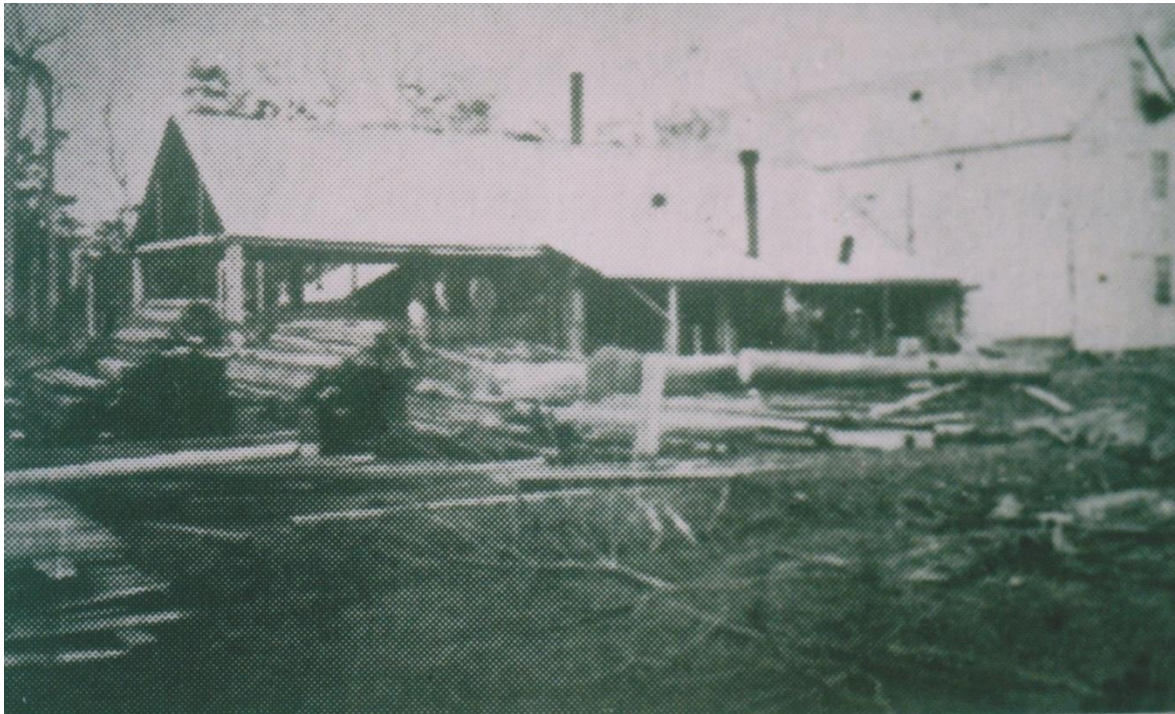


Yarram & District Historical Society Inc.

MEMORY LANE

VOLUME 4

JUNE 2019



CARPENTER'S FLOUR AND SAWMILL

'BARKLY MILLS'

Yarram & District Historical Society Inc.

Welcome to our fourth newsletter.

We have all been saddened by the death of our past President Jim Kee who retired over a year ago due to ill health.

When Jim was elected President of our society he literally stepped into a void for which there was no blueprint. He set out to tackle the running of the historical society and to reorganise the archiving of the enormous amount of material that the historical society possesses. He managed to catalogue a vast amount of photos, documents etc. and set up a new easy to access filing system so that in time the data can be transferred onto a central database.

He organised signage for many sites in the district thus giving them relevance.

He worked hard to get material from the Alberton Shire archives before it was consigned elsewhere and spent hours photographing the rate books and transporting material to our rooms.

He managed to steer but also to delegate and people were only too happy to help him because of his easy manner. He always had a team of people he could call on to help out because they enjoyed working with him.

He was cognisant of the fact that people like to be needed and get reward from doing things.

He did all this while battling with illness because he was passionate about history and the role he had been given and did it all with good grace.

It is because of his dedication and leadership to our society and his friendly and welcoming nature that we continue to exist. Vale Jim.

