

Moans of a Mulgrave Mother

Jane Adams

Mrs Smith of Syndal had a headache. This was not surprising given all the noise she was subjected to. If it wasn't the fox hunters yelling "Tally-Ho" then it was the bell of St. Stephens church¹ pealing out on a Sunday. "Yet," she sighed, thinking about her life in the 1870s, "things are better now than in the past." She was very pleased with her new coal-filled irons. She loved her "One Fire Stove" with its three movable plates. She could boil her kettle, cook an omelette slowly and make stock on the back-burner. Still, she couldn't help feeling that there should be more to life. It was okay for her husband - HE was a member of the Black Flat Cricket Club, and often played chess with friends, but what did life offer her? "Would you want to regularly churn butter, preserve fruit and make soap?" she mused.

Mrs Smith's mother made the best apricot preserves in the area, but she was a complainer. Her parents often moaned about the terrible roads: "little more than tracks, filled with mud in winter and dry choking dust in summer." She'd even complained about the toll gates. "They charged us a farthing for every sheep and three pence for every mule, though at least the tolls² raised a little money to fix the roads."

Just then her neighbour, Mrs Jones dropped in. She told long-windedly of her trip to Ashburton. Supposedly she'd driven by jinker³ and greeted the train to town. Then she'd collected her new dress that had come all the way from Melbourne. "I bought it from a shop," Mrs Jones kept saying.

Mrs Smith was so relieved when her visitor left. "That woman is a glutton," she thought. "She finished my mother's prize-winning jam and even helped herself to a third scone!" Worse still, Mrs Jones hadn't even admired her posy. Mrs Smith smiled as she recalled how Mrs Jones had again casually mentioned her ancestor John McMillan of Scotchman's Creek Run. What did Mrs Smith care if the man had had five square miles of land and 400 cattle or even 4000 for that matter?

With a loud bang, Mr Smith arrived home smelling of beer. Supposedly his horse had become lame about a mile from the blacksmith's. "I just popped into the nearby *Tally-Ho* Hotel while I waited," he claimed. Mrs Smith only commented that she hoped he'd been careful on Breakneck Road⁴. "That road's name is enough to warn anyone to not go into a trot."

Mr Smith was going on about something the men in the hotel had been discussing: opening a racetrack near Highbury Road⁵, but her mind was pre-occupied. She felt sorry for him having to work so hard, hand-watering cabbages and cauliflowers, but it did give him a wonderful body, nearly as good as the smithy's at Howley's Forge⁶. She was proud of her husband. He was a good provider, working as a market gardener in Black Flat⁷, though she wondered yet again if they would have made a better living with Jersey cows. "After all, Mr Black is doing so well selling milk to the creeper-covered Bellet & Bank's Dairy in Ashburton," she'd tell her husband.

As soon as was polite, Mrs Smith slipped into her garden to indulge in her secret vice. It had all started with Sir Walter Scott's *Waverley* novel. Breathlessly she had read of Edward Waverley's rejection by the passionate Flora. Since then she had felt constantly compelled to read. In fact, lately her washing had been taking forever. She needed to fit the boiling of the clothes, the rinsing and blueing⁸ between chapters. She'd even burnt her favourite blouse while reading as she ironed. Or perhaps, she reflected furiously, when she'd been startled by the loud "Tally-Ho!"

Later that night in bed, Mrs Smith dreamed of the perfect world, one without the noisy St Stephen's bell. She could picture her house, full of her exquisite posies and a stove with eight movable plates. But best of all she imagined Mrs Jones's envious eyes, as she, Mrs Smith, danced with Edward Waverley, in her shop-bought dress.

