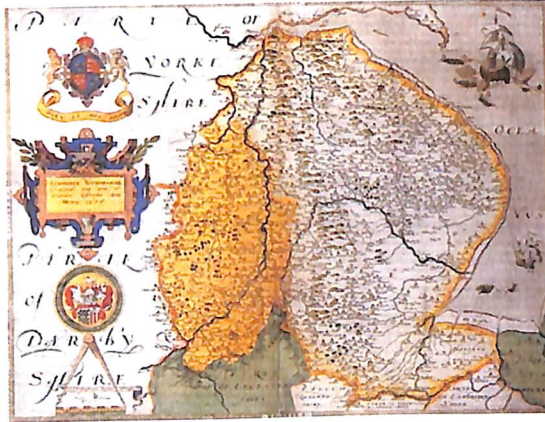


Good Afternoon. Back again with a story about a early farming family turned brick maker. The Ordish's.

WHERE DID THE NAME 'ORDISH' COME FROM



Nottinghamshire C 1600

This rare and interesting name is of English origin. It is a variant of a locational name Ordsall, from a place so called in the county of Nottinghamshire. Ordsall is first recorded in the famous Domesday Book of 1086 as Ordeshale and later in tax registers known as the book of fees for the year 1242 as Ordishall. In its latter spelling, that the surname developed in the late Middle Ages. The first recorded spelling of the family name may be that of Agnes Ordish. She married William Bell in 1560 at Plumtree by Nottingham. This was during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1st.

JOHN ORDISH 1640

John Ordish 1640 his son was

John Ordish 1673 his son was

John Ordish 1703 who married Elizabeth Clark in 1734 their son was

John Ordish 1737 who married Sarah Holmes 1760 their son was

Edward Ordish 1780 who married Sarah Pearsall in 1816 their son was

**Thomas Ordish 1827 who married Mary Elizabeth Ward in 1857 and
Migrated to Australia in the same year.**

I am related to the Ordish family as my Grandmother was Nurse Ivy Keys who's maiden name was Ordish. Before I get on to talking about the Ordish Firebrick I thought I would talk about the family history. While I do have information on the Ordish family that migrated to Australia in 1857, my cousins have found roots of the Ordish family that came to Dandenong going back to 1640.

Here we have the first John Ordish born 1640 and we see that his great great great grandson migrated to Melbourne after his marriage in 1857 arriving in Melbourne on 31st August 1857 aboard the Titan after leaving Liverpool on the 23 May. They must not have had a very good journey as the Argus records a classified advertisement on 3rd September 1857 from Thomas and Mary Ordish thanking Harry Lyons for his help and support during a long and painful journey.

**THOMAS ORDISH & MARY ELIZABETH WARD
1857- BENDIGO**



Thomas and Mary Landed in Melbourne in the middle of the Gold Rush. Their intention was to take up land as Thomas's father had been a farmer in Derbyshire. Upon arrival in Melbourne at the age of 30 he joined the Victorian Police force and was posted to Bendigo. His orders were to clean up the sly grog shanties around the diggings. When he arrived he found that these were occupied by women and children while their husbands and fathers were away looking for gold. Thomas refused to burn them down and sent word back to the authorities in Melbourne that he didn't come 12,000 miles to burn out women and children from their homes, and asked for further instructions. Word came back that he had received his instructions and to carry them out. So he resigned on the spot. Thomas and Mary took up residence in Muckleford, near Castlemaine.

1858 MUCKLEFORD/CHEWTON



Muckleford and Chewton are just a few kilometres from the town Castlemaine. Castlemaine was also paved in Gold . This is where Thomas and Mary set up their home, farming. Their neighbour was John Brown Patterson who had a successful cattle slaughtering business at Chewton and who later became a member of parliament and went on to be the 26th premier of Victoria serving in the years 1893/4.

