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Annual Membership fee: \$20.00 per person - **Renewals Due In May.**

Historical Society Meetings held monthly on 4th Wednesday at 7.30pm,

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

News/Updates/Information - Website: colachistoricalsociety.org.au

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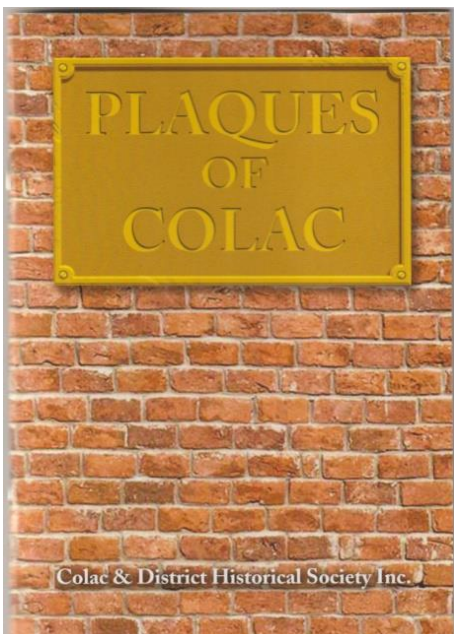
Open Hours for the public at COPACC History Centre - 2.00pm to 4.00pm Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

Working Bees at the History Centre - dates & times advised.

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We thank contributors for this Issue: Ellise Angel, Alan Doyle and Norman Houghton.

A Note from the President –



In these uncertain Covid-19 times, it is difficult to be certain of forthcoming events. We hope it might be possible to hold our September Meeting at the normal time of 7.30pm on Wednesday 23rd September.

However, I am pleased to report that the joint endeavours of Helen Paatsch, Dawn Peel and Richard Francis has enabled the Society to publish a most informative local history '*Plaques of Colac*'. Congratulations to the authors.

Arrangements for its release are currently being developed.

This 44 page book with coloured photographs and historic background to the many plaques on buildings and public sites is a valuable contribution to the written record of Colac's history.

Colac & District Historical Society Inc.

President's Annual Meeting Report 2019-20

12 months have elapsed since our Annual Meeting in May 2019, but I write this report having held our last meeting in February. With the History Centre closed to the public and not knowing when our Annual Meeting can be held.

The coronavirus Covid-19 has placed us in a state of hibernation but much has been achieved in the past year.

We were delighted to have Dr Alison Harcourt as our guest at the Annual Meeting. Daughter of long-serving Colac doctor Keith Doig, Alison was the 2019 Senior Victorian of the Year having had a distinguished career in the field of mathematics.

In a varied meeting program we have had informative presentations by members Helen Paatsch and Gary Richardson, well-known local sporting and business person Don Nicolson, as well as visitors Reg Murray and David

Jellie both with strong Colac Heritage. Cr Jason Schram showed us his collection of Colac memorabilia, while our BBQ meeting in February was hosted by David and Miffy Shelton at their historic Colac home 'The Elms'.

Although thwarted by a Total Fire Ban day in January, we again held a bus tour which was to historic Beeac bluestone homes in early March. This was our last time together before the Coronavirus lockdown.

Highlight of the year was receiving a 50:50 grant from the Colac Otway Shire enabling us to install long overdue climate control in our records and archives room. This coincided with the closing of Colanda and the donation of a large compactus which now houses all the manuscript boxes. A complete re-positioning of the furniture has made the room much more functional.

A second highlight was the publication of 'The Victoria Hall' written by Dawn Peel which was released pre-Christmas and has already necessitated a reprint. Book sales continue to be a much needed source of revenue for the Society.

Digitisation of the 'Johnstone Collection' has continued and special thanks go to Norman Houghton who has put in countless hours indexing the digitised material, thus making it much more accessible and user friendly.

Librarian Helen Paatsch and FHG librarian Robyn Currie are working towards a combined catalogue of the books in each library.

We were able to display the Beech Forest Historical Society Federation Quilt which attracted considerable interest.

The aboriginal artefacts have now been officially photographed and registered by Aboriginal Victoria. Thanks go to Debra Chant for arrangement and interpretation of the Showcase.

We appreciate the photography of the business centre of Colac by members of the Colac Camera Club and I hope this can be done on a regular periodic basis as a record of Colac's changing retail and business landscape.

The quarterly newsletter continues to be a well-produced and informative medium which enables us to keep in touch with members not actively involved with meetings and activities at the History Centre. Thanks go to all contributors and especially Craig Pink who is the driving force behind ensuring there are interesting articles ready on time for publication.

We have hosted school visits from Colac South West and Sacred Heart Primary Schools and a year 12 class from Geelong Christian College, and a visit from a Bendigo Probus Club.

Window displays continue to provide interest to the passing public, many of whom are unaware what goes on inside the History Centre.

