary somewhere near Bundoora School. The area was named Janefield. The Thomastown closer settlement planned by the State Government for small living holdings was established on the Brook acreage. In 1862, Alexander Brook moved to "Oakhill" Plenty Rd., Preston after having his vast acreage divided amongst his sons and daughter. His daughter, Louisa married Dr. Wilkinson who was the only resident doctor for the area of Preston and as far north to Wollert and Woodstock areas. Lewis Brook also lived at "Oakhill" for some years. He became a Preston Councillor. He afterwards took up land at Doreen.

Next to the Miller his homestead being "Dunara". He became a councillor in the Whittlesea Shire Council. He was an enthusiastic member of the Whittlesea Agricultural society and for years was one who staged the prize-winning district entry at the Royal Show. A section of the Brook family was amongst the founders of the Springfield Presbyterian church at Janefield. Some of the children were original scholars of the Sunday School

The Miller Family.

The Miller family built extensive stables and kennels at Mill Park in 1889. They were the founders of Findon Hunt Club. Many hunts were arranged in the district and stag and foxes were introduced into the district for the sport.

The Findon Club provided for its horses and dogs on a property just south of Janefield Presbyterian Church. The building has long since been demolished. The home on the site was constructed from material taken from the two storey mansion built by the Millers about half a mile further north on the same side.

Plenty Rd. busy.

This section of the Plenty Rd. was a busy spot, for the Plough Inn was the office of the Morang Roads Board, on the other side was the Janefield School, south on the other side was the stables and kennels of the Findon Hunt Club, the Janefield Church and along the back of these buildings was the Yan Yean tramway, carting pipes to the water works further north. The toll gate near the Plough Inn added to the busy aspect. Takings from the toll was 1865, £594; 1866, £572; 1867, £700; 1868, £601 and 1869 £641.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Prior to 1871, when the State Education Act brought all schools under the control of the Department of Education, many of the schools were privately owned or were connected with churches of the district, with the balance under the control of the State. All existing state schools totalling nearly 800 were numbered numerically in alphabetical order commencing with Alberton No.1.

After this date, schools were numbered as they were erected or came into existence.

The districts first school was opened at Janefield 1-1-1850 to be followed 3 years later by Epping and Plenty (Mernda). The Janefield school operated until Bundoora school opened in 1877. The original name for Janefield was Springfield. This school was located on the eastern side of Plenty Road about half a mile north of the existing Bundoora school. It has long since been demolished.

Some buildings have more than one number over the life of the school. This was due to, in some cases, of part time schools being converted to full time ones and of more than one in a district. This applied to Whittlesea and Yan Yean where the influx of families for the constructional work of the Yan Yean greatly swelled the population. When the work was completed attendances fell and schools were amalgamated. The Education Act was passed in 1872.

Early Schools.

The following is a list of early schools with the teachers in charge.

Epping (Wollert) commenced 1/3/1853 to 2/3/1877 with James Martin and Robert Peacock the teachers. The school was numbered 216. Renumbered 1861 on 1/3/1877 the teacher was Josiah Willmott.

School number 195, Kal Kallo (Donnybrook) commenced 18-3-1854 Teachers were James Robertson and Eli Cheo who remained for three years.

216 Wollert 1-3-55 James Martin and Robert Peacock

238 Epping 1-1-53 Robert Walsh

329 Janefield 1-1-50 James Orr, John Peacock

- 488 Plenty 1-4-55 53 Thomas Noble, H.M.Thompson
- 631 Thomastown 1-1-55 Edward Perry
- 658 Whittlesea 1-10-55 William Latham, Charles Cookson
- 677 Woodstock 1-10-54 James Simpson
- 697 Yan Yean 1-1-61 Angus Smith, W.H.Lewis
- 698 Yan Yean 19-10-57 to 31-12-76 John R.Mills, John Lucas.
- 727 Glen Vale, 30-10-65 (part time) Alfred J.Scott, 1-3-86 (Full time) John McCarthy
- 946 Hazel Glen, 1-7-68 Angus Smith
- 1236 Woodstock West 9-6-73, Alexander Heaney
- 1477 Epping 1-12-74 Michael Connell, Josiah Willmott
- 1666 Arthurs Creek 1-1-76 Marion Helliers
- 1861 Wollert 1-3-77 Josiah Willmott
- 1915 Bundoora 1-7-77 T.W.Perrott
- 1975 South Morang 1-11-77 Thomas Doyle
- 2090 Whittlesea 1-9-78 William Stubbs
- 2097 Yan Yean 5-10-78 Elinor Williams
- 2188 Kinglake East 29-10-78 79 Susan A Dickson
- 2355 Kinglake West 6-3-96 Adeline Robb
- 3300 Hume Vale 18-2-98 Edith Bannister
- 3315 Kinglake Central 19-9-98 Frank Tanner
- 3477 Eden Park 20-4-04 Mary Gray
- 3618 Norris Bank 25-5-09 Wilhamina Sleeman
- 3947 Strathewen 5-3-17 Mary Goulding
- 4709 Lalor 2-2-54, W.Varney

The Mernda School

The oldest records of Mernda school commences in 1864, but the school had been established 11 years by this time. Pupils on the roll in 1864 and who had been at

school prior to this date were John Higgs, No.1. on the roll, commenced school March 1856, aged 5 years. Mary Higgs No.3. Jan. 58. aged 2 years 11 months., Tamar Higgs, No. 5. July 59, aged 2 years, 6 months. and James Higgs, No. 18, Jan. 63, aged 2 years and 11 months. They were all children of the headmaster. Mr. Higgs was not the original headmaster but could have been the second as the school was opened in 1853 and the first Higgs child commenced in 1856, 3 years after the opening. No.2. is John Cockerell, commenced Jan. 1860, aged 4 years and 5 months. Anne, Catherine and Elizabeth Hunter, are No's 4,8, and 21 and are recorded as daughters of a local farmer. Daughters of Moses Thomas who commenced in 1861 are Mary and Mosina while the other mill owner (Willis) had John, Isabella and James as scholars. Moses Cockerell is recorded No.25. There were two wheelwrights in the district, Johnson and Croft, the storekeeper was named Cooper and the Inn keeper, Chisholm. They all had children at the school. The family name still in the district is Giddens and the entry No. 30. records Edward Giddens, aged 7 years, Jan 1864.

Abraham Willis, who figured so prominently in later years commenced school May 67 and was scholar No. 90. Other scholars who were to appear in council activities later in the century and were at school in 1869 were Francis Irish and James Wills. They were recorded Nos 23 and 24. The next teacher is A. Thomson, August 1875.

The first recorded storekeeper at Mernda was a man named Cooper, This was in 1864. Another one was Irish, the man who played such an important part in the Morang council affairs in the Shire of Darebin. In 1870 the name Oxley is recorded as a storekeeper. The next change was in 1874 when Dunbar's came to Mernda in March 1870. Another change occurs 2 months later when the Kelly's arrived with their 4 children aged, 11,9,8, and 4. All these families had children at school. There has been many changes of ownership of the store and hotels over the years. The Nelson family arrived in Mernda in October 1878 and the 3 children, Patrick, Andrew and Mary commenced school on the tenth. They remained at this school for less than a year.

Education Truant Officer.

In 1885, the Education Department divided the district of Victoria into many districts for the purpose of appointing officers to supervise the attendances at schools. A district was formed to incorporate the Shires of Darebin(which covered Epping) and Whittlesea and Morang. The officer appointed with power to prosecute parents of absent scholars was Mr. H.R.Daley.

THE STORY OF NUTFIELD

It is difficult in this age, to appreciate the feelings of our early pioneers. Thousands of miles from "home" they assembled in small communities in a new land with nothing before them but hard work.

When the first problems had passed, they congregated in local churches or private home and discussed their trials and tribulations.

Naturally, their thoughts turned to their homeland and when the question of naming new community areas arose nothing seemed more reasonable than to select the name of a village or town in the British Isles.

The district now known as Nutfield was no exception.

Just after the turn of the century, land owners made application to the postal department for a post office, as they had to go to Hazel Glen (now Doreen), for their mail. It was a long way so the Department agreed to the proposal.

First problem was where to establish it and what to name it. The office was to be at a cottage at Cottles Bridge (where Mr. Choice now lives). A Mrs. Goulding then keeping house for an old bachelor named Crowe, was the first post mistress. The mail contractor was Mr. John Mann of Strathewen and he carried the mail from South Yan Yean (Mernda).

Messrs Apted, Woodward and Pierson Thorn were walking along the main road to St. Mark's Church in Hurstbridge in 1910 and were discussing the probable names for their district. Mr. Thorn, recognised as a "hard case" in the area suggested that the name should be "FULLERS HEARTH" The Governor of Victoria at the time was Sir John Fuller.

Nothing transpired that night but on the morrow, the Apted family were enjoying the joke of the addition of the H to earth when Mr. Apted said "By jove that's an idea. Fuller's earth comes from a small place named Nutfield, a suburb of Reigate in Surrey England.

near where I came from and there are large pits or pines there."

So that Nutfield was the name sent to the Post Office and it has been called that ever since.

In the next few years several changes occurred with personnel and the sale of the property on which the Post Office stood until it was moved to its present position. When the railway was built in 1912, Hurst Bridge was considered a shorter and easier route for mail facilities but a road from Nutfield to Hurst Bridge was needed. The Whittlesea and Eltham Councils constructed this way which was opened on July 23, 1913. On that day Mr. J. Laidlay and Miss Apted were married, the contractor took away the last load of stones to let the bridal coach through.

