



Published March 2015, Volume 45, No 2. Inc. No. A00245412U

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Treasurer Liz Chambers: 03 52314572 Annual Membership fee: \$20.00 per person – due in May
Historical Society Meetings are held monthly on the 4th Wednesday at 7.30pm, except in January,
and during *winter* on the 4th Saturday at 1.30pm.

Open Hours for the public at COPACC History Centre: Thursday, Friday and Sunday 2.00pm to 4.00pm

Working Bees at the History Centre are on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 10.00-12.00am

Forthcoming Events-

Wednesday March 25 - 7.30pm - **Speaker: Selwyn McAdam** 'Reminiscences of a Colac Butcher'

Wednesday April 22 – 7.30pm - **Speaker: Merrill O'Donnell** 'Stories of our Lost Sons'

This will be a joint event with the Colac & District Family History Group

Wednesday May 27 – 7.30pm Annual Meeting

Saturday March 28 - 10am Corangamite History Network at the Colac History Centre

Light lunch to follow. Please bring a plate to share

Saturday May 9 - 10am to 12.30pm – Geelong & District Historical Association at Apollo Bay

President's Notes

Despite a long break between meetings there has been much activity within our Society over the last three months. A constant stream of inquiries both by email and at the History Centre desk involve much time devoted to research by our dedicated members.

Book sales have been a feature. The book 'A Local Hall – Nalangil' has sold out and has been reprinted. 'Onion People' was first published in 2006 by Shirley Burns. Shirley has had many requests for it to be reprinted and has handed over the original disc of the book and our Society has agreed to reprint it with some minor revision.

I would also like to commend to readers the recent republication of 'The Wattle's Call and other Poems' to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Beeac Red Cross. Marie Gray, nurse in charge of the Beeac Hospital and the foundation president of Beeac Red Cross, was a prolific poet who published a selection of her poems in 1918. Many of the poems relate to the Great War. Dawn Missen has added an illustrated history of the Beeac Red Cross and the War Memorials at Beeac, Eurack and Warrion. This book is available from the Society for \$15.

Two extra working bees in January and March have resulted in a substantial re-organization of the History Centre layout. The new bookcases will make our library more accessible and safer to use. I believe bringing the duty desks of both the CDHS and the CDFHG together in a central position is a great step forward in making the Centre more welcoming to the general public. Inquiries and requests can now be dealt with by either group from the one point. Duty roster volunteers now have a clear view of the whole centre. Adjustments will continue to be made as required.

Finally I wish to acknowledge the ongoing service to local history and our Society by Norman Houghton. Unfortunately due to pressure of work he finds he is unable to travel from Geelong for his rostered duty at the History Centre on the 3rd Sunday of the month. We have been unable to fill his spot and are seeking someone willing to be the face of our Society in the History Centre for 2 hours once a month.

Robert Missen



New Display Case obtained by Colac Historical Society

Display – War Memorabilia

What has been in the News?

Colac Herald.

February 23rd 2015- **Historical exhibition wins grant.** Colac's family history group will use a Colac Otway Shire Council grant of \$2,000 on a First World War exhibition at Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre next month. Council recognised that our community wanted to do something special to honour the ANZAC centenary.

Colac's war effort busy back in 1915 - Barongarook soldier Ernest Howell died 100 years ago of meningitis during recruit training, as Colac district soldiers and nurses continued their involvement in

the First World War. Colac nurse Mary Benallack was working at the France Australian Voluntary Hospital. Private Christie Walpole trained at Broadmeadows, was posted to the 24th infantry and later travelled to Egypt on board the HMAT Osterley. Private Tom Inglis of Alvie was serving with the 4th Light Horse in Egypt and died in action on August 3 1915 and was buried at the Beach Cemetery at Gallipoli. Elliminyt and Beeac people were raising money for the Belgian Clothing Society and Red Cross.

March 4th - **Red Cross marks 100 years.** A special 100 year Anniversary was celebrated by *Beeac Red Cross Unit* which was attended by Polwarth MP Terry Mulder, Red Cross manager member services David Fitzroy, and Victorian Chairman Annie Macarthur. Beeac Chairman Alma Black and Secretary Shirley Bowen organised the celebration along with Gwen Grant, Joyce Smith Sandra Sheedy, Melva Shinnars and Treasurer Pat Robb.