Thanks go to the office bearers and members of the executive for their loyal support and to all members who contribute through the opening hours duty roster, record and display donated items, file, catalogue, clean or deal with the constant flow of inquiries, both via the web-site and in-house.

In order to continue to collect, preserve and disseminate our local history it is essential that we actively encourage new people to join and take an active role in the society as we move on from our Coronavirus hibernation.

Robert Missen – June 2020

What has been in the Colac Herald news –

May 1- Memorial playground. A proposed playground at the Memorial Square would feature a poppy-themed fort and play on the theme of remembrance.

May 25- Colac Retailer gets the chop. Colac's Target store in Murray Street will close its doors by mid-2021.

-Schools transition to normal. Some of Colac and district's teachers and students will return to onsite learning as select year levels: Prep to Grade 2, specialist school, VCE, and VCAL students transition to a sense of normality after six weeks of remote schooling. Other classes will return later. VCE exams will start in early November with results available by the end of the year.

May 27- State's labs busy with COVID tests. Victoria's coronavirus testing labs are working around the clock to process thousands of tests.

June 5- Colac Show is cancelled. Coronavirus has forced the cancellation of this year's Colac annual show and is just the second time in more than 150 years.

June 8- Farewell at Cororooke General Store. Leo Embrey clocked on for work at his parent's convenience store in 1963. Now at age 81, he has bid an emotional farewell to the family-owned shop. His parents bought the store in 1956. The new owner is Kerrie Thackeray.

- *National honour for campaigner.* Jacqui Soares' dedication to advocating for the disability sector, especially in Colac and district has gained her an Order of Australia Medal. Jacqui was among a group of parents who established Colac's first early intervention program, and later helped to establish Colac Otway Disability Accommodation in 1978. She also campaigned for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Her disabled daughter Mia has been her motivation.

June 12- Council on the hunt to fill Target's void. Colac Otway Shire Council is encouraging Wesfarmers to consider opening a new Kmart in Colac when Target closes here.

June 17- New roundabout opens to traffic. The State Government has completed a major upgrade of a notorious Birregurra intersection at the corner of Birregurra-Forrest and Colac-Lorne roads, following extensive community campaigning to improve safety at the site, at a cost of \$4.9 million.

June 26- Work starts on 7-Eleven. Construction has started on a new 7-Eleven service station in Colac, which could be completed in early 2021.

- *Hitting the Roof.* Colac's Bluewater pool has suddenly closed, to urgently remove the ceiling after engineers advised the council there was a risk that sections of it could fall. The pool was built in the early 1990s.

July 10- Clinic screens 1400. Colac Area Health's COVID-19 clinic will likely reach 1500 coronavirus tests by the end of the month. It opened in March.

July 20- COVID CLUSTER. At least 6 people have contracted COVID-19 as part of a Colac cluster. The first was a meat inspecting contractor based at Australian Lamb Company Colac. Colac Area Health will have a drive-through testing clinic in Connor Street to allow people to seek tests.

- *Trinity closed for 3 days* because a Year 12 student tested a positive result for COVID-19. Year 12 students will be studying from home for a fortnight while the school has a deep clean. Colac Secondary College had no confirmed cases but had an extra clean over the weekend.

- *Masks a must for major employer.* Visitors to Bulla's Colac sites will have to wear masks to increase staff and community safety in the COVID environment.

July 22- Surge in Cases. Confirmed COVID cases jump from 12 to 27! Colac Otway Shire Council has closed its facilities and many employers have encouraged employees to work from home. 1000 people have been tested. Colac Area Health is operating a drive-through testing site at Colac's Central Reserve, which is open from 9 am till 4.30pm.

July 24- No new COVID rise in Colac. But 29 cases linked to Colac's Australian lamb company since the outbreak a week ago and 26 of them within the shire undergoing 14 days quarantine. There were no new cases at Trinity.

July 27- Push for people to isolate after test. Health authorities say there are 47 active COVID-19 cases in Colac including cases at AKD and SLM Law. Twenty Defence Force personnel in Colac to help with retesting of ALC workers at Central Reserve. Colac has regional Victoria's largest coronavirus outbreak.

July 29- Colac cases hit 55 amid testing blitz. A new testing site was established at Colac's Neighbourhood House. 50 cases are linked to Colac's Australian Lamb Company. People are being recommended to wear face masks. Mayor Jason Schram is pushing for a lockdown. Two students at St Mary's tested positive.

July 31- New restrictions as Colac Otway COVID tally hits 79. Enforced restrictions on home visits are in force in Colac Otway and surrounding shires and face masks to be mandatory.

August 3- Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews has declared a state of Disaster in Victoria. Colac Otway is to be back under Stage 3 restrictions until at least September 13.

August 5- Colac RSL put in administration. Covid-19 has pushed Colac's RSL into administration, with the facility closed until further notice. Veterans can still access welfare services.

- *Meatworks yet to open.* Colac's Australian Lamb Company facility remains closed while the business continues liaising with health authorities about a return to work after a 2 week shutdown period.