We have been slowly working away on putting up and reorganising displays within the museum.

An area has now been set out with the Masonic regalia from the recently closed Tarra Lodge. We are awaiting some information on the objects on display.

We are also setting up a display of local sporting activities with photos, uniforms and equipment.

In February we had a speaker Frank Zygarlicki who spoke to us about his experiences as a post war refugee from Poland. His family were removed from the family farm at gun point and put in a camp. He was only a baby and the privation the family suffered was dreadful. After the war they were put into displaced persons camps where they applied to be accepted as refugees. Unfortunately his father died whilst in the process but due to his mother's resolve the family was able to come to Australia. He related the cultural difficulties the family experienced and also their survival and ability to make good. He also told us of his trip back to Poland to discover where his family had come from and to see where he had been born and where the family had lived.

He was also able to reconnect with relatives and visit his father's grave. There were not many dry eyes after his tale.

A group of CWA ladies visited in March and were particularly interested in our scrap books on display. Though not all from this area, they made connections with some of the items in the scrap books.

The Traralgon Seniors also visited us in February and for them it was a trip down memory lane.

In April we launched `Mosina's Diary an account of everyday life by a teacher who married into the Bland family. The diary covers the years 1880- 1886. The book was compiled by Beverley Weir.

The main room had a change of display for Easter with evening dresses and accessories all of which was favourably commented on by a member of a CWA group who had been in the fashion trade, and a buyer for one of the big stores in Melbourne. She shared her reminiscences with us.

We had a successful Easter Raffle which will help us to keep this place going.



In May we hosted a car club from the Latrobe Valley and we think they were pleasantly surprised at the breadth of our collection.

In May we also had an enquiry, from Who Do You Think You Are?, regarding the Newton and Martin families, who settled in Alberton in the 1840's. We are wondering who the celebrity will turn out to be!!.

Early Years of Barkly Township

Yarram was not officially declared a township until, after final Council approval; it was gazetted on the 8th December 1893.

The township was first called Yarram Yarram after the parish, an aboriginal name meaning plenty of water. Later on the name was dropped to Yarram.

Initially Yarram was simply a district beyond the privately owned Orr's Survey, which included the township of Victoria, and the Government surveyed township of Alberton, located between Victoria and the Albert River.

Yarram Yarram was squatted by the Buckley's from 1844-1851 as the Tarra Run.

It was described in the NSW Government Gazette of Wednesday 13 Sep 1848 Issue No 100 (supplement). *'This run is contained in a square block of land of 6 miles, bounded on the north adjoining Mr. H. Bodman's ; south by Messrs. Orr and Co's survey; on the south-west by the river Albert; west side by a tier of mountains (sea coast range); east by and adjoining the run of Joseph Davis.*

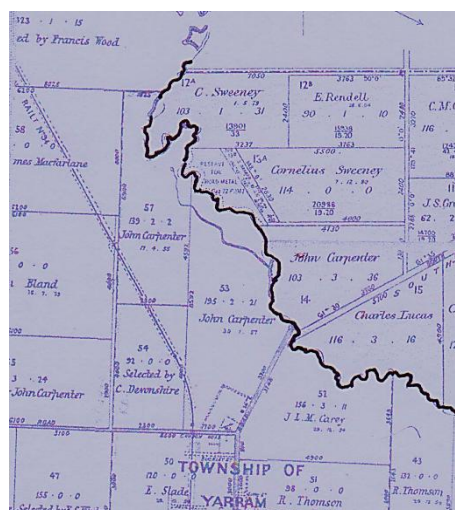
In his journal, Patrick Coady Buckley records on Monday 1st November 1852

'I start for the Tarrato assist mustering EB cattle (Edmund Buckley) on S of TarraCk which together with the run that EB sold to John Carpenter a new arrival'.

