# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY ..... 1967 NEWSLETTER NO. 1.

*** NEXT MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 10TH MAY. Commentary and Slides by Mrs. E. McCraw. 8 p.m.

"TASMANIAN HISTORICAL TOPICS WITH SOME VICTORIAN LINKS".

This address should be of particular interest to Members who recently visited the Peninsula. Mrs. McCraw is a member of the Nepean Historical Society.

PLACE: METHODIST HALL, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

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OBITUARY: Our deepest sympathy is extended to our Vice-President, Mr. Maurice Chatwin and his family in their recent loss of a loved Father and Grandfather.

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REPORTS: Mr. G. Baker, "Nunawading Gazette", addressed us last month on 'Newspaper Production'. He said it was the function of a Newspaper to inform the people on many subjects - to tell them everything. It conveys Council affairs to the public - concerns Social Groups and Church Bodies. It promotes business through advertising - educates in many ways, e.g. children's columns - editorials and allows one to express an opinion through letters. Mr. Baker then went on to describe production methods.

NEPEAN EXCURSION: 2nd April, 1967.

In 1803, over thirty years before John Batman became the founder of Melbourne, a small group of people were establishing a settlement at Sullivan's Cove, Sorrento. Among them was an eleven year old boy, later to become one of Melbourne's leading citizens - John Pascoe Fawkner.

Three hours after World War I was declared on August 4th, 1914, a German ship, the "Pfals", trying to clear Port Phillip Heads, was fired upon from Point Nepean - the first shot of World War I. (Ref. "The Peninsula Story", the Nepean Historical Society).

These and many other interesting facts were made known to the fifty enthusiastic members of the Nunawading & District Historical Society on Sunday, 2nd April, when they were guests of the Nepean Historical Society. Among other points of interest were the early Settlers' graves, the Collin's Memorial, and Point King, where on the 8th March, 1802, the present Union-Jack was used for the first time in Australia for the purpose of "taking possession".

This visit which included a bus tour of the Quarantine Station Grounds, demonstrated that we in Nunawading are most fortunate, for an active Historical Society encouraged by the municipality can do much to preserve local history for future generations.

By Evelyn Brown.

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R.H.S.V. The May excursion will be VICTORIA BARRACKS. Intending visitors must advise Miss Harrison by Tuesday, 23rd May. Tel. 62-7052.

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FRANKSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY: with the help of the Rotary Club, are organising a viewing of historical and modern homes in the Frankston area on Sunday, 7th May, 1967, between 1.30 and 4.30 p.m. Charge $1.00. For further details, contact the Secretary (Tel. 78 32920).

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HISTORY OF NUNAWADING: Through the efforts of Miss E. Ronaldson, a brief history of the Municipality has been compiled and will be available next week.

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Mrs. Dorothy Goble: a member of this Society, has become Victoria's first woman Member of Parliament since 1948. We extend our best wishes.

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This Newsletter replaces the usual "Notice of Meeting" card. We look for the co-operation of all members and would appreciate items of local history for inclusion in future issues.

(Secretary, 39 Creek Road, Mitcham. 87-3429)

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History:

From Doris Mattingly.

In 1853, Thos. Ham commenced business as a Land and General Commission Agent at 35 Stanston Street, between the New Town Hall and St. Paul's Cathedral.

There was a 'Plan of locality showing the whole line of route to the district from Melbourne by way of Nunawading and Bulleen' of land for sale at Anderson's Creek (Warrandyte) by Thos. Ham.

It showed Melbourne and the intermediate townships. Whitehorse Road was marked as the Great Three Chain Road to Gippsland, while the continuation of the present Canterbury Road was the Old Track to the Mountains.

Full directions were given so that intending purchasers could readily find the property whether they travelled through Kew or by way of Bulleen.

(From the Victorian Historical Magazine, August 1943). Latrobe Lib.

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PROGRAMME.....1967

February 8th: HIS WORSHIP the MAYOR OF NUNAWADING, Cr.G. WALSH.
"GOVERNMENTS SHOULD PROTECT HISTORICAL LANDMARKS".

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March 8th: Mrs. Margaret Morrison, B.A.(Honors).
"Life of Mrs. Kirkland, an early pioneer".

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April 2nd: Members Visit Sorrento and District.
" 6th: Regional Group Meeting at "Southesk", Cotham Rd. Kew.
" 12th: Mr G.C. Baker, Managing Director, Nunawading Gazette.
"NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION".

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May 10th: Mrs E. McCraw Commentary with Slides.
"Tasmanian Topics with some Victorian Links"

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June 14th: Mrs. P. Faggetter "Herbs and Pioneers".

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July 12th: Miss P. Reynolds, Deputy Librarian, La Trobe Library.
Subject:- To be advised.

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August 9th: Mr. K. Patterson:- "Our Acquisitions".
" ? : Hosts to Williamstown Historical Society.

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September 13th: Mr. F. Pinchen: "Some Flora and Fauna of the Nunawading Area".
(Past and Present, Native and Introduced, Illustrated).
" ? Visit to Walhalla. To be advised.

