

LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

Malvern Historical Society Inc.

Keeping Stonnington's History Alive!

June - July 2012

Newsletter No. 37

23 June The Pipe Organs of Stonnington

Saturday 23 June 2pm

John Maidment OAM, Chairman of the Organ Historical Trust of Australia will talk about the history of pipe organs in Stonnington from the late 1850s. Almost 60 instruments were installed in churches, halls, schools and notably in private homes, where 15 can be currently documented. Some of these were constructed overseas by leading firms such as Hill & Son, but others locally, particularly by the long-established firm of George Fincham & Sons.

Wesley Hall - St Andrew's Uniting Church Gardiner (the Hall is on the south side of the Church). Corner of Burke Road and Malvern Road, Glen Iris.

Gold coin donation

RSVP Lorraine Sage 9885 9082



Prahran Town Hall organ 1867
(John Maidment)

7 July The Duldigs in Vienna

Saturday 7 July 10.30am - 12 noon

Join members of the Malvern Historical Society for our visit to the Duldig Studio, a Public Museum & Art Gallery. It comprises a residence, sculpture garden and the artists' studio of the internationally renowned sculptor Karl Duldig (1902-1986) and his artist-inventor wife, Slawa Duldig (née Horowitz, c1902-1975). Both a cultural and educational resource, the museum holds an extensive collection of sculptures, paintings, drawings and decorative arts presented in the artists' authentic home setting.

\$15 Tour and morning tea. Bookings essential.

Ph: Faye Pattinson 9885 6646 or email fayegpat@bigpond.net.au



Duldig Studio, East Malvern

11 July Collecting Stonnington's History

Wednesday 11 July 10am-11am

Enjoy a show and tell session viewing the Stonnington History Centre's recent acquisitions. Discover Stonnington's incredible past at this free presentation led by the Stonnington History Centre staff.

Early bookings are encouraged as spaces are limited 82901360

Eliza and Frederick Henry and Sarah Eliza Borne
(undated) Reg No 60389



Diary dates

12 September - Conserving your family photos, presentation at the Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360

25 August - Muriel Perry, the granddaughter of Oliver Gilpin and author of the Gilpin history *Just a Pocket for the Money*.

21 October - Very special event for members! Keep the afternoon free!

24 October - Chapel Street - a pictorial presentation at the Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360

De La Salle College, Malvern Centenary

To celebrate 100 years of De La Salle College, Malvern, a book has been published. The book, ***With Faith and Zeal Resplendent***, is a hardback, pictorial history in full colour. Co-authored by two former students Nicholas Quin and Steve Stefanopoulos, it showcases the many people and events that have made their mark throughout the one hundred year journey of the College, from the time the first three pioneering Brothers opened the School in 1912 through to the present day. The book lists all former staff and students.

The book is available from the College, 1318 High Street, Malvern. 9508 2100

De La Salle College Sports Day
Malvern Cricket Ground 1950s Reg No. 37



Stonnington Research Enquiries

During the past few months the Society and the Stonnington History Centre have received enquiries relating to the Gardiner Hotel in Dandenong Road, the Regent Theatre Gardiner (1925-59), the origin of the name Orrong, the Oliver Gilpin drinking fountain in Central Park Malvern and the Goulburn Private Hospital in Thanet Street Malvern near Cabrini Hospital. The researcher's mother was the proprietor of this private hospital in the late 1930s. Her name was Nano Bernadette Lalor, the great granddaughter of Peter Lalor, of Eureka Stockade fame and later Speaker in the Victorian Parliament. Nano was also a nursing sister at St Benedict's, where Cabrini now stands.

Local History Officer Simone Sharpe answered an enquiry relating to Christopher Coughlin's dairy. At first there was some confusion over the name and spelling of both the dairy and the proprietor. Christopher Coughlin had a dairy at 8 Barkly Avenue, Malvern, from c.1896-1936. It is listed in the classifieds of the Sands & McDougall postal directories under 'Dairymen'. C. Coughlin & Son then had a dairy at 105 Wattletree Road, Armadale from c.1937-1938, again listed under the family name. Simone could not find a listing for a Gladys' Park Dairy which was also sought. The History Centre has a copy of one Council letter from 1921 that mentions a Christopher Coghlan (note different spelling) at Grace Park Dairy, but no address is given. Just to add to the confusion, there was an E. Coghlan who ran a dairy at 33 Highbury Grove in Prahran. It is possible that relatives of this family then operated Waverley Dairy on the corner of Waverley Road and Fisher Street in Malvern East from 1953-1969.