A story passed down in the family was that during Thomas's time in Muckleford police came to his home to get information of the cattle rustling that was going on in the area. His honourable exit from the police force gave him the reputation of an honest man. Mary greeted them and offered afternoon tea, hot scones with jam and cream , as Thomas had seen them coming. Thomas walked across to his neighbour John Brown Patterson and said it would be a good idea to get some of the cattle in his yard out of sight as the police were here to uncover

rustlers. Patterson did not forget this favour and help Thomas were ever he could. Patterson's biography states "By 1870 he had become prosperous and prominent, though his early business methods later drew acidic comment from opponents who often professed wonder at the number of cattle alleged to have strayed into Patterson's yards".

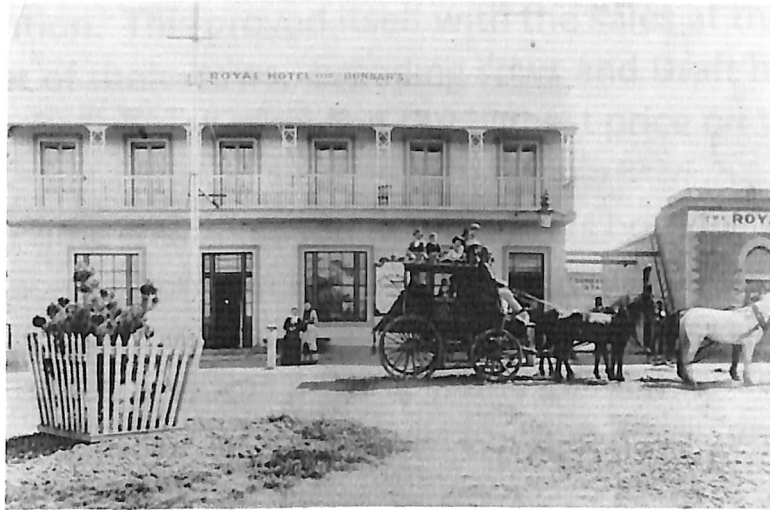
1858 START OF CHILDREN BEING BORN

Edward Ordish	1858 born at Glenlyon died at 4 months
Sarah Ordish	1860 Born at Eumemmering
Elizabeth Ordish	1862 Born at Eumemmering
Rowland Ordish	1865 Born at Dandenong
John Ordish	1866
William Ordish	1868
Edgar Ordish	1870
Bertha Ordish	1871 died at 10 months
Harold Ordish	1873

Of the nine children born to Thomas and Mary, seven survived to adulthood. Edward was born in Glenlyon 12 kl from Daylesford on the Loddon River. Edward only lived 4 months and died in March 1859 and was buried at Glenlyon. His death was not registered. After Edwards death it appears that Thomas and Mary packed up and moved to Dandenong and took up land at South Dandenong to pursue agriculture and pig raising, nearby Ordish Rd off Greens Rd. Their family grew over the next 13 years Sarah was born in 1860, Elizabeth arrived in 1862, Rowland in 1865, John in 1866 followed by William in 1868, Edgar in 1870, Bertha in 1871 then Harold in 1873. Mary stated having her children at the age of 29 years and finished at the age of 43 years. In 1860 Sarah was delivered without any medical or midwife attending at the farm at Eumemmerring so was their next born Elizabeth in 1862. When Rowland came along 3 years later Thomas and Mary had bought a home in Foster Street Dandenong near the Railway

station and the birth was attended by a midwife Mrs Allsop. Both Thomas and Mary were still running the farm producing pigs, vegetables and cut flowers when in 1866 John was born with the help of Mrs Britt midwife, then came William, Edgar and Harold, all assisted into the world by Mrs Britt. Bertha the second youngest born to Mary at the age 41 years required Dr Gaulston to attend, Bertha lived for only 10 months.