The royal mail has traversed this road ever since. The Bridge was built by a man named Wilson who lived at South Morang. This is now known as Bourkes Bridge.

Early residents of the district were: Bassetts, Lobbs, Nash, Brook, Linton Collier, Crowe, Kinraids, Harrison, Carr, Apted, Limmers, Verso, Phillips, Herbert, Smith, McPhee Sutherland, Marshall, Laidlay, Bourke, Brace, Tames and a music teacher Sharp.

Decendants of some of these families still live in Nutfield. They all had large families and as they grew up sought fresh fields and pastures new.

Many saw service in all theatres of war, and many decorations were awarded.

Nearly all the flat land was cleared and planted in orchards, fruits of all kinds were well grown and great pride was taken in their product. Many prizes at the Royal Show were won by local producers.

The Valley presented a most picturesque sight in spring time as well as a very busy one, but only a few orchards remain today, giving place to grazing. Some variety of apples grown in the early days and not heard of today are Shockley, Johntune, Adams, Permain, Red Quarandun, Cox's Orange, Lord Bismark, Lord Wollesley, Lord Sheffield, Munro's Favorite, Lord Gladstone, Williams Favorite, Magetom, Esopsus and Spitzenburg. All are out of date now.

A great deal of gold mining had been done here with some good finds, especially in old Starlight and Northens mines.

There was great excitement when the miners had a good crushing and good yield.

Alluvial mining all along the creek was carried out by the orchardists but they did not like the creek's banks to be broken as in flood time it washed away badly.

Some of the most successful finders were Starlights Manager Williams and later Horace Dick.

Two alluvial prospectors who were well known in the area for many years were Ted Pritchard and Jack Curran. Only a few fossickers are seen nowadays.

First cricket field and football ground was on the flat by Linton Bridge (now owned by J. Herbett), but its owner desited to plant fruit trees so the ground was re-made in Linton's paddock and was used for many years before being moved to Harrison's paddock on the top side of the road opposite Laidlay's lane.

Some very exciting matches took place at neighbouring districts and there were many cricketers who made names for themselves in their sport.

The club was always known as the Arthurs Creek Cricket Club. An interesting match was played between the Bassett family when all the team was named Bassett, and a team chosen from the district. The event appeated in English Wisdens Cricket Journal.

The Lobb family were first to play tennis in the district and a public club formed. Their matches were played at Hazel Glen.

The court was constructed in the gully below the church and later a new court was made close to the road near the old one. The club has been playing competitions for many years and has won many premierships.

Rifle Shooting

As the means of some sort of civil defence in 1900 the Government encouraged rifle clubs. One was formed and called the Arthurs Creek rifle club No. 78, with Mr. G.J. Apter as captain, Mr. C.E. Nash Secretary, and Mr. C. Draper President. Every one was most enthusiastic, the first practices were on cast iron targets and ringed bulls eyes. The shooting improved rapidly and many first class shots developed. Matches with other clubs soon proved that the locals could hold their own against all comers.

World War I intervened and most of the younger men enlisted. Many did not return.

After the war the club almost ceased to exist. The land on which the hall is constructed was given by Mr. Bassett and it was built in 1896/97 by Tom and Doyle Marshall, then living in the district. It was opened by Mr. E.H. Cameron, member for Evelyn for many years, on April 29, 1897.

A concert party was brought from Melbourne by Mr. Lightwood, there was a large attendance with every one in the district being present.

Church of England services have been held in the present building since 1897. The first Vicar was the Rev. St. John Chase, others were the Rev. Millarm, Rev. Long, Rev. E.C. Know, Rev. E.C. Thompson, Rev. Chapman, Rev. Meredith and the Rev. Crocker.

The building was later purchased and turned into a church. Mrs. Clark helped a lot in financing the undertaking, while most of the furnishings were given by friends.

The Clergymen had to travel by horse and buggy from Whittlesea, 14 miles away, until Mr. Crocker's time when Mr. & Mrs. L.W. Clark of "Linton Grange" Hazel Glen made the parish a present of a motor car. The distance to travel was thought to be too much, so a parish was formed with Mernda, but was not a success.

Rev. J.L. Watt was first vicar and then Rev. Hayes, but it was disbanded and the church added to the Eltham-Panton Hill Parish, as the church was short of clergy with so many on active service.

Another change was made a few years ago and at present St. John's Nutfield is part of the parish of Diamond Creek.

Sunday School fluctuated as children grew up and left the district. The first organist of the church was Mrs. W. Draper of "Dishleigh" Arthurs Creek. Other organists have been Mr. Davis, Miss Daphne Brock, and Miss Bertha Verso. Mrs. Charley Linner carried on until they moved to Hurst-bridge.

There are many happy memories of the olden days when members congregated and assisted in all phases of the church work. Of recent years the church has been painted and repaired.

Mrs. Jack Laidlay, who lived in Nutfield for many years, supplies the following personal notes on the pioneering families. Mr. Bassett Snr. loved a joke and laugh and was fond of playing jokes on his mates when they were carting pailings and timber from the mountains. When asked how many children he had would say "eight boys and each one has a sister".

Mr. Charlie Creighton and his wife, Betsy, had one daughter who later became a lovely singer. The Nash's lived over by the Lobb family, there was a family of boys and one girl. In the Lobb family was several girls and three boys. Mr. Lobb Shr. was a local preacher for the Methodist church (built in 1872); he came from Preston in all weathers. One son, Mr. Ned Lobb, was the best and fairest umpire in all the countryside in sporting competitions. Mr. W. Lobb, who played tennis, could serve an ace at 65 years of age.

Mrs. Effie Lobb was a good organist. The Brock's of "Dunarde". The Linton's of "Willow Tree". Mrs. Linton was a good cook. When we would take her mail in she would give us a lovely piece of cake, "so there was always two or three of us kids to carry the mail."

A family named Cottier lived in a small house at Linton's Bridge. "I don't think anyone remembers when or by whom the bridge was built."

The first Sunday school was started at this cottage. Mr. Harrison being in charge for a few years until he became ill. Later a batchelor, named Crowe, lived there and his front room became the Post Office. His niece, Catherine, came out from Ireland to keep house for him. Granny Kinraid was bedridden for the last part of her life. Her Son, Johnny, married his neighbour, Charlotte Harrison. Poor old cripple, Billy Spicer, was brought up by his grandmother, and lived to a good age. He used to play his concertina and thumped the floor all hours of the night.

Harrison's. We used to take a weekly paper to them in 1897 as we came from school. Jim, the son, spent nearly all his life looking for gold, and asked if he had found any, would say, "No, mam, but I have a colour."

The McPhee's lived on the flat, near Laidlay's Bridge. They later sold their flat to Laidlays, whose first house was built on the corner near the creek.

Norman McPhee had very rosy cheeks and twinkling eyes and he would give money to almost any child when he came round the district as a butcher.

Sutherland's who were related to the McPhee's, still live in the district. Don was a prisoner of war in Germany during world war 1. From Bundoora in 1886 came the Laidlay's. They built down on the flat first and later on the hill where Clive and the family live now.

Mr. Laidlay had a snow white beard and hair and he walked regularly across the hills to church with the aid of a walking stick. They still have to use the bridge that was built so long ago. The creek still floods and they are shut off from everything.

The Marshall's lived on the corner of the road and were carpenters. Old Tom Qualtrought, from the Isle of Mann, had a bark hut in the corner too, and always took a snow white handkerchief to put around his butter whenever he went for it.

Phillips lived on the hill - they bought Mr. Willie Herbert's portion of the Herberts station. One son, Ted, was an excellent rifle shot.

The Apted family lived on the next hill, but the house they lived in had been moved down to the flat and much renovated.

Herb Apted was a footballer of renown, and was nicknamed "aeroplane" because of his long arms. Living round the corner were the Bourkes. Mr. Bourke used to drive his buggy and pair when they went to Mernda for Mass.

The Brace's lived on the Creek below Bourkes. Mrs. Brace used to go out with the men and smoke her pipe after meals. One son, Bob, wanted to go to the Boer War but could not pass the test. He was, however, such a good horseman that in a test for light horsemen he turned up with his horse, put it at a seven rail fence and flew over without a hitch, and so got to South Africa.

He later became well known around the Flowerdale area.

Mr. J. Herbert lived in the old homestead after the death of his father and Verso's came from Northcote to live with him. They had a house brought from Melbourne - the one they still live in and Mr. and Mrs. Verso Snr. lived in it until their death. Then Mr. C. Verso and family occupied the place and are still there.

Mr. Verso was Mayor of Northcote for a term as the foundation stone of the Northcote Town Hall shows.

Limmers came from Allandale to live with Mr. Herbert after Versos moved and lived there until the family married, and moved away when Mr. Herbert married. He built a new house where Jack lives today. The old name of this property was "Virtue Hall."

One of the old characters of the district was Bill Rose who always wanted to shoot the crows which attacked Linton's apples.

He was not used to the gun and consequently did not shoot any, which was a never ending mystery to him.

Another one was Tom Brown who had a lively tenor voice and used to sit outside his hut on a fine evening and sing hymns. His best was "Abide with me". His voice would carry right down the valley to Linton. Another, Bert Griffiths, the runaway son of a Riverina squatter who used to sit over the fire outside his hut and play jigs on a tin whistle. It was clear and very good when he played on a frosty night.