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October 11th: Mr. H.S. McComb: "The Place Names Committee".

November 8th: ANNUAL MEETING AND FAMILY NIGHT.

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# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JUNE ... 1967 NEWSLETTER NO. 2

*** NEXT MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 14TH JUNE Guest Speaker: Mrs. P. Faggetter 8.00 p.m.

Subject: "HERBS and PIONEERS"

Mrs. Faggetter, a member of this Society and a well known local historian, recently took part in a telecast about herbs on A.B.V.2. Mrs. Faggetter is in charge of the Schwerkolt Cottage garden.

Place: METHODIST HALL, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

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Reports: May Meeting. With the aid of slides, Mrs. E. McCraw took members on a voyage from Melbourne to Tasmania in the 1840's. From Sandridge we sailed down Port Phillip Bay, passed Mornington, Arthur's Seat, Pt. King, through The Heads to Bass Strait. We sailed down the East coast of Tasmania, where in 1642 Tasman anchored in Marion Bay. Thence on to Adventure Bay - probably the most significant Bay in our early history - where three English and two French expeditions had called between 1773 and 1802. It is haunted by history, and was the last Australian land visited by Captain Cook before his death. Captain Bligh called there in "The Bounty". We saw Bruny Island, named after the Frenchman Bruny D'entrecasteau, who was the first man to navigate it. We were reminded of the First Victorian Settlement - Collins left Sorrento and journeyed up the Derwent 15th February, 1804, landing at Hunter Island. Collins died in 1810 - MacQuarie came in 1811. Despite its many problems, Hobart continued to grow. For 17 years, Revd. Knopwood was the only Chaplain. Other points of interest were Battery Point, New Norfolk with its hops, salmon ponds, old inns and toll-house, also Richmond, which has the oldest bridge still in use in Australia (1823). We learned that Colonel Paterson settled in Launceston in 1804. Both Batman and Fawkner lived in Launceston, before settling in Victoria. Entally House and Franklin House were also visited. Hobart in the South and Launceston in the North are linked by a highway redolent of Tasmanian history. The whole length of its 120 miles recalls the past. It is haunted by the aborigines, by convicts, by bushrangers who made their headquarters in the Epping Forest, by the bullock drays with their creaking wheels, followed in the last century by the horn of the coachman, then in the Seventies the whistle of the train supplanted the coach-horn, and this in its turn gave way to the automobiles, and now aeroplanes fly overhead. However, this smooth bitumen highway virtually remains a cross section of Georgian Tasmania, the Van Diemen's Land of the history books.

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Doncaster - Templestowe Historical Society collected and displayed historical articles in the Schramm Cottage during April. These articles were lent and given by local people, whose forebears pioneered this district. Many people passed through the cottage, admiring the fascinating exhibits.

The Cottage, more than 100 years old, is to be demolished and re-erected on the Reserve nearby; the road will be widened to pass over its former site. The Historical Society plans to furnish this building and open it for public viewing - like the Schwerkolt Cottage.

We congratulate the Doncaster - Templestowe Council for preserving this place, and the recently formed D.T.H.S. for its efforts.

(D.M.)

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Henry Lawson Centenary: 19th June - 18th August

Exhibition Hall, La Trobe Library

Most of Lawson's work was first published in Australia, but even during his lifetime his quality was recognised overseas, and the exhibition will include overseas publications and translations, as well as first editions and limited editions of his works.

2 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Mondays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays.

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A Brief History of Nunawading has now been completed and is available to school children from the Municipal Library, and from the Secretary of the N. & D. H. S. on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope - foolscap size.

JR.

# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JULY ... 1967 NEWSLETTER NO. 3

*** NEXT MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 12th JULY An Address by Miss Patricia Reynolds 8 p.m.

"PRESERVING LOCAL HISTORY"

Where should the Society's acquisitions be housed? To this and other questions, Miss Reymolds, Deputy La Trobe Librarian, will give us good counsel.

Place: METHODIST HALL, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

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REPORTS: June Meeting. Notes on Mrs. P. Faggetter's address "Herbs & Pioneers". In the 1850's, W. Slater, with his wife, established a medicinal herb garden in Nunawading, near the Koonung Creek. Mr. Slater had worked for 16½ years in the famous medicinal gardens of Potter & Moore's in Mitcham, Surrey, England - that's how Mitcham received its name: given by Mr. Slater because of his early associations with Mitcham in England. He brought cuttings in sand, and seed, which had to survive the long sea voyage. Land originally thickly timbered - especially with peppermint gums, which he used for distilling a fine eucalyptus oil, "Opossum brand". The garden flourished, and Mr. Slater supplied dried herbs and perfumes from distilled plants to Rocke Tompsitt and Felton Grimwade. In 1880, a Government scent and herb farm was established at Dunolly to help promote a perfume industry. In 1886, Mr. Slater and Mr. Melton, manager of the State farm, gave evidence before the Royal Commission enquiring into Horticulture. A list of the plants grown in Mitcham was given and some, but not all, explanations of their uses. Many of these plants - forgotten by most people, but treasured by the early pioneers for their value in cooking, for drinks and medicines - were grown by our grandmothers around their first cottages, and can still be found in some old gardens. Many have already been planted around the Schwerkolt cottage in memory of the early pioneers and especially the Slater family, who established, we think, the first herb garden in this colony. More will be added as they become available. In talking with the oldest members of our community who remember the rare characters of the early days, it is quite evident that very few were in easy reach of doctors, so they used plants to help cure their ills. Onions for sprains and earache, marshmallow in ointment to relieve burns and sprains, horehound for beer and coughs, sage tea for chest troubles and an excellent tonic, parsley for a kidney tonic, lemon scented verbena, thyme or rosemary for baths and to soak the feet, and the deliciously scented geranium with lavender for sachets to put among linen and in clothes drawers.