1860'S LIVING IN DANDENONG



This is Lonsdale Street Dandenong in the 1860's. Dandenong was beginning to take shape as an attractive, thriving township with its roots buried deeply in the good virgin soil and after having been declared a site for a township in 1852, it received its accolade as a Township in 1861 and was now administered by "the Dandenong and District Roads Board" instead of the Police Department. People came and stayed as did the Ordish family. The Ordish family now had the farm in South Dandenong with two children and one on the way. The farm was a mixture Thomas and Mary raised milking cows, Berkshire pigs, grew vegetables, fruit trees and cut flowers. By the prizes won at the Dandenong Agriculture shows from 1871 onwards it would seem they had a very good business, curing and selling hams and bacon, floral art, vegetables and fruits. In fact the girls won prizes for knitting, sewing and floral art, while their mother took over from her husband in winning the hams and bacon section year after year. As the children got older

they starting showing their breeds of Berkshire Pigs and again Thomas and his son William gained high recognition at the show. Not only did you get money as a prize you also got the reputation. This proved itself with the sales at the Dandenong market of their cows, breeding sows and Draft horses breed by the Ordish's all receiving the highest price on the day.

By the time their first son Rowland was born in 1865 they had purchased a home in Foster Street and use to commute to their farm. In 1877 we see that Thomas Ordish was sitting on the court bench and was putting in and gaining tenders for Road building . In 1878 Thomas was forming Robinson and Langhorne streets.

1880 THOMAS ORDISH DIES OF HEART DISEASE.

Mary Elizabeth Ordish 51yrs at death of husband

Eldest son Rowland was 15yrs old

Sarah was 20yrs

Elizabeth was 18yrs

John was 14 yrs

William was 12 yrs

Edgar was 10yrs

Harold was 7yrs

You can image what a blow the Death of Thomas at the age of 53 and the Father of 7 children would have been to Mary. She was 51 years of age, the eldest son Rowland was 15 yrs old and the youngest Harold was only seven.

None of the girls had got married and all were dependant on Mary.

However Mary with the help of her children carried on the farm with gusto.

By 1887 Mary won 1st prize for french beans, Hams and bacon and by 1889 she added Pears 3rd prize Oat or wheat 3rd prize. She was active at the Shire council requesting tee tree to be burn near her farm and offering to have the work done for £3 . In 1893 Mary won 1st prize for her Gladioli, hand bouquet, bridal bouquet and table bouquet. In 1895 it was the Gladioli, ham, strawberries and raspberries that won.

1891 MARRIAGES

Sarah married Henry Thomas Kirkham in 1891

Elizabeth married Frederick Tucker Youle in 1913

Roland married Rachel Brooks Foster in 1891

married Eliza Jane Foster in 1906

John married Louisa Easter Blackmore in 1889

William married Louisa's sister Sarah Blackmore in 1891

married Elsie Brown in 1919

Edgar married Lillian Jemima Anderson in 1901

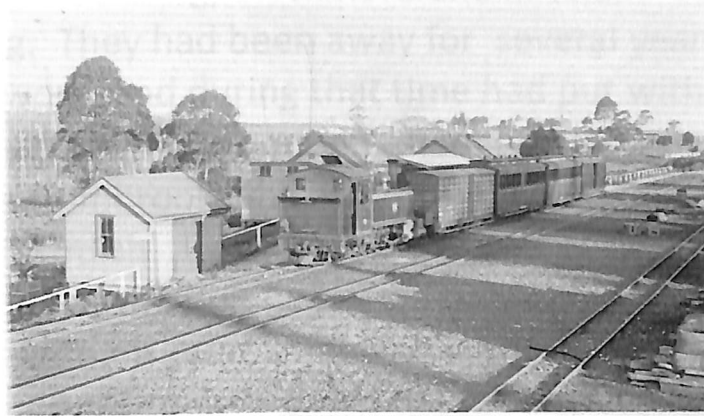
Harold married Ada Jane Brough in 1903

At last some of the children married. Mary's eldest Sarah married Henry Thomas Kirkham at the age of 31 they had no children. Elizabeth the second eldest did not marry until she was 51 years of age. However she had in her care Thomas Ordish the son of her brother Rowland after the death of his mother in 1895. Fred Youle was a widower when they married and they had no children.