Factual information loosely based on "Early Waverley" booklet by Camberwell-Waverley Regional Library and WHS. (No date)

Notes:

- 1 Built 1865. Designed by Nathaniel Billing
- 2 Toll Gates at High Street Road dismantled in 1876
- 3 A horse drawn, single axle cart
- 4 Waverley Road was called Breakneck Road in 1871
- 5 Tally-Ho racetrack near Highbury Road started 1898
- 6 Howley's Forge was located in current day Glen Waverley (the south-east corner of Waverley and Springvale Rds). A forge was a type of hearth used by a blacksmith for heating metals such as for horse shoes. Is today's Seven Eleven of fast food and petrol, the modern equivalent of Hosken's bakery bread and Howley's Forge horse shoeing service?
- 7 The name of what is now known as Glen Waverley.
- 8 Bleaching



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Philip Johnstone June 2015

THE HOUSE

The house which is estimated to have been built around 1875 was originally situated opposite Jordanville Station on Huntingdale Road where now a group of shops stand. Unfortunately, this house had no name, so we shall refer to it as *The House*

A local newspaper article in 1977 described *The House* being moved up Huntingdale Road by a team of 14 horses, then east along Waverley Road to a 15 acre market garden property owned by Edward (Ted) and Florence (Florrie) Damon nee Closter in 1928. The property was so large and the area so sparsely populated at that time that the *House* stood as the fourth house on the left coming from Warrigal Rd.

Continued P. 3

Coming Events

2015

Wed 22 July - Visit and tour of old
St Stephens church

Sun 23 Aug - 45th Birthday & AGM

Wed 26 Aug - Working Bee

Wed 23 Sept - Visit to Ripponlea

MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 6

Please note that General Meetings are now held every two months and are afternoon meetings starting at 2.00 pm. Special activities will be held in most alternate months. We are located above the Mt Waverley Library 41 Miller Crescent, Mt Waverley.

St Stephens Church 2015 –150 Years Old

On 23 July 2015 St. Stephens Anglican Church Mt Waverley celebrates its Sesquicentennial anniversary. When the site on which St. Stephen's now stands was purchased by Mr. M. O'Sullivan for £4/10/- an acre in 1853, it came within the Parish of Mulgrave as Crown Portion number 58. A map dated 1856 in the State Public Library shows about 40 thinly dotted houses in the mile or so around Crown Portion 58.

One of these houses was the small farm cottage of Edward and Mary Hore, who had migrated from Chudleigh, near Dover and called their small holding "*Chudleigh*" after their former English village.

The first Anglican services in Mount Waverley were held in the Hore's ivy-covered cottage near what is now the corner of Essex and Surrey Roads.

In the early 1860s the congregation had decided to build their church nearby and the original owner of Crown allotment 58, Mr. O'Sullivan, had sold at least some of his property to Mr. Henry Steel Shaw, for Mr. Shaw's name will be remembered forever at St. Stephen's as the man who gave "*one acre more or less*" for the building of the church.

Into the picture now steps Nathaniel Billing Esq., owner of a 60-acre vineyard, "Waverley Park", adjoining the present St. Stephen's land. His seven-roomed house stood about 100 yards back from High Street Road.

Nathaniel Billing was an architect with offices at 20 Queen Street in Melbourne. By 1864 he had already established a name as a leading ecclesiastical architect. He had designed the churches at Port Fairy and Warrnambool, and in 1857 won his great professional honour with his design for the proposed Church of All Saints, East St. Kilda. The congregation had raised over £100 and with a grant of £180 from the Church of England bringing the cash in hand to over £300, the trustees accepted the tender of a builder, W. Weir, to erect the church which Nathaniel Billing had designed.

Mr. Billing's fee for designing the church was £17/10/-, which he immediately donated back towards Church funds

The bricks had been hand baked from local clay by brick maker William Stevenson a few hundred yards from the church, just beside the road that now bears his name. He charged £64/10/- for the St. Stephen's bricks, and the building committee saved the cost of cartage by carrying them up the hill themselves to where the

little church was now under construction

Bishop Perry licensed the church on July 9, 1865, and St. Stephen's opened for Divine Worship a fortnight later, on July 23.

The church was initially constructed without any vestry but by 1867 an additional room had been added on the east end as a vestry using some remaining bricks.

The porch on the west end of the church,



Early St Stephens with parishioners in front of the north wall displaying the two windows and two buttresses. The vestry and chimney to the left (east).



