

Elements

OF WESTGARTHTOWN



Fire

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FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to our October newsletter

Fundamental to human existence, fire pervaded all aspects of life at Westgarthtown.

John Borrack explores the element's significance, uses and romance on page 4.

Also in this newsletter, Elizabeth Kelly writes about her former neighbour Lorna Lovewell who owned Graff's Farmhouse from 1946 to 1984.

Several new streets in Wollert have recently been named after early German settlers — Gunther Way, Ludeman Drive, Unmack Road and Yann Drive. This time round we tell the story of the Ludeman family.

Much has been happening at Ziebell's Farmhouse where we are working to finalise our museum

accreditation. In November, the Friends of Westgarthtown will present *Curios from yesteryear* there and Descendants' Day will be held in March next year.

We hope you enjoy our newsletter.



Photo Rob Wuchatsch

On thinking of fires

BY JOHN BORRACK

At Westgarthtown during the halcyon days of farming there was no electricity or gas.



"Three loggers in a row." drawn by Allan T. Bernaldo.

As from the earliest of times, fire was utterly necessary for existence and embraced by the inhabitants for its warmth, as a means of cooking, its light through the use of candles, oil or kerosene lamps and the firelight itself.

A room with a cheery hearth or merry blaze is a benefaction to any home. For lonely souls it can be something of a silent personality by providing them with a welcoming friendly presence not able to be obtained with the same satisfaction, from a gas or electrical heater.

A trace of this romanticism and the social bounties of fire can be ascertained in James Hebblewaithe's poem *Wanderers*:

I saw upon a grassy slope
A campfire turning bright
With tent behind and blaze before
Three loggers in a row
Sang altogether joyously—
Pull up the stakes and go.

At Westgarthtown the farmers had a great respect for fires and as far as I can gather there have been no serious tragedies caused

by them in the history of that community.

At Ziebell's there were varied types of fires: — kitchen stoves, an open hearth fire, the smokehouse fire, fires in the farm dairy for the heating of water to wash milk cans or vessels and separating machines.

My grandfather's coal fire for the forging of implements or the shoeing of horses, replete with a gigantic set of bellows, was truly a novelty to younger children.

The use of fire in candles and lamps have already been mentioned. The bonfire and fireworks to

celebrate historical occasions were always greeted with enthusiasm by children in particular.

There is a little bit of art in the setting of a good fire, something I learnt from my grandparents and parents, but basically it is a matter of common sense; — provision must be made for the circulation of oxygen and different sizes of wood.

I myself was born on Guy Fawkes day. I have always been fascinated by the element of fire. I hope I have been conscious of the necessity for man to always ensure that he must be the master of fire.

Lorna Lovewell

1903 – 1988

Lorna Morrison (later Lovewell) purchased Graff's Farmhouse and 15 acres at Thomastown in 1943. It was Lorna who installed the dormer windows in the attic during the 1950s to enable better use of the upstairs space. In her very interesting article below, **Elizabeth Kelly**, a former neighbour from 1954-62, writes about Lorna's life.

John Graff died in June 1901, aged 58, leaving an estate of almost £5000. The entire estate was left in trust for his widow and grandchildren. Legal issues concerning the trust meant John's estate wasn't distributed until 1944 after the executors — John

Siebel and Albert Wuchatsch — advertised for auction and sold in 1943 — a valuable little 15 acre farm at Thomastown with a six room bluestone dwelling and assorted outbuildings, all served by a permanent creek. It was at this point Lorna Morrison became the lucky owner of Graff's Farmhouse.



Courtesy E. Kelly

My family first encountered Lorna Morrison one day in the 1950s when she stormed across the paddocks from Graff's Farmhouse to our farm in Spring Street to have a row with my father, Matt Kelly. It seems the bull running with Dad's dairy herd broke through a fence and sauntered onto her property and she wasn't happy about it. My father was one of several Thomastown residents to experience the pointy end of Lorna's temper.

Lorna's ancestry was all Scottish. Her paternal great grandfather, Henry Morrison, married Ann Morrison at Geelong in 1844. A son, Robert, married Mary McCole at Sale in Gippsland in 1870 and their son, Walter Morrison, married Agnes Dan in 1900 at Upper Maffra.

Lorna, born at her parents Walter and Agnes Morrison's dairy farm at Newry in 1903, presumably attended Newry Primary School. Her father was Chairman of the School Committee as well as the Mechanics' Institute. Her parents left Newry for Melbourne in 1929 and Lorna probably went with them.