- *Stage 3 lockdown restrictions coming into place tonight.* Colac and district students return to remote learning at home.

August 7- Patients hospitalised as shire's case numbers hit 106. Colac Otway now has 106 confirmed cases of COVID-19, up from 101 on Wednesday and 14 people have recovered. DHHS have linked 83 cases to an Australian Lamb Company Colac cluster. There is a small cluster at Beeac.

August 14- Eviction notice for bats. Work to evict bats from the Colac Botanic Gardens would begin today - the new permit was issued by DELWP to Colac Otway Shire Council on Wednesday 12th August.

August 17- Covid cases falling. Colac Otway Covid-19 active cases now fallen to 48, a fall of 41 in a week. Army personnel have left, with local authorities including Colac Area Health to now resume control.

August 21- Colac virus numbers heading towards zero. Colac Otway Shire Covid-19 active cases now at 15. The last positive case was 7 days ago, meaning 82 people had recovered.

Opposing butchers of Gellibrand (Gravesend) Street Colac

82 Gellibrand Street, Colac - GPS reference: 38°20'29.4"S 143°35'13.4"E (approx.)

81 Gellibrand Street, Colac - GPS reference: 38°20'28.7"S 143°35'12.2"E (approx.)

By Alan Doyle – June 2020

In 1887, Josiah Stephens built a butcher shop in Gravesend Street¹ (section 21, allotment 11, Parish of Colac) and began capitalising on the passing custom. The shop was built in the North West corner of the allotment and located midway along Gravesend (Gellibrand) Street, between Bromfield & Rea Streets. It was well positioned to capture business in central Colac, railway station traffic (located 175 metres away (200 yards)) and residential clientele south of the line.

Josiah Stephens' humble beginnings were that of a dairy farmer at Cororooke, leasing 236 acres. Later he was granted a slaughtering licence and became Cororooke's first butcher.

His entry to the Colac butcher business began in late 1886, when he purchased the butcher business from the Gleeson Brothers at the west end of Murray Street (section 23, allotment 7, Parish of Colac). The Gleeson Brothers had previously (in April 1885) bought the business from butcher, Robert Trotter. A year later Josiah Stephens expanded into Gravesend Street, on the eastern side of the street -- a property the Stephens family would hold for 39 years and lease to others, as a butchers.

Josiah Stephens ran this shop for fourteen years and several members of the Stephens' family managed the business during this time. Josiah had at least three managers with James Stephens from about 1890, to be followed by Mrs. Harriet Stephens (wife) in 1893 and Thomas Stephens from 1898.

In July 1894, Josiah Stephens applied to the Colac council for permission to erect a slaughter house close to Deans Creek. The Sanitary Inspector and council approved the land as a suitable site with good drainage (Colac Herald 20th July 1894, page 3).

The Stephens' continued to be successful butchers from the Gravesend Street address and advertised regularly.

Mr. T. Stephens, butcher, slaughtered a huge cow last week, which turned the scales at 820 lbs. The animal was purchased from Mr. Baker, of Larpent. A number of people came to see her weighed, as there were several wagers regarding the weight. (Colac Herald, 29th March 1898, page 2).

Mr. Thos. Stephens, butcher, Gravesend Street, on Friday slaughtered a pure shorthorn heifer, and the carcass was on view at his establishment early on Saturday. It turned the scales at 1000 lbs, which is an exceptional weight. The heifer was raised by Mr D. Moodie, formerly of Larpent, but now of Camperdown (Colac Herald 23rd July 1900, page 2).

In 1901 Thomas Stephens left, and this saw in the new operators of Sanson and Gamble butchers, who were John Sanson and Matthew Gamble. They had been trading in Murray Street, next to the Polwarth Stores. They had made their partnership in June 1900. Both had been granted a slaughtering licence by the Colac Shire Council on the 16th May 1900. Their yards were situated on Mr. J. Collins' farm at Irrewarra.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

In consequence of having a Large Stock of CORN BEEF on hand after Christmas Holidays, I am determined to SELL the Same at 10s per 100, until further notice.

H. STEPHENS,
Butcher,
Gravesend Street, Colac.

Advert. Mrs. Harriet Stephens
Colac Herald, 19th January 1894, page 3

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SANSON & GAMBLE,
GENERAL BUTCHERS,

Desire to intimate that they have Leased the Business lately carried on by

MR THOS. STEPHENS,
GELLIBRAND STREET, COLAC.

They take possession from To-day, March 1, 1901.

The Best Meats always on hand.

SMALL GOODS a specialty.