So we leave the memory of a good many folk who have been with us through years of drought, fire, flood, accidents, sorrows and of joys. And by their work has come down to the district the great blessing of electricity, surely a gift of a wise and great Creator.

Mr. Laidlay says, in concluding this interesting commentary, "God bless everyone, may you be blest and happy, and with all prosperity in the future."

The founder of the Australian branch of the Laidlay family was John Laidlay, who hailed from Cumberland, England, where he was born in 1812. At the age of 42 he came to Australia with his wife and family.

He landed at Melbourne, and spent the first night in Australia in a tent on the banks of the Yarra.

John Laidlay took up land at Whittlesea, which he held for five years before finally settling at Bundoora where he remained until his death in 1888. John and Margaret Laidlay had a family of nine children.

Their eldest son, William, was born in Cumberland and arrived in Australia with his parents in 1854. He assisted his father on the farm until the time of his marriage to a daughter of a Bacchus Marsh pioneering family. There were two sons, John and William, and four daughters and the eldest daughter married Mr. Everard Bassett, also a district pioneer.

The family was now firmly established in Arthurs Creek. John was born in this district in 1882, he married a member of the Apted family (there was a son and daughter) and he died in 1928.

William also married a member of a pioneering family, Miss Lobb, and there is a son, Neil, and daughter Ruth.

The Laidlay family was among the earliest settlers in the district, and have contributed their share towards its advancement during their long association with this part of Victoria.

Mr. John Mann came to Australia from Scotland in the early days and settled in Victoria, renting land in Bundoora, which he farmed until his death. He also acquired land at Strathewen.

His wife was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in 1925. There were eight surviving children. The Mann family is one of the oldest in the district, its association dating back over one hundred years.

Mr. Walter Mann was born in Bundoora in 1872 and worked on the home property after his father's death. Later on the family came to Strathewen and settled on land which had been previously selected by his father, and engaged in sheep farming and fruit growing.

In March 1916 he purchased "Woodstock Park", Woodstock, for sheep farming. He married a daughter of the late Charles Creighton of Doreen, a pioneer settler of that district.

In 1857, Joseph Lobb arrived in Victoria from England in the ship "Eastern City" with his wife. He worked in the quarries in Brunswick for some time, and then rented land in Preston, and afterwards selected the present property "Hillbury", Doreen, which he worked with his son, William John Lobb who was born at Greensborough in 1860. The Doreen property was selected under the Berry Act in 1865.

Joseph Lobb was one of the earliest settlers in Doreen and when he took up the land it was practically virgin bush. The work of clearing took many years, but he, with the assistance of his son, carried out the pioneering work, and turned into an excellent farm. He and his sons established one of the first fruit orchards in the district. Joseph Lobb remained at "Hillbury" until his death in 1879, aged 72 years. His wife died in 1930 aged 98 years.

EARLY PIONEER

Early Pioneer Charles Edward Payne landed at Sydney in the early days, shortly after the Henty family arrived at Portland. He travelled overland with stock in company with Messrs Hunter and Watson. He took up land in Woodstock when the land was in its primitive state and experienced all the hardships which fell to the lot of an early pioneer. None of the family remain in the district for all the later decendents moved to the Yea-Alexandra district.

NEW CITIZENS

The first naturalisation ceremony held in the Shire on March 19, 1956 was held in the Memorial Hall, where nine new Australians were naturalised.

The Shire President Cr. L. Mitchell, performed the ceremony.

The first infant welfare centre in Whittlesea Shire commenced on Tuesday, June 12, 1956, with Sister F. Davidson in charge. The centre was established in the Epping Memorial Hall.

The R.S.L. Hall in Epping was opened on April 1, 1955.

A determined endeavour to make the streets of Thomastown and Lalor was commenced by Whittlesea Council in 1956.

THE RAILWAY COMES TO WHITTLESEA

With the establishment of a tramway to service the building of the Yan Yean Reservoir in the 1850's and the attempted reconstruction of this line in 1866, deputations and meetings were held for the next 20 years finally saw the construction of a railway line from North Fitzroy to Whittlesea.

With the event of the first train, followed considerable activity in the district and the increase of building and pastoral pursuits.

One thing it did do was to cause the cessation of Cobb and Co. coaches, the history making colorful mode of transport for over 40 years.

Coach Transport.

The growing population of the northern area was served by mail coaches for the transport of passengers, mail and merchandise before the railway was built. The route for Whittlesea was from the Albion Hotel, next to Buckely and Nunn's emporium, via Brunswick St., Fitzroy, through Northcote and Upper Plenty Road making a stop at the original Rose Shamrock and Thistle Hotel. The Coach, with its team of 4 horses, forded the Darebin Creek and stopped at the post office at Bundoora.

There, passengers for Greensborough, Diamond Creek and areas beyond were transferred to a one horse coach to continue their journey. The coach continued through South Morang and Yan Yean to Whittlesea with the return journey next day.

Another service ran from Merriang, through Woodstock, Wollert, Epping and Thomastown. Evidence shows it cost 1/- for a letter posted from Thomastown.

Stopping Places.

Wood's store was a stopping place in Preston. How tedious and tiring driving through the heat of summer and the rains of winter these journeys of the past seems to us today but they were the links that, woven together, made up the social fabric of the area and broke the monotony of these pioneers.

Many, of course, had their own means of conveyance, and the bullock waggon gave way to the two-wheeled spring cart with a heavy breed of horses between the shafts. In due course gigs and buggies followed. The large landowners of the Morang and Whittlesea areas—especially the wealthy pastoralists, the Miller Brothers, had sufficient influence to persuade the Government to survey the railway line to Whittlesea. This became a reality when construction was completed, and on Nov. 11, 1889^{TRAFFIC} on this line commenced.

No Opening.

Owing to some indecision, there was no official opening. When the line was constructed to Whittlesea, the official opening was highlighted by the journey to Whittlesea of 130 guests on a special train on Dec. 21, 1889, ending in a banquet in the public hall, with Whittlesea gay with bunting and excited residents.

The official opening took place two days later on Dec. 23, and traffic actually started on Jan. 2 1890. The Reservoir-Melbourne line traversed the roundabout route through North Fitzroy, North Carlton, Royal Park and Spencer St.,

There were 16 trains a day on week days, and six on Sunday. The stations all had the prefix--Preston, Preston Reservoir, Preston Regent, Preston Murray Rd., and Preston Bell St. Later someone with a brilliant economic idea turned the names to Reservoir, Regent, Preston and Bell. Bell had the most modern station, the other buildings being more fitted for a country township siding than a busy city. Reservoir had the largest modern station building on the eastern platform. The names of the stations to Whittlesea were named Thomastown, Epping, Morang, South Yan Yean, Yan Yean and Whittlesea.

Deputation to Parliament.

In Feb. 1867, a number of residents of Upper Plenty district waited as a deputation on the Chief Secretary concerning the formation of a tramway or railway to Whittlesea. The local members Messrs. Balfour and Wathins introduced the deputation. The deputation was formed as the result of a public meeting at many centres to urge THE

Government to take steps for the construction of a railway from Melbourne to Whittlesea. In April 1866, the Assembly considered the retaining of the Yan Yean tramway. The Committee reported that the cost of a horse tram would be £1150 per. mile and steam at £2500 per mile. The evidence showed that a railway would be a remunerative business. A suggestion was made that the line could be constricted on the route of the Yan Yean tramway. The line was a chain wide; one line of pipes were laid down one side of it, and it had been constricted that another line of pipes could be laid on the other side, and room left in the middle for a double line of rails.

Chief Secretary M'Culloch said he saw no objection to handing over to a company, and land could be resumed for stations. The deputation left with a feeling of something accomplished.

Meeting at Northcote.

A meeting was held in the Peacock Hotel, Northcote, in July 1867 to consider the question of a railway via the Yan Yean tramway line. There were 25 persons present and Mr. Bastings, a member of the Epping Roads Board was voted to the chair. Mr. Bastings said the question of carrying the Ovens railway by the Yan Yean tramway had been agitated and public meetings held at Whittlesea, Morang, Fitzroy, Preston and Epping. The Morang Road Board had opened up communications with the Epping Board of which Northcote was a part; and had called many meetings. Delegates had been appointed for the next meeting. Mr. Mitchell, also of the Epping Board said a large sum of money would be spent on the Ovens Railway, while there was a 19 mile long tramway, which would be available for the railway. He urged the meeting to agitate for their claim to be brought before Parliament. The delegates appointed by all districts assembled in December 11, 1868, and waited on the Railways Department and discussed many points regarding the use of the tramway. They asked for tracings of the tramway plan and for particulars regarding the proposed line through Broadmeadows. The deputationists were promised that any facilities the railways could give in the shape of documents and plans would be readily supplied. That was the sum total of what the deputation achieved.

The Morang Meeting.

On Oct. 24, 1868, at Bridge Inn there was a large attendance of district residents to register an opinion regarding the use of the tramway for part of the north-east train route. Mr. John Higgs proposed that active steps be taken to have the Yan Yean tramway converted into a railway to the Upper Murray insted of starting it at Essendon as proposed. Messrs Walton and Thomas were appointed deligates to represent the district in any co-operative movement to carry the objectives of the meeting into effect. One speakes said the Spencer St., was not conveniently situated, as the growth would be in the north and would never be likely to spread to the west on account of the swamp. Messrs. Bastings and Mitchell were appointed as deligates to a combined meeting with the district representatives on the following week.

Second Deputation.

