

# LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc. *Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!* October - November 2007 Newsletter No. 9

## 28 October Malvern Station and Caulfield Township Estates Walk

(bounded by Glenferrie, Wattletree, Tooronga and Dandenong Roads)

Sunday 28 October 2pm

Meet at Malvern Station, Station Street, Malvern

Cost: Non-Members \$5 Members: Gold Coin Donation  
(+ optional \$5 for Walk Book 3)

For further information, please call Steve on 0418 546 103



Malvern Business College,  
Wattletree Road c1920  
Reg No: 1639

## 25 November Stanhope, Pine Hill, Winter's and Coonil Estates Walk

(bounded by High Street, Tooronga, Wattletree and Glenferrie Roads)

Sunday 25 November 2007 at 2pm

Meet at St Joseph's Church, 49 Stanhope Street, Malvern

Cost: Non-Members \$5 Members: Gold Coin

(+ optional \$5 for NEW Walk Book 4)

For further information, please call Steve on 0418 546 103



Clifton and Convent of the Sacred  
Heart, High Street Malvern c.1900  
(later Brigidine Convent and Kildara College)  
Reg No 45

## The Stonnington Local History Collection - together at Northbrook

On 17 September 2007, the Stonnington City Council unanimously agreed to the budgeted (\$120,000) relocation and consolidation of the Stonnington Local History Service at **Northbrook**. This decision has been a long time coming, and in fact, it was first mooted soon after the cities of Malvern and Prahran were amalgamated in 1994 to form the City of Stonnington. At its recent meeting, Stonnington Council agreed to develop a state-of-the-art facility at **Northbrook** to house its important **Stonnington Local History Collection**. The Collection includes items that have been recognized to be of local, state and national significance.

As part of the plan, new storage spaces will be built to house the collection in one secure location meeting all recognized national standards for museums and archives. New mobile shelving units with adequate space to store a variety of items will be designed and built in **Northbrook's** original bedrooms. Improved working conditions for the Local History staff will be provided in **Northbrook's** former Reception and Morning Rooms, and expanded work spaces for the volunteers will be provided in the former Dining Room and vestibules.

The **Malvern Historical Society** welcomes Council's decision and looks forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with the **Stonnington Local History Service**.



Northbrook High Street Malvern 1929 Reg No 358

## Who's Who of Stonnington - William Sloggatt

The MHS was recently alerted by Leonard Joel-Australia to the planned auction of an original portrait of **William Sloggatt**, painted by M. Stevenson but undated. Joel's had noticed a hand written note on the reverse **Mayor of Malvern William Sloggatt**. While William Sloggatt was not a Mayor of Malvern he was indeed Chairman of the Gardiner Road Board, predecessor of the Malvern Council, in 1862. Detailed research was undertaken to discover more about William Sloggatt. We now know that there were only two gentlemen with this name residing in Victoria between 1860 and 1940, the William known to us and his son who shared his name. Both resided in the area now known as the City of Stonnington. The Malvern Historical Society purchased the painting for \$258. The painting has now become part of the Stonnington Local History Collection.

William Sloggatt was born in **Valency**, Cornwall in 1823. His parents were Margaret (Rawle) and Thomas Rosevear Sloggatt. There were four sisters and one brother, but young William was closest to his grandfather, a successful businessman and one-time magistrate who adopted his grandson at an early age and made him "heir to his estates". Records from the Cornwall Census for the dates 1841 and 1851 indicate that William Sloggatt (Profession: Clerk) lived with his grandfather and two servants, at Penally House, in the port town of Boscastle, Cornwall.

On 14 April, 1851, at the age of 28, William married Sarah Elizabeth Hall (aged 20). William left Cornwall for Australia in the same year, leaving Sarah to give birth to their first child (William) in 1852. Shipping records show a Sarah Sloggatt and William (4 years), immigrating to Victoria "unassisted" in April, 1856. The Sloggatts would eventually have three more children, Margaret, Adelaide and Maud.

In 1857 William purchased just over eight acres in Glen Iris, with Harry Harrison. **Crown Allotment no 114** was on a block situated on the east side of Burke Road, between High Street and Malvern Road.

William Sloggatt's business interests varied over the years, starting with an interest in mining and moving on to factory production of the laundry whitener "**Blue**" in Malvern. Other positions included Secretary to the Chief of Police and a partnership with a Mr. Dingle in the Wine and Spirit business. At one time he became the owner of a grocer's shop at 5 Collins Street, (Melbourne) and for a time the business address listing for William Sloggatt was 29 Flinders Lane, (Melbourne).

The property in Glen Iris was developed, and the Sloggatt family then moved in to the house, named **Valency** after William's birthplace.