65 (now 85) Wattletree Road Armadale 1910 A large sign was erected in the front garden : "George Thorn Contractor Bricklayer Tiler & Plasterer. Jobbing work a specialty Reg No. MP 712

Information was sought on the Thorn family. The family lived at one time at 50 Fitzgerald Street Prahran and later at 85 Wattletree Road Armadale. A number of the family lived locally and were in the building industry (listed as bricklayers).

Information was requested from the Australia Inn Museum at Emu Plains, NSW, relating to Sir Thomas Rankin Lyle. Information was also sought on John Owen, a tobacconist from High St Prahran, Balbirnie's Paddock in 1857, in what later became Toorak, John William Wood, Ercildoune, Wattletree Rd, East Malvern which was owned by Charles Frederick Owen, and on James Phillips believed to have been a municipal gardener in Prahran in 1900. His son Reginald Phillips also worked in the area in the 1920s

One enquiry needed to be re-directed to South Australia when it was discovered it related to the suburb of Malvern in Adelaide!

Brian Corless OAM, Secretary to the Vestry St George's Church Malvern, contacted the Society regarding our recent article on the

"Malvern Ladies' Benevolent Society". Brian believes that the last name in the first paragraph, reproduced as Miss Glinn, is a misreading of "Miss Ghinn", who would have been a daughter of Henry Ghinn (known as Henry Ginn prior to 1859). His second daughter, Henrietta, married Henry Plant Singleton in 1887.

A short biography of Henry Ghinn can be found at <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ginn-henry-12936>

Thanks to Stonnington History Centre staff David, Ellen and Simone for answering these enquiries so expertly!

Hecla in South Yarra

Many readers will remember the old Hecla Electrics factory in Chapel Street South Yarra, situated near the Yarra, on the right hand side as you head north towards the bridge. It was built in 1927 and demolished in the 1980s, replaced by apartments.

History Officer Simone Sharpe presented a talk on this topic at the History Centre on Wednesday 2 May as part of the *History Matters* series being run this year by the Centre. The topic also reflected the National Trust's Heritage Festival theme of innovation and invention. Simone's talk was based on her PhD research (still in progress), her thesis being on the manufacture of domestic appliances in Melbourne in the twentieth century. She complemented the talk with some 'vintage' appliances from her own collection.

Hecla Electrics grew from a partnership originating with James Marriott and his son Clarence, and was to remain in successive generations of the Marriott family until the 1980s. James Marriott emigrated from England with his parents and siblings in 1863, and trained as a wood carver in Melbourne, before setting up on his own in the early 1870s. Notable examples of his work include parts of the original Wilson Hall at Melbourne University, sadly destroyed by fire in 1952. Several ornate chairs survived the inferno, and are on display in the Hall's foyer. From woodwork, James then turned his creative bent to working with metal, and was joined in partnership with his son, Clarence, in 1898, who took over the business following James' death in 1909.

Clarence specialised in metal work, and, after much experimenting, began making appliances, most of which heated something: a body (radiators) or water (kettles) or food (toasters, stoves) etc. He originally worked under his own name, before tapping into the public interest in the activities of the volcano Mt Hekla in Iceland. A stylised sketch of the volcano featured in early versions of the company logo, and on letterheads.



Hecla High-Speed Kettle, c.1950s

Aided by a tariff system that encouraged local manufacturing, his business prospered. By the 1920s Hecla decided to build a new factory in South Yarra, though not before negotiating the minutiae of zoning regulations set in place for that area by Prahran City Council, which was very concerned about the impact on public health and amenity posed by certain industries. Smoke stacks were out, electric power was in.

Simone's photos of the interior of the factory showed a pleasant enough place to work, providing lots of natural light and space. Men did the heavy lifting and the dirty jobs like electroplating; women were shown doing more delicate work, and packaging the goods for sale. Staff tended to stay with the company for many years.

With hindsight, the timing of the company's relocation to the new factory was not ideal, given that the Depression of the 1930s would dampen the market for appliances and luxury goods. Thankfully the company weathered this period, and went on to prosper in the late 1930s.