Rowland the eldest son married Rachel Foster in 1891 and after her death and the fostering of his two boys he married Rachel's cousin Eliza Jane Foster in 1906. They had no children, William married in the same year 1891 Sarah Blackmore and had two children. Sarah died in 1917 and William married a second time in 1919 to Elsie Brown and had a son. So three of her children married in 1891 and it took another eight years before John married Sarah's sister Louisa and had three children. Edgar married Lillian Anderson in 1901 had one child and the youngest Harold married Ada Brough in 1903 and produced five

Children

SARAH ORDISH



THE ROSE SERIES, P. 1504
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THE RAILWAY STATION, GEMBROOK, VICTORIA

Sarah eldest child of Thomas and Mary Ordish married Thomas Kirkham at the age of 31 in 1891 Thomas was aged 36. Henry Thomas was the fifth child of Edward Frank and Mary Ann Kirkham who had come to Dandenong at the end of 1852. The story of the Kirkham family will wait for another day. However it is fascinating. Thomas as he became known was the first of Edward and Ann's children to be born in Dandenong. The Kirkham's had around 10 acres in South Dandenong which was bordered by Kirkham Road and the Dandenong Creek. Near the Ordish farm.

In the early 1870's Thomas Kirkahm and William Blackmore joined the staff of the well-known surveyors, Messrs Henry Burbank and F Gaffney, and assisted in the survey of the Emerald township, as well as many properties in the Menzies Creek, Macclesfield, Gembrook, upper Beaconsfield, Pakenham, Nar Nar goon, Garfield, Bunyip and the Koo- wee – rup swamp districts. On completion of the survey in the Bunyip

district, Burbank and party moved to the Sth Gippsland country, where they surveyed the townships of Leongatha and Korumburra, as well as vast areas in their vicinity. After surveying at Poowong, Blackmore and Kirkham returned to Dandenong. They had been away for several years on surveying work, and during that time had put with many hardships. However Thomas Kirkham had picked up a beautiful property in Gembrook which was to become the home of his bride Sarah Ordish.

My father spent the first two years of his life living at Gembrook with his Aunt Sarah and Uncle Tom. My Grandmother use to walk down the hill and catch puffing billy into Belgrave to go shopping. In later life the Kirkham's shifted back to Dandenong and had a home in Chandlers Rd south of Cheltenham Road, and my father as a boy spent many holidays with his Aunt Sarah. She was very upset one night when she discovered that my father had allowed the full moon to shine into his bedroom while he slept, as she said it can make you go mad. Both Sarah and Thomas lived till 1940 dying two months apart the were aged 80 and 83 respectively. Both buried at the Dandenong cemetery in the C of E section.

JOHN WHITING ORDISH

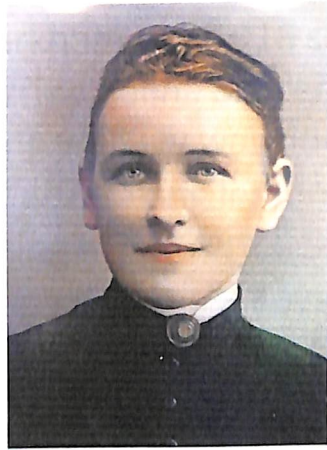


Taken from Town Hall
Timber Merchant J & E Ordish

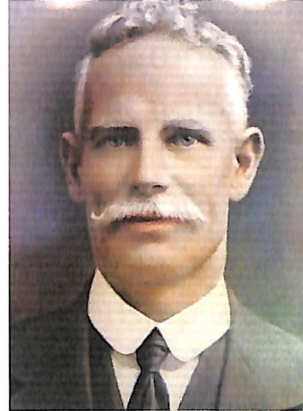
John Whiting was know as Jack in the family. Whiting was one of the Christian names of his Mother's father John Whiting Ward. One day I will get around to finding out why. However today I am concentration on Mary's children. John Whiting is listed as a labourer in 1897 when he is advertised as the executor of the will of William John Blackmore his Father in Law, along with is brother William. You see John and William married sisters. John married Louisa Easter Blackmore in 1889 and William married Sarah in 1891. John and his brother Edgar were associated in the timber yards behind the Town Hall for a number of years and in 1911 The Journal records that E & J Ordish were contracted to make improvements to the Club Hotel in Lonsdale Street, also contracted to build the Savings Bank in Lonsdale street. This partnership also built the Carrum Downs School. However in 1913 the two brothers dissolved their partnership and in July 7 1913 J W Ordish sold his part of the business to Kingsbury. John and Louise's moved

