

## EARLY SETTLERS AND THEIR INDUSTRIES

The early villagers satisfied most of their own needs — provided themselves with meat, milk and vegetables from the land they worked. They cut their own firewood and had among them a blacksmith, wheelwrights and a saddler. They kept their own fowls and pigs and a few cows. The first tailor was James Sutherland of Elizabeth Street. More than one brickmaker started up, one of them being a Mr. Cawkwell. Rope making was also an early industry. Others who started industries were Dovey the Cobbler and the brothers James and William Woodmason who developed the largest and most productive vegetable farm in the district, ran a dairy business and grazed Alderney cows. Descendants of this family still live in Malvern.

The name Alway is another well known in Malvern. The late Mr. A. F. Alway was a President of Malvern Shire. The late Mr. Henry Beamsley of Beamsley Street was an estate agent in Glenferrie Road and married the daughter of an early resident, Miss Lansbury. Both families have for many years been residents of Malvern. Some of the old-time names possibly persist because the first residents usually owned their own properties and their children have retained a portion of their heritages and in many cases have not left Malvern.

William Chandler, a British Immigrant, bought land for a market garden which soon became as well known as Woodmason's market garden. The Chandlers gave to Malvern Council some of their land to enable Station Street to be made, and the name Chandler is commemorated in Chandler's Road. William Chandler was a very knowledgeable market gardener. Seed from his mammoth cauliflowers were sent by Cr. Edsall to Germany and thence to all the vegetable markets of the world. Chandler also developed from a pip the "Statesman" apple.

Thomas Pocket, once Malvern's head municipal gardener, grew and developed gorgeous chrysanthemums and D. Webley developed the wild white erica into the large garden erica.

## SOME OF MALVERN'S EARLY CHURCHES

Very early in the history of Malvern land was allotted for the Anglican Church, a Police Station and a Town Hall. In the Anglican newspaper of December 1865 mention was made of St. George's Church, Malvern, which had then been commenced, the foundation stone being laid in November 1865. It was built of bluestone, to accommodate 180 people and was estimated to cost £1,800. In March 1871 St. George's was licensed as a place of public worship. St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Stanhope Street is also very much a part of Malvern's history. When Malvern parishioners first

came to Mass in what is now St. Joseph's Hall they walked or came by buggy and tethered their horses in a paddock beside the Presbytery. In 1802 the Vincentian Fathers came from Ireland to take over a newly constituted parish and by 1908 the parish had earned for itself a new church, the present impressive building.

John Gardiner was a Congregationalist, a strong supporter of this sect in Melbourne. Congregationalists started a small wooden Union Church in Malvern in the street that later became Union Street. Later, as the congregation grew, it needed a larger building in Glenferrie Road, between Wattleree Road and Gordon Grove. By 1890 a church was built and dedicated at the corner of what is now Winter Street and Glenferrie Road. This was demolished in 1966 to make way for Coles New World Supermarket.

The Methodists erected a church at the corner of Malvern Road and Elizabeth Street which was opened for service late in 1860. In 1888 the present Methodist Church was built in Spring Road.

The Presbyterians, after using the Church of England schoolroom for a while, built their first church in Grace Street. Then in 1886 they built a large wooden church in Glenferrie Road near Wattleree Road. This church was moved to a new site in Wattleree Road where the present church was later built.