Change of ownership
to Sanson & Gamble
Colac Herald, 16th August 1901, page 1

They continued showing their quality butchering skills and encouraged the public to view their craftsmanship. *Messrs Sanson and Gamble Butchers, of Colac had on exhibition on Saturday with the carcass of a splendid cow. It possessed splendid quality and weight, and turned the scales at 870 lbs. (Colac Herald, 3rd November 1903, page 3).*

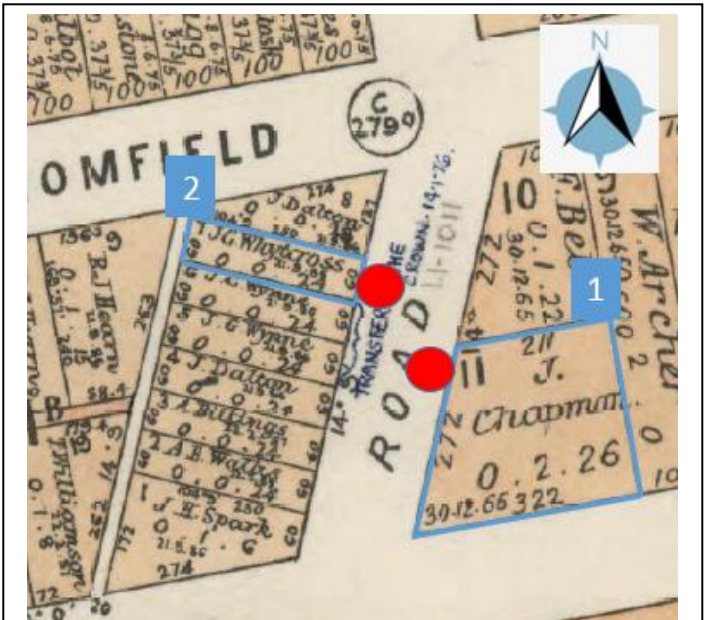
¹ One of the main thoroughfares into Colac from the south was along Gellibrand or Gravesend Street, as it was also known. The use of 'Gravesend Street' appears to have been dropped at around 1900 and the wording of 'Gellibrand Street' would take precedence. This section of road ran from Bromfield Street to the railway line, which at the time had railway crossing gates for south travelling traffic into Colac.

Sanson and Gamble vacated the premises on the eastern side of Gellibrand Street in 1904 and moved into an updated shop, which was directly opposite their old shop on the western side of Gellibrand Street (section 21B, allotment 7, Parish of Colac). The property was leased from John Whytcross. The growing business of Sanson & Gamble, also saw an opportunity to purchase the butcher business of J. E. J. Hills & Co. in Murray Street in 1905.

This move by Sanson and Gamble saw Josiah Stephens come back and start in the butchering business after a hiatus of 14 years. He was in direct competition with Sanson and Gamble, who were now directly across the road, next door to the Orient House. This was a short-lived venture (two months) and saw Josiah Stephens lease the Gellibrand shop to incoming Beech Forest butcher, Clyde McAdam in 1905. Clyde set up George Archibald McAdam in the Colac business and G. A. McAdam butchers became a reliable quality butcher and continued to grow their business. Two years later McAdam purchased the good will of the Western Small Goods Co., next to the Victoria Hall.

Sanson & Gamble's time on the western side of the street lasted about three years, before they sold their butcher business to the Ondit grazier, John James. The purchase also included the other butcher shop located in Murray Street. Ern Thomas managed both shops for John James.

In 1912 George A. McAdam bought the good will of the John James butchering business, in both Gellibrand and Murray Streets. This saw the end of the butcher business and shop on the western side of Gellibrand Street and eliminated the seven years of competition.



Position of the two butcher shops
Gellibrand Street in between Rea & Bromfield Streets.

1. Section 21 allotment 11 (eastern side)
2. Section 21B allotment 7 (western side)

Parish of Colac, town map - SLV



G. A. McAdam butcher – 82 Gellibrand Street, Colac (eastern side).

Courtesy of Selwyn McAdam

G. A. McAdam continued trading from his eastern side shop, still leasing it from the Stephens' family. He eventually vacated the Gellibrand Street shop around 1924/25, as listed in the Colac rates book. This coincided with G. A. McAdam buying the butcher shop in Murray Street (Section 11, allotment 3, Parish of Colac) from the long-established butcher business conducted by Peter McLeod and John Matthews (previous butcher prior, was Arthur

Stephen Lucas, until October 1918). They then began solely trading from the 139 Murray Street address. This saw the close of G. A. McAdam butchers in Gellibrand Street.

Timeline Summary of Butchers – 82 Gellibrand Street, Colac (eastern side):

1887 - Josiah Stephens builds and operates a butcher shop on Eastern side of Gellibrand Street. (Section 21, allotment 11, Parish of Colac).

Managers: James Stephens – 1890
Mrs. Harriet Stephens – 1893
Thomas Stephens – 1898

1901 - Sanson & Gamble lease shop in Gellibrand Street taking over from departing butcher Mr. Thomas Stephens.

1904 - Josiah Stephens begins trading as a butcher from the vacated shop. Sanson & Gamble relocated across the street and leased a new shop in Gellibrand Street. (Section 21B, allotment 7, Parish of Colac).