to "Haseldeau" in Leopold crescent Surry Hills. Louise Easter Blackmore was eight years older than John at the time of their marriage. John enlisted in March 1915 and went to Gallipoli, he was in the engineers and building trenches injured his knee. Injury so intense that he was returned to Australia in April 1916 and discharged in July . John and Louise had three children a boy frank who lived for 2 years dying in June 1897 and two girls Hazel born in 1890 and Myrtle in 1892. John died at their Beena Ave home in Murrumbeena in 1922 from cancer of the colon. Death was informed by his son in law Albert Henry Crump the owner of Crump's Store in Lonsdale Street who was married to Hazel. He is buried in the c of e section of the Dandenong Cemetery with his wife Louisa who died in 1946.

WILLIAM PEARSAL ORDISH



Sarah Ordish



William Pearsall Ordish

William started of as a farmer. He was the breeder of prize Berkshire pigs. William had ambitions to be a carpenter, but in the 1890's he bought some land out on Stud road, on what was then known as Peppermint Hill because it was covered with a lot of peppermint timber. He married Sarah Blackmore in 1891 and shifted into their property in Stud Road just near the corner of David Street. They had two children Ivy my grandmother born in 1894 and her brother William born in 1896. Around 1900 , William prospected the area and discovered an extensive clay deposit that captured his interest because of its excellence and its unusual quality. Realising that it could have commercial possibilities , he sent a sample to Scotland for analysis and testing. Back came the result: "Equal to, or even better than the best firebrick clay in Scotland." So began the Ordish Fire Brick Co. William became a vestry man of St James Church, and wealthy. His wife and daughter had a charmed life. They could indulge

in their hobby of making picture books, sending and receiving postcards which was a hobby of young ladies in the 1900's. Ivy even had her own pony and jinker to roam around in. She often went to friends up at Gembrook and to see her aunt Sarah Kirkham. By 1916 son William had moved into the city and married Selina Slatter, Ivy was still at home. The business was going well Ivy was not only singing in the choir at St James she was also taking lessons from Madame Ashley and performing in concerts. So was a very handsome, eligible Isaac John (known as Jack) Keys. This relationship was encouraged by both families however in early 1917 much to the shock of both families, Ivy became pregnant. Their marriage was arranged at St Stephens Church in Richmond in January 1917, my father was born on 28 July of that same year, and to cap off the year Ivy's mother Sarah died from Asthma and pneumonia in October 1917. William lost interest in life and the Brick Kilns after the death of his wife and was little support to his daughter who was finding herself homeless and without any income. Unfortunately Jack Keys had never had to provide for himself let alone a wife and child, his mother and father paid all his expenses as he worked on the family farm. Jack never provide a home for his wife and child nor contributed to the upbringing of his son. My Grandmother divorced Jack for desertion in 1921. Jack's mother paid a small maintenance to Ivy which enabled her to foster out her son and gain qualifications and work as a nurse. In 1919 William sold the brick works, married Elsie Brown aged 32 seven years older than his daughter and retired to Frankston. They had a son Harold in 1920. My Father grew up with an Uncle 3 years younger than him, however Harold died in 1941 at the age of 21 from appendicitis. William had died in 1930 from heart disease. Both William and Sarah along with Ivy are buried in the C of E section in the Dandenong Cemetery.