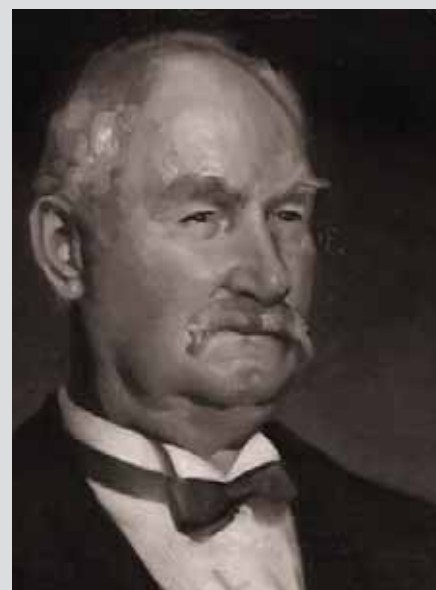
On the 14 December 1861, William Sloggatt was elected to the Gardiner Road Board.

He was elected to the position of **Chairman of the Gardiner Road Board** on 1 March 1862. Records indicate that William may not have served his full term of one year. His life immediately following the end of this appointment is not clear, for the name Sloggatt does not appear in the Melbourne Directory for the next few years. Rates books for the period indicate that he is still a landowner. The name Sloggatt appears in the Sands & McDougall Directory again from 1870.

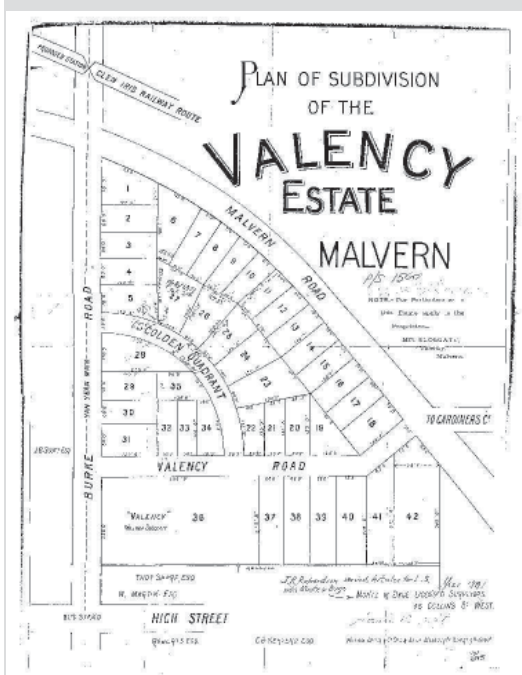
William devoted some of his spare time to painting, to the extent that in 1876, three of his works were exhibited at the 6th Exhibition of the Victorian Academy of Arts. In 1883 William subdivided the **Valency Estate** at Glen Iris, selling off a portion of the land.

In 1897, three days after Christmas, while on a visit to a daughter's country house, Sarah took ill and died suddenly. She was buried at the nearby cemetery in Alexandra. William returned to Melbourne, but left **Valency** and moved to **Trebray**, another daughter's home in Valency Road. In the winter of 1900, William passed away, aged 77. He was buried in the Alexandra Cemetery near his wife. St Roch's Catholic Church and School in Burke Road now occupy the site of Sloggatt's home Valency

Recently a descendant of the Sloggatt family has been discovered living locally.



Portrait of William Sloggatt,  
M.Stevenson (artist).  
Undated Reg No 12545



Valency Estate 1887 Reg No 902

(research provided by L. Comeadow)

## The Roses of Postcard Fame

The postcard was the SMS message of the early 20th century. When few homes had a telephone, an impending visit was often heralded with a postcard, and there was a fair chance that the postcard was one of the Rose series of views.

The founder of the **Rose Stereograph Company** was **George Rose**. George was born in 1862 at Clunes, the oldest surviving son of the local bootmaker, William Rose and his wife Grace. When George was about 18, the family moved to Prahran and established their 'boot warehouse' in **Chapel Street, Windsor**, where the family – there were nine children – lived behind the shop. At first, George worked for his father, but his heart was not in boots. His true passion was photography.

In 1887, he married Elizabeth Wickham of Clunes. It was a marriage of common interests, for she too was a photographer. They settled in Prahran and had two sons, **Herbert George** and **Walter**. Then about 1890, George abandoned bookmaking. He had decided to turn his hobby to profit. He built a house at **17 Auburn Grove, Armadale**, and began producing stereographs, which were particularly popular in the Victorian era. These were pairs of pictures of the same scene, usually taken with a camera with two lenses so that, when viewed through a special viewer, they appeared three-dimensional. He travelled widely both in Australia and overseas producing hundreds of stereographs of Egypt, England, Europe, Japan and China as well as Australian scenery, parades and important occasions. The State Library of Victoria holds over 400 of his stereographs alone.

With the advent of motion pictures about the time of the First World War, the stereograph lost its popularity. So, George turned to producing photographic views for postcards. George was a gifted and artistic photographer, taking great care to compose his pictures. By now both his sons and his wife were working in the business making four photographers living at **17 Auburn Grove**. The business was conducted in a two-storey factory at the rear of the house. Both house and factory are still standing.

