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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, also during *winter* on the **4th Saturday at 1.30pm.**

Website address: colachistoricalsociety.org.au

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 held on 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of month - 10.00 am-12.00 midday.

Forthcoming Meetings/Events

Wednesday May 24th

5.00pm Presentation by Assoc. Professor Don Garden, OAM, President, Royal Historical Society of Victoria followed by Soup, Sausage Rolls & Sandwiches and AGM

Saturday June 24th

1.30pm Speaker Peter Chapman- son of Gordon Chapman, proprietor of Engineering Business in Dennis Street post 1940

Saturday July 22nd

1.30pm Speaker Len Kenna- Australian Indian Historical Society "Indian Explorers, Cameleers and Hawkers"

Saturday August 26th

1.30pm- to be arranged

Saturday August 12th

10.00am Geelong & District Historical Association hosted by Meredith History Group

Meeting Report

Wednesday March 22nd Guests were Ron Arnold, elder of the local Gulidjan tribe whose tribal area stretched from Warrion to the Coast, and Angela Jeffery. Angela is the Natural Resource Manager of the Corangamite Catchment Authority.

Together, they spoke of the need to preserve aboriginal artefacts which were part of aboriginal culture and to respect their heritage. They informed us about the special conservation needs of non-mineral artefacts and expressed a willingness to assess artefacts in our collection that have been donated to the Society. Following this process we would be able to mount a public display.

A Note from the President

Research enquiries can often lead to a rewarding exchange of information, beneficial to the enquirer and the Historical Society.

A recent request from Perth in Western Australia from the grandson of Ernest Hall about land his grandfather owned west of Beech Forest is an example.

Ernest Hall was one of 3 brothers who selected land when the Otways were opened up for settlement in the 1890s.

We were able to provide copies of parish plans from our recently digitized map collection showing his property both before, and after it was bisected by the railway line. He also purchased a copy of 'The Otways through the Magic Lantern' where the Hall family was mentioned by George Sydenham in the script that accompanied his glass slide presentation.

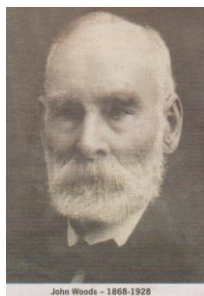
Barbara Minchinton who wrote the foreword and helped launch that book was placed in contact with Mr Hall and an information gathering email conversation ensued. Her ancestors had selected land only a mile away from the Halls. We have received a copy of a photo taken in 1900 of the Hall family standing in the burnt out shell of a giant mountain ash tree.



Photo: Frank, Wal & Ern Hall at top of tree – 1900.

What Has Been In The News?

The Colac Herald-



John Woods - 1868-1928



Hampton Woods - 1928-1949



Geoffrey C. Adams - 1949-1978



Francis V. Gannon - 1978-2003



Mary Gannon - 2003-current

Colac Herald Proprietors 1868-2017

December 16th 2016 **Colac Herald Celebrating 150 years of Publication**-32 page feature. The proprietors of the Colac Herald include *John Woods*-(began with Colac Observer), 1868-1928: *Hampton Woods*- 1928- 1949: *Geoffrey C. Adams*-1949-1978, using photographs: *Francis V Gannon*- 1978-2003, using full colour: *Mary Gannon*- 2003-current owner. Congratulations were received from the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP Prime Minister also from Fairfax Media, SLM Law (Sewells) since 1896, Charles Stewart 1917, Colac Motor Group incorporating Parker Bros and McKenzie Motors- 1925, Swayne & McCabe 1946, Rhys Evans 1953, Woods Jewellers 1956, AKD Softwoods 1956, Piera Metals 1974, Brett's Flooring 1980, WIB 1980s, Argento Panels 1981, Marc Furniture 1987 and also from Ray Croft.

February 10th 2017 **Charles Stewart Real Estate & Livestock 100 years 1917-2017.** The company still operates from where it began with *Mr. Charles Stewart* in Bromfield Street, Colac. It is now owned and operated by the fourth generation of his family. Charles would visit his clients in the Otways on horseback. The saleyards were in the middle of town then and Thursday was sale day. The company has grown with offices now in Camperdown, Geelong, Warrnambool, Hamilton and Ballarat.

March 6th **Historian shelling out district's pea heritage.** Colac historian *Norman Houghton's* new book *Peas in the Pod* describes pea growing as a major industry in the 1930s having begun in the 1880s. There were hand pickers and machine pickers who worked around the clock. Warrion's former Colac Dairying Company building became the pea-pickers HQ.

March 10th **The Colac Herald has a new owner.** The paper is changing hands after 40 years with the Gannon family. Herald manager *Andrea Graham* is the new owner and the Herald remains independent.