A deputation consisting of deligates appointed at public meetings held for the purpose in various localities waited on the Minister of Railways, Jan. 1869, in order to advocate the utilisation of the Yan Yean tramway, by including it in the Upper Murray railway project. It consisted of representatives of Northcote (Messrs Bastings and Mitchell), Morand (Messrs. Thomas and Wilton), Preston (Mr. Wood-), Epping (Mr. Sheffield), Whittlesea (Mr. Wishart), and Firzrpy (Messrs Schotchmere and Rushall). The object of the deputation was to urge the claims of the Plenty district to railway communication. It urged the Govern ment to form its upper Murray line of railwayso as to utalise the Yan Yean tramway, either by carrying the line along the tramway line or else by making a brance line to connect Whittlesea.

Two years previously all the facts regarding traffic and costs had been prepared and presented to the Commissioners on the reopening of the tramway. At the deputation, the chief speaker was Mr. Blackie, Epping Board secretary, who read a long and detail detailed report on the district's potentien. The Chairman (Mr. Watkins MLA) asked for statistics regarding the possible traffic of the proposed line but Mr. Blackie contended that the facts were as presented and that further these facts had been presented 2 years earlier when the reopening of the tramway was investigated.

Mr. Jones (a member of the inquiry board) stated that he remembered the report and the building of the tramway quite well. He had recently traversed the district, the capabilities of which had so much praised, but he had seen no signs of traffic, but when he visited Whittlesea possible traffic from which immediate returns could be expected. At Wallan, he has seen some signs of traffic, but when he visited Whittlesea on the busiest day of the week-market day- he had actually seen 17 people at once.. The only reason which would induce the Government to form a line, principally for the cartage of wood and stone, would be the absolute dearth of such articles on all other lines of railways. There was no such dearth, however. As for the argument that the railways were for the general good and not for profit, it would, to a certain extent, hold good if the railways were to be made all over the colony, but as the case stood they could only be carried through favoured districts, and therefore in all fairness those should be favoured which were capable of giving the most in return. But he concluded, we must be governed by the Engineer's report.

It was agreed by the Department to ask its engineer to report on the suggested route. He was also asked to consider running the northern lines from Essendon to Whittlesea and back again to pick up the main line. Later in the month, the railways chief Engineer submitted the following report.

Against route.

A line of the railways by way of the Yan Yean tramway is quite practicable, and would fall into the line of the proposed north-eastern railway about six miles south of Kilmore. If the Yan Yean tramway route was adopted, the length of the line measuring from Essendon, would be increased by nearly 6 miles, and either a separate terminus would have to be built at North Melbourne, or a junction, involving heavy expenses, be made with the Essendon line. The increased length would not only add to the cost of construction but also the maintenance costs. The proposed route does not offer any advantages to compensate for the increased cost of the line, working and maintenance., The Yan Yean tramway was laid on wooden rails, and these

where any remain, are quite rotten, The fences and bridges are in the same condition. After considerable technical details the report continues:-

Practically, there is nothing in favor of this route and the Commissioners are advised not to use it as part of the north-eastern railway. The advice was adopted.

Cost of line.

When the Whittlesea railway was contemplated, sections between Melbourne and Royal Park on the Coburg line (built 1884) and between Princess Bridge and Clifton Hill were already in existence. In 1888, the gap of 2.39 miles costing £302-790 was bridged. Next year, at a cost of £407-205, the line was continued from Whittlesea Junction to Whittlesea, a distance of 22 miles. Whittlesea Junction is that section of the line between Clifton Hill and North Fitzroy on what is known as "The Loop".

It remained open for seventy years and was closed on Nov. 29. 1959.

By May 1890, all platforms, lamp rooms, water supply, turntables and other necessary adjuncts to railway running were in place.

Electrification was as follows:- Princess Bridge - Reservoir, July 31. 1921.
Reservoir Thomastown, December 16. 1929
Thomastown to Lalor November 28. 1959

Goods train services to Whittlesea were discontinued in May 1955, and passenger services in 1960.

ALTERATION TO MORANG AND WHITTLESEA SHIRE AREA.

Not satisfied with the administration of the Shire of Darebin, only four years old, many ratepayers of Morang riding petitioned the Government to be excised from Darebin and added to Whittlesea. This is another episode of the stormy times experienced by Councillors in the early life of the two shires.

Many spirited meetings, petitions and counter-petitions were lodged before the Minister. The Minister granted the request and Whittlesea had its land area doubled.

And this was the municipal state for nearly 40 years and the amalgamation into the greater shire of Whittlesea. On Sept. 26, 1870, the Roads Boards of Epping, Morang and Woodstock became united to form the Shire of Darebin. After 4 years of joint administration, residents of Morang were dissatisfied with their council and petitioned the government to separate Morang from Darebin Shire. This was in Sept. 1874 and as a counter, a deputation from the Darebin Council waited on the Minister denying the claim that the district did not receive a fair share of shire funds. The deputation showed the Minister, from the books of the Council, not only that Morang had received its fair share of the revenue, but that during the period 1871 to the date of the deputation, £954 had been expended on the district named, over and above the sum its rates entitled it to. The deputation also stated that the petition for severance was got up by Mr. Moses Thomas, for his own purpose, that it was signed under false representations, that several of the signatures were in the same handwriting and that the declarations attached to the petition, attesting to the accuracy of the signatures were dated five days prior to the petition itself.

The deputation also pointed out that there was no real desire for severance in Morang which was testified to be the fact that the council always worked amicably. Mr. Giles (the Minister) said he would make full enquiries.

Cause of agitation.

That this agitation caused considerable discussion in the district is confirmed

by the following report published in "The Collingwood Advertiser" Oct. 15. 1874.

Repudiation. The Darebin Shire Council has gained much notoriety in financial matters. It has--to speak mildly-- "made use of" a large amount of money set apart for the construction of a new bridge at Northcote, its secretary had bolted- it is said with the connivance of others who shared the plunder- with unknown thousands of pounds the property of the ratepayers; and the financial affairs of the Shire altogether have got into such a muddle as to defy anything like an audit. In short, Darebin Shire has got into such a bad odor that the Morang residents thereof is anxious to disown connection therewith. and a petition was lately presented to the Government praying for the severance. Mr. Shire President M'Cormack, however disappointed at being rejected for the Assembly, is resolved to stick to all his municipal authority, and therefore opposes the severance of his domain. Indeed, in a deputation which he recently headed, he declared that the Morang severance agitation was got up by a selfish publican, and that the signatures of the separation memorial were not genuine. Thereupon, the Morang ratepayers met at the State School No. 488- Mr. A. Willis in the chair-- to take into consideration the action of M'Cormack and his creatures in the Darebin Council in opposing the petition.

The meeting was well attended and the first resolution was proposed by Mr. Moses Thomas (who gave M'Cormack a rare "showing up") and seconded by Mr. Wyatt.

"That this meeting, being fully convinced that all allegations put forth in the petition presented by the ratepayers are true and substantially correct, and can be proved from the records ⁱⁿ of the Shires books, is willing to join issue with the Council on the question". This was carried M'Cormack, who was present, wished to make some sort of statement as to the receipts and expenditure of the Morang Riding, but the meeting refused to listen to him as he had no business there, not being a ratepayer of the Riding.

Messrs Thomas and Wyatt moved - That this meeting challenges the president and councillors to test the truthfulness of the allegations by their appointing one man,

the Morang ratepayers appointing another man, and the Minister appointing a third, with power to examine the Shire books, the decision of any two of the three being final. Mr. Thomas again moved:-That this meeting feels satisfied that the signatures to the petition are all genuine and regrets that the president and councillors have thought fit to riasé doubts as to their being so, in the face of the statutory declarations made by three reliable ratepayers witnessing to the genuineness of same. On the adoption of this motion which Mr. Bassett seconded, Mr. Thomas moved and Mr. N M'Donald seconded:- That the following gentlemen be appointed a committee viz:- A. Willis, W. Thomas, E. Wyatt, RM'Donald, and the mover to act on behalf of the Morang ratepayers, with power to appoint a man to represent them in the event of the president and councillors of the shire agreeing to test the truthfulness of thr allegations put forth in the petition for severance in the manner proposed by resolution No.2. and that the Minister be furnished with a copy of the resolution passed and requested to a third man if required. The Minister agreed to the request for the Morang riding to be be excised and it was seperated form Darébin Shire and added to Whittlesea Shire. By the end of the year this was accomplished. The salaries of the Secretary and Engineer were each reduced by £50 per year owing to the reduction of work due to severance. Darébin now had two ridings and Whittlesea was increased by one to three. And this was how the district was administered until the overall amalgamation in 1915.

The Morang Shire President was George D. McCormick, who contested unsuccessfully a State seat against the sitting member, F.R. Godfrey. Evidently at the celebrations, some comment derogatory to McCormack prompted the following letter in "The Age" Oct. 31, 1874.

East Bourke Election Pepition.

To the Editor of the Age.,

In your issue of Sept. 27. 1874, in the account of the proceedings at a banquet given to the member of East Bourke at Plough Inn. Mr. G. Godfrey is reported to have said "he had to pay the expenses of the petition while Mr. McCormack was being paid £1 per day on a Shire Conference". Mr. McCormack denied it in many words, continuing- it might be presumed that a person who not only

occupies the position as a member of Parliament and Justice of the Peace, but also assumes the role of an amateur clergyman, and preached the gospel twice every Sunday to two separate congregations would descend to flasehood: but anyone desirous of forming an estimate of the veracity of Mr. F.R. Godfrey need only read the evidence of that gentleman taken before the election, the committee decision and the unjust leaning towards him, then they will not be left long in doubt.