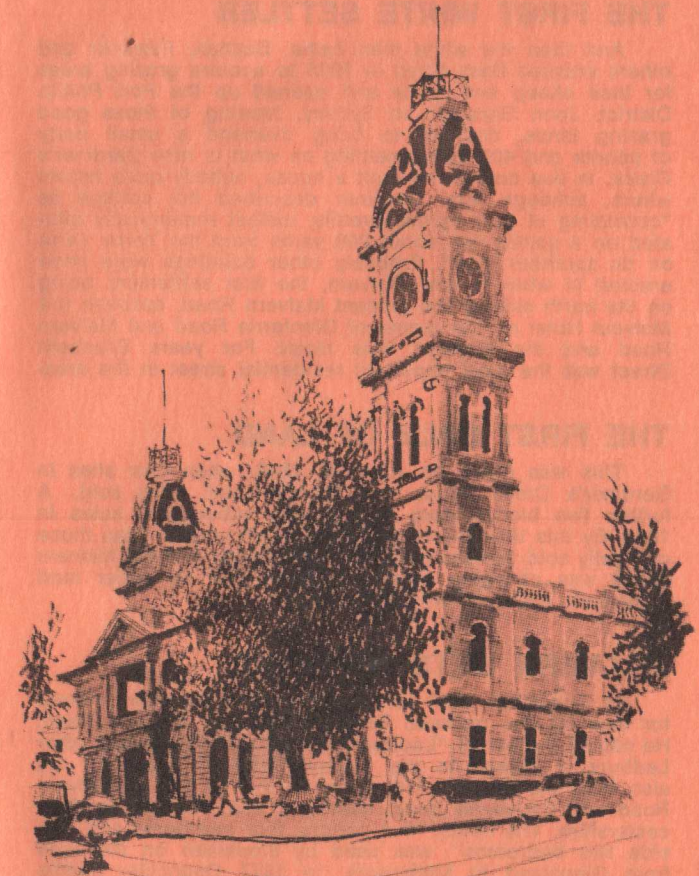
## THE CITY HALL

No history of Malvern would be complete without some reference to the City Hall, today a graceful white building whose clock tower can be seen from quite a distance in all directions around Malvern. When the Malvern area changed from a Road District to a Shire in 1871 agitation began to have a shire hall built. The Government withheld from sale the land at the corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street and in 1885 a contract was let for the building of a Shire Hall, Court House, Municipal Offices and Library, to cost £7,500. In 1890 the hall was extended to a northerly direction and a second tower erected. In 1926 work was begun on the complete reconstruction and remodelling of the whole building. Much of the old structure was demolished and rebuilt to give Malvern citizens the lovely hall that stands today.

The foregoing brief history leaves much unsaid, including the story of the Malvern Tramways, the story of Kong Meng the Chinese Mandarin, and the fact that Malvern had Victoria's first bowling green. Much can be written about early schools in the area and colourful characters of the early days. The place that began as a small stopping place for cattle developed as a market garden village, a place for dairy farmers, prospering through the land boom years to the residential district it is today.

Malvern Historical Society.

## CITY OF MALVERN



## A BRIEF MALVERN HISTORY

## IN THE BEGINNING

The history of the area we know as Malvern began long before the coming of the white man.

Australian aborigines would have roamed these hills for generations, building their shelters, hunting for food and probably obtaining water from a spring on the slope of what was to be known as Malvern Hill, close to High Street in Spring Road. White residents later used this same spring as a source of water.

## THE FIRST WHITE SETTLER

And then the white man came. Batman, Fawcner and others crossed Bass Strait in 1835 to acquire grazing areas for their sheep and cattle and opened up the Port Phillip District. John Gardiner, in Sydney, hearing of these good grazing lands, decided to bring overland a small party of people and 400 cattle, settling on what is now Gardiner's Creek. In due course, he built a house, nobody quite knows where, although Mrs. Gardiner described her cottage as "consisting of four rooms, prettily, almost romantically situated on a gentle rise about 200 yards from the Yarra Yarra on its southern side". Probably other buildings were soon erected in what is now Malvern, the first settlement being on the north side of the present Malvern Road, between the Malvern Hotel on the corner of Glenferrie Road and Malvern Road and the Malvern Vale Hotel. For years Elizabeth Street was the most important residential street in the area.

## THE FIRST SALE OF LAND

This was made on June 10, 1840, when four sites in Gardiner's Creek Road, now Toorak Road, were sold. A further five blocks were sold at two subsequent sales in 1849. By this time the blocks were much smaller than those originally sold. Melbourne itself was growing and the Malvern scene was changing from a grazing area to closer land settlement such as market gardens.

## MALVERN GETS ITS NAME

In November 1856 Mr. C. Skinner, a barrister, offered for sale 90 lots between Toorak Road and Malvern Road. He named the estate "Ledbury" — Malvern Hills Estate, after Ledbury, a village in the Malvern Hills in England. He also built the Malvern Hill Hotel at the corner of Malvern Road and Glenferrie Road, naming it after Malvern in Worcestershire. The hotel, "five parlors, four bedrooms and outside two bedrooms", was used by stockmen on the road from Gippsland to Melbourne. In 1877 Councillor James Lorimer proposed that the name of the shire should be changed from Gardiner to Malvern. At a subsequent poll 150 residents voted for it and three opposed it. The change was proclaimed in 1878.

Malvern became a borough in February 1901, a town the following April and a city in May 1911.