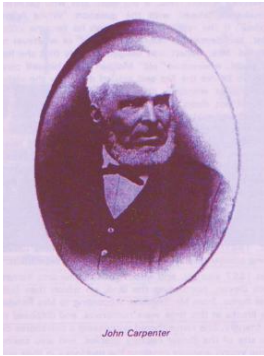
However by the early to mid- 1850s the land of this former run was being offered up for sale by the Government.

Under the Waste Lands Act, land lying within a 10 mile distance of a township could be now sold for an upset price of one pound sterling. Alberton having been declared a township, Squatters now had to choose which of their allowed acreage they would procure, John Carpenter included.

The Buckley's chose their land at Woranga so that on the map of Yarram Yarram we see the names of John Carpenter and John Le Marchant Carey as land holders either side of the road from Carpenter's Bridge into what is now Yarram. John Carpenter also held 103 acres on the other side of the bridge along the Sale Rd and Charles Lucas held 116 acres across the river from Captain Carey adjoining the Sale Rd and Carpenters Bridge, both these holdings were in the parish of Woranga.



Yarram as a township started to develop at the Tarra River end of town due to the entrepreneurial nature of the men who had taken up the land and the fact that they would become employers who helped the town grow.



John Carpenter often cited as the father of Yarram was primarily farming from his arrival. He would however have had to clear his land to make it suitable for his needs and survival.

According to Cox *he employed a number of immigrants in clearing etc. on his land for whom he built cottages in the neighbourhood of the creek. They suffered severely in the floods which were frequent in those days.*

In Sep 1855 he met at Port Albert and brought to Yarram Samuel Rendell and his wife Margaret nee Wood and her father (Francis Wood senior, (who had taken up land adjacent to Carpenters holdings.) Sam Rendell was to work for Carpenter at Barkly Mills where John Carpenter built both a timber and flour mill.

There were others too employed by John Carpenter. Harry Aldridge per 'Medway' a wheelwright from Middlesex; Thomas Barlow per 'Black Eagle, a game keeper's son as a labourer; Thomas Wilson from Gloucestershire per 'Medway' a carpenter.

By the end of February 1856 Carpenter was advertising the selling of cattle and in May the same year he produced a prodigious crop of potatoes which an article, in the Gippsland Guardian, reported, 'amounted to a yield of 56 tons per acre'. He was however engaged in greater things and by 1857 the Barkly Mills, a timber mill and a flour mill were finally in operation. The need for a timber mill would have coincided with him becoming a member of the Roads Board and the necessity to clear roadways and construct bridges in the area. He could see the big picture.

BARKLY MILLS. — Mr. Carpenter's flour and saw mills at the rapidly rising and flourishing township of Yarram Yarram, were brought into full working operation yesterday, and will no doubt be hailed as a great boon by a large number of farmers and others in the lower district. It is the intention of the proprietor to call them the **Barkly Mills** in honor of the present Governor.

Carpenter began Advertising in the Gippsland Guardian for his mills.

On 4th August 1857 Fine Flour can be had for 24 pounds sterling per ton, Bran for 2 shillings and threepence per bushel and Grinding for 1 shilling and sixpence.

The timber mill was producing Scantlings for 10 shillings, Full cut quarterings for 14 shillings, Weatherboards for 12 shillings, battens 12 shillings and Flooring Boards 14 shillings

Sawn Timber

CUT by water power at **Barkly Mills** delivered at the Port or Tarraville free.

PRESENT PRICES—FOR CASH.

QUARTERING 2 x 3, 12s., 2 x 4, 15s., full cut, 18s.

HALF-INCH BOARDS, 15s. 6d.

FLOORING BOARDS, 19s.

BATTENS, three to the foot, 16s.

J. CARPENTER,
Proprietor.

208-2

The Sawn Timber was being advertised in March 1858 indicating that much building would have been taking place.

The flour mill was producing` *Gristing* (a mixture of wheat) *at 1 shilling and sixpence abushel for cash and 2 shillings and sixpence on credit. Dry lofts for storing. Mills in first rate working order and improved machinery for the separation of smut (a black fungus), drake',*(weed seeds), and other impurities from the wheat.

