

Things Past

Newsletter 53

July 2012

Mount Evelyn History Group Inc

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Dates for your diary

Committee meeting of RSL Hall users Thursday 19 July, 7:30pm Hardy House.

Grants presentation night Monday 23 July, 6pm Mooroolbark Community Centre.

'Camels to Cars', talk by Robyn Taylor, Saturday 28 July, 1.15pm for a 1.30pm start, RSL Hall, Hardy House, 49 Birmingham Road, Mt Evelyn. All welcome.

The 2012 Melbourne Open House program, weekend 28-29 July. You can see the full program at www.openhousemelbourne.org/

History Group AGM and general meeting, Thursday 23 August, 7.30pm Hardy House.

Girls and gladioli

Jean Edwards came across this delightful photo (right) of Major Money's Gladioli Gardens among her collection. Jean provided notes from a conversation with John Adeney when he was living in the east-west section of McKillop Road. John moved to the district in 1933. He worked at Major Money's seasonally at the end of school years and before he went to work in the State Savings Bank.

Major Money's Gladiolus Gardens were a recognised place to come to. He grew passionfruit early on, then gladdies and later other flowers. He would plant up a section, say half an acre. They were grown up the top of his block on the red soil.



Paddocks of gladdies like this one at the Marshall property on McKillop Road were a common sight in Mt Evelyn's flower farming days. Dame Edna would be proud. Photo Jim Marshall.



'Bringing in the sheaves': gladioli-maidens from left, Evelyn Smith, Sheila Leggett, Nancy Benton? Francey Newman, Maureen Leggett, at Major Money's Gladioli Farm, 1930s.

Major Money had been in the Indian army. His enterprise was big compared to what else existed at the time. He took cut flowers to Melbourne himself in a 'panel van' – probably a Dodge or maybe a Chev. He had specially made wooden crates, each fitted in 2-3 layers, which would slide in. He was also in the bulb trade.

He had one of the first rotary tillers (Italian) with spring-loaded tyres. He had a lot of breakages. An old Argent car drove the pump on the creek. He sold out from McKillop Road during the war and went to Frankston.

John Adeney, in conversation with Jean Edwards, 1990s.

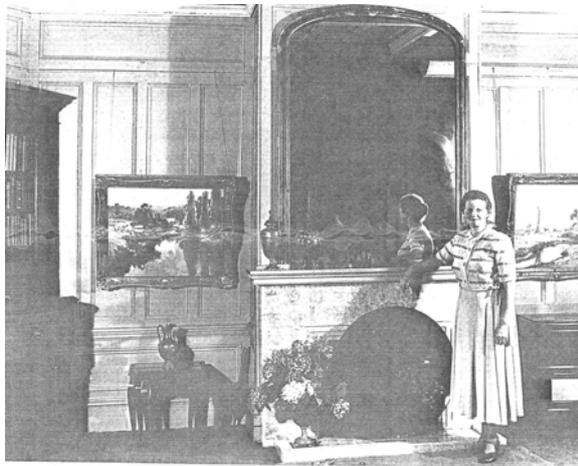
A banker with an eye for beauty

From *Things Past* 52

The legend of Grantully had already spread far and wide when Miss Webster wrote her letters to *The Argus* in 1941. A correspondent from Golden Square (Bendigo) identified Grantully as none other than La Trobe's house, 'Jolimont'.¹ Another Historical Society member replied that 'Jolimont' was still standing at East Melbourne. Miss Webster weighed in with another letter, this time playing down the supposed La Trobe connection.

The photograph ... of the house Gran Tully was taken by me on a visit paid at the request of the owner, who had been trying to trace its history. It was bought by him from the late Mr. Fergus Scott, who transported it to Mt Evelyn from the neighbourhood of the Yarra at Forest Hill [sic] in 1915. It has been identified by the granddaughters of Thomas Elder Boyd, general manager of the Colonial Bank of Australasia, who arrived in Victoria in 1841, and whose home it was. It was then called Rosemont [sic], and was sold about 10 years after his death in 1860.

The house was imported about the same time as Latrobe's Jolimont cottage. The inside panelling of Latrobe's old home bears a certain resemblance to that at Gran Tully, late Rosemont. A further visit (as well as that to Mt. Evelyn) was paid to Jolimont in company with the daughter of the first purchaser of that house. Her memory helped us to decide that the two houses could not be identical even in part. The front part of the house and the verandah are as old as the rest of Gran Tully.² Scottish-born Thomas Elder Boyd (1802-1860) came out to Melbourne in 1841. His was probably the Boyd family who arrived on the



Above, Mrs Florence Buckmaster in the paneled sitting room at Grantully, 1950s. Photo courtesy Buckmaster family.