## MALVERN'S STREET NAMES

The first district road made later became Elizabeth Street. Gradually more streets were made and named, although in some cases a street or road has had more than one name over the years. Break Neck Road became



An early photograph of a tram in Glenferrie Road, Malvern

Waverley Road and Riches' Bridge Road became Malvern Road. The present Glenferrie Road was originally referred to as an unnamed Government Road running north and south between Richmond and Brighton. Its first name, Sir Henry's Road, was after the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Barkly. This was soon changed to Barkly Road, then to Glenferrie Road and later to its present name, Glenferrie Road.

W. H. Glen of the Collins Street music shop had a mansion near the road in Hawthorn, close to the ferry. The combination of Glen and ferry is claimed to be the origin of the name. There is, however, a Barkly Avenue running off Glenferrie Road.

Edward Sidney Edsall came to Malvern in 1872 and established a seed garden for growing vegetable seeds in the vicinity of what is now Edsall Street. He became a Councillor and Mayor of Malvern in 1884/85. James Sutherland named Bride Street in 1872 because two newly built cottages were first tenanted by brides.

Other early settlers who gave their names to Malvern Streets were Bailey, Bares, Beamsley, Benson, Bent, Chandler, Childers, Clarke, Davies, Embling and Woodmason. There was never a Church in Church Street. When Skinner planned Ledbury Village he set aside land in Church Street, but it was never used for this purpose.

Early historical houses such as "Haverbrack" "Ranfurlie", "Tooronga", "Cold Blo", "Belgrave", "Moorakyne", "Huntingtower" and "Flete" have also given their names to present-day streets in Malvern.

## SOME OF THE EARLY HOUSES

Possibly the oldest house in Malvern is a private home in Wattletree Road on the corner of Glendearg Grove. It was once the Wattle Tree Hotel, social centre of Malvern and venue of the first meeting of the Gardiner Road Board, the forerunner of the Malvern Council. It was headquarters for huntsmen. Foxes, hares, kangaroos, dingoes and deer were hunted from this hotel.

Malvern's most famous mansion, "Stonnington", now the home of the State College of Victoria, became famous at the time of Federation when it became Victoria's Government House. The State Government had to find a new home for its Governor when Government House in St. Kilda Road became the official residence in Victoria of the Governor General of Australia. John Wagner, a partner in the coaching firm of Robertson & Wagner, later known as Cobb & Co., built a beautiful mansion as a family home on what had been part of a market garden owned by Peter Cousins and Henry James.

"Kooyong", which gave the Kooyong area its name, and which still stands today, was built by Mr. Ebbott, a produce and fuel merchant.

John Mark Davies, a member of the Legislative Council, built Valentine's Mansion around the time of the Land Boom of 1890. It has been a school since 1923 and is now Caulfield Grammar Junior School.

The Melbourne Hunt Club met at Ranfurle, the home of parliamentarian William Knox, who entertained the huntsmen on the scale of an English squire. It now forms part of Korowa Girls' Grammar School.

Glen Iris was named after a house built by a solicitor, J. C. Turner. It was a large house, 66 feet by 48 feet, with the drawing room and diningroom each 18 feet square.

Michael Keeley built a house on the hill where Sacre Coeur Convent School now stands. The two-storey house is still there, easily discernible among the new convent buildings which surround it. It was named "Brynmawr". Sorrett Avenue marks the line of the old carriage drive to "Nerrena", which later became "Sorrett". It was owned at one time by C. W. Umphelby, a leading Anglican. The Singletons, who also worshipped at Malvern's St. Georges, lived in the house built by Colin Campbell and subsequently named "Haverbrack".

"Cold Blo", whose name still lives in the small street used by trams coming from the Malvern Tram Depot into Glenferrie Road, was one of the historical Malvern houses. Peter Lalor, who lost an arm at the Eureka gold diggings' riots at Ballarat, was later proclaimed an outlaw and subsequently became the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, lived for a time at "Cold Blo".

Another early house was "Belgrave", built around 1874, which still stands, sadly defaced, on the Belgrave Road corner of Dandenong Road. A well known resident of Malvern was Mr. Bowes-Kelly, who named his residence next to Government House (Stonnington) "Moorakyne". Mr. A. M. Chomley, Chief Commissioner of Victorian Police, lived in Glenferrie Road in the family home "Huntingtower". When the grounds of that house were sub-divided the road plotted through the estate became Huntingtower Road.

## AND THE HOTELS

Mention has been made of Malvern Hill Hotel in connection with the naming of Malvern, also the Wattle Tree Hotel. Just down the road from the Malvern Hill Hotel is the Malvern Vale Hotel, with some of the earliest buildings of the hamlet that became Malvern spread between them. Along the main Dandenong Road to Gippsland stood the hotel with the strange name of No Good Damper Inn.