March 31st **Public gets a share of high school site.** The State Government confirmed it will give part of the former *Colac High School* site to Colac Otway Shire Council who had asked for 30 percent of the 8.4 hectare site for community open space. **Volunteer promoting district's attractions.** *Stuart Currie* has been telling people about Colac and district for 27 years. The *Colac Visitor Information Centre* celebrated its 30th Birthday this March. An early Information facility was a caravan parked on the Memorial Square. The centre is now a purpose- built building on the bank of the Barongarook Creek.

April 10th **New Men's Shed opens.** Western Victoria MP *Gayle Tierney* opened the purpose-built shed at the Colac Show grounds. The Colac men's shed formed in 2005 to support & enhance men's physical & mental wellbeing.

April 17th **Funding for historic building.** One of Western Victoria's earliest heritage buildings *Tarndwarncoort* has received a \$50,000 grant from the state Government to repair the property's 1860s cider house using heritage techniques and skills that preserve the character and the fabric.

April 21st **Construction begins on \$258M wind farm.** The site is on Mt Gellibrand, Mooleric Road, Ombersley chosen by Spanish company Acciona and will have 44 turbines providing renewable energy to more than 60,000 homes from July next year.

May 1st **New facilities officially open.** The Colac and district sporting community has celebrated the completion of a \$3.05M upgrade of Central Reserve's off-field facilities. Federal MP Sarah Henderson officially opened the pavilion and grandstand built by Spence Construction. State MP Gayle Tierney officially opened Central's new netball pavilion.

May 3rd **Family proud of the Hay name.** The Hay family had a soft drink factory in Colac from 1916 with generations of Hays passing down trade skills. They owned property where the Regal factory is now. An Elliminyt street may bear the family name. **Volunteers launch new book.** *South West Do Care* members and volunteers have captured the diverse cultural and economic background of 24 Colac district people in a new book titled *Life Stories Colac*.

May 5th **Colac Pharmacists expand into their second location.** Iconic chemist shop *RP Hynes* has been bought by pharmacists D. Christofidis and M. Georgy and the business moved to 30 Murray Street Colac and given a new name- *Colac East Pharmacy*. These men also own *Colac Pharmacy* in Colac's west end.

William Frederick Marks - **Colac Windmill Manufacturer from May 1898 till July 1900**

Researched by Alan Doyle – February 2017

William Frederick Marks was born at Colac on 7th January 1868 to Mark Marks and Sarah Ann Marks (nee Owen). He was baptised at the Church of Christ at Birregurra on 26th April 1868. His birth occurred at his father's Beer Shanty on the North/West corner of Pollack and Gellibrand Streets, Colac. He married Lavinia Sophia Hands in 1892 and they had two children, Minnie – born 27th May 1892 and Frederick – born 6th June 1896. William trained as an engineer and later became the landlord of the Prince of Wales Hotel, which had belonged to the Marks family in Colac for three years. Then in May 1898 he bought John Samuel Marks' (his brother) blacksmithing business on the corner of Bromfield and Gellibrand Streets. This was most likely at the rear or the Union Club Hotel premises (also a Marks family property). He soon began trading in blacksmithing and specialized in windmills.

His early life into engineering is covered in great detail in the following Colac Herald article -

WILLIAM F. MARKS-- WINDMILL MANUFACTURER - from Colac Herald Supplement, 14th March 1899 - page 3.

The importance and peculiarities of the Western District have demanded inventive qualities among the business men. It is gratifying to read that some of them have not been found wanting. There are established in Colac several important industries which are known over a wide area of country, and which are eminently advantageous to the reputation of the town. The inhabitant of a far off centre, when he observes some practical example of industry and enterprise of a Colac resident, naturally has his thoughts drawn towards the town, and thus it gains popularity. Certainly a place could wish for no better and more effective means of becoming celebrated.

In Mr. William F. Marks the town possesses a business man who is adding considerably to her reputation. Mr. Marks must be considered as one of our most ingenious residents. He was born in Colac in 1868, attended school here, and even as a youth showed a predilection for mechanical work, so that some hope was entertained by his relatives that he would be a success when he reached man's estate. As a youth he sometimes put his facility to practical use, and at a Juvenile Exhibition held in Flinders Street, Melbourne, he showed the model of a plough, which took a first prize (silver medal). The model is now in Colac and is treasured by the maker. After leaving school Mr. Marks proceeded to Melbourne, and was apprenticed to the firm of D. Edwards and Co., where he served for six years and nine months. He next worked for the Langland's Foundry Co. for two years. He thus obtained a thorough grounding in engineering which, with his natural gift, was bound to prove valuable to him.