1905 - G. A McAdam leases shop and property and trades as a butcher.

1925 - G. A. McAdam ceases trading in Gellibrand Street and re-locates and trades at 139 Murray Street.



**Present day image,
82 Gellibrand Street, Colac
(eastern side)**

Author image December 2019

Timeline Summary of Butchers – 81 Gellibrand Street, Colac (western side):

1904 - Sanson & Gamble relocate across the street and lease new shop in Gellibrand Street. (Section 21B, allotment 7, Parish of Colac).

1908 - John James (grazier) takes over shop and continues with E. N. Thomas as manager.

1912 - G. A. McAdam butcher takes over Gellibrand & Murray Streets shops, after buying John James' butcher business.

1912 - G. A. McAdam butcher closes the Gellibrand Street shop as a butcher.



**Present day image,
81 Gellibrand Street, Colac
(western side)**

Author image December 2019

Bibliography:

A Further History of Colac 1830s to 1930s - Isaac Hebb - (CDHS publication) ISBN 978 0 646 58

'Butchers J. E. J. Hills & Co. and others' - Alan Doyle, Sept. 2019 CDHS newsletter, Nov. 2019, Vol. 49 issue No. 4.

Prosperous and Progressive Colac – J. Edward Robertson, 10 March 1911 (CDHS)

'Reminiscences of a Colac Butcher' presentation notes to the CDHS – 25th March 2015 – Selwyn McAdam

E. N. Thomas - Life history notes - May 1935 – Janet Galley

Colac Shire Rate Books – CDHS.

Colac Herald (various articles & advertisements) – NLA Trove.

Acknowledgement and thanks to Craig Pink for his time in researching the CDHS records and accessing contacts for this article. Also, thank you to Selwyn McAdam for his time in sharing his family's butchering knowledge.

'Reminiscences of a Colac Butcher'

By Selwyn McAdam - from presentation notes to the CDHS – 25th March 2015

Clyde McAdam butcher – Beech Forest

Some of Clyde's best customers were the timber mills, and in summer time the major problem was keeping meat fresh until it could be delivered. Clyde would rise about 3:00am, select a beast, slaughter it, hang it in the nearest gum tree to bleed, then break the carcass down, and wrap various cuts in page after page of newspaper. He would then hurry to the nearby station where he would deliver parcels to various rail stops. Cooks of mills would rush it back to their kitchens and by lunch time all meat would be cooked first as a hot meal and then later as a cold meal. At this stage there was no refrigeration.

The Memoirs of William Ower – Original Settler at Beeac

From notes given to Robert Missen from Heather Eurell (Ower Descendant)

Introduction:

The Ower family consisting of Hay Ower, his wife and 3 children arrived in Melbourne from Dundee, Scotland in 1852. The second son William was 13 years old. William's memoir written at the time of World War One gives us an insight into the wheeling and dealing that accompanied the first Selection Act in 1860. Ower's successful search for underground water on their Beeac selection gives a further insight as to why Beeac developed, and was one of the few success stories of the early Selection Acts.

William Ower was instrumental in the early development of Beeac and the following extracts from his memoir give us a first-hand account of his time in Beeac and Colac. He was a member of the Colac Roads Board and succeeded Hugh Murray as the Shire President of the Colac Shire.

AN OPPORTUNITY:

About October 1860 my brothers Robert, James and I attended an election meeting at the Junction Hotel, St Kilda Road, and Mr Archibald Michie (afterwards Sir Archibald) was the principal speaker, and he mentioned that the 'Nicholson Land Act,' the first Liberal Land Act in Victoria was ready for operation. Certain land in the Colac district, land of good quality, was to be first. We decided to go and see it, and got a copy of the Act. After making arrangements for the care of our horses during our absence, we started on our -

JOURNEY TO COLAC:

We went to Geelong by the old Steamer and on the following morning on the road to Winchelsea, stopping the night at Stirling Hotel. Our host, Mr Stirling, was very kind and gave us valuable information about the land we were going to see, and marked our plan for the places most desirable. Our next stage, mostly across open uninhabited plains was to be 'Willis, Western Hotel' about a mile on the Geelong side of Colac where we spent the night. The road we had to take was at a right angle to the road we had come, going north by Calvert's home station. After passing this, the country was all open and was grazed wholly by Calvert's cattle. The land we came to see extended some miles along the track, but only travelled as far as Lake Beeac. We ran many boundary lines with our walking sticks, set up here and there as guides. We saw hundreds of acres that we would be much pleased to have a slice. We spent as much time as we considered safe to allow us to walk across to Winchelsea via Mt Gellibrand, country without a fence or habitation. On nearing Mt Gellibrand, snakes appeared across our track at much to frequent intervals, and we were without our weapon, the walking sticks, obtained earlier from the Barrabool Hills. The grass was high in some parts and we had several narrow escapes. At last we decided to cut straight across until we struck the track of the Colac Road.