World War 2 presented different challenges, with manufacturing output being shaped to contribute to the war effort: radiators were out, ammunition boxes were in! After the war, the company could once again focus on the domestic market. Hecla's electric blankets became a big seller – still heating things! The company relocated to Clayton in 1973 but drifted further into financial difficulties before being placed into receivership in 1976. This effectively marked the end of Hecla manufacturing in Melbourne, although the company was not finally liquidated until 1987.

Some questions after the talk speculated on whether high standards in design and manufacturing had impacted on company profits – electric jugs don't come with spare elements these days! An early sales pitch of the company was "What Hecla makes, makes Hecla". Later, it was "By Hecla, it's good". Readers may recall seeing Hecla products being promoted on Graham Kennedy's TV show, 'In Melbourne Tonight'. I don't know whether any of these ever earned him a reprimand from the authorities or the sponsors; it would have helped the ratings, and probably Hecla's sales figures.

The fruits of Simone's research will ultimately enrich our History Centre catalogue and holdings. Thanks Simone for introducing us to this Melbourne manufacturer.



Hecla Works Chapel Street North, on the east side of Chapel Street, north of Toorak Road 1927 Reg No 12707

The Quelches: Working With Animals

This is the story of a family that, for at least three generations, dealt in various aspects of dead animals, first in London and then Melbourne. My interest was aroused when I discovered a Prahran postcard depicting the shop of G. and A. Quelch, family butchers, pork butchers and small goods, established in 1889. It was sent by Tom N... [illegible] to his friend, telling him that this is the shop where he was working.

Quelch was an irresistible search term and I did not resist. First stop was the Stonnington history database which turned up 14 entries for Quelch dating from 1856-1904. The earliest was for Charles and James Spencer Quelch of Henry Street in Prahran's first ratebook of 1856. So they were early settlers. On the first council electoral roll they were listed as tallow chandlers which means that they were engaged in melting down the fatty leftovers of slaughtered animals to produce tallow for candles. Their address was Lower Dandenong Road – the original name of Commercial Road. (Henry Street runs off Commercial Road.) The rate books record a wood and brick factory and an adjacent 5-room wood dwelling in Margaret Street.



G & A Quelch butcher shop Frederick Street Windsor (undated)
Reg No 60168

Two Prahran Court reports in the Prahran Telegraph of 1868 tell us that the neighbours complained of “noxious odours”. The court found that the works were, on the whole, properly conducted but the disposal of waste left much to be desired. It mentions that the Quelch family had a similar business in London, where the two brothers learnt their trade. The Prahran Health Officer, Dr Stokes, reported that the clean fat was melted by steam but the unpleasant smells resulted melting the more objectionable parts over fire. At the time the candle works belonged to Mr Quelch and was leased by George Bayldon.

How were the brothers Charles and James Spencer related to our butchers? The births, deaths and marriages on CDrom soon solved that. Charles Quelch married Augusta Westcott and they had two boys and three girls but no G. or A. James Spencer Quelch married Hanna Newham in 1860 and they begat George William, born 1863, and Albert Ernest born four years later. Three daughters, Hannah, Frances and Florence followed.

George William Quelch married Laura in 1891 and she produced one daughter who died a year later. Albert Ernest and his wife Emma had two sons.

A search of the Sands and McDougall directories shows a George Quelch, tanner in High Street, Preston, from 1882 to 1889 – using another by-product of dead animals. Was he our George? Very likely. There seem to be no other George about at the time and the dates tally with the start of the butcher's business late in 1889. They ran the business on the north east corner of Frederick and Hanover (now McIlwrick) Streets, Windsor, until 1912 when they moved to Hampton Street, Hampton, where they had bought property. The shop remained vacant until after the First World War when it was occupied by a sauce manufacturer. The building still stands on the corner of Frederick and McIlwrick Streets, now converted to a dwelling and scarcely recognisable. Both brothers continued to live in Windsor, in various houses in Hanover Street, in nearby Hornby Street and in Lewisham Road.

Back to the database. G. and A.E. Quelch, butchers of Hanover Street advertised their new business in the Prahran Telegraph soon after they started and in 1891 announced their partnership with H. Kidner, and after they moved to Hampton they announced that the business would be carried on by H. Kidner at 21 Chapel Street.