Signed: George D. McCormick.

Mr. Godfrey was the president of the Shire of Merriang. The celebration was a banquet held in Plough Inn, Campbellfield. The other Plough Inn was on Plenty Road, at Janefteld.

Third Flour Mill

The third flour mill located on the Plenty River was built at the rear of the present sanatorium and was erected by a man named Colstock. He owned considerable property in Bundoora. The mill did not work as it was not well fitted. After a few years it was purchased by the Hurlstone family which fitted it and worked it for some time. Ar. Alfred Hurlstone came to Australia with his parents in 1838 and was a scholar of the Wesleyan Sunday School, Surrey Hills N.S.W.

He removed to Victoria in 1847 and became associated with the South Preston Church where he was for 17 years Sunday school superintendent. After 20 years ill health he died on July 26, 1884, aged 61 years. The mill building was two storied and in the beginning, the water of the Plenty was used to drive the wheel. With the receding supply, due to the water being diverted into the Yan Yean, the mill was converted to steam but the machinery was soon moved to Preston and the building was allowed to fall into ruins and with the passing of time, finally disappeared.

The Harmer family lived in Bundoora in a blue stone house on the land where the present sanatorium is built. It still stands. Some of his land was the original holding of the Colstock family and it included all the area now occupied by the Health Commission. Mr. Harmer was a local preacher for many years.

Sundry stories.

In 1863, the polling places for the Morang Board elections was the Plenty Common School Morang (Now Mernda). In 1867, the East Preston Common School was added to the list. The section of Preston in Morang Road Board area, included a large section of north ~~south~~ east Preston with High St. the western boundary and Bell St., the south. In 1869, the Board office was located in the middle sub-division (it had been sub-divided into districts that year) and was located in Plough Inn, at Janefield. The Morang Board office in 1866, was in Edward Poole's Junction Hotel, Plenty Rd., Preston.

Moses Thomas resigned from the position of Engineer in 1868, but retained the secretaryship. The engineer appointed was James Murphy at a salary of £120 per year. The Morang Board made an application to the Hon. Henry Miller to grant a site for a Board office on his land near the Janefield toll in December. The request was agreed to by Mr. Miller in Jan. 1869 "should the Board decide to move."

The Board did'nt, because next year the Road Board was amalgamated to form the Shire of Darebin.

Withing a few hindred yards of the Janefield Presbyterian Church was a church on the corner of McKimmies Lane, a blacksmith shop where the present house stands. The Findon Hunt Club kennels and stables. The church was next then followes stables for a milk company .

At the rear of the Findon property was a slaughter house where animals were slaughtered for the dogs' food.

Not far north was Plough Inn, and on the other side of Plenty Road, the school.

Formation of Health Acts.

For many years in Melbourne, typhoid was the greatest scourge affecting the early pioneers of this State. Contaminated water was found to be the greatest factor in the spread of the disease, and it was not until Yan Yean water was reticulated into the newly developing town that it was checked. Second only to typhoid was small pox and this too was checked and, like typhoid, eliminated. For small pox, vaccination was the conquerer. Both diseases are rarely heard of today.

Road proposed.

In 1840 Flinders St., was a bog of rich adhesive black mud lying between a row of houses and shops on one hand and on the other that dense titree scrub which lined the river bank. The winter rains made this so formidable that the residents subscribed £80 for a tentative effort at its improvement, and a month later a society was formed for furnish and canvass for subscriptions to make a decent road through Collingwood, and out to the Plenty River, So the way was opened for the settlement of the Whittlesea district. The story of this road has been narrated in the Shire Story.

The Health Acts.

Community health is controlled by the State of Victoria and many of the branches are administered by the Municipality. It was not until the Shires of Whittlesea and Darebin had been created that the State Health Acts were applied to these districts. Since 1869, many persons have occupied the position of Health Officer (a qualified medical man) and Health Inspector. The Health Inspector is not medically qualified but after training in several phases of municipal health, must hold a certificate of competency from a State Government Board. The present Health Officer is Dr. Day, holder of this position for many years and his inspector is Mr. William Bleazby.

Health Department Formation.

In 1841, when the population of the town was still only some five or six thousand, it had its 13 doctors, and all of them had plenty to do. During the summer months on an average, saw a patient buried per week for there raged a perfect epidemic of

typhoid fever and dysentery in the warmer weather of 1840, 1841 and 1842. There was then no sewers, and the drainage of 6-000 persons could not stagnate for weeks in the Williams Creek, as Elizabeth Street was then called, without some serious result; and the drainage which found its way westward made Batman's swamp worse than it had been, though always bad enough when the summer heats had nearly, but not quite, dried its muddy bed. Then again, the people had to drink the water of the Yarra, clear enough and pleasant to look at but tainted by being the ultimate receptacle of the drainage of the town. Water was sold in carts about the streets, two shillings being the rule price for 80 gallons, though it sometimes rose to 6/-. Dearness, however, was not its worst fault; too often it conveyed the seed of disease. The immigrants, especially suffered in this way, after a long confinement and not particularly suitable fare for the voyage, they rapidly fell victims to this early unsalubrity of Melbourne. It was in Feb. 1841, that there came to Melb., the "Salsette" which had left England laden with men and women full of high hopes and eager to try their fortunes under skies of a brighter omen; but the miseries of their long voyage in a ship badly found by sordid proprietors, had taken the stamina out of them. They landed in a weakened condition unable to resist the attack of disease, and typhoid, which was then raging in Melb. at once seized upon them as congenial food.

Latrobe, in an official report, stated that they had most of them been engaged before leaving ship, but few had had time to enter on their duties when they were prostrated with the deadly fever. One by one the unfortunate people from the "Salsette" became languid and out of sorts; their pulse steadily rose to raging fever heat, and the scourge was upon them, then known as low fever, but now known as the dreaded typhoid. So the cemetery at the top of Queen St (the old Melbourne General Cemetery and long since removed for the Victoria Market) rapidly filled and before long it had 800 graves. Thereupon Governor Latrobe appointed our first Board of Health to enquire into the cause of this mortality. It was mostly due to the unsanitary condition of Melbourne.

In the years which followed, each Roads Board and Shire adopted the Health Acts, and were controlled by the State Health Department in most of the health matters of the Municipality. Pure foods, weights and measures, injections, tips, baby health centres were all Acts of Parliament for the universal good of the community.

Doctors Registered.

In 1884, all medical practitioners were re-registered. The first registration was in 1865. Dr. Thomas Serrell of Whittlesea, qualified in London in 1829 and came to Victoria in July 1862. He was number 110 on the medical register. The Shire of Darebin Medical Officer in 1884 was Dr. W.C. Wilkinson. Merriang's doctor was Dr. E. Brook. The State Health statutes were extended to cover the Shire of Darebin and of Whittlesea in Jan. 1869. A circular was received next month from the Health Department, pointing out the course of action necessary to be taken in case of small pox appearing in the district. This followed an outbreak in Northcote where certain sections were quarantined. Later in the century, vaccination against small pox was compulsory and by early in the 1900's the complaint was almost eradicated. It is rarely heard of today.

Under the Health Act, an inspector of nuisances was obligatory. The Sgtl of Police at Northcote was the first appointed.

March 2, 1868, the Deaf and Dumb asylum committee applied for the first time for a contribution towards the associations funds. Councils have contributed ever since. In June of the same year, the Eye and Ear Institution also applied. The appeal was accompanied by the Institutes first annual report.

Electric Telegraph.

March 1869, Hawthorn Shire Council asked Epping Roads Board to support a scheme for the introduction of suburban electric telegraph. the Board "favourably received the request." Next month. April 1869, members saw pictures of a steam roller for the first time. There is no record of prize or action taken.

The Board decided to approach the Government with a suggested amendment that the new Local Government Acts to permit borrowing for permanent works on the credit of the Municipality. This is the present day method by which all capital works are financed. March 1869. Woodstock Roads Board advised Epping Board that it would erect a toll gate in the north boundary road of Epping (now Bridge Inn Road) Epping declined to agree by protesting to the government against the construction of the toll. Next month, the Board approved of the Government's action to abolish toll gates, Epping's reason for the protest against Woodstock was that there were two gates between the township and the outry already. There were established at the two junctions, High St., and Plenty Rd., and High St., and Westgarth St.

Makers of agricultural machines in the years 1875 and 1876 conducted ploughing competitions in Victoria. Agricultural Societies took up the competition to have this sport on the schedule for many years. Local champions listed were:- William Mahoney, Epping; George Sparks, Epping; T. Oliver, Campbellfield; the two brothers Creighton from Whittlesea and two others out of the district.

Up to about 1852, Epping and the district was known as Darebin Creek and it is referred to be that name in the early history. The name changed to Epping, about this time. The section of Thomastown north of Main St., (then known as Germantown) was Westgarthtown after a Mr. William Westgarth who owned a large holding on which he settled many German families.

This is referred to in detail in the history of the German settlement in Thomastown.

Early Land Sales.