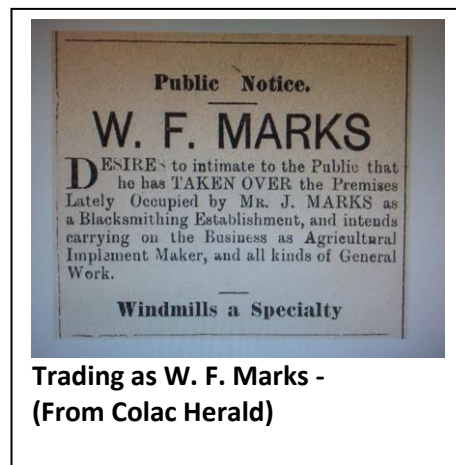
For three subsequent years he was Landlord for the Prince of Wales Hotel, Colac, but not appreciating the work he took an engagement as engineer in the North Shore Freezing Works in erecting the engine and machinery, and after completing these duties he returned to Colac and was for a season associated with a firm of mill makers. After due consideration he came to the conclusion that he could manufacture a simple and substantial windmill on his own behalf. He bought a business in the town and his success has been demonstrated by the large business which he is now possessed of. By bringing to bear all his ingenuity and inventive talent he succeeded in designing and

constructing a windmill eminently adapted for use in the Colac District, and at the Ballarat show in November 1898, he took first prize against all competitors. The features of his mill are simplicity, non-liability of getting out of order, and the ease with which it is worked even by the lightest breeze. This last is a special feature, for in a country where calms are fairly frequent it is important the gentlest breeze should be able to work the mill. Mr. Marks' is light and yet durable. The wheel tail and storm vane can be so regulated that the contrivance will work no quicker in a gale than in a light wind. Mr Marks' windmills are of three classes - crank, geared and eccentric. The same casting will do for each kind, and the construction is so simple that any farmer can keep them in order. The mill is complete in seven connections – (1) plain casting: (2) the wheel: (3) the tail: (4) the storm vane: (5) pump and connections: (6) the steel tower: and (7) the pump. Where the damage may be severe Mr Marks undertakes to do repairing in all branches. The cost of his windmills range from £6 5s to £25 10s – according to the size of the wheel and works. These ingenious contrivances have now become so indispensable to all producers that no one should be without them, and their cost is reduced so low that few can offer the excuse that they cannot afford to buy them. Residents of Colac district are advised to call at Mr Marks' factory in Gellibrand Street, and inspect his manufacturers. At present he is erecting to order of the Heytesbury Shire at Cobden a windmill tower, and tanks, etc. He is also erecting a mill at Camperdown, and has received an order from the Ballarat district. He started six months ago with only one boy to assist him, and to-day his staff comprises five men and two boys, exclusive of himself. It would seem that his business is likely to spread throughout the colony.

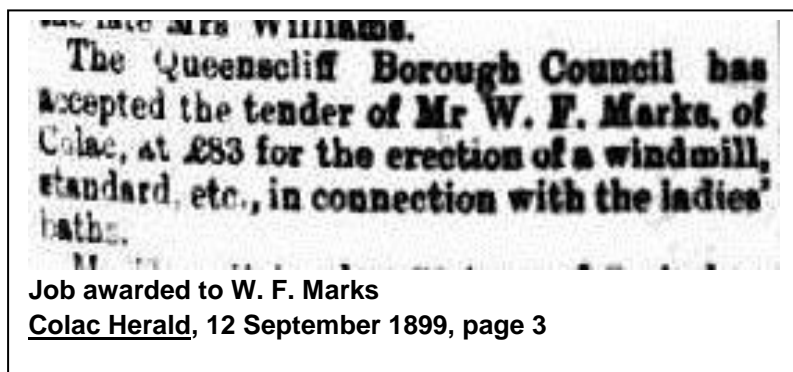
Mr Marks' business is not confined to windmills, as he undertakes general blacksmithing, engineering, tank making, trough making, and agricultural implements manufacture, and repairing.

Mr Marks takes some interest in public affairs, and is a patriotic Australian native. He is a member of the A.N.A. and is on the committee of the local branch. He is also a member of the Colac Bowling Club. His competency in mechanical work and his inventive talent deserve substantial approbation, and these, combined with his enterprise, are to obtain him a prosperous future.

There are also family notes that claim William Frederick Marks invented a storm vane for the Alston company: *".....He was of an inventive turn of mind and successfully devised a storm vane for windmills, which I believe the Alston people bought and still use today. Later he invented a contraption for washing the small pans in the Alfa Laval Separator bowl. A labour saving device.".* (notes of "Minnie Olive Marks (Offé) 1893 – 1968 – My story: 1893 -1919"). His business "W. F. MARKS" grew from employing one boy in October 1898 to employing five men and two boys. However during this time Colac experienced a boom of windmill manufacturers. Another company called "BRYAN & JONES" had been trading for some time and within three months of William going out on his own, Ernest Jones dissolved his partnership with Bryan and Jones and also went out on his own – "ERNEST JONES", manufacturing windmills in August 1898. Archie Bryan and his brother Thomas Pearce Bryan then became known as "BRYAN BROTHERS". There was also "T. CLARKE & SONS" who had added windmill manufacture to their tinsmith and plumbing business by late 1898.