The Delicatessen

LORNA started her working life as a bookkeeper. Early on she exhibited her lifelong independence because by 1936 she appears in the records as a shop keeper at 40 Bourke Street

Melbourne. Family lore has it that the shop was a delicatessen, possibly the Chanticleer Delicatessen which is listed at the Bourke Street address in the 1930s. Lorna managed the shop for about 10 years until she moved permanently to Thomastown. It must have been challenging for a single woman to manage a business in the centre of Melbourne, especially for someone like Lorna who had a protected rural upbringing in a close-knit Scots dairying community in a part of Gippsland which would have been considered remote and isolated at the time.

Jack Lovewell

WHO knows how Lorna Morrison met Jack Lovewell. Jack worked for over 30 years at Victoria's Parliament House as Private Secretary to several Premiers and Leaders of the Opposition. Perhaps each lunch time he headed down the Parliamentary steps and wandered along Bourke Street until he got to Lorna's delicatessen at number 40, where he bought himself a sandwich. They must have courted for several years.

At 9.15am on Wednesday 27 July 1955, Tattersalls published the results of their £10,000 draw. J Lovewell of 21 Victoria Street, Melbourne came 6th, winning £500. Two days later, on Friday 29 July,

the said J Lovewell married Lorna Morrison at the Presbyterian Manse South Melbourne.

Thomastown

THOMASTOWN residents always knew her as 'Miss Morrison' even after she became Mrs Lovewell. Each day, Jack took off to work across the paddocks towards Thomastown Station while Lorna worked her small farm tending the cows, sheep, chooks and ducks. It can't have been easy for her before she married, running a small farm alone on the outskirts of suburbia.

Lorna ran a few sheep on the State Electricity Commission paddocks located west of the Edgars Creek. One night a pack of dogs got amongst the sheep, killing several, including a ewe with a young lamb. Lorna rescued the lamb and gave it to our family to care for. We named him Bimbo. We children had fun playing with Bimbo until he became big, boisterous and dangerous. My mother's uncle, Joe Salmon had a butcher shop in Reservoir. One year, just before Easter, Uncle Joe came to visit. Bimbo disappeared. That Easter Sunday we had delicious roast lamb and mint sauce.

Lorna's house was always a mess. The front garden of Graff's Farmhouse was so overgrown it couldn't be seen apart from a small

path leading to the front door. Of course, we children loved the dense jungle — great for hiding in. She always had such interesting clutter lying around. Inside the house was also messy and chaotic, but Lorna and Jack had such fascinating stuff, especially for children who liked to 'sticky beak'. Nowhere among Lorna's possessions would you find *'Mrs Beeton's Book of Household Management'*.

The Scots are known to be very careful with their money. Lorna became a wealthy woman by buying and selling many properties, nonetheless she frequently purchased clothes and goods in charity shops. She was an astute investor who didn't squander money.

Thomastown residents with long memories recall a confrontational Miss Morrison, fiercely protective of her little farm. Perhaps she was channelling her Scots ancestors who were run off their farms in the highland clearances. Putting aside Lorna's crankiness with neighbours, messiness, and penchant for charity shop gear, she was intelligent, lively and well read. She was loyal to family and friends. She financially supported several elderly cousins who were otherwise without means.

Eventually Lorna sold off the paddocks fronting Mt View Road for subdivision. In her own way she acknowledged Thomastown's original settlers naming streets

German Court and Pioneer Court. By the mid 1960s she and Jack were getting old and maintaining an old bluestone house, outbuildings and surrounds became too much for her. She and Jack moved closer in to Melbourne and she leased Graff's Farmhouse to a young family until she finally sold it to Bruce Edwards in October 1984.

The Circle

LORNA'S great-grandfather, Duncan McCole, upon arriving in Victoria from Scotland in 1852, headed straight to Bushy Park, the settlement based around Angus McMillan's extensive Bushy Park pastoral run, north of Sale. McCole's wife, Annie McDonald came from the Isle of Skye, as did Angus McMillan, so perhaps they knew each other in the old country. Between 1840 and 1850, Angus McMillan, the future MP, and a group of about 20 fellow Scots, known as 'The Highland Brigade' engaged in a series of raids against Gippsland's indigenous Kurnai people, the worst raid occurring in July 1843 at Warrigal Creek, near Woodside where between 80 and 200 Kurnai were shot dead. In 1840 there were about 2000 Kurnai. By 1857 there were 96.

Although McCole arrived after these raids, he belonged to the



Lorna in December 1986.
Courtesy B. Height.