Fifty-year reunion for former classmates. Graduates of Colac High School's Year 12 class of 1965 will reunite on March 21st. Jim Tyler, the Principal then was remembered as being "strict but fair." The boys and the girls were not allowed to speak to each other except in class. The strap was used for punishment.

Have you seen the History Centre Display window?

There is a unique, continuous, DVD set-up portraying "What We Did in the War" and an armchair provided to relax and watch it all. Many slides come from "News of the Week" covering events which occurred in the Western District between 1914 – 1918. While our soldiers were facing the enemy, people at home carried on but had time for picnics and outings to Lorne and to the Twelve Apostles for example.

There were Christmas decorations put up in AGH Egypt to help cheer the ill and wounded soldiers. Colac held an hour long Prayer Service in Murray St which was well attended. The Red Cross workers appear in their long white aprons carrying on their duties selflessly. Among many other slides were the Governor Generals visit to Colac and the Great Ocean Road Survey Party. WELL WORTH A VISIT TO SEE THIS.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL REPORT -

The Colac P & A Society's annual Heritage Festival was held at the Colac Showgrounds on Sat 31st January and Sunday 1st February 2015. This event was extremely well attended by the visiting public. The combined Historical Society/Family History Group display created substantial interest, especially the photo display which included historic homes, transport, Coles' Motors history and the like. The weather was much more favourable than last year's extremely hot spell which we had at that time of the previous year.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership of \$20 per head is due in May, which includes quarterly Newsletters. If you have an Email address, please let the secretary know the details (*see various contact details on front page*).

COLAC P & A SOCIETY HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Held at the Colac Showgrounds on Saturday 31st January & Sunday 1st February 2015



ABOVE – Amongst the combined Family History Group/Historical Society displays (see report at front of Newsletter) was the Society's Coles Three Row Onion Seed Drill and Onion Hoe. These 2 items were donated to the Society by the Cole family after closing their Coles Motors business in 1990. Although the Small Seed Drill was mainly for planting onions, other small seeds such as carrots could also be readily planted with this machine. This particular Onion Seed Drill dates from around 1948, several others of similar appearance survive in working order also in the local district. Note the adjustable steel guide rod protruding from left of machine (left photo), used each side to leave a mark in soil as a guide for centre wheel to travel in next row to be planted.



ABOVE – This 1929 General Motors truck was purchased by James Barclay in 1930, after he sold his gold mining business in Northern Queensland. The truck was used to transport his family and possessions to Victoria after he purchased "Mingawalla", a farming property several miles east of Beeac.

The truck carried out much of the workload previously undertaken by horse and wagon from early 1930s, to early 1950s at "Mingawalla". This was the truck's first outing since being brought back by the family, and being extensively restored. The truck now has a home again at "Mingawalla".

AT LEFT – Chamberlain was the feature tractor at this year's Colac P & A Society's Heritage Festival. A good turnout kept the public interested. Chamberlain tractors were made at Welshpool in Western Australia from 1949 to 1986; this model is an early DM Champion made from 1956 to 1958, which was updated to the popular 9G Champion in 1958.

(all photos by Craig Pink)

The Firewood Trade

By Norman Houghton

In the days before ducted gas, electric heating, briquettes and fuel oil, all energy requirements were met from firewood. Colac was fortunate to be situated adjacent to the Otway forest and always had ready access to timber. The species used for firewood were mainly the lighter peppermint, messmate and stringybark timbers.

Contractors and carters delivered blocks and lengths of wood to householders and businesses. The wood was mostly used in stoves and fireplaces for cooking, washing and warmth but some was used in the few industries that nineteenth century Colac supported. These included sawmills, cordial factories, tanneries etc.

By the turn of the twentieth century Colac's fuel requirements were on the rise, thanks to the establishment of major industries such as the Colac Dairying Co in Wilson St, and the Colac Brick Works in Bath and Talbot Streets. These plants required steam and heat for their various processes and used wood for this.

The opening of the narrow gauge railway to Beech Forest in 1902 gave the market a lift as wood could be delivered in bulk more economically than previously. Barongarook, Kwarren and Lovat became the main firewood areas for Colac and, funnily enough, for Beech Forest as well as the Beech Forest timbers were generally far too wet and sappy to make good firewood. The railway also gave easier reach to places like Beeac that had no domestic wood resources handy.