There were now all of a sudden up to five windmill manufacturers competing for work in Colac, with profit margins most likely being cut. William continued in business for approximately another two years before becoming insolvent and leaving town. He owed money to many steel merchants and others. Thus, beginning the dark chapter in William's life.

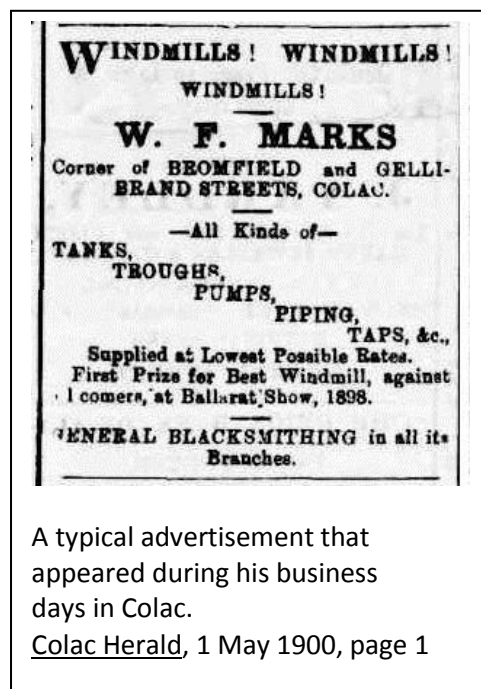


It appears that he was trading and became insolvent in July 1900. He left Colac in a hurry and his wife and children were left behind in the haste. On the 24th July 1900, his wife Lavinia lodged with the Court of Petty sessions of Colac, a charge of abandoning her and his children Minnie and Frederick, contrary to sections 42 and 47 of the marriage act. These charges and warrant were later withdrawn (Court of Petty Sessions, Colac register, 28th July 1900 – entries 380 & 381).

For the cases to be withdrawn, he must have made contact with them shortly after, so they could re-settle all together again. His estate was later sold off by J.G. Johnstone and Co. in September 1900. Then on the 30th October 1902 he deserted his wife and children for a second time. He left his home in Northcote and fled to Tasmania to begin a new life.

In July and again in September 1903, whilst still in Tasmania, William began legal proceedings to apply for a certificate of discharge and a dispensation, with the Colac solicitor T. W. Hancock representing him. This was met with resistance by various creditors, such as Edward Duckett and sons, E. Keep and Co., Danks and Co. and others. The creditors were also trying to get hold of his one tenth share of his father's estate (Mark Marks), which was in trust with his mother (Sarah Ann Marks (nee Owen)). It appears they were unsuccessful, as William claimed the share when his mother died in 1907 (£1,100).

On 17th October 1903, he married his second wife, Susan Virgin Russell in Hobart. However this marriage made him a bigamist, as he had not divorced his first wife, Lavinia.



COLAC INSOLVENCY COURT.

COLAC.—At the Insolvency Court on Tuesday, before Judge Gaunt, William Frederick Marks again applied for a certificate of discharge and a dispensation. Mr. T. W. Hancock appeared in support of the application, and Mr. J. A. C. Firth, of Messrs. Goddard and Firth, opposed it on behalf of certain creditors in Melbourne, viz., Messrs. Edward Duckett and Sons, E. Keep and Co., Danks and Co., and others, the grounds of objection being that insolvent carried on trade with fictitious capital; that he had contracted debts without a reasonable or probable expectation of paying them; that he had unjustifiably made away with or disposed of for material consideration his interest in the estate of his late father; and that the circumstances in which he became insolvent did not entitle him to the relief sought. This case was heard at the last Insolvency Court before Judge Chomley, who directed insolvent to produce a statement of accounts, and to supply explicit information regarding the assignment of applicant's interest to his father's estate. Mr. Hancock on Tuesday said the accounts had now been filed, but Mr. Firth remarked that they were incomplete, and showed grave deficiencies. His Honor adjourned the case till the next sitting of the court, in order to allow insolvent, who is at present in Tasmania, to attend.

William F. Marks – Insolvency application for certificate of discharge and dispensation, Age, 7 October 1903, page 11.

Auctions.

COLAC.

TO-MORROW! TO-MORROW!

At the Rooms, at 2 p.m.

