

I will give a 'thumb nail sketch' of Keysborough (Elmsford) about my Grandfather Robert Allan & Family and Joseph Foster in the settlement and the Relationship of Markets both Dandenong and Melb Markets from the time Robert Allan arrived in Keysborough.

Robert ~~was~~ Allan was born in Lanark Scotland near Glasgow he came from a dairying area.

He arrived in Melbourne aged 18 in 1871 with a pound in his pocket by the way he paid his own fare out. It is ^{said} that he asked a girl outside the school the way to the Keys Farm when he did arrive at the Keys farm he was not impressed, but went into the dairy saw some cheese in dishes so he stayed. The girl that he asked was Sarah Foster whose father earlier ^{Joseph} had worked for the Keys. Robert married Sarah Foster at the age of 33 Sarah was 24.

It has been said that nearly everyone in Keysborough was related and that we were very lucky & don't think they were lucky. They worked hard and made their own luck.

Joseph Foster married Martha McConnel in Melb in 1839 and lived in Chapel Rd on Joseph Farm. They had 8 children & 4 of these children settled in Keysborough and had families Billy Foster, Sarah Allan Edith Andrews Rachael Ordish & Walter Foster Allan Family had 6 children 3 boys & Violet Werrett settled in Keysborough; Edith Andrews had three boys & 1 girl ^{that} settled in Keysborough Arthur, Gordon, George, and Bertha (Doddall Lola Marsh Mother) In the Allan Family Janet married Monte Anderson, Archel married Bertha Shepard. Violet ^{married by} Werrett, Gladys Dodge Waller, Beene McLeod, Polly Jean Dabrie's with exception of Janet and Gladys all settled in Keysborough.

Joseph Foster Farm was in Elmsford East of Chapel Road and North of Tyres Lane and the Allan Farm was in Stanley Rd about 30 acres later to become Keysborough

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Joseph Foster was one of the Original Trustees of Keysborough Methodist Church and family all went to Keysborough Primary and Church & Sunday School. When my father went to Sunday School Superintendents were Mr Tyus / Pam Bedwells Grandfather & Sam Seamer Alma James Father they both had in Keysborough.

In the early days, Keysborough was in a very unique position. They were able to put a load of vegetables on a lorry leave home about 4 PM go to the Melb Market sell vegetables arrive home about 2 PM they did this three days a week.

Like wise with milk it was always clean, load milk on cart take it to Dandenong Rail Station ^{before to city} down Brighton Rd Now Shell to where footsubway is | Then railway goes the milk was then taken by Steam Train ^{The Family} to Melb. On Saturday in winter they would cut cape weed and put it through a chaff cutter by hand, because of wet area cows were tied up in their bails all night. My father used to say he started milking so young he had to have someone take

Grandfather was a road and drainage contractor. Ma used to run the farm. Janet used to help families in District. Archie was rouse about Violet used to milk cows and help in paddock. Gladys was cook and help in paddock. Walter and Polly used to milk cows and do marketing. Grandpa bought property and would go to bed for about a month to work out how to pay for it, once sold land to Chell Road and Bourgan Rd ~~sold land~~ to Allan Bourgan's father. When asked did he have a deposit he said no he trusted him.

About 1902 Grandpa bought about 400 acres in Chandler Rd. Allan Bourgan's Mother's family the Henstaws used to live there. Could you ~~manage~~ manage what it was like. Very flat, few sand hills, no drains and full of trees.

Before they moved from Stanley Road, Polly was the youngest ^{and} used to walk ~~He used to walk~~ ^{through} his grandfather's orchard ^{on way to school} and he was a character used to trip. He filled his bag with 30 pears one kid asked him for a pear he said no I gave you

one I would only have ⁵ ~~6~~ ²⁹ left. The other was if you can't take a Dohle don't give a Dohle.