The CDC eventually became the largest consumer of boiler wood in the district for its factories at Cororooke, Colac, Nalangil, Swan Marsh, Warrion and Wool Wool. In a typical year, say the 1930s, these factories went through 7,000, 2,000, 700, 1,000, 700 and 700 tons respectively. Most of this wood came from the Beech Forest railway and was railed direct to those factories with sidings, or situated near railway stations such as Colac, Cororooke and Alvie.

Local cutters, carters, retailers and property owners who were disposing of wood formed the Colac & District Firewood Assoc. during the 1920s to secure a uniformity of rates, and deal with matters such as council road closures in winter and loading regulations. In the 1950s several large sawmills established themselves in Colac that previously had been situated in the bush, and the off-cuts gave a ready supply of fire and stove woods for Colac homes. In the bush these off-cuts would have been burned as mill wastes. Kincaid's mill in Queen Street (corner Hearn St) produced mountains of off-cuts and seemed to be able to supply most of Colac.

A related trade was that of the Chimney Sweep, sooty characters with long handled brushes who cleaned the insides of chimneys of accumulated soot and tars. If this was not done from time to time the chimney would catch fire and, in a deafening roar, a shower of red hot cinders and sparks would belch into the air in a spectacular column. The Colac Fire Brigade could time these fires almost to the hour with the 8 am fires being from backyard coppers igniting and the 5 pm fires from chimneys when fires and stoves were stoked up for evening meal preparation. The Chimney Sweep's tools in trade were brushes, lengths of screw-in handles, a hessian bag to hold it all and a bike to ride to jobs. The Colac Herald ran Chimney Sweep advertisements into the 1950s so it was a long lasting trade around town.

The industrial firewood trade reached its peak in the 1940s and early 1950s. The CDC Colac factory was annually consuming 28,000 tons by then, its Rossmoyne plant around 5,000 tons and Cororooke 22,000 tons. Other large consumers were Bulla Cream, the Hospital and the Abattoirs. The rise of the briquette market, aggressively pushed by the State Electricity Commission from its limitless brown coal supplies, spelt the end to the wood trade. The CDC rebuilt its boiler house in 1953 to cater for briquettes and other boilers in Colac and district eventually went the same way.

The domestic firewood market held up for a while but eventually succumbed to gas and electric heating and became a boutique item for the new generation of stoves, heaters and barbeques. It represented an end to the double benefits of back yard firewood spruiked by old bushmen who claimed that *the wood you cut yourself warms you twice*.

COLAC'S CLARKE WINDMILLS

(Made in Colac by Thomas Clarke and descendants, 1898 to c. late 1920s)

by Craig Pink.

Apprenticed at an early age for seven years to the tinsmith trade, Thomas Clarke was born at Southwark, London, on 21st June 1826. At that period the general condition of apprentices was a very hard one, which Thomas found so laborious and uncongenial that he freed himself by running away. This he initially accomplished, but then had the misfortune to be caught again. Some time later Thomas fled again, this time successfully concealing himself on board a ship bound for Australia.

Thomas landed at Melbourne in 1847 at the age of 21, and as he wished to go inland, engaged himself with a Mr. Brown at Princetown. This was not long after a stock rider had been killed by Aborigines, not far from the site where the remains of Gellibrand, the explorer, were found. Here Thomas led a lonely, miserable existence, and hastily moved himself to Geelong. From Geelong he proceeded overland to New South Wales, the rich gold finds there having partially fired his imagination. As a gold prospector Thomas was most unfortunate. He next worked his way back to Geelong, shearing along the way and was able to make £9 a week. Thomas married Sarah Cue in the Geelong Yarra Street Methodist Church in 1853. Twelve children were born to their marriage.

As far as early local Colac & district businessmen are concerned, Thomas Clarke was certainly amongst them. When Thomas arrived at Colac in the early 1860s, the area around today's Colac East Hotel was the main business centre and Mr Adam Rea's Caledonian store (pictured below) the pivot of commercial enterprise. In these early days of Colac, Murray Street ended at the eastern end where it met Forest Street (in the vicinity of today's Princes' Highway- Colac East Overpass).



AT LEFT- 1860s view of Adam Rea's original Caledonian Store situated at Colac East, where close by in the early 1860s, Thomas Clarke first started his tinsmith business.