ELIZABETH ORDISH



Elizabeth with Thomas
and Joseph 1896

Elizabeth took on the role of Mother for Thomas Ordish the first son of her brother Rowland and Rachel Ordish when Rachel died in 1895. Elizabeth was unmarried and 33 years of age at the time. She took on this task till she married Frederick Tucker Youle in 1913 at the age of 56 years. Thomas enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces in January 1915 and was discharged medically unfit on 1st July 1915. Thomas married in 1917 at the age of 24 a Edith Robbins 19 years, his occupation was Tramway employee living at 63 Capel St West Melbourne.. Frederick Elizabeth's husband was a Widower without any children and an engine driver on the Train system at the time of their marriage in 1913, they lived in Hammond Rd Dandenong. Frederick died in 1931 at the age of 74, Elizabeth in 1942 at the age of 80 both are buried in C of E section of the Dandenong Cemetery.

EDGAR ORDISH



Edgar was a builder however in the depression of 1890 -93 Edgar and his mate Bill Orgill went over to South Africa and worked at Jagger's diamond mines hoping to make a fortune. They came back to Dandenong just before the Boar War started in 1899. When Edgar returned without a fortune he and his brother started a timber yard behind the town hall and Edgar learnt the skills of building and carpentry. He married Lillian Jemima Anderson in 1901 with their only son Jack being born in 1904. After the dissolvent of the partnership in 1913, Edgar went into building around the district on his own. Among the homes built by Edgar are "Thrimby" the Abbott's home in Mason St. "Thurna" Cadle's old home in Clow St. Twiss's home on the corner of Foster and McCrae Streets and many others. He had also build his home at 42 Scott Street which is still standing today. His son Jack worked with his father from the age of 15 and continued the business after the death of Edgar in 1936.

HAROLD ORDISH



Harold joined the Victoria rangers at an early age and found his calling. The Victorian Rangers were a one of a number of voluntary or semi-professional local militia groups who were formed in the Australian colonies in the nineteenth century. They undertook regular drill sessions and rifle practice which might include firing volleys at canvas targets painted with the heads of the enemy. They maintained military discipline, presented on parade, practised gymnastics, ran cadets, held half-yearly inspections and trained for active combat. In 1889 he went to the Boar War in South Africa . Upon his return he rose through the ranks of the Rangers and was on the staff of the Royal Military College Duntroon posted to Ballarat , when he was introduced to the daughter of his command officer Major James Brough. Harold was 30 and Ada 20 when they married in Ballarat in March 1903. The married couple were posted to Colac . It was not till 1916 that Harold Ordish at the

age off 47 went to WW1. He again quickly rose through the ranks and received a Distinguished Service Order. He left the army a Major and remained a professional soldier living near his barracks in Randwick Sydney. He and Ada had five children 2 boys and 3 girls.

1901 THE ORDISH FIRE BRICK



Here we have the early days of the Ordish fire brick. I would say this is around 1901. My grandmother Ivy with her doll is around 7 years old her brother William about 5 years old. Her father with his arms folded, Her Uncle Rowland casually leaning against the forming. unfortunately I do not know the names of the two other men , they may be relatives I cannot identify or they may be the first employees at the Ordish fire brick. In the 1900's fire bricks were in great demand especially good quality fire bricks. William was able to obtain a contract with the railways to supply fire bricks for the Furness of the steam trains. He was able to supply the best quality fire bricks in the world. Demand required supply and William took up the challenge.

CLAY PITS



The property was situated on Stud Road, about a mile and a quarter from Dandenong railway station, and comprised of 52 acres, the proved deposit of fire clay covered 20 acres. A peculiarity of the clay formations on this property was that the fire clay was a pipe formation, and adjoining it on the same property was a pure building clay, from which bakers' oven bricks were made. The State Geological Department claimed that this was the largest known deposit of fireclay in the world.