Gippsland Scots community of which McMillan and the Brigade members were leaders. He would have known all about the massacres. For 100 years the descendants of Gippsland's Scots 'Highland Brigade' remained silent about the raids and honoured Angus McMillan as the great explorer who 'discovered' Gippsland. Wealthy graziers like Duncan McCole, the eventual owner of half a dozen extensive pastoral runs, were economic beneficiaries of the Aboriginal clearances.

Did Lorna know any of this? Lorna Morrison Lovewell died in December 1988. She left an estate valued at over \$1 million, the great bulk of which was left to the Aboriginal Advancement League of Victoria.

The Ludeman family & Harvest Home Hotel

The Ludeman family were early German settlers at Wollert where a new street has been named after them.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Heinrich and Hermine (née von Oven) Ludeman and four children – Heinrich Alexander (Henry Jr.), Julius, Johann Georg (John) and Maria (Mary) - arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg aboard the *Java* on 25 August 1854. Heinrich (Henry Sr.) Friedrich Ludeman, born at Hamburg in 1814, had married Hermine Susanna Wilhelmina von Oven at Bremerhaven in October 1845.

Henry Ludeman Sr. was sent to Australia by a German firm with a miscellaneous stock of merchandise for sale. Finding the

market overstocked he shipped the consignment to the East Indies and took up farming on the Plenty River at Janefield. Three more children – Charles Benjamin, Susanna Adelaide Henrietta and Eleanor Margaret - were born before the family moved to Wollert in the early 1860s. In 1861 Henry Ludeman Jr., then aged 15, fell under a dray he was driving and spent five months in the Melbourne Hospital with a badly injured knee. While at Janefield, the Ludeman family attended the Springfield Presbyterian Church, built in 1861.

In 1864, Henry Ludeman Sr. leased George Houston's 316 acre farm in Lehman's Road, Wollert and held that farm, known as Hartfield, for about ten years. Today this farm is named Pine Grove and owned by the Schultz family.

On 23 October 1868, Henry Ludeman Jr. purchased ten acres of land on the north-west corner of today's High Street and Harvest Home Road at Wollert from John Maher for £300. The land was paid for by Hermine and bought in trust for her and following her death the children. Shortly after, on 2 January 1869, a 'Henry Ludeman' applied for a publican's licence for a newly built bluestone hotel on this land. Epping Roads Board rate books confirm the hotel's owner as Henry Ludeman Jr., but the licensee was Henry Ludeman Sr.

The Ludeman's named their newly built inn the Harvest Home Hotel. Why they chose this name is

not known. In 1858, an adjoining 158 acre farm had been advertised in *The Age* as 'situated near the Harvest Home' but there was no hotel there by that name then. Another inn — the Travellers Home Hotel — located a little further south — had operated from 1854-66 so it is possible the real estate agents who placed the 1858 advertisement confused the names. Harvest Home is an ancient Anglo-Celtic tradition in which the last load of the harvest was brought into the village amid singing and celebration. Perhaps Harvest Homes had previously been held on the site?

The Shire of Darebin's 1874 rate book records Henry Ludeman Sr. as running the hotel with his son Henry Ludeman Jr. operating a blacksmith shop nearby.

In 1882 Henry Ludeman Sr. and Hermine moved to 320 acres he had selected at Waggarandall near Dookie in northern Victoria, where

their sons Henry Jr. (m. Paulina Koch 1871), Julius, and Charles (m. Agnes Tracy 1888 and Margaret Murphy 1905) had settled. Their other children John (m. Helen Jones 1878 and Emily Barley 1881), Mary (m. John Kelly 1869 and Thomas Griffin 1880) and Eleanor (m. Charles Morgan 1883) all remained in the Melbourne area.

Julius Ludeman had been admitted to the Melbourne Hospital with a broken leg in January 1879. He had 'climbed a tree at Epping for the purpose of looking at some sports — he slipped from the tree and fell to the ground a distance of about twenty feet'. When Julius died in 1909, he was buried in the Epping Cemetery, right beside the sports ground where he had almost lost his life 30 years before. His sister Susanna, who died of scarlet fever in 1866, aged 7, is also buried there.

As Henry Ludeman Sr. became progressively incapacitated by arthritis Hermine took over management of the farm at Waggarandall. Henry Sr. died there on 11 December 1893 and Hermine on 25 July 1906. Both are buried at Devenish.