Early St Stephens south side

WHERE IS THE WHS?

Our rooms, which are located above the Mt Waverley library in Miller Crescent, are open each Wed (except over the Christmas break), from 1pm to 5pm, or by appointment, for individual research and working discussion groups. If the main library entrance door is locked during meetings, use the doorbell at the far left to gain entry. Members are asked to bring a plate of afternoon tea to general meetings which for 2014/15 are every second month.

Huntingtower School

MarJo Angelico

Huntingtower, one of Monash's prestigious private schools, is the centre of some interesting "Did you know" items.

Firstly did you know of the roundabout history of the school name? The school itself was originally in Malvern, while its current site was the home of the Houghton family, including Vasey Houghton, MLC. This family built the two-storey residence, now the boarding house, and the smaller staff quarters, still standing as well. Their driveway off High Street Road was Stewart St, and the house was well-shaded with cypresses (also still thriving).

At this stage the mail came via Tally-Ho post office near the corner of what is now Blackburn and Highbury Rds, so someone with a sense of humour named the Houghton farm "Yoicks," a hunting term used to encourage the hounds in their pursuit of the fox. (Tally-Ho is of course another hunting term, uttered when the fox is first sighted. Presumably the Houghtons were not averse to a little fox hunting.) Thus the brief and distinctive postal address for the Houghton property was, "*Yoicks, Tally-Ho.*" It must have caused more than a few smiles!



A view of Yoicks through the trees Dec. 2011

Then came the railway in the 1930s. Suddenly the Houghton's only road access was cut off. This was remedied by acquiring land along the railway next to Dillon's farm. Because of the embankment at Lawrence Rd, which was built to prevent the need for a level crossing, the driveway had to detour to the south of Dillon's house, thus cutting the house off from its paddocks. So, with the access from the north unavailable, a second approach for the Houghton property was created from the east.

Meanwhile, back to the school. Do you know how it came by its name? It began life in Huntingtower Road, Malvern, which road was named after the old building the school occupied - a hunting lodge from days gone by. When this building was outgrown in 1954, where did they buy? *Yoicks*, of course! Apparently the school community also did not object to the idea of a little ride in the outdoors chasing a red canine.

At this stage the current school site was surrounded by market gardens, orchards, open grazing and bushland, including Valley Reserve.



Later the Tait family, the owners of the first shop in Mount Waverley central, as well as the said grazing paddocks and treed allotments, sold their property called *Waimarie*.

Subdividers created Waimarie Drive, a residential street. Not only did the school get a brand new driveway and access point from this new street, but also many of its longstanding staff were able to buy house blocks close to the school to obviate the need to travel to work. Now the main way to enter the school was (and still is) from the south. Travel to the railway station and other facilities became simpler. The Lawrence Rd entrance not being necessary or desirable (too round-about), it became convenient also to trade some land with Syndal Technical School, who accepted the old dusty driveway near the railway and Dillon's house, in exchange for a strip of land between the two schools. With this gain of usable space, Huntingtower was able to sell some land for housing on their western border, and at the same time adding a new additional western entrance.

So, did you know that, over the years, the approach to this one property has been from all four points of the compass? I wonder whether any other properties in Monash could boast the same?

Who remembers the Go-Go Girls?

Remember Jimmy Hannan and the dancing "Go-go Girls" in cages? These icons of the 1960s are all but gone, but still alive in some people's memories.

Scott Bonnar was also iconic at the time. They made "lawn mowers for bowling greens and homes". The factory stood on Huntingdale Road approximately where the Kambrook outlet is now, and the company advertised on the Jimmy Hannan Show on Channel 7.



In approximately 1963, when they were advertising on Jimmy Hannan's Saturday night show, members of the Scott Bonnar staff were invited to come and join in the fun at Channel 7. There was great excitement and a happy staff as they met Jimmy and the popular Go-go Girls! The man second from the right is Mal Crowe, my father.

Sandra Hymas

Coming Events

Wed 22 Jul Visit to old St Stephens church for a tour and afternoon tea. 2pm – 4pm. \$2 per member. Visitors welcome at \$5 per person. Meet at St Stephens. Reservations please on: 9807 3408 (when more details will be provided).