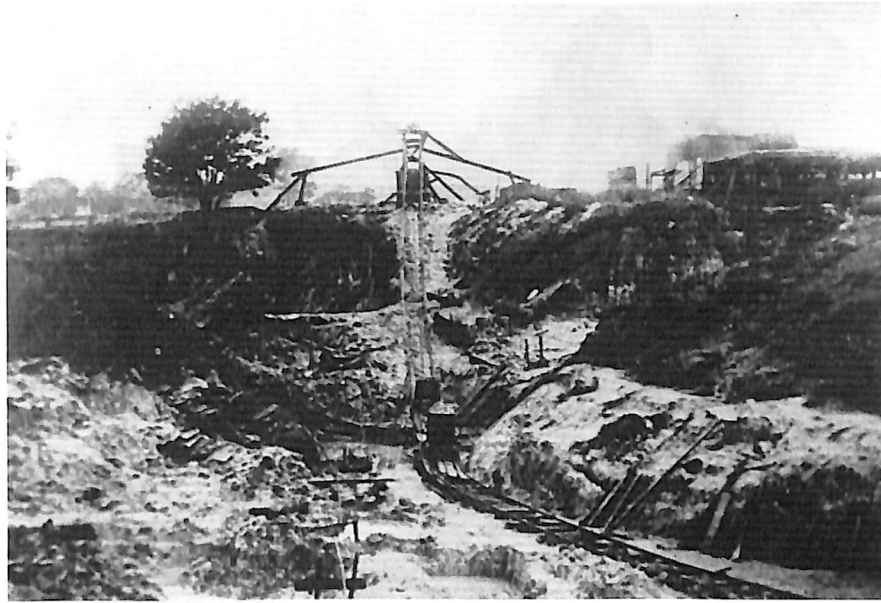
The outstanding features of this valuable site was the unlimited deposits of the very best fire clay, and the easy manner in which it can be treated and turned into ideal fire bricks. While this photo was taken in about 1955, you can clearly see the site of the Ordish Fire Brick Co and clay pit. You can also see the original house of William and Sarah's on the corner of Stud Road and David Street.

HARD WORK



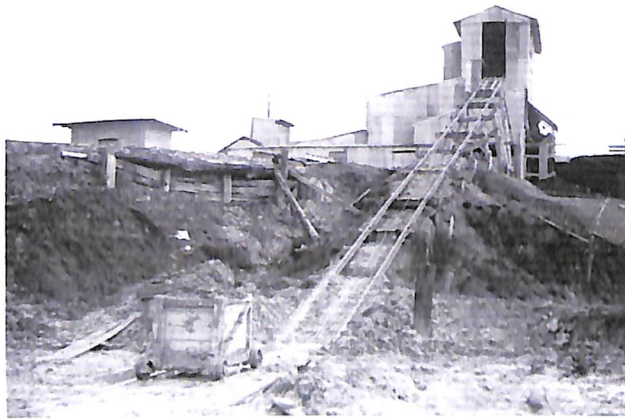
Here we see W P Ordish with his characteristic hat at the face of the pit. The face of the pit is about 300 feet in length, over 20 feet high, and has proved to a depth of 57 feet. Taking the area of fire clay deposits at 20 acres, with an average depth of 54 feet, it pans out at equal to two tons to the foot, or a total of two million tons of clay. When a bore was put down to a depth of 51 feet it was still in the same class of fire clay, so they did not really know how deep the fire clay may go. This was good news for the Ordish family.

EARLY BEGINNINGS



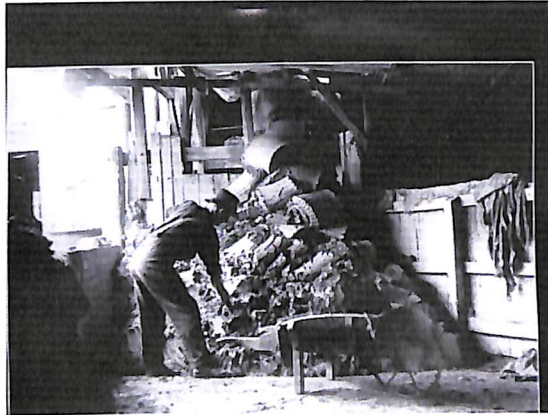
We see here the early beginnings of bring up the clay to the kilns and workshops.

EARLY WORKS



Compare this to the open cut mines with the gigantic machines they have to scoop up the coal.