It was imperative to clean wheat and to avoid contamination and in the Journal of Patrick Coady Buckley for 1862 he recorded-`*Cleaning wheat for Carpenter's mill*'.

In 1857 another new comer, Abraham Bland, arrived in Melbourne on the` *Star of the South*'. He and his wife hailed from Hessett in Suffolk. He was contracted to work for John Carpenter for seven years.

By May 1864 Barkly Mills was being leased by Abraham Bland, Charles Hawkins and Samuel Rendell.

Barkly Mills,
YARRAM YARRAM.
MESSRS. BLAND, HAWKINS, AND
RENDELL beg to inform their friends
and the public that they have taken possession
of the above named mills, and hope by strict
attention to obtain a share of patronage.
PRICES:
Grinding, 1s. per bushel.
TIMBER (at the mill).
2 x 3, 6s. 6d. per 100 feet
2 x 4, 8s. 6d. per 100 feet
Battens, 11s. per 100 feet
Flooring boards, 6s. 6d. per 100 ft, running
Weather boards, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, 5s. 6d. per 100
feet, running
Full cut, 11s. per 100 feet
1s. per 100 feet extra for from 16 to 20
feet lengths
2s. per 100 feet extra for from 20 to 30
feet lengths. b328

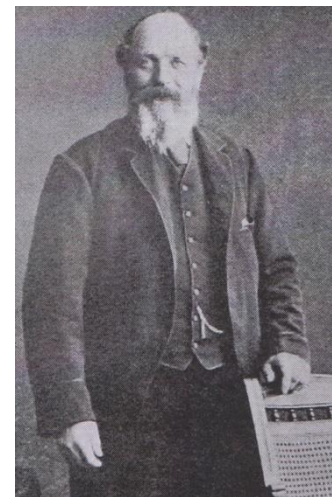


Photo: of Abraham

In the Gippsland Guardian of the 9th Feb 1866, John Carpenter, Proprietor was advertising the fact that the Barkly Mills were now repaired and ready for grinding.

The maintenance of mills was high. Fires could be generated quite easily and was a continuing risk as Abraham Bland would find out. John Carpenter moved to North Gippsland and the Mills were bought out by Abraham Bland by 1870.

An article in the Gippsland Times of 19th September 1877 illustrates how quickly your assets could be destroyed

The plentiful rain we have had lately has made jocund the hearts of the graziers and husbandmen. A greater breadth of land about Devon and Yarram has this season been sown with wheat, the farmers being encouraged so to do by having a flour-mill within the district. The former mill was scarcely purchased by Mr Bland before it was consumed by fire, and being uninsured, great loss fell upon the proprietor. Nothing daunted, Mr Bland rebuilt and has now in full work a saw and flour-mill, steam being used. He expresses himself perfectly satisfied with his present prospects.

Four times the mills were to be partially or fully burnt.

The first fire was in May 1870 and then the flour mill caught alight in a bush fire in 1879 There was another fire in 1884 and then the whole plant was totally destroyed in 1887.