Sun 23 Aug AGM followed by our 45th Birthday Afternoon Tea. 1.30 - 4pm in the WHS Rooms. Please bring a plate.

Wed 26 Aug Working Bee Workshop for members in our Rooms, 2 - 4pm. Reservations please on 9807 3408

Wed 23 Sep Visit to *Ripponlea* - Miss Fisher's Costumes exhibition on show. Timing TBA

Mon 19 Oct Mt Waverley Library presents Guest Speaker Jenny Davies: *Flinders Street - Beyond the Facade*. Further details to be advised.

Did You Know ?

Street Names are often proposed by the land-owners or developers and usually have some logical basis - whether connected with the family names of the original owners, geographical features, notable figures in the community or in Government, or an interpretation of local Aboriginal meanings. The City of Monash has all examples.

Ideally, the choice of name should be approved by an authority to ensure that it is appropriate and is not likely to be confused with a nearby street in the city or an adjacent city. Thus name changes can occur between the developer's estate plan and now.

Here are some name changes noted from the WHS files of subdivision plans.

Now	Was
Stephensons Rd	Mansons Lane, Stevensons, Stephens Rd

William Stevenson was a brick maker and publican. Over time, the road name was recorded as Stephenson. In the 1860s he had a property in about what is now Waimarie Drive. He supplied the bricks used to construct St Stephens Church, Mt Waverley. There is no connection between St. Stephens and William Stevenson, apart from the bricks. In the Sands & McDougal Directories of the 1900s the road was recorded as Stephens Rd. The north section of Stephensons Rd was also known as Mansons Lane which derived from Hugh Manson who had a 20 acre property at the SE corner of Highbury and Stephensons Rds. The intersection with Highbury Rd was originally a T intersection but later a deviation was created to meet Middleborough Rd.

Tarella Drive Alec St
The area is part of the *Tarella Heights Estate* in Mt Waverley which occupies part of the area previously owned by the John Carmody in the 1950s. The local residents called for a name change and Tarella was the obvious choice.

Tinto Crt Leslie Crt
This area was part of the market garden owned by Les Davison. Leslie was a son's name. It was changed to avoid confusion with Leslie Crt 1.6km west. (Which was named after Leslie Nicholson who farmed that area).

Lincoln Ave Carmichael St
In 1952 the subdivision plan for 32 lots, it showed that part west of Myrtle Street as Carmichael St. Lincoln was the breed of sheep which ran on the property owned by Fred Marriott.

In light of continuing increases in costs, particularly postage, your committee after much deliberation, has set annual subscriptions at \$25 commencing 1 July 2015.

planned to mark the 50 year jubilee, was finished in 1916,

The parish hall to the NE, which had been desired and discussed at length as far back as



St Stephens prior to renovations in 1990 showing how the building was extended to the east with a new door and buttress on the north wall. Two vents are on the slate roof.

1913, eventually became a reality in 1954. In June 1969 the new St Stephens Church, constructed to the south, was consecrated. Following an architectural survey, work began in 1990 on renovation of the old building with some of the work undertaken by apprentices from Holmesglen TAFE.



St Stephens with vestry on the south side now part of the link to the new church just out of view on the right (south).

No one has ever recorded the reason for the choice of the first martyr, St. Stephen, as the church's name.

The church now stands as the oldest extant building in the Waverley district of Monash City.

The above information has been extracted from *They Continued Steadfastly* which was produced to mark the centenary of St Stephens in 1965.

Reference: Morna Sturrock: *They Continued Steadfastly* 1965.