The McLeods were market gardeners and horse dealers and arrived in Spring Vale about 1850. The Dodge boys and the McLeod girls went to Spring Vale Hⁿ school. In 1921 ^{my father Walter} was the last to get married, he married Beenie McLeod and moved to Allan Family Home on Chandler Rd about three years later Grandfather divided the farm into three Archil Waller + Dohly he did this because he hated paying rates ^{+ Taxes}. While my father was at market Mum used to milk cows and do other farm work.

About 1925 Dad left the farm and went to Spring Vale lived and worked for Grandfather McLeod + Dow while their house was being built. They built a house on Victoria Ave and then worked for Dodges in Timber yard and picture theatre.

We always had a close association with Spring Vale. Mums father was a lover of horses and gardening Mum used to milk cows at home and ride ponies in Dandy Show

Grandpa McLeod was a councillor in
Shire of Dandenong and Shire President

When Dad and Mum were about
ready to go back to farm in 1931

The farm house got burnt down
we lived in mens room for about
6 months while new ^{house} was being built
after completion Dad, Mum my sister
Heather and myself moved in

In 1934 we nearly got washed away
in the big flood and about 4 years later
we had one of our worst droughts In 1939

^{we had highest temp on record}
My father loved horses both draught
and ponies He learnt a lot while with the
McLeods, they used to shows horses in Dist ^{shows}

Dad used to breed foals and market them
Belly Foster used to travel district with Stallion
We milked cows by hand and grew maize
Hay, oats, millet to feed cows as well as
pumpkins, Marrows Swedes, potatoes ^{water Melons} what wasn't
sold in Market was cut up for the cows

We always had two men work with us,
and mum used to feed us. We all sat at
one table and never started eating until
dad arrived then he would finish his meal
be out to work the first

One year before my time
 Mr. Van Damme was helping to
 load hay, he fell off load and broke
 his neck. Dad had just bought a new
 pony jumped on it without a bridle
 got thrown off broke his leg then
 young brother had to get Dr Taylor
 My father was very strict always on
 time never missed an appointment never
 had a watch, told time by South Gypsy
 Train 10¹² - Bacon Factory at Midday
 his farm was always neat and tidy hated
 weeds and blackberries. We were always
 in bed by 8 PM. Kerosene lamps and
 candles. Tank water no wireless. ~~Mum~~
 Dad Loved pickles and never used
 to have bread jam. Mum used to make
 sauce jams & Pickles by the hundred
 of pounds. She used to make lots of
 Cakes & Sponges. My Mother and father
 believed if you were reading a book
 you were wasting time

We used to spend quite a lot of time at Springdale with McLeods and Dodges. We used to go to Dodges Picture Theatre about twice a month.

While other members of family went to Methodist Church in Keysborough. My father used to drive Grandma to Scots Church in Dandenong. My father had a long association with Scots Church and on Reading. The Methodist 150^{year} book Grandfather lent 800 pounds to ~~the~~ Scots Church to buy and erect Sunday School.

Grandma used to run the household used to have a lot of kids from district over to play while, Grandfather was away someone used to keep watch. Place had to come to order when he arrived home. Another of his special days was New Years Day all the Allans used to load up in horse and lorry to Mordialloc. None of the Allans could swim still cant. They did this until the war in 1939. Another little habit of his. If he saw a area that needed burning he would put a match to it go home to bed. The ~~all~~ of ~~reservoirs~~ would have to put it out.

While Grandma⁹ was at Church Grandpa would walk over to the Corrigan's. When they came home from ^{Keypborough} Church. He would have lunch and a few whiskies then Alan Corrigan would drive him home in Janke

My Elder Sister Heather had one year at Keyborough School before I started. Mr Currie was headmaster about 60 children in one room and we had Miss Williams about 2 afternoons each week. I got my merit at Keyborough then went to Dandenong High left in year 10 before I was 14 to work on farm. Everything was done by hand and horses. Set up about 5-30 each morning finish about 6-30 7 days a week. In 1933 we got a milk contract to supply about 30 gals a day. Milk Truck would call about 8-30 AM and 6-30 PM

^{My young sister Lavina (Mrs Howard) was born this time}
The Dandenong Market on Tuesday always played a large part in our life going with cream to butter factory, calves, pigs by horse and cart, and generally cows to buy and sell as well as fruit and groceries at Stouts Dandenong at one stage was the largest in world to sell everything on same day

