

NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER ... 1967

NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Editor - H. Leach

*** NEXT MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER

An Address by Mr. F. Pinchen

8 p.m.

" SOME FLORA and FAUNA of the NUNAWADING AREA "

(Past and present, native and introduced, illustrated)

PLACE: METHODIST HALL, WHITEHORSE ROAD, NUNAWADING.

REPORTS - AUGUST MEETING: Mr. K. Patterson has kindly given us a copy of his very interesting paper on "Mr. Clement Hodgkinson, Surveyor of Nunawading". It is our intention to have the paper duplicated for the benefit of Members.

WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: On 13th August, 35 Members of the W.H.S. enjoyed a change from their own nautical-flavoured history as guests of the Nunawading & District Historical Society. After a welcome by the President, Mr. L. R. Gray, and the Mayor, Cr. G. Walsh, the party went on a conducted tour of this locality. A number of students from our local schools attended as part of a project, and, happily, the Mayor and Mayoress and their family were able to spend the day on tour also. At Wunderlich, Mr. J. Leather described the various processes of tile-making, and at Mitcham Reservoir, Mr. R. Kermode explained how local water supplies are distributed. The visitors were charmed with the Schwerkolt Cottage; here Mr. K. Patterson spoke of its interesting history, and Mrs. P. Faggetter of its old-world garden. From the grounds of Vermont High School, the site of an old quarry, the contingent saw some of the few remaining orchards, and Mr. D. Livermore related the history of the long established fruit growing industry of this area. At Blackburn Lake, where antimony was once mined, Cr. G. Cox gave a short talk on the local flora and fauna; it is obvious there is plenty of justification for local pride in this unique area. Finally, the entire party of about seventy gathered at Channel O. The Society feels that this recent establishment is a definite part of our local history of the future.

D. Mattingley

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE :

29th September - 1st October, 1967

Public Lecture Theatre, University of Melbourne

Theme:

"HOW VICTORIA BEGAN"

Programmes have been printed and are available from The Director, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, 19 Queen Street, Melbourne.

Registration Fees: Delegates with voting power - \$6.00. Other Members and the General Public - \$4.00. Full-time Students may attend all sessions for a fee of \$1.50.

NEPEAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Members of the Nunawading Historical Society are cordially invited to attend the Official Opening of the Historical Museum in the Mechanics' Institute, Sorrento, by the President of the Shire of Flinders, on Sunday, 10th September, 1967, at 3 p.m.

A selection of small antiques will also be on view.

Doors open 1.30 p.m.

Afternoon Tea.

HISTORICAL EXHIBITION: This Society will stage a display of maps, letters, photography, etc., on 7th and 8th October, 1967, at the Mitcham High School, in conjunction with the Blackburn Tree Preservation Society.

If anyone has an article of historical interest, and would allow us to display it in the exhibition, please contact Mr. L. R. Gray (89-2374).

WHAT HAPPENED TO NORWICH?

(Part 2)

If you have never paid a visit to the Titles Office (283 Queen Street, corner of Queen and Lonsdale Streets), then your education has been sadly neglected. Once inside the portals, you are in an atmosphere redolent of Dickens, though perhaps the murder committed on the very entrance steps many years ago may have something to do with the 'atmosphere'. Go and see Old Law, and you will know what I mean. Old Law is a Department and not a Personage, and in its fusty files lie the answers to questions of title before 1870.

On my second step along the road to Norwich, Nunawading, I was given much assistance by a "New Australian" who even knew who Dr. L. L. Smith was, and who produced the requisite piece of blue paper showing what had happened to the Township of Norwich from the time John Lobb purchased it as a Crown Grant, No. 38874, in 1856 until 1874, when the first Certificate of Title was actually issued to one, Peck.

My part assumption that Norwich had been a scheme of Dr. L. L. Smith's was entirely wrong. He apparently had nothing whatsoever to do with it, even though he was the Member for Nunawading. John Lobb of Brunswick purchased the 475 acres in 1856, on the 6th February, for \$475 - Lot 35, Section One Hundred and Eleven. (A justifiable mistake was made by reading "Section III" on the map as "Section Three" instead of 'One Hundred and Eleven'.)

On 25th May, 1858, a Conveyance of the whole of the land was made to THOMAS GRAHAM, which would tie up with the fact that Graham was the only name marked on the Norwich map as a landholder, and his land adjoined the Township land. A mortgage was indicated by the record, the names WILLIAM EASEY (there is an Easey Street in Collingwood) and ALFRED CHAPLIN GALE being mentioned when Lots 1, 2, 3 of the Township were made over to GALE. Thomas Graham died in 1871 it seems, and a rule to administer the Freehold of the land of Thomas Graham was granted to Mary Graham by Conveyance in October 1873. Then, on 16th June, 1874, the whole of the Section was granted to Peck by application, and the Title made to him under the New Act (No. 677 - 315). It would appear, therefore, that it was Thomas Graham who conceived the Township of Norwich, and in the next and final chapter I hope to be able to say why the Township of Norwich still only remains as lines and squares on a map, and why in later years orchards appeared but no vineyards, why churches were not built, and stock not taken to market at the end of George Street. To do this, one must disturb the peace of Thomas Graham a little perhaps, but "Norwich" lies peaceful and quiet out there at Vermont still, the bush remains, and the apple trees blossom year after year; how long will this last, I wonder, and will our children's children know what an orchard even looked like?

Jean Uhl