J. G. JOHNSTONE & CO., under instructions from the Official Assignee in the Insolvent Estate of J. E. Harrison, will **SELL** by **PUBLIC AUCTION**—

- 1 Double-Furrow Plough
- 1 Single-Furrow Plough
- 1 Tandem Bicycle
- 1 Bicycle Frame (lady's)

Also, **HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE** and a Quantity of Sundries.

Terms Cash. No Reserve.

Also, in the Estate of Mr W. F. Marks—

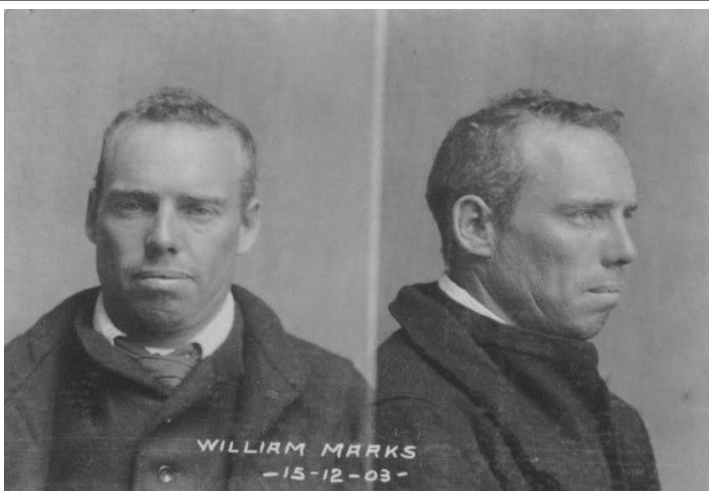
Two Complete Sets of Windmill Patterns, 6 and 8 feet, made by a regular maker.

Auction of the estate of William F. Marks, Colac Herald, 4 September 1900, page 3

His troubles continued to brew, when a police constable was sent from Geelong West to Tasmania in November 1903 to arrest him on

the charge of deserting his first wife, Lavinia. William and the Constable were stopped at the boat in Tasmania and he was re-arrested on bigamy and making a false declaration charges by the Tasmanian police. He was convicted on the 15th December 1903, and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

He later returned to Victoria and rekindled his relationship with his 1st wife and children. It appears he never returned back to Colac, and never went back to running an engineering business, but became a traveling salesman for engineering and mechanical firms instead. Lavinia died in Adelaide, 14th June 1947. He remarried Sarah Elizabeth Crawford in 1947 at Cooks River, NSW (NSW BDM 16147/1947).



William Frederick Marks – Hobart Prison photo. Hobart gaol file 2676 – 15 December 1903. State Library of Tasmania - LINC

TASMANIA.

HOBART, December 15.

At the Criminal Sitings to-day William Frederick Marks, engineer, late of Victoria, was convicted of bigamy, and of making a false declaration. He was sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment.

William Frederick Marks – Sentenced 12 months' imprisonment, Advertiser, 16 December 1903, page 8.

Over his life time William moved to various towns & states, including Warracknabeal, Ararat, South Australia, and NSW where he died at Tempe, NSW, 11th March 1954 (NSW BDM 2686/1954). His ashes were scattered at the Woronora cemetery, NSW.

So what became of Susan Virgin Russell ?

As we know, both William and Susan were illegally married on the 17th October 1903 by Isaac Hardcastle Palfreman, minister of religion at his home in North Hobart.

At the time of William's arrest by both the Victorian and Tasmanian police in November 1903, they had both been together, boarding together in Adelaide Street, South Hobart. The house was owned by Mrs Leisk, who prior to his arrests had let them two rooms.

Susan had supported him through his capture and trial over four weeks and even looked after his young son Frederick, until he was returned back to his mother Lavinia in Victoria, after sentencing. Their marriage was annulled by the relevant authorities.

Susan Russell, now 24 years of age, would have been very distressed, how her bogus husband had been caught out as a bigamist, and was sentenced to prison for 12 months. She had supported him through his trial and even looked after his son Frederick. She was now two months pregnant with a child, alone and the sudden realisation that she would be giving birth to an illegitimate child in the coming months.

Four months after the trial, on the 5th April 1904 she married New Zealander, Peter (Pirie) Baron a labourer in the town of Geeveston in the Huon Valley, south of Hobart.

She was now five to six months pregnant and was now moving on with her life with Peter. On the 18th July 1904 she gave birth to a baby boy, John Gordon Baron (Tasmanian Births register in the district of Geeveston 1904, line entry No. 880) with the father listed as Peter Baron.

A question remains, is Peter Baron the true father or is William Frederick Marks the father, as conception of the child had happened around October 1903, when she became married to William Frederick Marks ?

(Acknowledgement and thanks to Gail Burkitt for sharing the notes of "Minnie Olive Marks (Offé) 1893 – 1968 – My story: 1893 -1919". Craig Pink and Dawn Missen for their time in researching the Colac & District Historical Society records).