BACK TO WINCHELSEA:

During the night it began to rain, and when we were about to start for Geelong it got heavier. Fortunately an empty carrier's covered wagon was passing on the way to Geelong and we were taken on board. It took us about six hours and it rained heavily the whole time. Next morning we were told that the railway bridge at Little River has been so damaged as to stop the running of trains. We returned to Melbourne as we came, by Steamer.

APPLICATION FOR LAND:

Sometime in November 1860, Robert and I returned to Geelong when the time came to make application. Firstly we had to pay into the Treasurer, Geelong, one pound an acre on half of the allotment applied for, the other half to be held under lease at 2/6d per acre. It could be purchased at any future time upon payment of one pound per acre.

Three receipts in duplicate were given, and could be used if occasion arose. This frequently occurred, as will be explained, but very few of the applicants had exact knowledge of the procedure and suffered accordingly.

THE FIRST DAY:

The printed forms filled out by the applicant, were placed in an official envelope together with one of the duplicate receipts as before mentioned. This was taken upstairs, where Mr Skene, the District Surveyor, presided. At the fixed hour no further applications could be taken.

LIMITED AUCTION:

If two or more applicants applied for the same allotment, the names were announced by Mr Skene and their bids were taken in the ordinary way. There was considerable competition for the best land, but it ended in the solicitor acting for a host of names but no visible persons, obtaining all he or they had entered for.

APPLICATION TO PURCHASE:

For the allotment we selected there were 7 applicants being the greatest number for any one lot. I kept in the bidding till 35 shillings per acre, but it went to 40 shillings. As there were lots more land in prospect we thought it unwise to go higher. On comparing the plan of the land with the morning auction, we were then able to see what remained unapplied for. This was to be dealt with the next day.

DUMMYING:

By the plans we discovered that the whole of the allotments from Calvert's homestead for miles along the Ondit Road were all disposed of. Within a year or so they were all in Calvert's Ring Fence.

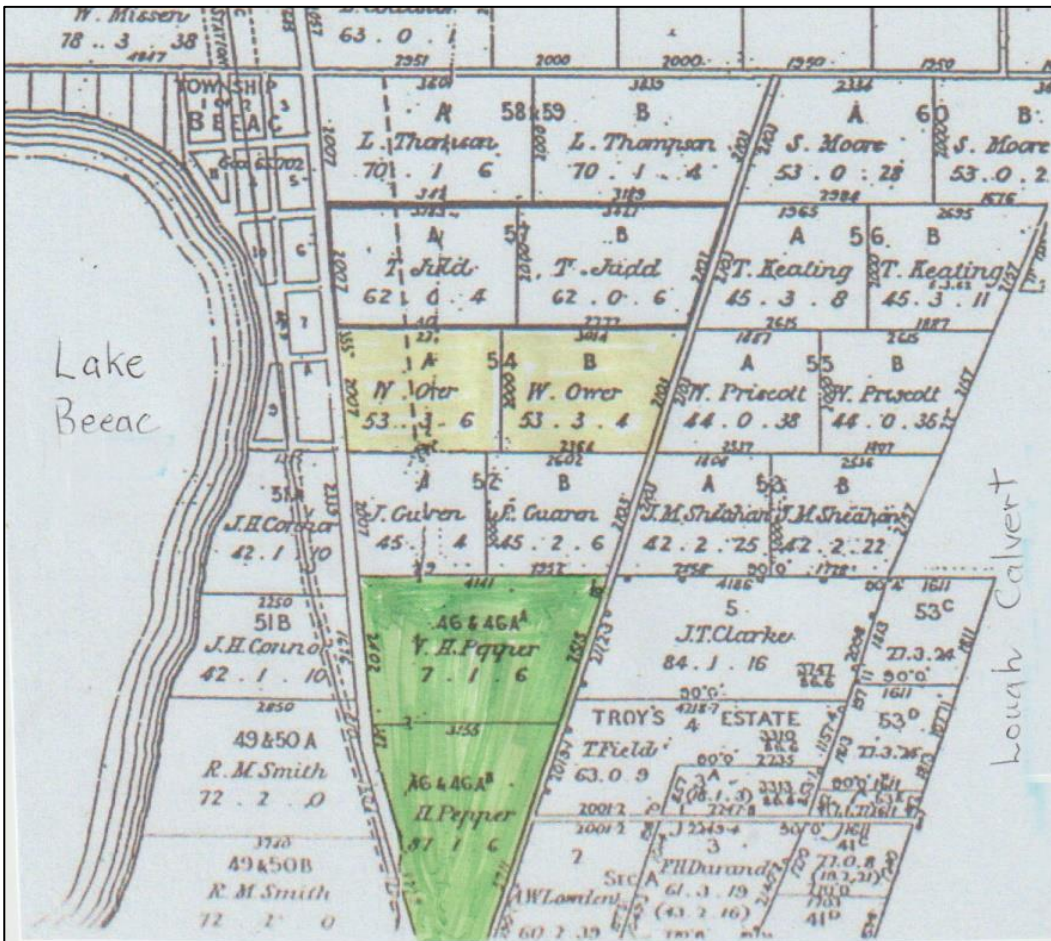
SECOND DAY:

