

From Information supplied by Mr Bert Mock.

There were three brothers named Mock and they came with their widowed mother to East Burwood in 1885. (They had previously lived in Black Rock). They were named Walter, George and Thomas and they lived in Mahoneys Road. Agnes Mock had no man to protect or guide her and yet she reared a family of self-reliant boys. They came to Burwood East with a horse and dray and took over one of the Fankhauser properties. Part of the property had been cleared but the majority of the 30 acres needed clearing. It was said to be necessary to look up on leaving the kitchen door if one wanted to see sunlight.

The land was eventually divided into three properties, one for each son. As children of 12 and 14 Walter and George were working their own land. They took their fruit to the Victoria Market and haggled with men much older and wiser. The family, having originally emigrated from Scotland were Presbyterian by denomination, but they attended the Methodist Church. (it was on the other side of the road from today's position).

The original Mock home was of two or three rooms and down the years rooms have been added or demolished but part of the original woodwork is still standing. (w.board house). On the orchard today there are trees over 100 years old and still tantamount bearing 15 bushells a piece.

The Mock brothers attended East Burwood School and paid a shilling a week for tuition. There was no washing facilities at the school and a few children took advantage of the lack of water generally and rarely bathed. This was hardly the fault of the child but the clean ones took offence at this display of dirt and on one occasion took to the grubby necked boys. Poor children who had caught and skinned rabbits before going to school and the blood was still on their hands. The clean ones (with mothers to care for them and scrub their ankles) each took a piece of hessian and forcibly cleaned the grime of weeks from faces and body.

Life was not easy for young widow Mock with three boys ranging from fourteen to six. The lads helped supplement the money made from their small acreage of fruit by growing berries. These were picked between sunup and going to School. On more than one

occasion the boys thought it was lunch time when they were called to go to school. Cleaned and fed and packed off to School they studied until time to go home when they resumed their berry picking.

About 1900 the orchard was officially separated and as the boys married they maintained them as separate entities. The youngest son went to the 1914-18 War. His health was affected, and he eventually left the orchard and whilst he stayed in the district he did not take an active part in local affairs. Walter and George were great athletes, runners and footballers. They played with Box Hill, East Burwood and Blackburn. Also gun sports. From the earliest times there has been a Post Office and Store on Burwood Road near the Recreation Reserve. The store had been refaced but it is still standing and today the floor bears the truth of this testimony being uneven and worn. A man called Dickman ran it in about 1916.

There was an old Hotel diagonally opposite to School called the "Tally-Ho" ran by Dempsey. This and many other Hotels closed when Local Option was voted in. The main social element in the early days were Band of Hope, Temperance Assoc, etc. ran in the Methodist Church. There were concerts, games, sing-songs. George and Walter were interested in I.O.R. which was held in Vermont. They would travel by foot or buggy to attend these Meetings. Walter was secretary for over 50 years and George was Treasurer for 46 years.

Widow Mock became Grandmother Mock, and she was a much loved character. Many a time she would put on her coat to travel out into a winter night to help someone needing her, whether it was childbirth, sickness or loneliness. Everyone knowing her loved and respected her.

George and Walter worked on their orchards until the ages of 83 and 86 respectively. They had both been most interested in local affairs, and judged or exhibited fruit. Walter was a Councillor for some years and George was president of the East Burwood Co-op. Cool Store. The original Store was burnt down before 1924. East Burwood is still largely planted in orchards and remains the least developed area in the municipality. Yet strangely it was one of the first to progress during the 1880's. George was

president of the Fruit Growers Association. George was secretary of the East Burwood Cricket Club about 1926-30. They played on the East Burwood Oval opposite Coolstore and P.O. George's dog came to watch the cricket and to the annoyance of many a batsman acted as fieldsman. The dog would frustrate the batsmen by ending their runs and with slight regularity could catch a ball on the full as it passed over the boundary line on the full.

During the time George and Walter were at school there was an incident when a lad felt an injustice had been done and rather than argue it logically with the Headmaster he took action and broke a slate over his head.

Headmaster were stern disciplinarians and this was tantamount to suicide normally. However, the pupil was bigger, stronger and more annoyed than the Headmaster so the incident was ignored.

Mullens, old homestead in Burwood Road still standing (M.M.B.W. took it over). Tainton Homestead was demolished last year.

In 1922 a Court case was held to determine the fine necessary for a man who went to sleep whilst in charge of a horse drawn vehicle. £15 fine, if today. Brooks, Fulton, Crow, Fankhauser were friends.