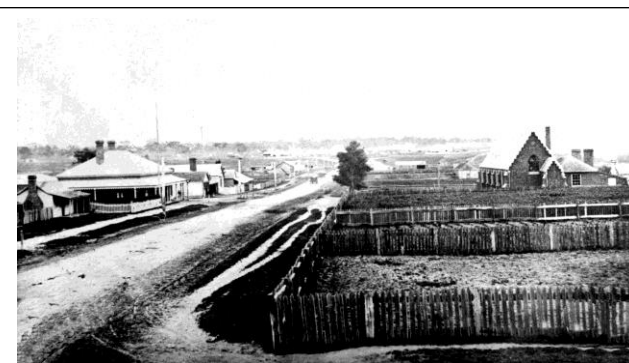
(NOTE – This view of Adam Rea's store is in the vicinity of today's Colac East Hotel area).

(Image from - Historical Society files- photo card 310)

It was at this east end of today's Colac that Thomas Clarke first opened his tinsmithing business, the premises

located between what was later known as "Roscoe's" store (formerly the "Farmers Arms Hotel") and Lemster's Smithy (Lemster's Smithy was situated next to Adam Rea's Caledonian Store). Here, Thomas built up a good business amongst the other popular earlier traders at the east end early settlement of Colac.

Later, with the "irresistible" move towards the west (today's Murray Street East), Thomas Clarke relocated to his 2nd business premises, which at the time, was at a more central position, just east of the Colac Common School (The Common School was on the site of today's Colac (East) Primary School), where he lived and carried on his trade. This was part of two acres of vacant land in Murray Street between Church Street and the Common School, which was originally part of the School Reserve. Thomas Clarke bought a one-rood lot facing Murray Street here for £35 in December 1866.



AT LEFT-1860s view of Colac's Murray Street East, (looking west from the Church Street corner) in the vicinity where Thomas Clarke bought land for £35 in December 1866.

(NOTE - The Common School at right of image is the location of today's Colac (East) Primary School).

(Image from - Historical Society files- Hebb glass slide collection)

In 1883, Thomas Clarke bought a 20 feet frontage with a depth of

64 feet with Murray street frontage facing the "Market Square" (today called the Memorial Square), here he built new premises, to which he then relocated his business premises for a 3rd time.

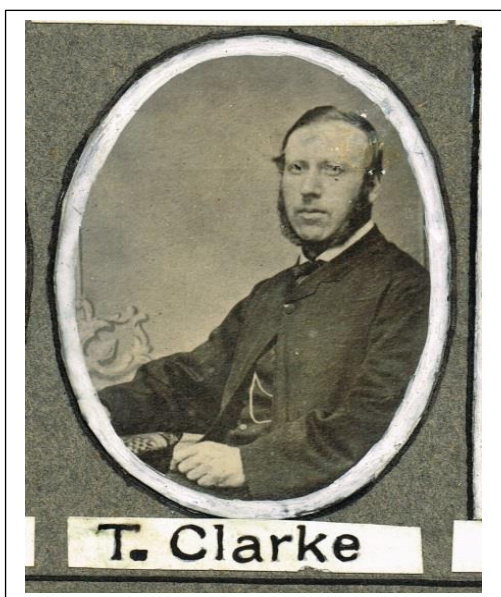
AT RIGHT- T. Clarke and Son advert from Colac Herald, 4th July, 1884. **(NOTE –** The T. CLARKE AND SON trading name at this time). This advert appeared thru much of June/July 1884 "to inform the inhabitants of Colac and district" of the new trading premises (this premises was situated in the vicinity of today's Central Arcade, Murray St. frontage). (Advert from- Colac Herald - Historical Society files)

T. CLARKE AND SON
Desire to inform the inhabitants of Colac and district that they have now opened their new Shop in Murray-street west, next Mr. Wilson's shoeing forge, as
TINSMITHS AND PLUMBERS.
All orders will be faithfully attended to.
Iron curved for verandahs,
Tanks made to any size,
Shingle Roofs covered with Iron, Spouting fixed,
Water Pipes laid,
Troughs made and fixed with ball cocks, &c.
PLUMBING & SHEET METAL
Work done at the most reasonable charges.