Then came their entry in the *Jubilee History of Prahran: illustrated handbook South Yarra, Toorak, Malvern etc.* published in 1900. This was a self-congratulatory publication extolling the wonders of Prahran. It is full of glowing accounts of local businesses. The Quelch entry, probably written by them, is mouth wateringly euphoric:

“This family butchery business at the corner of Hanover and Frederick Sts., Windsor, is splendidly conducted. Everything within the shop is wondrous neat and clean. The merest observer can see that a system controls everything. The stock held is excellent, especially the farm fed bacon and ham, which forms an important part. The most genuine of pork sausages, together with ox tongues and corned beef, are also in firm local favour. The business was established in 1889, and never once since then has it looked back. The Messrs. Quelch do things properly. On the premises – where small goods of every description are made – a refrigerator keeps the meat always fresh and sweet. When necessary ice can also be made. A gas-engine drives the machinery.”



Quelch's butchery in Hanover Street Windsor
1906 Reg No 7283

One should never forget the National Library's Trove web site. Enter Quelch in the search field for the *Argus* and you find the senior Quelch brothers winning prizes at exhibitions for their high quality tallow candles. Then comes more sensational news - an inquest into the suicide in 1879 of James Spencer Quelch, aged 48, retired tradesman.

This took me to North Melbourne and the Public Records Office to read the inquest papers. His wife had died two years ago but otherwise nobody noticed any change in him. His 14-year-old daughter, Hannah, as the oldest person in the house, was the chief witness. She went to bed about 11.30. She heard him mixing something in the kitchen and then going outside. She listened for his return and after about 2 hours, took a candle and found him sitting outside. He told her to go inside and he would follow. When he didn't she called a neighbour who called Dr Embling. The doctor found him in the privy in pain. Quelch then had another spasm and died. He had taken strychnine.

While I was at the PRO a check of the immigration records showed that the first generation, brothers Charles and James had arrived in 1853, so they were among the pioneers of Prahran.

The *Argus* also reported in 1909 that Albert Quelch appeared in Prahran Court charged in with leaving his wife and her two children without adequate means of support. All attempts by the bench to settle the case failed and the case was dismissed. The divorce case of Quelch v. Quelch was finally announced in 1946. By that time, Albert was living at 69 McIlwrick Street with Mrs Wilhelmina Richards according to the Victorian electoral rolls. George died in 1935. Albert died in 1947 survived by his only remaining son, Sydney James. To Wilhelmina Richards he left the use of the house and contents (but not the tool shed).

Diane Nicholas, 2012

Tales from the Courts

Edited reports of proceedings in the Prahran and Malvern courts as published in contemporary issues of the **Prahran Telegraph**.

Respectability no defence ...

"A respectable youth named S Armstrong" was charged with carrying firearms in a public place. Although it was argued that there was no evidence that the arm carried by the youth was a firearm – it could have been an air-rifle – he was fined 5 shillings. He was also charged with stealing a stick of celery from the garden of a man named McDonald. The accused pleaded his youth and the time he had been out and that he had at the same time obtained some bread from the son of the owner of the garden in exchange for a quantity of shot. [This] case dismissed. **Prahran Telegraph, 8 May 1880**

But it helps

M Johnson and Isaac Arthur Gresdale (sic) aged 12 and 15 years respectively, were charged with stealing pigeons from the premises of Barton Trichett of Henry street, Windsor and F Wood of Union street. The prisoners pleaded guilty. Police took Mr Trichett to the shop of Mr Brien in Toorak road where he identified several of his birds. Mrs Brien said she recognized Grisdale. Birds had also been sold to Mr F Dare, poulterer of Toorak road and G Kent of Chapel street. Johnson, "son of a very respectable person" was discharged "upon his father promising to chastise and look after him" and Grisdale imprisoned for one hour and then sent to the Reformatory for two years. **Prahran Telegraph, 31 July, 1880**

Geoff Currey

We saw the Queen in 1954!