Sales of land in the district are recorded in Mitchell Library, Sydney. As the district was under the control of NSW until 1851, no records exist in Victoria prior to this date. A map of 1840 shows most of Wollert adjacent to the Merri Creek in possession of Hughes and Hosking who also had one block west of Whittlesea. They also had several blocks of land under offer on the Maribyrnong. T. Wills had four blocks at Whittlesea including the area chosen as a site for the township. T. Walker possessed 2 blocks at

Yan Yean. John Henry Patterson, original settler in the district was born in 1810 arrived in Victoria 1836, elected to the Legislative Council 1856-59, and died 1859. He lived at Green Hills, 25 miles north of Melbourne from Jan. 1837 to 1840. Green Hills later became Whittlesea. Mr. Patterson then shifted to Bacchus March. In the original crown grants, Patterson owned nearly 25 square miles of land, extending from Grants Lane in the north to almost the Epping townshil in the south. The eastern boundry was approx. High St., and extended to the Merri Creek. This area included most of Woodstock and Wollert. He also owned a considerable portion of Kal Kallo. Thomas Wills was born in 1800 and purchased land in this area in 1839. He married a Miss. Reiby and died in 1872. He grew lucerne on the banks of the Yarra Yarra and owned allotments at Whittlesea and Toorourong. His homestead was the site of the Yarra Bend Asylum (long since demolished) and now a golf course. Farifird infections deaseses hospital is also on the land. A land survey map of 1840 shows Hughes and Hosking occupying what appears to be the early run of J.H. Patterson so it can be presumed they purchased the land from him. In 1849, Kal Kallo was sub-divided into 30 sections with Patterson owning all but two, two. T.H. Power and T. Walker were the owners of the remaining sections. In Merrilands the area was sub-divided into 19 sections, with Arrowsmith two, Patterson, two; J. Robertson, two and R.D. Warner and J. Boyd one each. The balance of the sections were not acquired. The name Woodstock is derived from two Saxon words. "Wude" meaning a wood, and "Stock" an opening or clearing, so that literally Woodstock means a clearing or cleared space in the woods.

THE POST OFFICE PLAYS A PART.

The establishment date of many offices in the Shire cannot be ascertained, as the early records do not list individual offices, excepting the larger ones. All other offices are listed as "other offices were opened".

The Post Office was first established in Melbourne on April 13, 1837, in charge of Mr. E.J. Forster, Clerk of Petty Sessions, who also held offices under Captain Lonsdale, Police Magistrate, of the then newly formed settlement of Port Phillip, Colony of N.S.W. The office when first opened until July 1, 1851, was under the control of the Post Master General of Sydney. The "Post Office Act" of the period being the fifth Will IV No. 24. In Oct. of the same year Mr. Forster was succeeded as Post Master by Mr. Eyre, shopkeeper and the office was successfully held by persons following other business pursuits until 1841.

During the 9 months ending Dec. 1837 there passed through the office 1050 letters and 1355 newspapers. The amount of revenue collected during the same period was £33-10-10.

By Sailing vessels.

The only mail received and despatched at this time were conveyed by sailing vessels trading between Melbourne and Sydney and Melbourne and Van Diemen's Land.

In 1838 a contract was entered into for conveyance of a mail between Melbourne and Yass, overland communication with Sydney being by this means established. Mails were despatched from Sydney and Melbourne once a fortnight, the course of the post between the two places being 5 weeks. In August 1842 Mr. Henry Darling Kemp, an officer of experience in the Sydney G.P.O. was appointed to the charge of the Melbourne office (the business of which had rapidly increased) and to exercise the general supervision over the postal affairs of the Colony. There was no post office recorded in this district prior to 1853.

First to appear.

The first one to appear of the post office records for the district was Kinlochewe.

On Oct. 25, 1853, the Post Office listed the offices in Victoria (there were 23) and they changed the names of many of them. Kinlochewe became Donnybrook. The first contract for mail delivery was July 22, 1853, when the post office called for tenders to carry the mail from Melbourne to Upper Plenty or such post offices as may be established in the vicinity of the Plenty Inn by way of Plough Inn, twice weekly on horseback. Mails were being sent to Janefield and Upper Plenty in 1854. In 1865, Epping mail was delivered 6 days weekly via Northcote and Thomastown by waggon, Merriang 3 days weekly via Woodstock by horseback, Preston, Janefield, Bundoora and Mernda by waggon. It is interesting to note that there was a separate office at Janefield. A mail contract let Aug. 1889 to and from Woodstock via Northcote, Preston, Thomastown, Epping, Wollert for 6 days weekly was let to W.C. Farrell for £125 per annum. Others to be let were:- To and from Glenvale via Preston, Bundoora, Janefield, Morang, Yan Yean, Badgers Creek and Whittlesea, 6 days weekly, Robertson Wagner and Co. £223 per annum, to and from Morang and Charnwood via Hazelglen, 3 days weekly, O. McDonald, £44. Prior to 1857, the Yan Yean post office was located in an old house on Plenty Road. It was removed to its present location in 1875.

Whittlesea Post Office.

The actual date on which the post office at Whittlesea was established cannot be definitely be stated. It was, however, probably in 1862, when a mail service first operated between Preston and Whittlesea, via Janefield and Morang. The service operated 3 times weekly, mails being conveyed by coach. In 1867, the frequency of the service was increased to 6 times weekly, running between Preston and Glenvale via Bundoora, Janefield, Morang and Whittlesea. The service was operated in conjunction with another which ran between Bundoora and Diamond Creek, via Greensborough. With the advent of the railway in 1889 the road mail service was discontinued and mails were conveyed by rail. While there is no record of the opening of Whittlesea Office it is known that in 1868, Mr. J.W. Cairns was Postmaster. Subsequently appointments were Mr. J. Gibson in 1872, Mr. A. Lording between 1878 and 1880, and Mr.

W.H.Lockwood in 1881. There is no record in the changed of postmasters between 1881 and 1914 when the office was in charge of Miss. M.Lockwood. No further changes took place until 1925 when the Postmaster was Mr.J.C.Gibbs and from 1960, Mr. A.W.Allen the present Postmaster. Telegraph facilities were established in 1879, Money order facilities in 1876 and savings bank business was transacted in 1890. The Whittlesea telephone exchange was opened in 1910, Dr. F.A.day being connected as subscriber No.1

Other Post Offices.

Glenvale Post Office was opened in 1865, mails being conveyed by horseback from Whittlesea, Records shows that in 1868 a Mr. Thompson was Postmaster. In 1875, E.Gibney was P.M. at a salary of £15 per annum, He followed Mr. P.Corbett who took over in 1870 at a similar salary. The office was closed in 1895 and re-opened in 1930, the name being changed to Whittlesea North. in 1934. Morang South was opened in 1873 with Mr. R.Grant as P.M.. In 1875, Jane Quick was in charge at a salary of £15 per year. This was the minimum salary offered for postal service. Morang. The actual date of opening is not available but it was in existence in 1868 when it was in charge of Mr. J.Higgs. Mr. Higgs name appears in Railway deputations and in the Morang Roads Boards and the Darebin Shire activities. In 1875, H.M.Thompson was P.M. at a salary of £33, Business must have considerably increased in the 7 years of its existence. Arthurs Creek was opened in 1889. Bundoora. Records indicates that this office was in existence in 1862. Mr. W.Enns was in charge. Scrubby Creek. Facilities were first provided in the shape of a loose bag in 1889-1899. The postoffice was established later. The name was changed to Hume Vale in 1925. Yan Yean was opened in 1875. Mr. W.H.Lewis being appointed Postmaster. The name was changed to Yan Yean South in 1893 and again to Mernda in 1913. Kinglake West and Upper Plenty were first served by a loose bag in 1899, Eden Park opened in 1907. Hazel Glen opened 1871 and the name changed to Doreen in 1895. In 1875, A.Smith was P.M. at the minimum salary. Strathewen opened in 1909 and Kinglake opened in 1883. There was also a second office listed for South Morang with Robert Grant as P.M., allowance £25.

As Robert Grant's name was later associated with Janefield it could be assumed that this was the post office listed as Janefield in the mail runs.

If this is the case, Janefield was on the same level as Epping.

Telegraph offices Whittlesea opened as a telegraph office in June, 1879, Yan Yean in August 1879 and Morang in Jan. 1880. Money-orders issued in 1880 were:-

Whittlesea 125, and Morang 87. Post office Savings bank: first established at Morang May 1, 1876.

Salaries.

In 1869 the postmaster's salaries were at the following:-Bundoora. W. Emms, £15 p.a.

Epping, W. Mitchell, £20 p.a.; Thomastown, E. Perry, £15 p.a. Whittlesea, S.W. Carins, £3 Woodstock, O. Quinn £20.

In comparison, by 1877, the salaries were as follows:- Woodstock, O. Quinn £15 p.a. Bundoora, W. Emms, £15. Epping, F. Vockenshaw, £25; Janefield, M. McFarlane, £24 p.a. Morang, H.M. Thompson, £33 p.a.; South Morang, Jane Quick, £15 p.a.; Whittlesea J. Gibson £36 p.a.; Thomastown, E. Perry. £15 p.a.

An interesting fact to note is that in 1878 T.A. Hickey, who was postmaster at this particular time received an increase in his salary to £45 p.a. and T. Jupp, who succeeded him in 1879 received £49 p.a. but at Epping, Mr. Vockenshaw's salary had been reduced to £21 p.a.

Jan. 3 1956 marked the inauguration of a postal delivery in Thomastown. This was undertaken by women from the two post offices in the district Mrs. Kinna is serving the northern end of the district from Lalor post office and Mrs K Young the southern and ventral area from Thomastown Post Office.

EARLY WHITTLESEA.