A very sad and fatal accident occurred on Tuesday 4th November 1884, when Thomas Clarke's son George, aged 25 years, was tragically drowned on Lake Colac. George was part of a small selected team who were in training for the rowing team at the up-coming annual Regatta on Lake Colac, having left his father's tinsmith premises at around 6pm and went to rowing exercise on Lake Colac. After rowing to a distance of around one quarter mile to the area at front of Barongarook creek, upon finding their boat was leaking a good deal on the calm water, they returned to the jetty for the purpose of emptying it of water. After this necessary work had been performed the crew made a direct course for Stoddart's point, but before getting that far and when directly opposite the ladies' bathing house, they decided to return to the sheds, as the boat was now making a great deal of water again. In the ensuing return to the jetty, the boat became swamped, going down front first where George Clarke was at the foremost front, and within reach of the jetty he ended up in the water, the other crew being totally exhausted from the exertion of the rowing, and were unable to retrieve George Clarke, and he drowned.

An inquest and public correspondence laid partial blame on the lack of any form of life buoy/rope/hook being placed at local jetties. Public comment even went as far as to say that if these were installed as used at similar places elsewhere, and as George Clarke was within reach of the jetty, this could have saved his life.

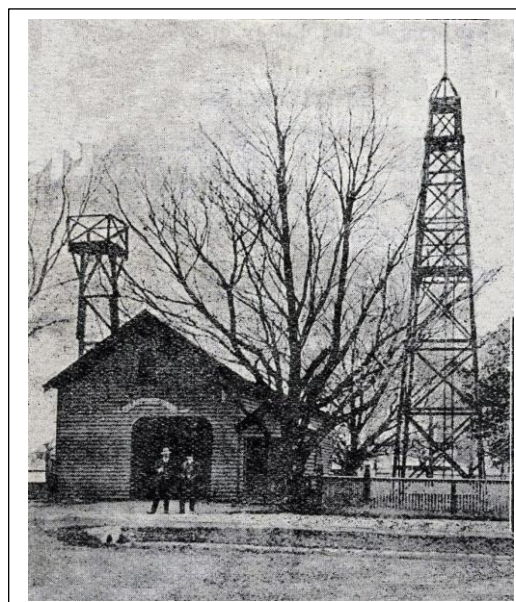
With the tragic loss of George Clarke, the business carried on, Thomas' sons Henry and William joined the business; however, the other remaining son Richard did not join the tinsmith/plumbing business.



AT LEFT- Image of Thomas Clarke as part of the Methodist Church group, which he was an early supporter of. Numerous other local businessmen from the same era amongst this group included Adam Rea.

(Image from Historical Society files- photo card 133)

It was from these Murray street premises facing the "Market Square", that later in 1898 T. Clarke and Sons added the manufacture of windmills to their list of marketable goods. Much of the machinery used in their windmill manufacture became a modern amenity for the production of other requisites of the period, which made windmill manufacture a popular item among at least five Colac windmill makers of the late 1890s era. In September 1898, T. Clarke and Sons advertised they could supply a new windmill of their own design/manufacture, with angle iron tower, stand and tank from £14.



AT LEFT- Colac Herald advert from late September 1898 stating T. CLARKE & SONS business premises new Windmill making machinery. (NOTE- The "Opposite Fire Brigade Station")

AT RIGHT- "Fire Brigade Station" as mentioned in the advert at left which at that time was across the road in the Market Square (today's Memorial Square). (Image from the 1911 booklet – "Prosperous And Progressive Colac").

Advert + image- both from Historical Society files.

T. CLARKE & SONS,
MURRAY STREET, COLAC
(Opposite Fire Brigade Station),
TINSMITHS, PLUMBERS AND GAS-
FITTERS.

We make Milk Cans, Baths, Bath Heaters,
Copper Furnaces, Iron Chimneys, Wind-
mills, Tanks, Troughs, Pumps, Piping,
&c.

Having complete WINDMILL MACHI-
NERY we are prepared to SUPPLY all
IRON and STEEL WINDMILLS, which
for strength, smooth running, and effi-
ciency, can't be beaten.

Windmills supplied complete with Angle
Iron Tower, Pump and Tank, from
£14.

In later 1902 T. Clarke and Sons relocated again to new business premises, (this the business's 4th move) to premises in Bromfield Street, which was closely behind their former Murray Street trading premises, but on the south side frontage of Bromfield Street. The former Murray Street T. Clarke and Sons trading premises were then leased to T. Peters and Co.

An advert appeared in the Colac Herald newspaper on January 18th 1901, stating Thomas Clarke had dissolved his partnership by mutual consent from the T. Clarke and Sons, tinsmith/plumbing business. Thomas Clarke stated "Thos. Clarke having drawn out of the business, desires to thank the public of Colac and District for the patronage he has received for the last 40 years, and trusts it may be continued to my successors".

