

Came from family of famous sculptors

When Mr. Clare Summers died by accident on Monday, July 19th, Fish Creek lost one of its oldest and finest residents.

He was the son of Mr. Charles Francis Summers, the distinguished sculptor. Anyone visiting Ballarat is sure to have seen the beautiful gardens with its classic rotunda exhibiting famous statues such as "Veiled Modesty", "Ruth", "Rebecca", "Suzanne", etc, and the well known "Flight from Pompeii". These were some of the master pieces of Clare's father, and Clare himself as a young boy would help his father with chisel, and the tools of his art.

Clare's grandfather, Charles Summers, was famed for the same craft, and the beautiful and speaking "Burke and Wills" that stood for years in Spring Street, Melbourne, was his creation.

This piece has been moved and its destination is under discussion, the Civic Square being its possible resting place.

Clare Summers was born in Rome, where his father was pursuing his

art. He lived there for nine years, speaking fluent Italian which he later forgot. Coming to this country with his Australian father and Scottish mother, he resided in Jolimont for some time, later embarking on various pursuits and adventures of his own.

He came to Fish Creek in 1923, having married Miss Gladys Hedrick of Benambra. Then he took to farming.

But the creative instinct was strong in Clare, and he became one of the stalwarts of Gippsland who acquired a vast acreage of what was once regarded as poor land, but by scientific treatment was converted to smiling pasture.

Though reaching the age of 81, he never retired. He was strong and active till the last.

As a neighbour and a member of the community, his integrity was outstanding. He was a man of impeccable honour.

He leaves a much loved wife, two sons and two daughters, and they in turn are carrying on the high ideals and civic responsibilities of a notable father.