We had seen very little of the land beyond that already taken, but there was one lot we remembered. It consisted of 175 acres and exceeded by 20 or 30 acres the one we first applied for on the first day. This necessitated a further payment to the government Treasurer, Mr George Frederick Belcher, and for this purpose we attended as soon as the office opened. About 20 persons occupied all the space allotted to the public. We had to wait with our applications in our hands till we got duplicate receipts for the excess payments. One gentleman pushed himself somewhat forward and attracted Mr Belcher's notice. He exclaimed "Good morning, Mr Martyr," and holding out his hand received a roll of papers which he attended to at once. In a short time there were mutterings from those who had long preceded Mr Martyr, but no notice was taken. We found out some months later that the 'Watch Hill Station' had got sufficient names to absorb all open to the first applicant on the second day.

JUST A LITTLE LATE:

I was waiting to complete an application for the 175 acres above mentioned by inserting a supplementary receipt, when my brother came up to me saying, "It's no use putting that application in. Somebody has already got it. I heard a man say this to another, who had just come downstairs, and the man addressed tore up his application and threw it on the passage floor. There it is, there is the number." I then filled out another form for 108 acres, this acreage being covered by my first duplicate receipt. Mr Skene, facing the clock, marked the time of receipt thereon. I got the 108 acres. The second envelope after mine was for the same lot. The 175 acre lot got the name of John Henry

Pepper, by his attorney, George Frederick Belcher.



Pictured left:

Ondit Parish Plan showing the original Ower Selection of 108 acres and the 175 acres which was taken prior, but they were able to rent a year or two later.

The front portion of the original selection is now occupied by new town homes on the southern outskirts of Beeac.

To be continued:

Rabbit Matters

By Norman Houghton

Rustless Rabbit Proof Fences. At the height of the rabbit plague in the late nineteenth century a standard means of control was the rabbit proof fence made of wire netting buried into the ground to prevent the rabbits burrowing under. Wire netting was fine on most soils but to the west of Colac in the marshy bogs at Pirron Yallock, Swan Marsh and Carpendeit and to the east at Murroon it rusted quickly and could not be used. The solution adopted in these parts was an all timber fence with slabs or palings sunk into the ground from the post and rail frame. The bigger runs such as Tirrengower and Corangamite whose outer boundaries ran to over 35 kms used enormous quantities of timber. The rabbit proof fence on Corangamite, for instance, consumed 14,080 posts, 28,160 rails and 197,000 slabs.

The timber fences had a useful life of 40 years. One of the more thoughtful fence builders of the day later ruminated in the pages of the Colac Herald that a tree takes 100 years to grow and the wood is used for fencing that lasts less than half that time. He concluded that it does not make sense to do this.

The Rabbit Man. In 1885 the farm labourer who released the first English rabbits from their shipping cages at Winchelsea in the 1850s was tracked down to Ballarat and interviewed by the press. He said that the squatter thought he was doing a splendid thing for the country by introducing the rabbit and he would have almost shot anyone who killed any of the rabbits immediately. The man further stated that releasing the rabbits was a great thing for working people because meat would be two pence a pound dearer but for the rabbits.

TRAMS IN COLAC.

THREE TO BE RUN.

ENTERPRISE OF MR. W. T. RUSSELL.

Arrangements are being made whereby trams will be running in Colac in the near future. No fares will be charged the occupants and the speed of travel will be regulated by the by-laws of the shire. Absolute silence will be observed by all inside and for health's sake fly wire will be fitted to all the windows of the trams. The trams are of a very excellent and comfortable type; in fact they have been in use in Melbourne for very many years and thousands of people have patronised them. Two of them have been drawn from the Carlton run and one from the North Melbourne district, and they are expected to serve the needs of the people of Colac and the surrounding districts in a very satisfactory manner.

The enterprise of running these trams is that of Mr. W. T. Russell, cash butcher, of Murray street. Two of the vehicles have already arrived in Colac, and the third is undergoing renovation at a coachbuilder's in Richmond. Mr Russell will have the trams mounted

AT LEFT/RIGHT –

A very light-hearted look at three obsolete Ex-Melbourne cable trams which were to be refurbished and utilised as travelling butchers carts to serve the needs of Colac, and the surrounding district by Murray Street butcher Mr. W. T. Russell.

From Colac Herald - 20th January 1926.