In 1838, what was known as the Parish of Tourourrong was surveyed into allotments by Robert Hoddle, who laid out the City of Melbourne, but before that (in 1837), George Sherwin, son of Thomas Sherwin, of Parramatta, N.S.W., had taken up land in the district and built a hut on the present recreation reserve, the site being the hillock where the sixth green and seventh tee of the golf course now stands.

George Sherwin was one of four brothers, William, George, John, and ~~Elizabeth~~ Thomas Sherwin- who came to Port Phillip in 1837 and took up a large area of land along the Plenty River. George was born at Parramatta in 1819. He remained at Whittlesea for a while and then had the Australian Inn in Bourke St., Melbourne. In 1849 he was cattle dealing in the Mulwala district on the Murray but he returned to Whittlesea District about 1852.

George Sheewin re-visited Sydney in 1844, for on March 17 of that year he married Mary Thorn, at Parramatta. He was made a J.P. in 1852. He apparently took the Inn about 1844, as his licence to occupy the land was re-granted in 1840-1-2-3.

He became insolvent in 1843 but as nearly everyone in Victoria became insolvent about that time, it would have been more remarkable had he remained solvent.

He was the first chairman of the Whittlesea District Roads Board in 1863.

John and George Sherwin were on the Plenty River in 1840 but they desolved partners in 1843. John Sherwin remained in the district and was made a J.P. for Yan Yean in 1859. John Sherwin later moved to Merriang. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly fro, 1864 to 1865 and was M.L.C. from 1866 to 1868.

In his survey of 1838, Hoddle reserved the area of 320 acres for the town site and this reserve surrounded the the hut and stockyards of George Sherwin. The stockyards were located at approximately where Sherwin St., Eastern Hill, abuts on to the aqueduct. The first land sale was held in Sydney on May 8 1839 when practically the whole of the Parish of Tourourrong was offered at aution. Although George Sherwin occupied the area sold, Thomas Wills purchased an area of 13-979 acres

which comprised the area later owned by the Learmonth, Funston, Cockroft, Black, Glover, the Andrew family, Chirnside, Duns, Sawlings, P.W.Clark, Sassella, Gardiners, Pyers and portion of Barclay's east of Bruce's Creek. The price paid was 15/- per acre. J.P.Hughes and J.Hosking bought 640 acres for £384; H.B.Bowerman 640 acres for £384 and J and G.Urquhart 820 acres for £492. These prices may seem low compared with present day values but it must be remembered that it was heavily timbered and much clearing had to be done before any use could be made of the land. At the time when the area was sold the purchase money had to be paid in cash, and in view of the fact that George Sherwin's estate was sequestered some time after the sale that would appear to be the reason why he was not a purchaser. However, he retained an area of 795 acres.

In 1853 the village reserve was subdivided into allotments by assistant surveyor Robert Mason, who named the village Whittlesea after a town Whittlesea in England. The story of the naming of Whittlesea has been told earlier, where he once lived. The purchasers were H.Sutcliffe, F.G.Arkell, M.Foley (3 lots) R.Malone, G.Cade, G.Maxwell (3 lots) E.Brown, M.McCarthy (6 lots), J.Patten (3 lots), W.McGonegal (2 lots) P.Malone and J.Mills (2 lots). The upset price was £8 per acre. The township site was then at Eastern Hill but it was never favored by the residents and the business places were established on the present location. The streets on Eastern Hill appear to be named in the year 1853 by Mason, and are known as Paddock St., after the paddocks adjoining it on the north; Sherwin St. after the pioneer and his station, Hut st. after Sherwin's hut; Bourke St. and Evelyn St., after the County.

Coming back to broad acres, the unsold portion of the parish was subdivided in 1851, by assistant-Surveyor Henry B.Foot, and offered for sale in Melbourne, on October 17, 1851 at an upset price of £1 an acre. The buyers were R.Sawyer, 320 acres portion of Gibsons and Landells; John T.Furness (Steege's and portion of the Board area. Thomas Hutchings Bear, who was responsible for the erection of Bear's castle, Yan Yean, was born at Tiverton, Devon, England. He came to Yan Yean in 1840 and took up a large area under licence. He left the district in 1851.

while his wife's father (the late William Johnston) came here in the forties. Mr. Johnston rented Conron Park, later purchasing it, and it remained in the possession of the Johnston family until the death of Mr. Henry Johnston in 1936 when it was purchased by Mr. W. Black. Mr. John Downie's father Andrew Downie came to Whittlesea in 1846. Land was first purchased at Woodstock. Mrs. John Downie was the daughter of J.L. Coulthard who died, aged 97 years, Nov. 1927. He came to Whittlesea in 1862. William Cornfoot established the first butchers shop in Whittlesea.

Thomas Wills, J.P., who bought a large area of land at the first sale, never spent much time in the district. He arrived in Melbourne in 1839 and had large interest at Heidelberg. His property was where the Yarra Bend asylum was built (since demolished in 1930). Henry G. Ashurst took up 1600 acres at Mt. Disappointment in 1849.

Among the other pioneering families are the Glovers and the Johnstons. The father of Mr. Thomas Glover of "Summer Hill" Whittlesea, came to the district in 1860 while his wife's father (the late William Johnston) came here in the forties. Mr. Johnston rented Conron Park, later purchasing it, and it remained in the possession of the Johnston family until the death of Mr. Henry Johnston in 1936 when it was purchased by Mr. W. Black. Mr. John Downie's father Andrew Downie came to Whittlesea in 1846. Land was first purchased at Woodstock. Mrs. John Downie was the daughter of J.L. Coulthard who died, aged 97 years, Nov. 1927. He came to Whittlesea in 1862.

William Cornfoot established the first butchers shop in Whittlesea.

The Clark family have been living in the district as William Clark came from England in the 40's and took up land at the foot of the mountains. Mr. James Clark, a son and Mr. P.W. Clark, the father of Mr. Len Clark, the fourth generation to own the one property.

Mr. Alexander MacDonald was born on what was known as Clement's property and he resided in the district all his life. For many years, he had possession of the Glenvale Station which he held until subdivided. He then farmed his own property at Upper Plenty until 1903 when he leased the old vineyard property from which he retired in 1912. Mrs. MacDonald predeceased him. A son is Ex Cr. A.J. MacDonald and a daughter Mrs. J. Sparrow.

James Duffy was born in Whittlesea Oct. 20 1857 and his birth was registered at the office of Births, Deaths and Marriages then situated (with the P.O.) in the yard of Willow Tree Inn. He spent most of his life in Whittlesea. He was first with the Public Works Department and later with the M.E.B.W. being one of the few remaining who were employed on the construction of the aqueduct from Wallby Creek to Yan Yean Reservoir. Three of his sons became Anglican clergymen. Mrs. Duffy, who's maiden name was Margaret Owen, came to the district when she was six weeks old, and her home was, for a short time, at Bears Castle. At that time, the Castle was in the midst of the blacks. Her brother was Ben Owen who lived at Hume Vale.

There is little known of the Cunningham family of Glenvale. One son, born in 1868 became a Presbyterian minister, Rev. W.R. Cunningham.

ARTHURS CREEK FRUIT GROWERS ASSOCIATION.

A public meeting was held in the Arthur's Creek Mechanic's Institute on May 12, 1890 to form a district fruitgrowers association. Mr. R. Bassett, acting chairman, outlined the need for such an organisation.

On the motion of Messrs. J. Draper and David Christian, the Association was formed, with the following officers; President, Charles Draper; secretary, P. Murphy and treasurer, J. Herbert. Twenty-two members were enrolled with the joining fee at 1/-. Receipts for the meeting totalled £4. Members present were, Messrs, R. Bassett, J. Draper, D. Christian, J. McDonald, C. Draper, W. Draper, P. Murphy, P. Bassett, P. Green, J. Herbert, J. Lodge, J. Mann, W. Hilderbrandt, R. Hemple, C. Creighton, C. Verso, H. McMillan, Eunson, Dave Murphy, George Murphy, William Murphy, C. Hilderbrandt, F. Phillips, J. Murphy, D. Mann, W. Laidlay, Macfarlane, H. Limmer, G. Moore, B. McDonald, L. W. Brock. In July, the Association was busily discussing the need for duty on bananas and pineapples (both imported lines) and the formulation of rules. But the wider concern of the State Fruit Authority was about noxious insects. A conference was arranged in Melbourne. Mr. Bassett was appointed to discuss the Bill proposed in the Victorian Parliament. The August meeting decided to support a duty on bananas and pineapples. It was decided to hold annual meetings in October and the following officers were elected for the first annual meeting:- President, C. Draper, Vice-presidents, R. Bassett and W. Murphy; secretary, P. Murphy; Treasurer, J. Herbert, finance committee, G. Gray, P. Green, J. McDonald, R. Bassett; auditors J. Draper and P. Green. But Mr. Green was a member of the finance committee and he could not be an auditor also, so G. Murphy replaced him. In December, the Insect bill was studied and in general disagreed with. At the Feb. 1891 meeting a seedling apple was exhibited by a grower named McMillan and the meeting named it "Lord Hopetoun". This was the forerunner of the naming of many seedlings most of which are unknown today. Little business was transacted during the year, but in Sept, the Dept. of Agriculture was asked for particulars of fruit export and fruit canning.

The annual meeting in Oct. saw no change in the officers. On July 4, 1892, Mr. J. Draper produced an apple he named "Stewarts". This apple is with us today and is the only one of dozens to survive.