<p>THE YARRAM FLOUR MILL DESTROYED BY FIRE.</p> <p>One of those unaccountable and mysterious occurrences which crop up from time to time to startle a community and set people thinking, took place on the farm and mill property of Mr A. Bland during the night of Wednesday, or more correctly speaking a couple of hours before daybreak on Thursday morning, the result being the total destruction of the mill-house itself, and the valuable plant and machinery which for about seven years past has been in full play in connection with the flour and saw mill. The leading particulars of the unfortunate affair are the following:—On Wednesday night all the hands left the mill in the usual way, and so far as Mr Bland or his employes were aware, there was no sign of fire or anything that could produce it either inside or outside the building. But about three o'clock on Thursday morning, Mr Bullet (father of Mrs Bland) happened to be awake, being a sufferer from reumatism, and rose from his bed. On doing so he noticed a light in the direction of the mill—situate about 200 yards from the residence of Mr Bland and his family—and immediately called Mr Bland to know if he had left</p>	<p>But about three o'clock on Thursday morning, Mr Bullet (father of Mrs Bland) happened to be awake, being a sufferer from reumatism, and rose from his bed. On doing so he noticed a light in the direction of the mill—situate about 200 yards from the residence of Mr Bland and his family—and immediately called Mr Bland to know if he had left anything burning near the mill. Such not being the case this was sufficient to cause alarm, and all hands arose at the sound of the word fire. It was at once discovered that the building was in danger; but before anything could be done to save it, the two story wooden building caught fire, and there being no means of throwing a stream of water upon it, the entire pile was enveloped in one huge sheet of flame, the only property that was saved being half a dozen bags of flour. A large quantity of grain, belonging to Mr Bland and several of his neighbours who had sent it in for gristing, was destroyed with the building, although it is next to impossible to estimate the loss with any degree</p>
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with the building, although it is next to impossible to estimate the loss with any degree of accuracy, the value of the building, together with machinery plant, and stored produce, may be set down at £1,800; and it is therefore a matter for regret that the proprietor of the mill was only insured for £600. The cause of the fire is still enshrouded in mystery, but it is supposed that some keeper of late hours, in the person of a bushman or quarryman, was crossing the paddock on his way home, and either lay down to smoke after his night's carouse, or carelessly threw down a match after lighting his pipe. This is of course the most charitable way of putting it; for three o'clock in the morning it is a very unusual circumstances for any person to be astir in the vicinity of Yarram mill. It is but seven years since the proprietor met with a similar misfortune, and coming as it has done, just at the commencement of the busy season, the loss to Mr Bland is all the more serious, whilst the farmers generally will deplore the stoppage of business at the only flour mill which existed in the Shire.—*Standard.*

On the other side of the road from Carpenter's Mills Captain John Le Marchant Carey had selected 156 acres. His land reached from the Tarra River to just opposite present day Buckley Street where the Yarram Hospital now stands.

John Le Marchant Carey was the sixth son of Major General Octavius Carey, a much decorated and knighted military man and his wife Harriot Hirzel Le Marchant. Both of John's parents came from Guernsey and the family was connected to the court there.

John was educated in Guernsey and then pursued a Military career. He was Gazetted as Ensign in 1842 with the 44th Regiment, then Lieutenant in 1844 and Captain in 1847. He married a Cornish girl Charlotte BaldockVigurs, a surgeon's daughter and they had three children.

On the 1851 British Census he is living in Egypt Rd, Northwood Isle of Wight with Charlotte and his children Harriot 3 born Falmouth, Richard 2 born Malta and John Le Marchant a baby born Parkhurst, a sister of Charlotte and two servants. His occupation is that of wine merchant. In 1851 he resigned from the Army and set out to move to Australia. In 1853 he was sworn in as a Justice for the Colony at Williamstown and in 1854 he was appointed to be Police Magistrate and Sub –Treasurer at Alberton replacing Andrew Murison McCrae.

By 1855 he had taken residence and in Jan 1855 was chairing a meeting at the Royal Hotel Tarraville to find out what the needs of the populace were. He was given more and more responsibilities until in 1857 he swapped with Charles Tyers and moved to Sale.

Whilst in the Alberton District, Carey was employing people to look after his newly acquired land- holdings and Thomas Jeffs and his wife who had arrived on the ` Maria Hay' in 1854 were soon on Captain Carey's payroll. Carey also took on Bridget Flynne, Margaret Keefe and Elizabeth Gaffney as well as Robert Sandy an Agricultural labourer.

An excerpt from the catalogue of a portrait exhibition held in Yarram states that:
'Mr Jeffs arrived in Yarram when there were only three houses and the party he was with had to share a tent with another family.'

However Cox notes that *'Captain Carey also erected cottages for those employed by him.'* Captain Carey also employed William and Jane Beatty, Irish immigrants. Sadly their son Christopher was drowned in a waterhole on what is now `Aylesbury' in 1855. He was about 19.