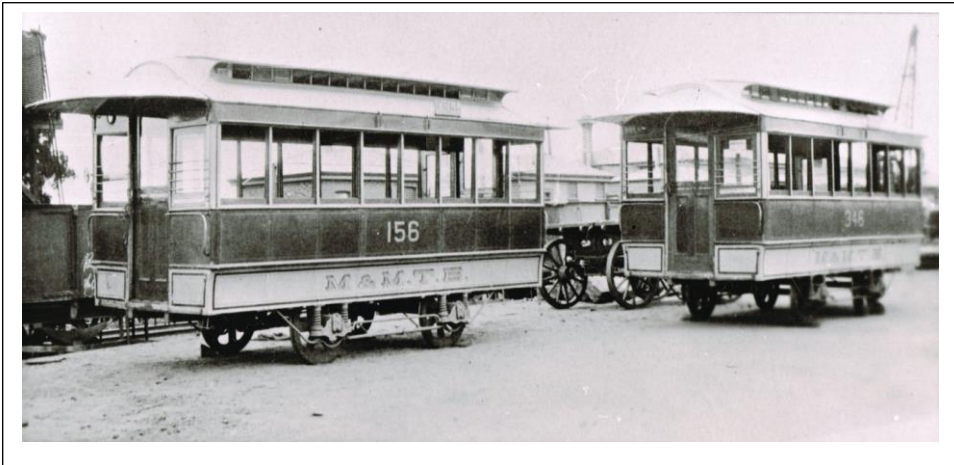
It is unknown whether the butchers carts idea was a success, or how long they lasted in service in the Colac area.

on motor chassis and will place inside them conveniences of an up-to-date character. For instance, no seats will be permitted. Instead, rails and hooks will be placed around the trams, these will serve to accommodate all inside. If the sun shines too ardently on one side then the blinds will be drawn and the windows opened. If it is a dull day then all the windows—protected by fly wire—will be flung open. It is the intention of Mr Russell to run the trams to various parts of the Colac district and in about a week the first should be seen on the streets.

The traffic arrangements are that the trams will start from Colac East and will proceed at a lively pace to whatever part of the district required.

Mr Russell has hit upon this novel means of transporting carcasses from the abattoirs to customers in the district and thus the trams will be used as travelling butcher's shops. Customers will be able to inspect the meat through the windows and there will be no danger from dust or flies. The trams were purchased at £15 each and are expected to serve even better than would a body costing £150. Some slight alterations will be made in the trams but they will be easily recognised although there will be no need to use the signal "Full up inside—Take the next car."

And thus the same vehicles which probably have often carried Prime Ministers, Bishops and millionaires, will carry such lowly fare as sausage meat.



CRAIG'S CONUNDRUM

LAST ISSUE ANSWER –

AT LEFT – See Colac Herald article on previous page from 20th January 1926 about these obsolete cable trams from Melbourne, which were refurbished to deliver around the district as traveling butchers carts for Russell's Butchers of Colac.

Image from Society files – Photo card 033

A TRAM BY THE SEA

**IT HAS ITS MEMORIES
—BUT IT CANNOT TALK !**

(From our Special Correspondent)

On a cliff overlooking the foreshore at the southern end of the beach at Apollo Bay, near the golf house, there stands, enjoying a well-earned rest, a rather quaint contraption which must present something of a mystery to a younger generation.

AT LEFT - While not quite finished with trams just yet, did you know Apollo Bay also had trams - do you remember them ?

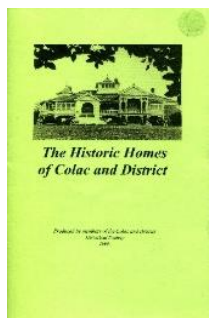
ANSWER NEXT ISSUE

S M L E X O E L A V E L P P I R P
N Q U I G H A N S W E U R A C K T
V H C C L L B K A X T Z R R Y V H
S G A G O V E T B U E S P A U G O
U L T R O O C N R A W D N R A T R
R U L J R H R K A M N K O A E P N
C U S A H O E I O L O K E G L D B
I D W I H I M U M O V K Y N L C A
R B L E T E N E R I O I M I I A N
E L L H R T T A G O N A E R M L K
L A N E H R G I R N M T P O I U N
O E U E A N I O H R A U A O N G Y
O L S Q O K R K E W A R X M O A W
M S L R L O O W L O O W E I O R R
E J A I C D E R R I N O O K K O A
R B Y H H N U N N U R O C E Q C N
N L B A L N A G O W A N R Y Y L G

FIND-A-WORD Historic Homes of Colac and District

by Alan Doyle – 2020

(**BOLD** word only)



Balnagowan	Barongarook House
Bleak House	Coragulac House
Cooriminta	Cororooke House
Corunnun	Derrinook
Elliminook	Eurack House
Glen Alvie	Gnarwyn
Kirrewur	Mamre
Mooleric	Mooringarara
Mount Hesse	Oakbank
Ripplevale	Tarndwarncourt
The Elms	The Hill
Kerangemorrah	Thornbank
Turkeith	Watch Hill
Whitehalls	Wool Wool
Yeo	Yeowarra