John Campbell from Liverpool, 20 August 1841. The passenger list included Mr and Mrs Boyd and five children as cabin passengers, with servants in steerage.³ The Boyds were unlikely to have brought the house with them at that time, as the family resided in Queen Street in the early 1840s. Mrs Jessie Boyd died at their Queen Street home in February 1843.⁴



The grave of Thomas and Jessie Boyd was moved from Old Melbourne Cemetery (Queen Victoria Market site) to the Old Pioneers section at Fawkner Cemetery (above). We could not identify their grave. Photo Kevin Phillips.

Boyd was appointed Manager of the Union Bank, Melbourne branch, in 1842 and of the Colonial Bank in 1854. He had squatting interests at Burrumbeep Station (NW of Ballarat) and Morago, NSW. Boyd was a Member of the first Legislative Council of NSW for the District of Port Phillip, but served only four months in 1845.⁵ Other bankers described him admiringly as 'strict and severe'.⁶ His choice of Rosemont for his home proved that the hard-headed financier had an eye for beauty.

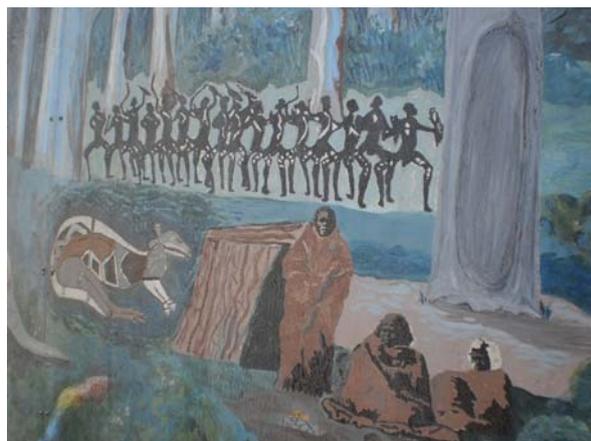
The 'Shipping Intelligence' column of *The Argus* 9 June 1846 reports that Mr Thomas Elder Boyd was then aboard the *Spartan*, bound for London. On 4 May the following year, Boyd married his second wife, Sarah Kennedy Young, in Edinburgh. The couple sailed for Australia on 21 May. *The Argus* of 4 June 1847 reports: 'The vessel chartered by Thomas Elder Boyd, Esq., to sail from Leith for this port, is the *Nelson*. She comes via Adelaide.' *Nelson* arrived in Adelaide on 12 September with 'general cargo and 21 passengers' and reached Melbourne on 22 October.⁷ Perhaps Boyd was bringing not only his new bride but a new house as well. This would agree in part with the traditional story of Grantully. Even if the

History of St Mary's Primary School

Jean Blencowe contributes these notes on St Mary's Primary School and seeks advice on restoring the school's mural.

The mural was a result of our whole school Social Studies in the early nineties. We had a teacher called Pam Bayley who was very involved in Social Justice, Environment and Creative Arts.

The Social Studies/ Environmental unit was based on Our Local Area/ Community and an Aboriginal Perspectives unit, which were key studies at the time.



I think we had the help of an 'artist in residence' who came as part of the unit. The students and teachers researched the history of the area and designed the mural with the artist's help. Then students, teachers, other staff and parents all took part in the painting.



The mural has moved around as the school buildings have grown. It was sealed with a special coating which was not successful, as it turned milky over the years and its bright colours have faded. We really need an expert to have a look at it and suggest a remedy. I would like any suggestions as to what can be done to retrieve its freshness.



The school actually started in the old church building on the Monbulk-Silvan Road, near the York Road roundabout beside the old garage. It opened in 1980 and moved to its present site in 1981. I commenced as the Teacher Librarian in April 1981. Not much has been written down but more should be recorded before we all forget the details.

Jean Blencowe

Scenes from the mural at St Mary's: Aboriginal life, selector's cottage & transporting timber. Photos Paula Herlihy.

Happy Hermits grant

We are over the moon at receiving a Cultural Development Grant from Yarra Ranges Council. The \$3,900 grant will help us to publish *The Happy Hermits* (see *Things Past* 48 & 49). Council generously funded publication of *Aborigines in the Yarra Valley and Northern Dandenongs* last year.

We thank Council for again supporting us. Thanks also to METIC and Lilydale & District Historical Society for your great letters of support. And of course there's nobody like Paula for writing grant submissions!