(P. Faggetter)

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TOUR of NUNAWADING: Members of the Williamstown Historical Society have accepted our invitation to visit Nunawading and District on Sunday, 13th August. Further details in the August Newsletter.

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ARTS FESTIVAL: Through the courtesy of the Blackburn & District Tree Preservation Society, the Nunawading & District Historical Society will stage a Historical Exhibition of maps, letters, photography, etc., at the Native Plant and Flower Show to be held on Saturday and Sunday, 7th and 8th October, 1967. More details in the September Newsletter.

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WHERE HAVE ALL THE ORCHARDS GONE? This is the title of an interesting article on the history of Doncaster, in the July edition of "Walkabout".

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BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF HISTORICAL SOCIETIES: The date has been fixed tentatively for the weekend from Friday, 19th September, to Sunday. 1st October, at the University of Melbourne.
A special time will be set aside for discussion of problems affecting affiliated Societies, and a Speakers' Panel will include experts who will advise on the collection of historical material, the keeping of records, indexing, the setting up of Historical Museums, and their maintenance and use, the placing of monuments, financial problems, and links with local Councils and other bodies.

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HISTORY: THE NUNAWADING MESSIAH

According to records at the La Trobe Library, James Morgan Cowley Fisher was a disciple of John Wroe, founder of the sect variously known as Wroeites, Christian Israelites, or Beardies. When Wroe died at Collingwood on 5th February, 1863, Fisher claimed leadership of the sect, but he was rejected by the members. He then started his own church, calling it the Church of the First Born.
Fisher was described as a magnificient specimen, over six feet tall, with "features of a Greek God, the shoulders of a giant, and a flowing mane of white hard. His beard, too, was long and white, and his eyes were pools of power".
He lived in a wattle and daub hut in Delaneys Road, Nunawading, and served for many years as a Shire Councillor. His occupation, at one stage, was listed as "charcoal burner". Little is known of his family, but his three sons were named after the great men of Israel - Samuel, David, and Solomon.
Fisher's followers, some fifty men and women, of "eccentric habit and cast iron virtue", gathered at Nunawading, from the City and from the mountains to the East, to worship in the open air, while their "Messiah" interpreted the Mosaic law.
In 1900, the Fisherites moved over to Western Australia and started an agricultural settlement at Wickepin, about 200 miles East of Perth. A church was built there, and the "Messiah" preached in it regularly, but later the sect was divided by internal dissension, and a second church was erected.
It is believed that James Fisher died in Western Australia about 1915. The two churches at Wickepin and the sect have all passed out of existence, but the settlement prospered well, and some of the descendants of the original members are still in the district.

(From "The Link" - a Toc H publication)

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NON-MEMBER FRIENDS: Fifty Newsletters are posted each month, although the Society has only 28 financial members. If you are not a financial member of this Society, but wish to be included on our mailing list and to receive the Newsletter regularly, we must ask you to contribute $1.00 per annum towards the cost of stationery, duplicating, etc., plus postage and telephone calls.

Full Membership - $2.00 p.a.
Student Membership - $0.50 p.a.

Enquiries: (Mrs.) N. Leach,
39 Creek Road, Mitcham.
Telephone: 87-3429

# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

AUGUST ... 1967 NEWSLETTER NO 4

EDITOR. N. L REACH

***NEXT MEETING***

**WEDNESDAY, 9TH AUGUST** An Address by Mr. K. Patterson 8 p.m

"MR CLEMENT HODGKINSON, SURVEYOR OF NUNAWADING (about 1855)"

Mr. Patterson, Archivist · La Trobe Library, is a member of this Society.

Place: METHODIST HALL, WHITEHORSE ROAD, NUNAWADING.

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**SUNDAY, 13TH AUGUST** "TOUR OF NUNAWADING"

On this occasion, we shall be hosts to members of the WILLIAMSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Come along, and see your own City.