Welcome to New Members

Anne McPhee Jennet Sharp
Carole & John Rivas

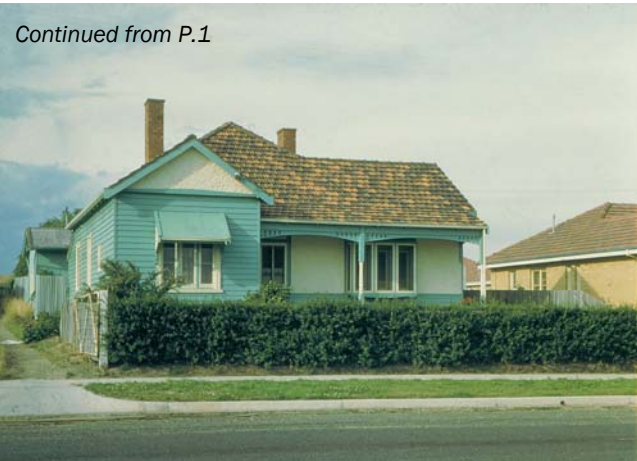
WHS Events Report

On 22 April, as a timely reminder of our ANZAC heroes, WHS member Betty Horskins gave us a presentation *The Men of Mulgrave*, which described some examples of her research into those soldiers who went off to WWI and recorded as being from Mulgrave.

It appears that some soldiers are incorrectly recorded or apparently missing from original Government war records (because of mis-spellings or parts of names omitted). Some men apparently spent little time in Mulgrave while others who had parents residing in Mulgrave at some time, but they themselves had not lived there, are recorded as residents.

The consequences are that it is sometimes difficult to trace the service history of a soldier and inevitable that local monumental inscriptions may appear to be incorrect; and that some official WWI records must be viewed with caution and further research is desirable for confirmation.

See further item on War Graves p.4 & 5 of this newsletter.



Ted and Florrie who had both been born in the Waverley area raised their 6 children in this house, whilst working their property growing mainly vegetables. On the left (west) of the house was the barn where the horses were housed and then as time progressed, the tractor was housed.

Around 1955, with the housing boom in the area, the property was subdivided and the house and barn remained together on a large block until the late 1970's. Ted and Florrie remained in the home until late in their lives. The house still stands today although now the barn is gone, and the house has been clad in red brick and has a high brick fence.

Jane Turton

The Dearest Spot on Earth to Me

Gayle Nicholas

The reporting of the Anzac Centenary by the media has given wide coverage to the large war cemeteries in Turkey and Europe. In this article Gayle Nicholas provides some helpful hints for finding the last resting place of a World War I or World War II service man or woman in cemeteries far away and close to home.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) website (www.cwgc.org) is a good place to start your search for World War I (WWI) and World War II (WWII) casualties. It has free online access to 300,000 digital copies of original WWI documents with more documents from WWII expected to be online later in 2015. You may search for "War Dead" and/or "Cemeteries".

The CWGC was established in the United Kingdom in 1917. It is responsible for the commemoration of 1.7M military casualties from WWI (1914-1921) and both military and civilian casualties from WWII (1939-1947). Activity spreads across 54 countries with memorials in 23,000 locations. The CWGC works in partnership with government organisations in 6 countries: Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom. In Australia the Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG) (www.dva.gov.au/commemorations-memorials-and-war-graves) partners with the CWGC to maintain WWI and WWII cemeteries and Memorials to the Missing.

On the CWGC site you will find burial information for service people who died between 4 Aug 1914 and 31 Aug 1921 (WWI) and 3 Sept 1939 and 31 Dec 1947 (WWII).

War casualties buried far from home

The geographical distance between soldiers' graves and their families was far more poignant after the war than now. In the post war years many families had no opportunity to visit graves due to widespread unemployment and the expense of travel.

Living a long way from her son's grave Mrs Elizabeth Fear, a grieving Glen Waverley mother, wrote the following epitaph for her son:

The Dearest Spot on Earth to Me is Where My Dear Son Lies

The epitaph expresses a mother's longing for her son, and the need expressed by so many to find the last resting place of relatives and ancestors lost in the wars. A search of the CWGC web site for Elizabeth's son Corporal Stanley Reuben William Fear informs us Stanley was killed in action in 1916 and is now buried in Pozieres British Cemetery Ovillers-La Boisselle in France. His mother's epitaph is engraved on his headstone.