In Oct. oranges were to be added to the list for duty, members decided. The Premier was asked to bring in a Bill for all fruit and vegetables imported into the Colony. At the first Melbourne fruit exhibition in 1893, Arthur's Creek and Diamond Creek combined and were awarded several prizes. The first step to fruit exporting was considered in Jan. 1895. The Dept. of Agriculture was asked to send a demonstrator to the district to instruct the growers in packing. In July the Association agreed to send its first consignment overseas and that it be exported under one uniform brand to be registered.

At a cost of $6/5\frac{1}{2}$ per case for charges, it was agreed in Feb. 1896 to send an initial consignment of 100 cases. The original shippers per S.S. Oruba were W. Murphy, W. Draper; J. Herbert and J. Steer. The fruit was eventually sold at Covent Garden at 19/-per case. In Oct. 1896, Mr. P. Murphy, the secretary, resigned because "he did not live in a central position" and Mr. Phillips took his place. The first show and ball was held on March 19, 1897. Fruit was exhibited in the Royal Show in May 1897 and the secretary was paid £2 for cartage and other expenses. A co-Operative scheme to supervise the purchases of all requirements and of the sale of fruit was agreed to. This was in Aug. 1897 and was "to prevent exploitation of its members from buyers".

The Association's second show was held in the Mechanic's on Feb. 24, 1898. This time a printed schedule was prepared and apples and pears predominated in the classes. Only a few classes for plums, peaches and quinces were available to exhibitors. Grapes, passion fruit, melons and strawberries were also included. Seventeen classes for vegetables, seven for flowers and nine for preserves completed an impressive list of the events. A dance was held at night. In Sept. 1898, the association decided to affiliate with the Victorian Fruit Growers organisation, a body which had been in operation for several years. Members had rejected the affiliation at the last 3 annual

meetings. An entry of 100 dishes of fruit was exhibited in the Royal Show. April 1899 to win first prize and £5-5-0. The fruit was sold for 30/-. In Dec. 1899, the Association asked the "Evelyn Observer" now "Whittlesea Post" to published the annual balance sheet. With the turn of the century, it was agreed to join the Chamber of Agriculture, with Mr Bassett as the Association's delegate. Meetings in future were to be held quarterly instead of monthly. The first prize for fruit was again won at the Royal Show by Arthur's Creek in 1900. A move to enter the dried fruit market was deferred at "the association could not see it was clear to enter into the field at present".

Monthly meetings were again commenced again in 1902 when George Horn replaced F.K.

Phillips as secretary. A writing desk was presented to John Herbert as a token of esteem from the members to express their thanks for his 13 years service as treasurer. In 1911, the officials were :- President, R. Goodman; Vice Presidents, J. Murphy and M. Brennan. Secretary F.K. Phillips; treasurer J. Herbert. Auditors, G. Herbert and R. Goodman Goodman.

Original settlers.

On the Arthur's Creek plan of subdivision for many of the original settlers appears the following names from the most northerly property under the lee of the Kinglake Hills at Strathewen along the Arthur's Creek southwards:- D. McKimmie, W. McKimmie, W. Powell, J. Reardon, M. Vogt, R. Brown, J. McKimmie, G. Murdie, G. Brain, P. Forde, C. Horne, A. O'Dea, J. Macfarlane, J. Steer, T. Murphy, J. Mann, W. Lodge, J. Lobb, R. Kelly, M. Brennan, C. Draper, A. McDonald, P. Green, J. Ryder, J. Laidlay, H. McMillan, D. Smith, E. Stanlake, C. Horn, D. Mann, W. Murphy, W. Phillips, S. Murphy, W. Watson, G. Tully, P. Fitzgerald, N. McPhee, D. Christian, J. Shawcross, J. Herbert and A. Brook. In Oct. 1885, Whittlesea Council decided to create a one chain road through the property of Patrick Forde at Arthurs Creek. His property was next to the selection of Robert Brown and was on the banks of the creek. The reason for the road was to continue the existing road from Hurstbridge to Kinglake. Prior to this time the road was only a track. On the opposite side of the creek was the property of John McKimmie. His neighbour on the same side were J. A. Macfarlane (south), J. Reardon and W. McKimmie to the north and under the foothills.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WHITTLESEA.

The first entry in the Whittlesea Presbyterian Church records is dated Sunday, August 11, 1861, where it is stated that the Rev, Samuel Hamilton, after divine service convened a public meeting in all persons interested in the foundation of a Presbyterian Church congregation in the townshil of Whittlesea to be held on Aug. 19, at 6 pm. at the Farmer's Arms Hotel.

The records do not disclose where the service was held and as the Mechanic's Institute was not erected by this date, it could be assumed that the service was also held in the hotel. It was not unusual for such service to be held in the local hotel, being the only accommodation available. The meeting was held on the date announced, those being present were :- Rev. S.A. Hamilton, Messrs. John Wishart, John Lindsay, Ewen Robertson, Alexander McKenzie, Duncan McNab, Robert Gibson, James Cone, James McNab, Donald Robertson, Anthony Nicholson, Robert Wade, Donald McIntyre, Andrew Dunn, Alexander Fraser, Alexander Cocker, Alexander Dobson, Henry Greenway and John Nelson. Mr. John Wishart was voted to the chair. The Rev. S.A. Hamilton stated that the Victorian Government had granted 2 acres of land in the township as a site for the proposed church, school house and manse.

It was moved by Mr. Andrew Dunn, and seconded by Mr. Alexander Cocker that "It is most desirable to have a House of worship Presbyterian, erected in Whittlesea and a congregation organised in connection therewith." The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Duncan McNab was elected secretary and Mr. John Wishart, treasurer. The following were appointed trustees of the Church Grounds, the names to be forwarded to the Government for approval. :- John Wishart, Whittlesea; Ewen Robertson, Toorourong; Andrew Dunn, Yan Yean; James McNab, Toorourong; William Johnston, Evelyn; Alexander Dobson, Yan Yean; Alexander McKenzie, Kalkoola; Andrew Cunningham, Duncan McNab, Lint Linton; John Gibson, Toorourong; Anthony Nicholson, Toorourong and Alexander Cocker Toorourong. Subscription lists were opened in the room and the sum of £65-10-0 was handed in by those present. At the next meeting held the following month, the

collectors intimated that £112-10-0 was in hand and this, with the grant of £120 from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria made the total of £232-10-0. The canvassers collectors canvassed the district and met with much success, that on March 3, 1863, the Committee was able to accept the tender of Mr. John Nelson for making 30-000 bricks. The bricks were subsequently sold by Mr. Nelson and used to erect a substantial dwelling house standing in the vicinity of the church grounds. New bricks were made and the erection of the Church was commenced in 1863. The foundation stone of the building was laid on April 7, 1863, the ceremony being performed by Mrs. Hamilton, wife of the Rev. S.A. Hamilton. The sum of £22-6-11 was placed on the stone and in addition £33-9-8 resulted from a tea meeting and special subscription. The erection of the church cost £346-16-1. On Oct. 6, 1863, the first meeting of the congregation was held in the new building. Mr. Ewen Robertson presiding. The tender of Mr. Andrew Dunn at £13-19-0 was accepted on Aug. 15, 1864, for fencing the church ground. On March 5, 1868, the tender of Messrs Nelson and Greenway at £284-2-0 was accepted for erecting the Manse, a brick building.

The Manse.

Plans for the Manse was drawn by Mr. Moses Thomas, engineer for Morang Roads Board in Jan. 1868. The minister was Rev. W. Souter and he agreed to the plans on Feb. 15. Two tenders were received for the construction of the building; £288 from a tenderer not listed and the successful tenderer, Greenway and Nelson, for £284-2-10. The building was completed on July 18, 1868. It was covered by shingles as little corrugated iron was available in those days. Some iron was available, imported from England. It was of wide corrugations and heavy gauge. The first Elders of the were:- Alexander Stewart, of Springvale; Robert Cummings Gemmell and John Higgs, Mayfield. They were appointed in 1862. John Higgs was session clerk from 1862 till his death in 1880. Other Elders of the church were; John Wishart, Andrew Cunningham, John Gibson and Donald McIntyre.

The names of some of the oldest families connected with the Presbyterian Church are

Gibson, Robertson, McIntyre, Glover, Nicholson, McKimmie, Andrew, Dr. Ronald, Merrieles, Cummings, Gardiner, Cornfoot, Johnston, Maxwell and Lorenz.

Early events.

1854. Occasional service held by the Rev. Peter Gunn who preached both in Gaelic and English.
1856. Occasional services held by Rev. G. Graham, who resided in Donnybrook.
1860. Services at stated intervals by Rev. S.A. Hamilton.
1861. Aug. 19 meeting to organise a congregation and erect a church.
1862. March 3 tenders for making bricks for church accepted. Feb. 9, first Elders elected. Dec. 13 tenders called for the erection of the church.
1863. April 7. foundation stone laid; when church completed later in the year was the first church in Whittlesea. Oct. 6. first meeting of the congregation of the church held in the new church.

Ministers of the church.

- | | | |
|------------|----------------------|------------|
| 1860-1863 | Rev. S.A. Hamilton | 3 years. |
| 1863. | Rev. J.C. Baird | 10 months. |
| 1864-1885 | Rev. W. Souter | 21 years. |
| 1886-1898. | Rev. F.T. Jenkins | 12 years. |
| 1899 1903 | Rev. A R Green | 4 years. |
| 1903-1907 | Rev. E. Law | 4 years. |
| 1907-1910 | Rev. H. Scott-Morton | 3 years. |