Bibliography

Reference Notes:

Marks Family history - Gail Burkitt.

Minnie Olive Marks (Offé) 1893 – 1968.

My Story : 1893 – 1919 - Minnie Olive Marks (Offé)– undated. (supplied by Gail Burkitt)

Societies and Organizations:

Colac and District Historical Society Inc.

COPACC, Gellibrand Street, Colac, 3250.

Craig Pink, Dawn Missen.

Colac and District Family History Group Inc.

COPACC, Gellibrand Street, Colac, 3250.

Jill Judd – "Almost Forgotten" project.

Public Records Office of Victoria.

112 Macaulay Road, North Melbourne, 3051.

Web Sites

Ancestry.com.au

www.ancestry.com.au

My Heritage

<https://www.myheritage.com/>

NSW – Justice Registry of Births Deaths & Marriages.

<http://www.bdm.nsw.gov.au/Pages/family-history/family-history.aspx>

National Library of Australia.

www.nla.gov.au

www.trove.nla.gov.au

Public Records Office of Victoria

www.prov.gov.au

State Library of Tasmania – LINC

<https://www.linc.tas.gov.au/>

Tasmania Department of Justice - Births Deaths & Marriages.

http://www.justice.tas.gov.au/bdm/family_history

SOUTH DREEITE

A brief history of Settlement of the South Dreeite Community

By Craig Pink

The South Dreeite community started in late 1920 with the arrival of returned soldiers from the First World War (1914 – 1918) to take up land allocations from what was previously part of the extensive Calvert Estate. For some, particularly with no farming experience, it was heart-breaking to find their allocation was 70 or 80 acres of rock barriers with little or no cleared grazing land, infested with thistles, rabbits and the likes Some walked off in a very short time, while others battled on and erected fencing and sheds and made a start, and at best eked out a living for their young families.

The allocations, (made by the Closer Settlement Board), were far too small to be viable and the soldier settlers were expected to make progressive payments against an initial land cost of £18 per acre (bare), which must have been excessive. Settlement homes, built principally by Peters of Colac, cost about £450. Spring heifers cost about £10, and if you consider butter was worth 6 pence (5 cents) per pound, there was no high living. Of course only cream was sent to the factory in those days, the skim milk from separation being fed to pigs.

Cream was originally sold to the CDC (Colac Dairying Company), but when Wallis and Inglis at Alvie offered ½ a pence more per pound for butter fat, most left the CDC. Pigs had to be carted on wagonettes and sold at Beeac which was also the nearest railway station for collecting fence posts and other items. Bearing in mind also there were no ready-made roads in South Dreeite in those early days, everything was carted by horse cross-country, around barriers, along the edge of swamps, some families having to pass through up to 15 “MALLEE” gaps (a specific type of gate).

Those settlers of a more determined nature started to prosper when reallocation of vacated blocks increased their holding. The arrival of thistle sprays and myxomatosis in the 1950s meant two of their arch enemies, (thistles and rabbits) were quickly brought under control, and the true potential of the country was realized and stock numbers were increased. Excellent supplies of ground water for stock, pumped by numerous windmills, have always been a good feature of the Dreeite country.

Many strangers to the area have scorned the rock barriers but those who know better will quickly attest to the fact that these provide good shelter for stock in cold windy weather and also dry areas both to feed hay to stock and for the stock to lie down during very wet weather. Provided Dreeite country gets an early break in the weather, that is good rains between St. Patricks Day to ANZAC Day, there is none better in terms of cost and productivity. No artificial fertilisers are necessary.

Despite the horrific conditions of the First World War, many of the soldier settlers maintained a strong faith, as others found new faith with the peace settlement and new family responsibilities. Irregular church services were initially held in the South Dreeite settlement under the care of the Colac, Beeac and Cororooke charges, and in about 1925, the first regular services were conducted by a home missionary - Mr Provan, in the “old” school house on what was known as Abernethy block. Mr Provan was an early member of what was known as the Dreeite Presbyterian Mission. The home missionaries were usually keen young men, but did not stay in any one mission for more than a couple of years, normally, and often a lot shorter period, consequently South Dreeite saw many missionaries come and go.

Some of those who have ministered in the settlement and at St. Andrews (South Dreeite Church) were – John Brownhill, Mr Cartwright, Keith Drew, Mr Harkness Snr, Roy Harkness, John Jamieson, Brem Hastie, Bill Johnston, Mr Lockhart, Mel McMaster, Bill Merriweather, Bill Morgan, Mr Pocklington, Mr Provan, Ron Wallace, Joe Wilson, and George Yule.