10 During the war my sister Heather and I would ride our bikes to P.F.A at Presbyterian Church and Boomerang Theatre at P.F.A and Church we mixed with the Decendents that my father went to youth club

About 1936 the Keysborough people formed the Keysborough ~~Club~~ Circle. They raised money by dancing and cards at Alex Bowmans sheeps shed they also had dances at Memorial Hall Roby Allan was M.C. My father ran the cards. They raised ~~to~~ money to build the Dandy Hospital and first ambulance those helping were the Allans, Fosters, Andrews, ^{Black} Dodges and ~~Flourie~~ Ordish with garden parties and other functions

The hospital was built and my grand-father was one of its first patients he did not come ~~out~~ and died ^{in 1942} aged 89

These community activities continued throughout the war. When war finished Keyborough community wanted a place to relax and have fun. Polly Allan subsequently sold 10 acres of land ^{in Whelford Rd} for 2000 dollars and they always had a committee. They bought a hall from Bangholme, raised sufficient money to build a football dressing shed and a large hall. They developed a sports ground with horses, to play football. Walter was president.

My Father ~~the~~ only had one holiday for 10 days and never missed a milking until they formed a bowling club.

My father was Foundation President, Chairman of Keyborough primary School were Joe Foster, Polly Allan, Walter Allan, Graham Allan, Don Weir and myself on Centenary School year. Mase Oldmeadow helped with funds to build Tennis courts. Both School and church now closed.

12 In^{ix} 1954, I married Isobel in the Methodist church
Dandenong. We had 4 children 3 sons 1 daughter - all went to
the Keysborough school and Sunday school. 5 generations
went to the school. We now have 7 grandchildren &
3 great grandchildren. My father loved horses, although
we bought a tractor, he was reluctant to use it,
living on the farm was quite a shock for Isobel
she inherited about 50 chickens and 23 cats to look
after. She hated the chickens - they used to peck
her - and was quite happy when Ashley was born
and could hardly wait for him to get to 2 plus
when he was able to collect eggs, because Isobel
was too frightened of getting pecked. Isobel never
forgot the day we came home from our honeymoon
my parents hadn't moved into their new home -
and next morning I was called early to get
up to milk and my mother called Isobel to get
up and help with the baking before the ~~mom~~
came in for breakfast - Isobel was still in
honeymoon mood, and was going to have a
lie in - big joke. ^{Parents} My lived with us for 3 weeks
before they moved to bend road. Dad worked
until a few days before he died in 1968. We
put in an irrigation system and a herringbone
shed - milked about 140 cows - but we were
still putting our milk in milk cans. Most dairy
places had electricity, mains water, and milk
tankers - most of Keysborough did not have
running water. The next thing Keysborough provided
was a fire station Keith Allan was leader in this
regard, organizing finance - and he became the
st captain - then Graham Allan, ^{year 1978} and I was
apparatus officer. We were awarded the Queens medal
Isobel & I left the farm in 1978 when Ashley got married
and he and his wife Joan took over. We finished
milking because we were too small and
too close to Melbourne ~~my father~~ many a time a pig or
a calf was brought in by the fire to recover, by
my father for Isobel to look after.

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Isobel and I ¹² went to live in Noble Park. I was elected to Dandenong Council and subsequently Elected Mayor, something ~~else~~ ^{two} other Family member before me Walter Foster and George Andrews.

There is not much of the Farm left Ashley is still using it to run a few cows it is terrible dirt.

I always had an interest in agriculture was chairman of a number of farm organisations and President of Dandenong Show in 1962. Now member of ~~FARMERS~~ Farm Competitions

This is a summary of the life of Foster ¹⁸⁵⁹ and Allan family ¹⁸⁷¹

Isobel and I ^{now} live in Carrum near the water. Two other ^{near by} families, ^{members} Robyn & Ian, Russell lives in Camberwell. ^{farming} Ashley at Baldermeade