Programme

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| 11.30 a.m. | An Official Welcome by His Worship the Mayor, Cr. G. Walsh, outside the Municipal Offices, Nunawading.<br>Thence proceed along Springvale, Canterbury and Mitcham Roads to Wunderlich Tileries. |
| 12.00 Noon | Inspection of Wunderlich Tileries.<br>Then proceed along Mitcham Road and Agra Street to Reservoir. |
| 12.50 p.m. | Mitcham Reservoir Comments by Mr. Kermode.<br>Travel via Agra Street, Mitcham Road, Victoria Avenue, Edward Street to Church of England Hall. |
| 1.15 p.m. | Basket Lunch at C. of E. Hall (Tea and Coffee provided).<br>Then proceed along Whitehorse Road, Deep Creek Road to Cottage. |
| 2.20 p.m. | Schwerkolt Cottage - with comments from Mrs. Field. Mrs. Faggetter will give a short talk on the Cottage garden.<br>Return along Deep Creek Road, Whitehorse Road to Cochrane Street, under viaduct to Ferris Avenue, Glenburnie Road, Canterbury Road, Boronia Road, Morack Road to Vermont High School. |
| 3.30 p.m. | Short address by Mr. D. Livermore on local orchards.<br>Then continue along Morack Road, Burwood Road, Terrara Road, Canterbury Road, Lake Road to Blackburn Lake. |
| 4.00 p.m. | View Blackburn Lake - with comments on this sanctuary by Cr. Cox.<br>Travel along Jeffrey Street, Blackburn, Burwood and Springvale Roads to Channel O. |
| 4.30 p.m | Afternoon Tea at Channel O |

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**BIENNIAL CONFERENCE:** 29th September to 1st October, 1967

Public Lecture Theatre, University of Melbourne

**Friday Afternoon:** Special exhibition at the La Trobe Library "Early Melbourne Suburbs"

**Friday Evening:** Professor C M H Clark of the Australian National University. His subject will be "The Writing of History".

**Saturday Morning:** Four short talks on "How Victoria Began" by Sir John Barry, Dr. Geoffrey Serle, Mr. Ian McLaren, and Mrs June Phillip.

**Saturday Afternoon:** Talks and discussion on HOW to preserve history.

**Saturday Night:** There will be a dinner and social function

**Sunday Morning:** R H S V President, Mr L J Blake, will lead an open discussion on the work and problems of affiliated societies

**Sunday Afternoon:** Mr Wilson Evans, historian to the City of Williamstown, is arranging a visit to Williamstown.

Brochures are being printed, and when details have been finalized, will be available for enrolments

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"WHAT HAPPENED TO NORWICH?" Further news has been received from Mrs. J. Uhl, and will be included in the September Newsletter.

REPORTS: JULY MEETING: A summary of Miss Patricia Reynold's address:-

Preserving local history implies not only collecting the evidence of the past, but also ensuring the collection of current material, which will make it possible to study the history of the district in the future - and in this connection particularly, co-operation between historical societies and local libraries would seem to be mutually beneficial. The La Trobe Library also is anxious to have the co-operation of local societies, and to discover and record the existence of local collections for the benefit of all interested in Victorian historical studies.

Local resources of local history include "Local Government" records (which are "public" records, and not within the province of a historical society's collection activities); local newspapers; books and pamphlets of many diverse kinds; the publications of local churches schools, charitable organizations, clubs, and societies; maps; manuscript records of all kinds; tape recordings; pictorial material; and objects of historical interest. They include also much seemingly ephemeral material with considerable future potential, such as programmes and invitations of functions held locally, leaflets, advertisements, and brochures of estate agents and business firms; and election material.

But the collecting of local history serves no useful purpose unless its preservation for the future can be assured, and unless it can be made available for purposes of historical inquiry and research. It is, in fact, detrimental to societies not to be able to demonstrate their responsibilities in these matters.

The conflict between preservation and use is a perennial problem, common to institutions such as art galleries, museums, and libraries - and also to historical societies. To reduce this conflict to a minimum is part of the professional duties of staff attached to the former institutions, but historical societies can do much to ensure the safety and preservation of their collections:-

1. By making provision for the deposit of the collection with some continuing institution in the event of winding up of the society.

2. By housing the collection in a suitable building.

3. By diligently recording its holdings - an Acquisitions Register should be kept, which is particularly important in the event of loss or damage, and this should be supported by some simple form of catalogue, to which location symbols are added, so that relevant material can be brought together when required.

4. By establishing certain procedures for dealing with material as it is acquired, as for instance -
Manuscripts - detailed sorting of collections into related groups and listing each item in the form of an inventory; Xerox or photoprint copies of rare material, so that originals are preserved; suitable filing of the material according to its nature.
Pictures - permanent display of water colours, drawings, engravings, and photographs is inconsistent with the preservation, as they quickly fade. Oil paintings and objects are more suitable for permanent display. Mounting and covering of unframed material and use of photostats - examples shown.
Press Cuttings - to preserve bound files of newspapers and provi de "ready reference" material, press cuttings can be useful; many ways of organizing according to expected use.
Maps - mounted on linen; lamination of frequently used published material; storage in Vertiplan cases, or small maps mounted and encased in transparent envelopes.
Objects - should not be exposed to dust and strong sunlight or unnecessary handling by visitors.