(page 2 of 4, - continued on next page ➤)

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.
T. CLARKE & SONS,
TINSMITHS & PLUMBERS,
Desires to intimate that they are **RE-MOVING to NEW PREMISES** Directly Opposite the Back Entrance of T. PETERS & Co.'s Timber Yard in Bromfield Street.

A Large Stock of Tin and Galvanised Iron Ware, Tanks, Troughs, Pumps, Baths, Milk Cans, &c.

Agents for Bradley's Acetylene Gas Generators.

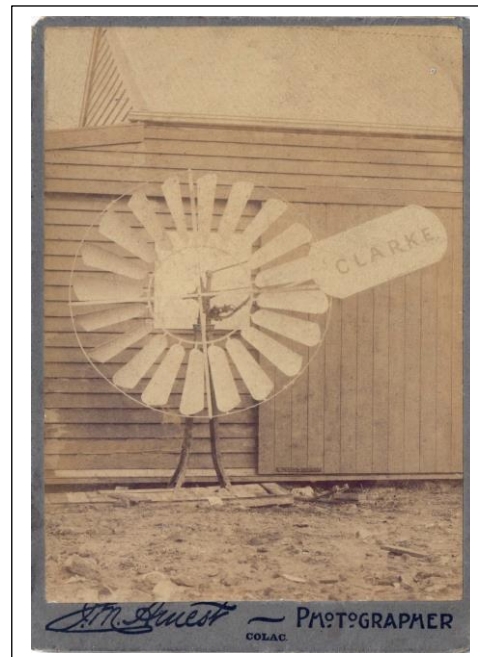
NOTE THE ADDRESS—
BROMFIELD STREET (Two Doors Below Benallack & Butt's Timber Yard).

AT LEFT- In later 1902, the T. Clarke and Sons business moved premises yet again, this 4th time to the south side of Bromfield Street. (Advert from- Colac Herald - Historical Society files)

AT RIGHT- Clarke windmill photo from the early 1900's era. Several survive in the local district, and were always well known for their expert workmanship throughout their years of manufacture in Colac.

(Image from Historical Society- Clarke family files)

NOTE- image is an original "J.M. ARNEST" production.



Thomas Clarke died on 4th April 1908, aged 82, leaving wife Sarah, the mother of their remaining eight children. The marriage produced a total of 12 children, listed (*below*) as follows -

- CLARKE- Matilda – born 1855 Geelong died 1864 Geelong aged 9 yrs
- CLARKE- Elizabeth – born 1857 Geelong died 1938 Colac aged 80 yrs
- CLARKE- George – born 1859 Vic died 4/11/1884 Colac aged 25 yrs Drowned in Lake Colac occ. Tinsmith
- CLARKE- William – born 1861 Melbourne died 1950 Colac aged 89 yrs
- CLARKE- Mary Anne – born 1864 Colac married SELWOOD died 1944 Colac aged 80 yrs
- CLARKE- Richard – born 1866 Colac died 1937 Colac aged 71 yrs
- CLARKE- Ellen – born 1868 Colac
- CLARKE- Jane – born 1870 Colac
- CLARKE- Emily – born 1875 Colac died 1875 Colac aged 4 months
- CLARKE- Bertha – born 1876 Colac married TRIGG died 1959 Footscray Melbourne aged 83 yrs
- CLARKE- Annie – born 1878 Colac died 1905 Colac aged 26 yrs
- CLARKE- Henry – born 1873 died 1911 Colac aged 38 yrs

Thomas Clarke was an early follower of the Methodist Church, Colac Lodge, 100F, he was respected by a wide circle of friends, and his funeral was largely attended. It was stated – “By the death of Mr Thomas Clarke, the town has lost almost the last connecting link between the old and the new Colac -----” (meaning the early eastern settlement of Colac).

T. CLARKE & SONS,
TINSMITHS & PLUMBERS,
BROMFIELD STREET (NEAR BUTT & SON'S TIMBER YARD).

WINDMILLS
Supplied and Fixed in any part of the district.

TANKS OF ALL SIZES MADE ON THE SHORTEST NOTICE.