Charles Lucas

In 1855 Charles Lucas was occupying the land across the creek from Captain Carey's paddock. Charles was the son Nathaniel Lucas a First Fleeter. He too decided to build a flour mill run by a water wheel but to get water rights he had to take out the mortgage on Captain Carey's land.

Charles Vaux who was an experienced Sawyer pit sawed the timber for Lucas's mill also Charles' son Charles Thomas Lucas managed the Mill. Lucas must have employed those people working on Carey's Paddock. Charles Lucas was having problems probably from overreaching his finances. He died in 1862.

The following excerpts from the newspapers of the time illustrate the hardships that befell the Lucas Family. The last being an account of the mills demise taken from the obituary of his son Charles Thomas Lucas who died in 1918.



Lucas's Mill

ALBERTON.
Thursday, 11th Dec., 1857.
(Before the Police Magistrate.)
Charles Lucas appeared on a summons to answer to the complaint of Thomas Jeffs for an alleged refusal to pay him a balance of wages due. On the case being gone into, however, it appeared that complainant and defendant were at issue as to the amount due, and by mutual consent the question was referred to arbitration, the decision of the arbitrators to be final.

Notice

IS hereby given to **MR. CHARLES LUCAS**, of the Mill Farm, Tarra Creek, to erect a good substantial three-rail fence on the boundary line dividing his land from that of the undersigned.

CHRISTOPHER HERBERT.
 August 1st, 1859. 536-3m

To Stand this Season,

AT the Woranga Flour Mills, the Entire Horse "**L O F T Y**." Terms: **£2**. One mare in five allowed to *bond file* owners. Mares allowed six weeks in paddock without responsibility, after which time 3s. per week will be charged.

CHARLES THOMAS LUCAS,
 c19

Advert from 1860

also,

All that piece or parcel of land situate and being in the said district of North Gipps Land, and Colony of Victoria, containing by admeasurement one hundred and sixteen acres three roods and sixteen perches, be the same more or less, situate in a county unnamed, parish of Woranga, section fifteen, bounded on the north-west by a road one chain fifty links wide, bearing north sixty-one degrees thirty minutes, east fifty-seven chains on the east by section ten, bearing south forty-nine chains, and on the south by the Tarra Rivulet, bearing westerly to the commencing point.

Upon this property stands that very complete and nearly new Flour Mill situate near to Carpenter's Bridge on the River Tarra; the fixings and machinery are all in perfect working order. There is also erected upon the premises a dwelling-house and sundry out buildings.

Sale Notice Description 1861

Tarra Creek. Mr. Lucas (father of deceased), acquired 115 acres of land on which the old flour mill was built, also 150 acres on the opposite side, now owned by Mr. James Nicol. The mill was worked by a water wheel. Several hundred pounds was spent on the mill, and Mr. Lucas supplied flour to the store he started at Russell's Creek. Things did not prosper, however. The mill was mortgaged to Mr. Turnbull, Port Albert, and finally lost. He took ill and died at Cascade. The store at Russell's Creek was afterwards sold by his son Joseph for forty bushels of wheat.

Excerpt from Charles Thomas Lucas Obit 1918

At the beginning of the First World War, Cox had a gathering of early pioneers reminiscing about Yarram. Abraham Bland's son, William Bland, remembered coming to Barkly's township. He recollected what was known as the big flood. *The water came into the room he slept in and lifted the bed.* There were stories of a boiler being lodged in a tree and an anvil floating down the stream. He also recollected the large black butts within a 100yds of the present day butter factory with a lyre bird's nest in a tree.

In 1859 according to Cox, and a plan shown to him by solicitor B.P Johnson, Carpenter subdivided some of his land:

'From the present Butter Factory thence along Commercial Road to the corner of Church Road; along Church Road to a lane running past the front of the Methodist Church; along the lane to a point opposite the starting point, to which return to a line E.S.E. The area was divided into three blocks, of which No1 contained 9 lots, Block 2 – 10 lots, block 3- 2 lots It was called `Barkly Township' after the Governor Sir Henry Barkly.'

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