5. By reducing unnecessary searching for elusive facts by detailed subject indexing, preparation of accurate chronologies and bibliographies, et cetera

6. By ensuring that rare material is not made available when other sources are adequate, and by the careful supervision of the use of the collection.

The Society was invited to visit the La Trobe Library to inspect methods of dealing with different types of material.

# WHAT HAPPENED TO NORWICH?

The finding of a Land Sale map in the La Trobe Collection of Vale Maps has revealed that some time in the history of the Parish of Numawading, County of Bourke, there should have been a delightful Township called Norwich. There, one could have grown grapes for wine, kept livestock, grazed sheep, raised cauliflowers and carrots, and taken both produce and livestock to market at the end of George Street in the centre of the Township.

In the event of early or late demise on your acres of farm or vineyard, you could have been conveniently buried in the Cemetery Reserve situated at the North East corner of the 475 acres which composed Norwich. The service at your burial would, no doubt, have been conducted in one of the four churches placed strategically N., S., E., and W. of the central square, but not too near each other to disturb any unecumenical churchgoers' susceptibilities.

The map has no date on it, and nothing to indicate whose brain child it was, only the Auctioneer (W. Casey & Sons), Lithographer (Edward Gilks, 84 Chancery Lane), and Surveyor (J. Greenwell) being named. A map of Locality is unreliable as far as scale is concerned, no roads are named, but the insertion of Royal Hotel - Delaney's, the Harkaway Hotel, O'Leary's Paddock, and Damper Creek, and the name of Sir James Palmer at Hawthorne (sic) indicate that the sale was mooted before the days of the Land Boomers period, more likely in the 1860 - 70's. (Sir James Palmer died in 1871.) By a process of elimination, deduction, re-construction, the actual site of Norwich has been pinpointed at Vermont, and one boundary is on Mr. Doug Livermore's present property. With his help, we came to the conclusion that the Barkly Street marked on the map is part of present Morack Road (formerly Railway Road). This, of course, makes the exercise all the more interesting.

It is said that research is digging a hole and then filling it in again: so far my hole has reached large proportions after contacting many and varied public and private bodies (some as old as 88 years), but as yet I have not been able to fill it in very far. It seems clear that the Township never came into being, or ever perhaps got further than the Drawing Board or someone's imagination. But why? Was it just a wild-cat scheme or a visionary's dream? The map is authentic, but was the dream? Does the clue lie in the fact that there is a Smith Street on the map and that Dr. L. L. Smith, that man of many parts, who gave his name to L. L. Road (now Boronia Road), was the originator of the Township that never was? He had a vineyard at Vermont when he lived there for a time. Research is continuing - in the meantime, a few items collected along the route to Norwich may be of interest:

1. Part of Canterbury Road was once called Norwich Road.
2. Mr. Lowen, Blackburn Road, has a remarkable memory and a rare photograph of Harkaway School pupils with the Head Teacher and Sewing Mistress, c.1877.
3. A portion of Mr. William Jones' land on Springvale Road was "transferred to the King" in c.1877. (Why?)
4. David Boyle, Correspondent of Mt. Pleasant (then Vermont) State School in the 60's and 70's was a stout man with a pen, even though he often spelled phonetically in his native county accent: in one of his delightfully candid letters to the Education Department (having been reprimanded by the Department for allowing the Head Teacher (aged 18) to put "Vermont" at the head of his correspondence) he states: ...." 'Vermont' was the name given by the local

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Committee to the site upon which the building is to be put . . ."

5. Nunawading was spelt with two "D's" in 1869/70, when the nearest Post Office was Box Hill, but in 1874 the address of Vermont School, 1022, was 'Forest Hill P.O., Nunawading".

6. Cathie's Lane should really be Caughey's Lane: apparently the early settlers could not get their tongues round the Irish settler's name of Caughey, and so called it Cathie.

Jean Uhl.

# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER ... 1967 NEWSLETTER NO. 5

Editor - N. 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.

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**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

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**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.

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**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.

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**HISTORICAL EXHIBITION:** This Society will stage a display of maps, letters, photography, etc., on 7th and 8th October, 1967, at the Micham 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

# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

OCTOBER ... 1967 NEWSLETTER NO. 6

Editor - N. Leach.

*** NEXT MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 11th October. An address by Mr.H.S. Mc Comb. 8 p.m.

SUBJECT: " THE PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE".

Mr. Mc Comb is Government Nominee on the Surveyors Board, and a member of the Dandenong Valley Authority.

Place; Methodist Hall, Whitehorse Road, Nunawading.