T. CLARKE & SONS,
BROMFIELD STREET,
COLAC.

AT LEFT- Advert from Colac Herald April 1908, showing - T. CLARKE & SONS advertising their windmill manufacture. “The BUTT & SON'S TIMBER YARD” was two doors to the west of T. Clarke & Sons Bromfield Street business premises. (Advert from- Colac Herald - Historical Society files)

Over the years of trading, the Clarke tinsmith and plumbing business always kept itself at the ready for any possible current opportunities. Such new conveniences like the arrival of town gas, then the connection of town water around the 1910s era were potential boom times for associated businesses with suitable equipment and expertise, along with the ongoing service and maintenance. Thomas Clarke's youngest son Henry, who had resided in Grant Street, Colac, died in March 1911 when he was just 38 years of age, this leaving Thomas Clarke's second-oldest son William to carry on the tinsmith/plumbing business. Thomas Clarke's wife Sarah died suddenly on 30th November 1914, at Colac, aged 77 years. Sarah left two surviving sons, and five daughters, she was of a kindly disposition, and was held in high esteem by a large circle of friends. (page 3 of 4, - continued on next page ↘)

Thomas Clarke's grandson George (*William's son*) now became the third generation in the same business. He went on to take over the business in the 1920s, the manufacture of windmills still being available. The Clarke windmills were obviously made in a lot less quantity than the Colac-born Bryan Bros. windmills, but the Clarke windmill did see service around the outlying areas of the Colac Shire boundaries. A Clarke windmill is known to have given many years of faithful service beside a dam situated northeast of Cressy, the dam's water being close to ground level, meaning the open crank design windmill did not require the power competing brands sometimes had to use for deeper bores and larger pumping capacity requirements. The same scenario suited the shallow bores such as on the eastern banks of Lake Corangamite around the Wool Wool area, where surviving Clarke windmill examples have been located in recent years, as well as at Nalangil. The Clarke windmills had several distinctive features, including the main casting, wind wheel design, and also the tail, all of which were of an up-to-date design for their time, including best quality materials and workmanship used in their manufacture and construction. Suitable stands, tanks, troughs etc. were all available over the years of supply. The Clarke windmills appear to have been manufactured into at least the late 1920s era, the plumbing side of the business remained into the 1950s era.



ABOVE- T. Clarke and Sons business premises in Bromfield Street, which they shifted to in later 1902. (A partially completed windmill/tower stands in the yard at left of image) Business increased with the introduction of the town water supply which was under way in 1911. These premises were in the vicinity of around today's Super Cheap Auto/Fruit Market area of today's south side of mid- Bromfield Street. (Image from Historical Society – Clarke family files)



ABOVE- T. Clarke and Sons business premises on the south side of Bromfield Street, (looking east). At far right says "C. Butt & Son Timber Merchants", the next pole along shows the sign on street frontage which says T. CLARKE AND SONS tinsmiths and plumbers premises, which they shifted to in later 1902. (Image from Historical Society files- photo card 06)

GEORGE CLARKE.
 (Successor to T. Clarke & Sons).
LICENSED SANITARY PLUMBER,
BROMFIELD STREET, COLAC.
 (Rear P. C. Hancox's Produce Store).
 Baths, Basins, Wash Troughs, Sinks,
 Bath Heaters, supplied and fixed.
 Windmills, Tanks, Troughs, supplied
 and erected in any part of the
 district.
 Water Meter and Services adjusted or
 repaired at shortest notice.

AT LEFT- Colac Herald advert from –2nd April 1927- The supply of windmills still available with George Clarke now under control of the same business, which his grandfather Thomas Clarke started in the early 1860s. Over the years of trading, the business always adapted to then current requisites such as - tinsmith/plumbing, gas fitting, town water connection, sanitary connection/maintenance and the like. (Advert from- Colac Herald - Historical Society files)

(Thanks to Dawn Missen and Dawn Peel for their valuable assistance in the research/preparation of this story). **THE END.**

CREAM BOATING -

(By Norman Houghton)

Continuing on from the last two issues' - "LAKE COLAC EARLY BOATING", and "LAKE CORANGAMITE EARLY BOATING", part three of Norman Houghton's writings on the subject "WATER BORNE TRADE" concludes this issue, which covers the early Water Borne Trade on the Lower Gellibrand River, with photos/captions added by Craig Pink.

Another type of waterborne commerce was cream boating on the Gellibrand River. The broad reaches of the lower Gellibrand River from Carlisle River to near its mouth were regularly used by the 20 or so farmer-settlers as a means of easy communication. There were no decent roads anywhere in the district and winter rains reduced the bush tracks to slush so the river offered an alternative, particularly for economic activities connected with farming and dairying. Produce and dairy products could be moved along the river and these marketable goods overlanded from Princetown to the jetty at Port Campbell for transport to Melbourne.