The eldest son, Herbert, was more interested in painting than photography, although he helped them survive the Depression by painting birthday cards for the company. He studied at the National Gallery and became a highly respected impressionist painter. He had inherited his father's passion for travel and spent many years travelling, partly subsidized by his father. He was returning overland to Australia in 1940 when he contracted smallpox in Delhi and died aged 52.

Walter, on the other hand was the businessman of the family and managed the company's finances. George's wife, Bessie died in 1929 and two years later, George sold the company to Walter and spent much of his time travelling. He fitted out a caravan as a dark room and built a platform on the roof for photographing. In 1941, he married Elsie MacDonnell in Mildura and died of colon cancer the following year having outlived both his sons.

Walter developed the huge range of postcards of Melbourne suburbs and country towns for tourist trade. When he died in 1940, aged 51, he bequeathed the company to his two employees, the photographers **Herbert Cutts** and **Edward Gilbert**. Gilbert soon left the company, but Cutts ran the business until he died in 1962 when his wife carried on. The company finally ceased in the 1970s.

Diane Nicholas



*Umina, 13 Lansell Road, Toorak,  
Country Women's Association. (Rose Series)  
Undated. Reg no 2482*



*The Mall, Chadstone Shopping Centre  
(Rose Series) c1960. Reg no 825*



*Electric Tram Terminus, Burke Road, Malvern  
(Rose Series) c1914 Reg no 1363*

Reverse of Electric Tram Terminus postcard



*Dear Daddy, Just a note to bring my best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas. This is a picture of our terminus. Burke Road is where the tram runs..... We live barely 3 minute walk from here. The building is the kiosk in Central Park.  
Love from Lena.*

## Taking Local History to the Community

The Stonnington City Council website has recently been redesigned [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au). Explore the **Stonnington Local History Service** website [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history) and find out more about Stonnington's local history, the local history publications including the full text versions of **J.B.Cooper's Histories of both Malvern and Prahran**, and search the history catalogue; over 40,000 items can be accessed by a key word search. Enjoy the history displays in the Stonnington libraries during October and November. Themes for the displays include Malvern Valley Golf Course, early days of the ferries, Prahran Council stables and horses, and 'The sport, the space and the Sabbath'. We have now completed our **Multicultural Oral History Project** and we would like to thank Oral Historian Lesley Alves who completed 6 most important and very high calibre oral histories of members of both the Greek and the Italian communities.

We would like to thank **Deakin University** for allowing so many members and visitors to enjoy the opportunity to view **Stonington** mansion and gardens. Our six guided tours were well attended. **Dr Morna Sturrock** proved to be an entertaining speaker on the history of **Stonington**. Roxanne, Lorraine and Jane again provided a delicious afternoon tea! A group of over twenty walkers braved the cold and enjoyed our September Heritage Walk around Malvern Village. Sub committees are busy working on our local history projects including the jigsaw puzzles, toddlers' book, history information pamphlets and Glenferrie Road children's brochure. Thanks to both the **City of Stonnington** and the **East Malvern Community Bank** for their financial support for these projects. Thanks also to the **Stonnington Leader** and the **Melbourne Weekly** for publicity for our events.

## Additions to the Local History Collection



Barbara Wilson on the occasion of the Patriot's Ball at Malvern Town Hall 1944.  
Reg no 12226

DVD of film of re-development of **Harold Holt Pool** 1980's

Richards family photos, including **Myamyn Street** and **Haverbrack Avenue**, loaned for copying by Ronald Richards

Early records from Tooronga Baby Health Centre

Photos relating to City of Malvern Debutante Ball and Patriot's Ball 1944, loaned for copying by Barbara McNeil (nee Wilson). Barbara's dress in the photo is made from mosquito netting.

Collection of real estate brochures donated by Margaret McNamara.

Collection of newspaper cuttings from Roxanne Dennis



Sylvia and Jack Richard's Wedding at St. George's Church 1939

## Welcome New Members!

Welcome to new members Barbara and Roger Love, John Maidment OAM, Dr Gordon Atkinson, Dr Lindsay Smith, David and Margaret Goss.

Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

Photos from the Stonnington Local History Collection appear with their reference number. To view an enlargement and read more go to the website below. Material for the history articles has been researched from the Stonnington Archives.

[www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/library/history/catalogue/historysearch](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/library/history/catalogue/historysearch)

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[www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern)**

The Malvern Historical Society Inc is a member of the Stonnington History Committee, an affiliated member of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, a member of the South Metro History Group and has been appointed by the Public Record Office of Victoria as a Place of Deposit for non-permanent public records.

**OTHER STONNINGTON HISTORY CONTACTS:**

Stonnington Local History Service [www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history](http://www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history) • Tel: 8290 1360 • Tel: 8290 7160  
Prahran Historical and Arts Society P.O.Box 8649, Armadale Vic 3143 Tel: 9509 9978 [www.vicnet.net.au/~phas](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~phas)