Digitised documents on the CWGC website build more of Stanley's story. The *Grave Registration Report* locates his grave and others close by. The *Grave Registration Register* gives details of each casualty and Stanley's details tell us father, Joseph Henry and Elizabeth lived on Springvale Road, Glen Waverley.

A *Concentration Document* gives the grid reference for the first grave Stanley was placed in. Many soldiers were moved from graves in the trenches to larger cemeteries managed by the CWGC. Maps of the trenches may be accessed at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

The documents bringing us most in touch with the people are the Headstone Schedules. This is where we find any epitaphs written by families.

There's more to add to the original documents. The CWGC web site provides a certificate to download for each casualty and provides information about each cemetery (See image 1 for Stanley's certificate). Follow the link to The War Graves Photographic Project at: www.twgpp.org/information.php?id=1240562 where a search indicates we may purchase a photograph of Stanley's grave for a small fee.

War casualties buried "in our back yard"

In Australia 915 cemeteries contain 509 WWI war graves and 641 WWII graves. A search on the CWGC web site using postcode "3150" brought up details of 14 cemeteries with war graves within a 10 mile radius of Glen Waverley.

Postcode "3000" brought up 16 cemeteries

within a 10 mile radius of Melbourne.

A search for cemeteries in "Springvale" brought up three listings and the number of casualties in each of these location (see image 2). The principal war cemetery in Victoria is located at the Springvale Botanical Cemetery (formerly the Springvale Necropolis).

The casualties buried at Springvale are pre-

Downloaded from CWGC Website

You have searched for **Springvale** in **Victoria** in **Australia**

Export search results in a spreadsheet-friendly format. [Download results](#)

3 record(s) match your search criteria

Cemetery or Memorial	Country	Locality	Number of casualties
SPRINGVALE BOTANICAL CEMETERY, MELBOURNE	Australia	Victoria	147
SPRINGVALE CREMATORIUM, MELBOURNE	Australia	Victoria	85
SPRINGVALE WAR CEMETERY, MELBOURNE	Australia	Victoria	807

Image 2. Results of search on the CWGC web site for cemeteries in "Springvale"

dominantly people who died in Australia with their places of origin extending across Australian states and overseas. Like Australian soldiers buried a long way from home in Europe there are many local graves for people whose relatives may never have been able to visit because of distance. In this cemetery we find local graves for Lewis James Somerville whose parents Arthur and Jean lived in Clayton. Lewis, an aircraftman died in WWII. The parents of three further WWII casualties, Flight Lieutenant Derry Francis Thomas, Aircraftman Graham Innes Staunton and Gunner Maurice Bennett, lived in Burwood.

There are more war graves scattered throughout the cemetery at Springvale, the Burwood General and other cemeteries throughout Melbourne. The graves are distinctive as they are marked with plaques and are very well maintained. Many, but not all have the distinctive white marble headstone. These graves may be located through searching the CWGC web-site.

Post War Casualties

Casualties dying from war injuries after the war i.e. 1921-1939 or post 1947 will not be found on the CWGC web site. They may have a plaque in a Garden of Remembrance. You can search Australia wide by name or cemetery on the OAWG website: (<http://www.dva.gov.au/commemoawg/comm>)



Image 3. Springvale War Cemetery

www.dva.gov.au/commemoawg/comm). For a casualty in the Garden of Remembrance at Springvale visit the Records Room at the Springvale war cemetery to access a hard copy index of plaque locations. Plaques may also exist for veterans on a Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Pension, multiple amputees, ex-prisoners of war and Victoria Cross recipients.



Image 4. Garden of Remembrance

The CWGC is still searching for graves of WWI and WWII casualties. You may sign up for a newsletter on the home page of the web site to keep up to date. Links to CWGC on social media e.g. Facebook are also on the home page.

There is no complete list of all war casualties. Waverley Historical Society Inc is keen to keep memories of our local veterans and casualties alive. We would welcome any information you can send us e.g. your veteran's story or the name of any local service man or woman who has a plaque in a Garden of Remembrance. Our "local" veterans include those who enlisted from Waverley, those from any war service who built a post war life in Waverley and those who live in the area now.