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REPORTS: At the last meeting of the Society, Mr. F. Pinchen one of our members, gave a most interesting illustrated address about the past and present Flora and Fauna in the Nunawading area. He mentioned how in the early days - less than 100 years ago, emus and kangaroos roamed the district and our swamp lands were alive with water-fowl. Even today some of these birds can be seen nesting in the reeds beside some of the local water-holes. The cutting of scrub, closer settlement and bush fires have caused the loss of very many of our smaller birds, especially the wrens and finches, although Mr. Pinchen had a wonderful collection of these birds and their eggs which he had by much time and patience been able to photograph. Magpies and kookaburras are also fast disappearing but there are still a few nesting-places left to them. It was not until we saw slides of the wildflowers that some of us realised just how many of our favourite ones have disappeared entirely and others which were very plentiful have nearly gone. Recently taken slides proved that if we keep our eyes open there are still many wildflowers to be found in the few open spaces left in Nunawading. To encourage our birds back Mr. Pinchen advised planting some quick growing native trees and shrubs in our gardens. This address was enjoyed by twenty-six members who shall be looking forward to more in the future.

M.B.

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VICTORIAN HISTORICAL CONFERENCE: Your secretary was the Society's delegate at the recent Biennial Conference. Other members present included Mrs. J.Uhl, Miss E. Ronaldson, Mrs. D. Graham and Mr. K. Patterson. A report will follow at a later date.

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"EARLY MELBOURNE SUBURBS" An exhibition held in the Latrobe Library. 29th September - 29th December 1967. Hours 2 p.m. - 10 p.m. Mondays. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesdays - Fridays.

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DON'T FORGET DON'T FORGET DON'T FORGET

HISTORICAL EXHIBITION HISTORICAL EXHIBITION

To be held in conjunction with The Blackburn Preservation Society. The Society will exhibit a collection of early maps, letters, photography, samples of pottery and a display of herbs.

PLACE: Mitcham High School, Mitcham Road, Mitcham.

TIME: Saturday, 7th October, 2 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Sunday, 8th October 2p.m. - 6 p.m.

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WELCOME BACK to our "Tourist " member Mrs J. Roczniok and her two young daughters who have been visiting relatives in England. We trust they enjoyed a wonderful holiday and thank Joan for her greetings from Ludlow.

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HISTORY : The Whitehorse Hotel, a two-storey brick building of eighteen rooms, was built in 1853 on the north-east corner of Elgar and Whitehorse Roads ( the latter was then known as the Great Three Chain Road to Gippsland). A toll-gate was on the road here, one of many in the district for the purpose of raising money to build and maintain roads. There was stabling at the hotel for thirty horses, and a race-course was laid out behind the buildings. This was a simple matter to plan as the block of land was sixty acres in extent. Race meetings were held there and crowds of people would have an enjoyable day out. The sign for the hotel was painted tin, showing a horse carrying a jockey in a blue coat. In 1883, a Mr Graham bought the hotel and he commissioned an artist to carve a whitehorse as a sign. This was executed by the late Mr. David Clarke. In 1898, the hotel was burnt down, but it was re-built as a single-storey building very soon afterwards.

In the early years, this hotel marked the completion of the first stage in the coach journey from Melbourne to Lilydale. The coach would start from the Albion Hotel in B ourke Street ( about mid-way between Elizabeth and Swanston Streets, on the north side). The horses were stabled at the Whitehorse Hotel after their nine-mile dash, mostly up-hill, until late afternoon , when they replaced the team which brought the coach from Lilydale on the return journey.

With the coming of the railway in 1882, the coaches ceased to operate. But the hotel was still very popular as the terminus of an equestrian pleasure jaunt from Melbourne. Railways might have encroached on the stage-coach runs, but the horse was still unchallenged on the roads. Subdivision of land and increased population kept business here as well, but with the coming of the motor-car, custom diminished. Further east, the "Travellers Rest" of early days still exists as the Blackburn Hotel.

(La Trobe Library) D.M.

ELECTIONS for the year 1967/68 will take place at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Society, which will be held on Wednesday, November 8th. Formal notification of this meeting will be circulated in due course. All members are reminded that they are entitled to nominate candidates for election as Office Bearers or Committee Members and a nomination form for this purpose is attached. All positions become automatically vacant at this meeting.

Our President, Mr. L.R. Gray, Vice-President, Mr. M. Chatwin and Secretary Mrs. N. Leach do not seek re-election as Office Bearers.

N. Leach.
Hon. Secretary.

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NOMINATION FORM.

I wish to nominate . . . . . .

For the position of . . . . . .

Signature of Nominator . . . . . .

I agree to accept nomination and will serve in the above capacity if elected.

Signature of Nominee . . . . . .

Date . . . . . .

# NUNAWADING & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOVEMBER ... 1967 NEWSLETTER NO. 7
Editor N. Leach

*** SECOND ANNUAL MEETING ***

WEDNESDAY, 8TH NOVEMBER 8 p.m.

## AGENDA

To confirm the Minutes of the First Annual Meeting.
To elect the Honorary Office-Bearers.
To elect Members of the Committee.

To be followed by a

## FAMILY EVENING

Members are asked to bring along and discuss briefly their own Historical Possessions.

Supper ..... Ladies, please bring a plate.