Council heritage database online

The Yarra Ranges Heritage Database is now fully searchable online!

http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Planning/Heritage_Database

From this link, click the 'heritage database' link on the right hand side to get to the searchable database.

I am very grateful to the Strategic Planning team at Council for making this happen. It is a great start to having Council's heritage-related resources accessible to the public.

Megan Sheehy, Yarra Ranges Council

From p.2

house did not come from Scotland, its owners did, and possibly the ship that brought it.

Rosemount stood at Lot 7, The Terrace, Forrest Hill, on the east side of Chapel Street between Gardner's Creek Road (Toorak Road) and the Yarra. The land had formerly belonged to George Augustus Robinson, Protector of Aborigines.⁸ Mrs Sarah Boyd would not have lived there for long, as she died in Edinburgh in March 1853. Boyd may have made another trip home to Scotland with his wife.⁹

The early rate books show that Thomas Elder Boyd owned an eight-roomed wooden house with outbuildings in the Yarra Bank area of South Yarra by 1856.¹⁰ He died there in 1860 and his family put the house, with ¾ acre of land, on the market in December 1864. The auction notice is our earliest mention of the name 'Rose-Mount'.

*This excellent house was constructed and perfected in England to order, and imported into Melbourne at a cost of £1400. ... The roof is slated and the ceiling tessellated, rendering it secure and warm in winter, and impervious to the influence of the heat in summer. It has a noble verandah, hall, passage, and cross passages dividing the front rooms from those at the back. The suite of apartments comprise drawingroom and diningroom, with fine broad bow-windows introduced respectively at each end, lined with strong shutters. [There are] three fine family bedrooms, each about 16 x 12, bathroom, lady's pantry and storeroom.*¹¹

The mention of the origin and cost of Rosemount supports the theory that the Boyd family imported it. Among the outbuildings was 'a very good iron house 30 x 12'.

Rosemount was still listed for sale in July 1865, but apparently failed to sell. Thomas Boyd's youngest son, Douglas Kennedy Boyd, died there in October 1871, aged 22.¹² According to Miss Webster's letter, the family would have sold the house shortly afterwards.

Notes

Karen Phillips

¹ *The Argus*, 26 April 1941, p.13s.

² *The Argus*, Saturday 17 May 1941, p.13s. See Rosemount photo in *Things Past* 52, p.2.

³ 'Came to Port Phillip by 1849', <http://ship47.site88.net/b/b23.html> Another Boyd family arrived on the *Alemana* from Leith, 17 October 1841.

⁴ *Port Phillip Herald*, 28 February 1843, <http://ship47.site88.net/b/b23.html>.

⁵ Parliament of NSW website. *The Morning Chronicle*, Sydney, 24/1/1846, gives an ironic account of Boyd's resignation as MP.

⁶ Michael Cannon 1993, *Melbourne after the Gold Rush*, Loch Haven Books, Main Ridge, p.235.

⁷ *South Australian Register* 15/9/1847, p.2; *Morning Chronicle*, Sydney, 28/10/1847, p.2.

⁸ Prahran historian Betty Malone states that G.A. Robinson built Rosemount and rented it out, but does not specify if he imported the house and does not cite a source (*Discovering Prahran No.3*, Prahran Historical & Arts Society, p.7). One of the children in E.M. Robb's Rosemount photo appears to be Aboriginal, though the photo probably dates from well after Robinson's time.

⁹ T.E. Boyd's death certificate (10853, 1860) has '5 years in colony', though he first migrated 19 years earlier. I have not been able to confirm a second voyage home from passenger lists.

¹⁰ Prahran Rate Books 1856, no. 141.

¹¹ *The Argus*, 12 December 1864, p.2.

¹² *The Argus*, 6 November 1871, p.4.

Next month: Rosemount becomes Grantully.

Library's quarter century

Mt Evelyn Library celebrated its 25th birthday on Friday 15 June. Paula Herlihy gave a presentation on the history of the Library/ Station House building. Mt Evelyn Primary School students then gave a spirited performance of several songs including 'READ!'



Paula speaks on the history of the Library/ Station House, above. Photo Greg Carrick.

From Kev's rain gauge

Rainfall for June 2012 for Mt Evelyn, McKillop, Melbourne and the Melbourne average.*

Mt Ev	McK	Melb	Melb Av
94.5mm	119.5mm	70.2mm	49.0mm

* McKillop readings courtesy Jean Edwards. Melbourne figures from Bureau of Meteorology website. **Kevin Phillips**

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