In 1927, State School No. 4274 was erected on a site at the juncture of Reads’ Road with South Dreeite Road on land donated by Mr George Simpkin – (prior to this, school was held in a nearby vacant settlement house). Forty-five pupils were registered on the opening day and Mr Tommy Ryan was the first head teacher. With the school opening, the home mission services mentioned earlier were now held in the school and a Sunday School was also well attended.

Rev. Sam Blair from Cororooke was one of the first regular ordained ministers to hold services, and he was accompanied by young organist Mrs Harry Roberts. Pupil numbers peaked in the mid-1930s at about

60 and thereafter declined with the school being moved with others to form Alvie Consolidated in 1952. There were 26 pupils attending Dreeite South when it closed and they either transferred to Alvie or Colac.

In September 1937, a Mr J. H. Wilson was appointed to the Dreeite Mission. By all accounts he was a man of great energy, and with the encouragement of the Dreeite Presbyterian Mission Committee, set about raising funds for the building of a Church at South Dreeite and personally called on over 350 families, some belonging to other Churches in the Dreeite District and outside the District – Alvie, Beeac, Cororooke, Colac, Eurack, Larpent, Nalangil, North Cundare, Pomborneit, Pirron Yallock, Swan Marsh, Warrion, Weering, Warncoort, and other places; certainly a magnificent effort. The result of this endeavour was so successful that within eight months, the foundation stone of the church was laid on 11th May 1938 by Mrs G. McAdam of Colac at a service led by the state moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Karl Foster - a former Minister in Colac.

The church was erected in a few months by J.H. Brown & Sons of Ballarat on land donated by the Ballagh family. The church was designed by Mr Bruce Kemp, architect of Melbourne. Cost was about £630, with incidental expenses raising the amount to around £750, with only £100 outstanding on the day of opening - 24th July 1938 by the Right Rev. Karl Foster. The Colac Herald (in days after) reported that there were an estimated 500 people present through the day at the three services.

The minutes of the Dreeite Presbyterian Mission held on the 24th August 1938 show the Church Committee to comprise Messrs G.A. McAdam, Rev. J.H. Wilson, N. McKenzie, L. Ballagh, L. Bonney, D. Clark, A. Perrett, G. Beckett, C. Newman, L. Parker, W. Jinks, R. Brown, and one apology recorded from the Moderator, Rev. C. Matear of Colac.

Large numbers attended the Sunday School for many years after the opening but as families grew up and left the District the congregation numbers progressively fell away and in March 1981 it was thought that the church should be closed and even sold, however the Minister of the day Rev. J. S. Holden advised that it may be more appropriate to go into recess. This proved sound advice as the church re-opened for resumed services in May 1982, and had good attendances at monthly services. Of special interest was the christening of 11 children on 12th July 1987, surely a record.

With the encouragement of the Rev. Hodgson, Sunday School was reintroduced in 1987, and was held in the tennis shed (opposite the church).

In 1951 the status of St Andrews changed from a Home Mission to one of the Congregation of the Cororooke charge and in 1971 this was merged with St Andrews Colac.

In 1977, St Andrews South Dreeite changed from Presbyterian to Uniting Church as part of Colac St. Andrews Parish. Ministers associated with South Dreeite since 1951 are – G. Peterson Campbell, John C. Holt, Andrew O.M. Boag, John S. Holden, Ron H. Townsend, Eric H. Smith, John Vicars (Pastor), Rex Hunt and Alex Hodgson.

The Dreeite Ladies Guild was re-formed in June 1947 after lapsing during the war years (no previous records are available but it is understood Mrs George Beckett started a guild in the early settlement years). Members of this Guild were Mesdames Scache, Lloyd, McKenzie, Beckett, Clarke, D. Ballagh, L. Ballagh, Graham, Jinks, Jackson, Smith, Carter, Boardman, Bridgeman and Brown. The Guild was very active and raised funds for overseas aid parcels, helping underprivileged people in the major cities by knitting and sewing clothing, and of course providing for Church activities and in particular the upkeep of the Church.

There can be no denying that St Andrews South Dreeite was a small church, but many people have benefited enormously by being part of the Congregation, seeing families growing up around them, moving to new places and continuing to practise their faith, nurtured and developed in this simple little church.

Returning now to other South Dreeite events which are entered here for the sake of record and to rekindle some memories for those..... Medical services to the large number of families in these early years were provided by Bush Nursing Sisters who had to deal with a wide range of injuries, maladies, and of course the arrival of many children. Sister O'Rourke was one of the early sisters in the district and travelled on her rounds by horseback. Later sisters used horse and gig and as cars became more readily available the service was withdrawn.