PLACE: METHODIST HALL, WHITEHORSE ROAD, NUNAWADING.

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FLASHBACK: A year ago, this Society celebrated its first birthday, and as a change from the local scene, members brought along some of their personal treasures and chatted about these.
The oldest object displayed was a Greek Kylix, excavated in Magna Grecia, now Southern Italy, its date of manufacture being calculated as 400 B.C. - a simple unglazed bowl with twin handles. The other things seemed new beside it. Still some distance away from our time were coins - one issued by the Roman Emperor Hadrian about 113 - 117 A.D., and a Scottish coin of 1153, when David II was on the throne. An old flintlock gun, most of its minor parts missing, looked like a walking stick, and indeed, a previous owner had used it as such. Everyone admired a sampler dated 1831, and the needlecase used with it. A later sampler, of about 1895, showed various stitches on a miniature apron. At intervals throughout the evening a 130 years old clock provided a melodious background with its striking. There were two cut-glass salt-cellars of 150 years ago, and a century old butter print; this latter showed how even prosaic farm produce could achieve an artistic finish. An English member displayed her beautiful copper warming-pan (at least 120 years old). How much more intriguing this seemed than an electric blanket, but undoubtedly a little more trouble. Two brilliant waistcoats appeared, one of red and blue brocade, and the other of huckaback, embroidered in blue, gold, and brown. Removable shank buttons, complete with little clips, fastened this, a relic of days when fixed buttons on clothing were taxed. A delightful blue fringed parasol with carved bone handle of 100 years ago fascinated everyone, but somehow it just didn't look adequate for coping with the sun of a scorching Australian summer day. A gavel of the 1800's - if only it could tell us of meetings long past - peaceful? - turbulent? - but probably both. A sleeping doll 80 years old wore its original hand-sewn clothes, and very smart it looked. A watch of 1872, gold brooches, and a locket were other treasures, and a tiny prayer-book presented to a bride in 1871.
Social surveys are not confined to our own day; in 1899 a book was published, entitled "A Study in Poverty in York". Among other points, it discussed poor relief and servants' wages, and the minimum amount of food and clothing for the different classes.

D M.

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CONGRATULATIONS: to our trio of Grandmothers - and Granfathers, too - Grand-daughters for Mr. and Mrs. E. Faggetter and Mr. and Mrs. D. Field, and a Grand-son for Mr. and Mrs. F. Boxshall.

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HISTORICAL EXHIBITION, 7th - 8th October: The display of old letters, maps, old photographs, Australiana, and pottery was a credit to members and others who participated, and created much interest among the continuous stream of people. This was evident by the expression on their faces. Memories were stirred and members enjoyed discussions with the visitors. Noticed amongst the visitors was Mr. Weston Bate, the noted historian. We are extremely grateful to the Blackburn and District Tree Preservation Society for giving us this opportunity.

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THE PLACE NAMES COMMITTEE : Mr. H. S. McComb, a Past President of the R.H.S.V., began his address by indicating his close association with Nunawading - his father was Shire Engineer in the early days. Speaking on the Place Names Committee, he said that, when the Royal Society was started some 20 - 25 years ago, interest was stimulated in the recording of such information. A committee was formed, but due to the rapid mapping of Australia, it was necessary to co-ordinate the work, and in 1965 an amendment of the Survey Co-ordination (Place Names) Act was passed. The Place Names Committee first met in 1965, and now there are about 100 affiliated Societies, and many others are closely associated with the work. The first plan of Victoria was prepared by H. J. Keene in 1860: The Department of Lands and Survey is now compiling a new plan of Victoria. The greater part of our early place names came through the surveyors, especially the aboriginal names. The Act was an endeavour to bring together the practical work of the surveyors and mappers. It has been estimated that it would take 1700 years to bring all the information up to date! However, an interchange of surveys of State Government and Commonwealth Departments should help to speed up matters. The Place Names Committee comprises six members. Most of them represent the Government, and the Act is administered by the Surveyor General. The members comprise: Chief Draughtsman in the Department of Lands and Survey; Surveyor and Chief Draughtsman of the Office of Titles; Chairman of the Town and Country Planning Board; two nominated members (one appointed by the Municipal Association of Victoria, and one by the Royal Historical Society of Victoria). As a matter of interest, it is the first time the R.H.S.V. has been mentioned in a Government Act. The members of the Committee are appointed for three years; Statutory Committees can only do what they are authorized to do, and the main purpose of the Committee is to lay down the proper spelling of place names. The Committee handles many problems, and in cases of doubt the local Historical Societies, local organizations, and local residents should be considered. As a matter of interest, Mr. McComb said that the P.M.G's. Department goes to a tremendous amount of trouble to see there is no duplication of Post Office names. The Committee dealt with the case of Hazelwood and Churchill when there was doubt about which name should be retained. Upper and Lower Fern Tree Gully at one time thought of changing their names, and Bilby was suggested for Upper Ferntree Gully. This would perpetuate the name of a man who had a cattle-run in that area in the early days. The Dandenong Valley Authority had asked the Place Names Committee to affix a name to a creek not previously named, in the Shire of Knox. Local Associations have been approached for their views. Local interest and local people are the vital concern of the Committee. Mr. McComb mentioned that some areas in our State have never been officially named, i.e. Mildura, Gippsland, the Wimmera, to name a few. Yet another matter is the question of an apostrophe in a place name, particularly roads. As the roads are eventually made