From 1886 the State Government funded a snagging boat to clear the river of obstacles for 25 kms and regularly snagged the watercourse to the early 1930s. The Colac and Hampden Shires also had an interest in the river and jointly funded a ferry boat to allow crossings where the main road from Lavers Hill to Princetown met the river. In about 1892 local farmers established the Lower Gellibrand cooperative cheese factory on the bank of the river a little to the north of the ferry site. The factory was a very small affair at first until being rebuilt in 1896 to more suitable specifications. A jetty was constructed adjacent, with a crane to lift the cans from the boats moored below, and a short tramway laid from here to the factory to cart the heavy cans. The manufactured cheese was taken out by boat to Princetown and then by road to the Port Campbell Jetty.



AT LEFT – Loading cheese on the Lower Gellibrand River, where the cheese travelled down-stream to be re-loaded at Princetown, then taken overland to Port Campbell where it was yet again reloaded for shipment by sea.

The boaters came from both up and downstream of the factory and enjoyed an easy sail when travelling down-stream in the current but had to row upstream. Some boats were fitted with a hauling mast to allow a horse on the bank to tow the vessel upstream. River travel was impossible when the river was in flood and on these occasions farmers had to cart by sled or joey along the riverside tracks, making or repairing the sapling bridges across the side gullies as they went.

The boats were also used to move furniture and

goods between farms along the river. In 1907 a motor launch was put on the river at Baruppa to cart goods to and from Princetown. This venture appears to have been short lived. The need for boating diminished as roads improved and farmers eventually abandoned their boats on cost grounds. It was expensive to maintain a vessel all year round for use mostly from October to April. The last of the cream boats plied the river in 1933.

AT RIGHT – The Lower Gellibrand Cheese Factory on the left bank of the Gellibrand River, about 400 metres downstream from the bridge at the junction of the Great Ocean and Baruppa roads.

Because of the mountainous terrain, milk was brought to the factory, mainly by boat, and from farms as far away as Princetown. As well as an economic occasion, the boat trip was often also a great social opportunity, women and girls in lace finery often accompanied their husbands and fathers to meet other women and swap news.

NOTE – At least 7 seven boats are shown, one carrying 8 milk cans, 3 of the boats also have a tall towing pole attached. Women and children are also obviously helping with the unloading process. (Both Images from Historical Society files – Glass Framed Collection)

(The end)



CONUNDRUM ANSWER - Last issue - "Lake Corangamite"



The area in above images was very popular when good levels of water reached the eastern shores of Lake Corangamite, such as this January 1962 image. This area of Lake Corangamite was accessed off Baynes road, west of Coragulac.



CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM – WHAT IS THIS LARGE SIGN?

Date is October 1967, and it is not a Motel/Hotel sign of any sort. A clue if you are stuck is that it is on the western part of Colac. This venue was in its prime at this period, and the downfall came in late 1970s/early 1980s.

The Blitz crane is of great interest and was owned by Black's Heavy Haulage. This crane did years of service throughout the Colac district.

ANSWER NEXT ISSUE -

COLAC and DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ROSTER 2015 2.00 to 4.00 pm. Thankyou.

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
April	2 nd D. Missen 9 th I. Barlow 16 th G. Splatt 23 rd J. Knight 30 th Committee?	3 rd <i>Good Friday</i> 10 th G. Bray 17 th E. Chambers 24 th B & J McDonald	5 th A. McIntosh 12 th D. Cowan & M. Facey 19 th Committee? 26 th M. Facey & D. Cowan
May	7 th D. Missen 14 th I. Barlow 21 st G. Splatt 28 th J. Knight	1 st C. Pink 8 th G. Bray 15 th E. Chambers 22 nd B. & J. McDonald 29 th Committee?	3 rd A. McIntosh 10 th D. Cowan & M. Facey 17 th Committee? 24 th M. Facey & D. Cowan 31 st Committee?
June	4 th D. Missen 11 th I. Barlow 18 th G. Splatt 25 th J. Knight	5 th C. Pink 12 th G. Bray 19 th E. Chambers 26 th B. & J. McDonald	7 th A. McIntosh 14 th D. Cowan & M. Facey 21 st Committee? 28 th M. Facey & D. Cowan