In 1937 a Soldiers Memorial Hall was transferred from North Cundare to a site diagonally opposite where the church now stands. Mr Lough Ballagh was the driving force to secure the hall which proved a real boon to the large number of farmers and their growing families. It cost £400 with another £109 for transport by Browns' of Ballarat and thanks to the generosity of the community, was free of debt on the night it was

opened. The hall was soon recognised far and wide as having one of the finest dance floors (and suppers) and many learned to dance there with popular numbers such as The Lancers, Palais Glide, Foxtrot, Progressive Barn Dance etc. etc. and Laidlers Orchestra from Corindhap were 'top of the pops'. No doubt many romances flourished!! There were also many farewells to young people leaving for the Second World War and a very happy 'welcome home' when they returned.

Those settlers of the Roman Catholic faith held regular services in the hall until suitable transport was more readily available to journey to the Coragulac Church. In 1986 due to non-use and worsening disrepair, the hall was sold by public tender and much of it has been incorporated into Brian Delahunty's homestead at Alvie. The Second World War Honour Roll was transferred to the RSL Hall in Colac. Names on the Honour Roll are: W. H. Allitt, L. H. Ballagh, L. Bonney, I. Bridgeman (paid the supreme sacrifice), C. Brown (teacher), A. Burridge, D. Graham, B. Hastie, R. Hayes, R. I. Jackson, R. Jinks, B. Lawlor, R. Lawlor, R. Parker, A. L. Perrett, A. H. Roberts, S. Smith, H. D. Taylor. Ladies- D. K. Carter, S. Carter, E. Holland, S. M. Lawlor.

Another notable event was the start of a tennis club in 1939 with Mr Les Perrett the first President and Connie Ballagh (Mrs Williamson) the first Secretary. The club had mixed fortunes over the years with many premierships in the 1970s. With generous assistance from the Colac Shire, a tennis shed was built in 1987.

Family Names of ORIGINAL Settlers in Dreeite Estate, County of Grenville, Shire Of Colac.

Abernethy, Ackerley, Allitt, Amezdroz, Anderson, Ballagh, Beckett, Bell, Benham, Benson, Bentley, Biddle, Boardman, Bothwick, Brown, Burn, Cairns, Carpenter, Carter, Clarke, Colenso, Collyer, Cowley, Dare, Davidson, Douglas, Dowie, Dowlin, Eccles, Fletcher, Graham, Gurr, Hanlon, Harvey, Hill, Hills, Hobbs, Hunter, Jackson, Jinks, Keating, Kester, Lake, Lawlor, Mackrell, Malcolm, Markus, Mewha, Munro, Murnane, McDonald, McInnes, McKay, McLeod, McPadden, Norman, O'Neill, Pugh, Robb, Russell, Scott, Sefton, Shaw, Simpkin, Stevens, Smith, Tait, Taylor, Townsend, Turner, Wallace, Walls, Wilson.



AT LEFT – The former South Dreeite Church as it still stands today. The Brown brick style is also quite distinctive. In previous years the property was sold, and the idea of a live in holiday style package was the idea, but was never finished, and it lay in disrepair in years past. A recent visit does show some hope for its future.

(C. Pink photo)

Parts of this article are reproduced from the publication – *South Dreeite St. Andrew's Golden Jubilee – 24th July 1988.*

A full account of the whole Dreeite Soldier Settlement can be sourced from Society member Dawn Peel's publication - *Dreeite: A Soldier Settlement After World War 1* – (still available from the Society's large range of books for sale).



CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM

LAST ISSUE ANSWER –

AT LEFT - The Union Club Hotel as viewed from the North West side of Gellibrand Street, c. early 1900s.



AT LEFT – While most of us would recognise this later 1960s image of the former Fire Station in Dennis Street, do you know anything of the building at the left ?. Do you know any of its uses over the years ? (both these buildings still stand today).

ANSWER– NEXT ISSUE

COLAC AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY DUTY ROSTER 2017 - 2.00 PM – 4.00 PM - Thankyou

Month	Thursday	Friday	Sunday
June	1 st D. Missen 8 th I. Barlow 15 th G. Splatt 22 nd J. Knight 29 th R. Missen	2 nd C. Pink 9 th G. Bray 16 th E. Chambers 23 rd M. Saddlier 30 th R. Osborne	4 th A. McIntosh 11 th R. Missen 18 th B. McDonald 25 th I. Barlow
July	6 th D. Missen 13 th I. Barlow 20 th G. Splatt 27 th J. Knight	7 th C. Pink 14 th G. Bray 21 st E. Chambers 28 th M. Saddlier	2 nd A. McIntosh 9 th G. Knox 16 th B. McDonald 23 rd G. Knox 30 th L. Spence
August	3 rd D. Missen 10 th I. Barlow 17 th G. Splatt 24 th J. Knight 31 st R. Osborne	4 th C. Pink 11 th G. Bray 18 th E. Chambers 25 th M. Saddlier	6 th A. McIntosh 13 th G. Knox 20 th B. McDonald 27 th G. Knox