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and become Council or Government property, so the apostrophe will be dropped. To ensure that a permanent record is made, local Councils must proclaim in the Government Gazette any change of name of street or road. In his researches, Mr. McComb had come across many old plans, and he produced modern-day plans showing how areas had been sub-divided. He indicated that in 1858 – 1860 land could be sub-divided without official approval. Some of the blocks were square (120" to 180'), and fronting two roads was common practice. Some of them were very small with frontages of 14' to 16'. Along the Whitehorse Road between Mitcham and Ringwood were such place names as New Brusnwick and Studley, but these villages were never developed. Quite a lot of land was "jumped", or, more legally, acquired by adverse possession! The town of Norwich,about which Mrs. Uhl has written in detail,was also shown by Mr. McComb. Another plan showed a large area between Springvale Road and Surrey Road where a township called Springfield existed between Koonung Creek and Whitehorse Road. Springvale Road was known as Walker's Road, and Surrey Road as Barnes Road. It is thought this might be connected with an area near Whitehorse Road owned by a man called Barnes.

Finally, Mr. McComb said that, in addition to the P.N.C., a council had been set up called the National Mapping Council, and the ultimate aim is to issue a gazetteer. At the conclusion of Mr. McComb's address, many questions were asked on both local and Victorian place names.

A vote of thanks was passed by Mr. K. Patterson.

(Mrs. P. McLean)

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## AUGUSTUS WOLSKEL MEMORIAL LECTURE "THE WRITING OF HISTORY"

Professor C.M.H. Clark, M.A., Professor of History, School of General Studies, Australian National University, Canberra, A.C.T.

### A Summary of Professor Clark's Lecture by Miss E. Ronaldson

The arts should be a comfort to mankind. Painting and writing concern the universal problems of man, and at last Australian poets and writers are dealing with these. History, too, should deal with this. It should be a source of wisdom and light. Poets have insight which many historians lack. For example, many Australian historians have written about the 1890's, but it was the poet Lawson who saw what was really happening when he wrote "Middleton's Rouseabout". Historians can make use of these insights.

The history which interests Professor Clark is the history which tells the story of the past to cast light on the meaning of life. The conflict between man's world and God's world is the source of anguish in life, and the revelation of this in a work of art gives majesty and grandeur. Some writers are great because they have one great thing about life; others are great because they know many things. The problem is how to convey this. Some authors cheat and tell what they know, and this can be dull, others convey the truth by painting scenes. Some do it very well, for example Hancock, Turnbull, Blainey, and Serle. Trevelyn is a master of this art; he resists the temptation to comment on the scene to make sure that the reader has not missed the point. As an example, Trevelyn's account of the murder of the Duke of Buckingham was read. The author is detached enough. In doing this, the author is attempting something very difficult, he is trying to convey a vision of life.

Throughout the book, there should be four voices. There should be a leading man, a great theme, and a character who can sum things up, as the Revd. Richard Johnson does in the first volume of the "History of Australia". The writer may believe that some men have a tragic flaw in their character and be profoundly convinced it is the central theme in life; he will look for man and scenes to reveal this. W. C. Wentworth is an example of the type of character who could be used. Governor Arthur is an example of the type of man who finds himself in a comical

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position which becomes tragic because he is a self-appointed improver of the morals of mankind. In writing of an historical figure, it is important to create a human being, a whole man. There were many giants in Australian history before the period of industrialisation. Some writers have already done this, for example, H.H. Richardson, "The Fortunes of Richard Mahony"; M. Bassett, "The Hentys".

One of the historian's problems is that he has to deal with particular characters, while the poet deals with universals. Real characters rarely say the things an artist would want them to say. Macquarie could be regarded as a character with a tragic flaw. However, when he returned to England in 1820, he showed no awareness of a fault in himself, he had no tragic awareness. What is more, no contemporary writer put down the artist's truth about Macquarie - his desire for revenge, his need to suffer on this earth. John Macarthur was a man of great achievement, by 1820 he sought recognition of his great dream, but his own past was in the way. Macarthur had raised his hand against everyone in the colony because he believed everyone had raised their hands against him. In a work of art he should suffer from his past, in actual life he went mad.

The raw materials of history are the great conflicts of man; the conflict of God's world and man's world; Catholic truth and enlightenment; conflict of classes; conflict of man and his environment. These are the subjects of all great literature.

There will always be frail people, unable to handle human society, but who see it clearly; see men preying on each other like the creatures of the sea. They will communicate a vision of life, not just the terror but also the beauty. Their subject is not just the tree of knowledge, but the tree of life. They bring comfort and light to their own generation.