If you have any memories or memorabilia relating to Queen Elizabeth's visit to Stonnington (the former Cities of Malvern and Prahran at that time) contact the Stonnington History Centre 8290 1360

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Phillip, and Councillor John Johnson (Mayor, City of Malvern) and Mrs Johnson at the State Reception.
8 March 1954 Reg No 7443



Malvern Historical Society Inc Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Malvern Historical Society Inc was held in May. At the meeting Lorraine Sage was re-elected President. Also re-elected were Jane Nigro - Vice President, Robin Brown - Treasurer, Patricia Brincat - Minute Secretary and Committee members - Bruce McBrien, Faye Pattinson, Pat Brincat, Francesca Di Mattina, David Hunter and Graham Thurston. Jane Brewster was warmly welcomed onto the Committee. We would like to thank Jim Cranage, Cranage & Fuerst, Chartered Accountants, 31 Station Street Malvern, who agreed to review our financial books. After the formal part of the evening everyone enjoyed a fascinating talk by our guest speaker MHS member Peter King proved to be an enthusiastic speaker. He shared an excellent selection of slides linked to both traditional and digital photography and shared many hints to help with dating old photos.

Lorraine Sage – President 9885 9082

Taking Local History to the Community

Members of the Committee were shown how to search National Library's Trove Online resources by David Tuck when they visited the Stonnington History Centre recently. We also viewed early copies of the *Prahran Telegraph* already scanned by the National Library and discussed ongoing funding by the Malvern Historical Society for this important project. Trove contains over 100 million Australian and online resources.

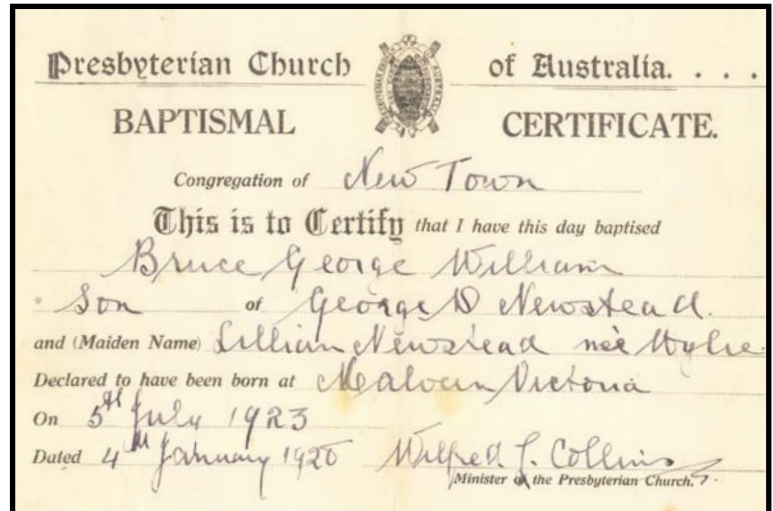
A full bus of members and visitors enjoyed a fascinating bus tour sharing Bruce McBrien's memories of Toorak. Thank you to the members who have already returned the 'Volunteers Needed' brochure, included in the last newsletter. We look forward to hearing from other members soon!

Additions to the Stonnington Local History Collection

Amber Toms, Green Collective store, 318 Victoria Street Brunswick, discovered an old wallet amongst their pre loved goods. It contained a Baptismal Certificate and Australian Military Forces Discharged Member account for Malvern resident Bruce Newstead.



Gardiner State School Education Day folk dancing c1955
Reg No 60277



Fife and drum band: East Malvern State School 1933



Back row - Ron Boddy, D. Phillips, G. Mannelein, F. McDonagh, J. Moore, B. Pepperille.
Third row - A. Pike, J. Richards, G. Rowney, Pat Taylor (captain), Mr J. Hughes (conductor), B. Davies, O. Bennett, W. Joske, A. Morron
Second row - K. Phelan, P. Goyem, J. Cone, C. Fortesque, B. McLaren, J. Carr, J. Gowans, E. Chitty, G. Oubred?, D. Gray?, F. Miles
Front - Reg. Dalton, A. Muir, M. Gowan, R. Simons, K. Bennett, J. Lyons, B. Barnett, Don Strong, Ron White. Reg No 60059

New Members

We would like to welcome our latest new member Kevin Reed, Janine Hurley and Bernadette Wood.

Members of the Malvern Historical Society were saddened to learn of the death of **Bronwyn Merrett**, a valued supporter of local history in Stonnington.

Have you enjoyed viewing the photos in this issue?

Material for the articles has been researched from the **Stonnington Local History Centre Collection**. The database contains over 60,000 records. To view enlargements of photographs and to read more, just go to the website. www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history

East Malvern
Community Bank Branch **Bendigo Bank**

300 Waverley Road, East Malvern. Phone 9563 6044



Malvern Historical Society Inc. (A7682)

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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

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