CLAY



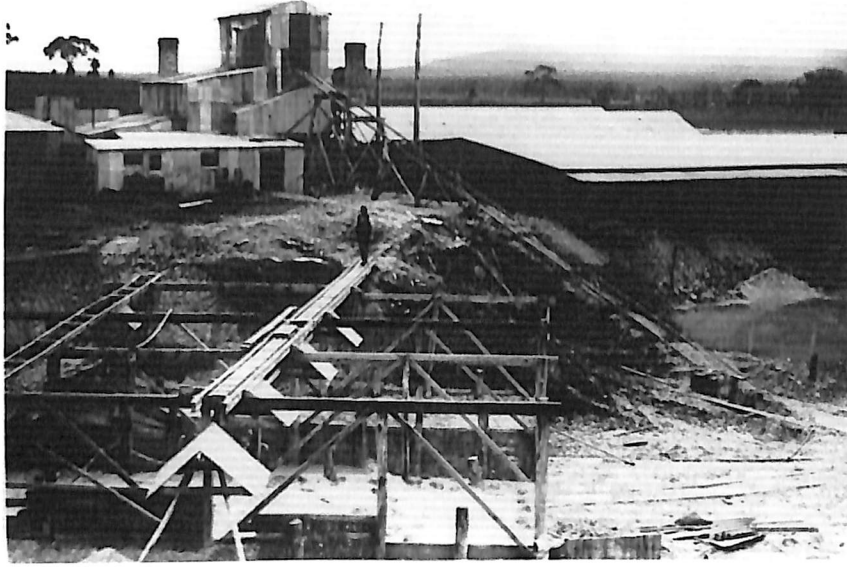
On account of not being able to use mortar in connection with fire brick furnaces, the brick is cut in its green stage into what is known as 1 inch and 1½ inch splits on the flat, and on the edge the same way. The largest brick made at the works was 36in X 12in X 6in and the smallest 9in X 3in X 1in. The many and varied shape of bricks and tiles turned out by the Ordish Firebrick may be realised when it is stated that there are fully 1000 shapes of bricks tiles and fire lumps at any one time in the yards.

MAKING BRICKS



It should also be mentioned that all fire bricks are moulded by hand, as machinery could not be used to moulder fire bricks.

SELLING OF SITE 1919



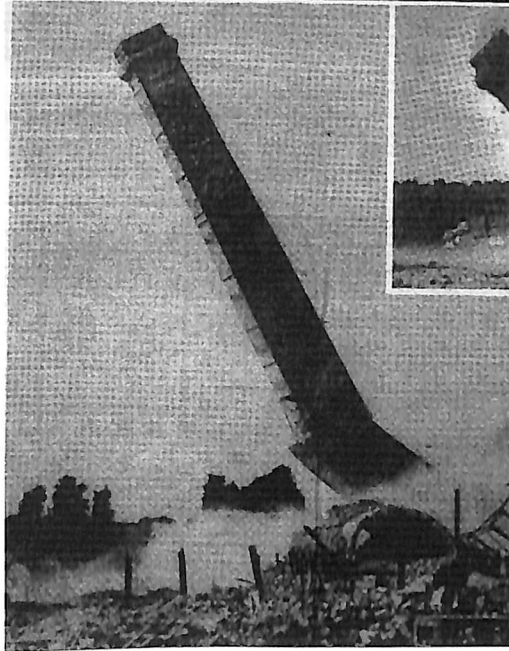
William Ordish sold the brick works in 1919 and it became “The Ordish Firebrick Company” The company purchased the site for £10,000 which is over a million dollars in todays money.

EMPLOYEES



While this is a photo of the staff in the 1930's. By 1922 Ordish Firebrick company employed 20 men, and their wages were £100 per year.

END OF THE CLAY



Eventually the clay pits were used up and over time filled and recycled for other purposes. In 1975 the buildings including the chimney shown here were raised to the ground. The pits were completely filled in for a number of years and then in 1986 a \$12million retirement village was built on the site.