After the Ludeman's left Wollert, the Harvest Home Hotel was run by a succession of licensees — David Anderson (1882-85); Herman Felder (1885-87); John Bauld and Duncan McKenzie (1887-89); William Berry (1889-90); Emil Schwartz (1890-95);

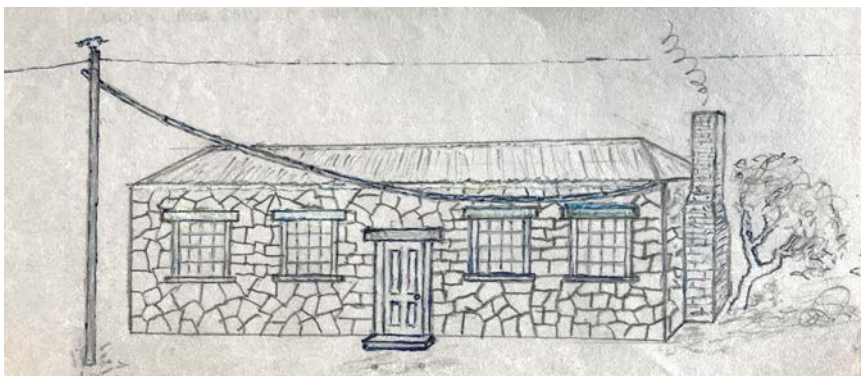


Julius Ludeman's headstone at Epping Cemetery. Photo Rob Wuchatsch.

Rosanna Riordan (1896-); Annie Burley (1897-); William Cross (-1903); Thomas Brown (1904-); and James and Margaret O'Connor (-1909).

The Harvest Home Hotel was delicensed in 1909 by the Licences Reduction Board and compensation paid to owner Mary Griffin (née Ludeman) and licensee Margaret O'Connor. In 1911, Mary Griffin sold the property to Margaret Houston and the former hotel operated as a store for a while, before later being demolished. The Cotchin family purchased the land in 1937.

Harvest Home Road west of High Street was originally known as Rockfield Road but the name was changed in recent times to match Harvest Home Road to the east of High Street. A new road nearby has now been named Rockfield Street.



Sketch of Harvest Home Hotel at Wollert by Ern Schultz (1985).



Falsely Accused: Westgarthtown Germans during WW1

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

After our film *Westgarthtown & WW1* received a commendation in the Victorian Community History Awards, the Royal Historical Society of Victoria requested an article for the July 2017 edition of their journal *History News*. Both the article (reproduced with permission below) and our film are based on Robert Wuchatsch's definitive research paper *Gumleaf Germans* which was recently published on our website at www.westgarthtown.org.au/ww1

Albert Wuchatsch.
Courtesy Rob Wuchatsch.

Westgarthtown, now part of the Melbourne suburbs of

Thomastown and Lalor, was established in March 1850 by Germans from Mecklenburg, Saxony and Silesia. By 1854, its population had grown to over 160, made up of families building bluestone farmhouses, barns, stables and walls on their land, some of which still survive. The name 'Westgarthtown' honoured William Westgarth, the prominent Melbourne merchant, politician and historian, who was interested in creating viticulture in Port Phillip. Westgarth recruited these immigrants in the hope they would be vinedressers and helped them purchase the 640 acre block upon which they settled.

When World War 1 began, Westgarthtown residents resembled their neighbours of British descent in occupations and aspirations. The majority were dairy farmers, like most of the Shire of Epping's residents, and the use of German had effectively ceased with the deaths of the original settlers.

Westgarthtown's children all attended Thomastown State School and many attended Sunday school at Thomastown's Methodist Church. As proof of their loyalty to Australia,



Friedrich Ewert c.1983. Courtesy Jennie Thomson.

many young men connected to Westgarthtown enlisted.

At least 71 soldiers with Westgarthtown ancestry—those born at Westgarthtown or with parents, grandparents or great grandparents who were born, lived or worshipped there—enlisted in the AIF or New Zealand Expeditionary Forces during World War 1. The death rate of the 65 soldiers with Westgarthtown ancestry who served



George Wuchatsch. Courtesy Rob Wuchatsch.

overseas was 29 per cent. This rate far exceeded the overall Australian rate of AIF deaths to embarkations of 18 per cent. Fourteen were killed in action, four died of wounds and one died after being invalided back to Australia. A further 30 per cent of Westgarthtown's surviving soldiers were wounded in action, some several times, and many were hospitalized with illness. Several soldiers won bravery awards and

one was taken prisoner of war.

The first Westgarthtown related soldier to die was Ewen Ewert, 12th Battalion, killed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. The details of Ewen's death were never determined and his father John, born at Westgarthtown, was still seeking details from the Australian Army in 1921.

Three more Ewert descendants were killed in action fighting for Australia, including two 51st Battalion brothers named Jones, who died at Mouquet Farm on the same day in 1916, probably killed by the same shell. When he heard the news, their 81-year old German-born grandfather Friedrich Ewert, who arrived in 1858, is said to have exclaimed: 'All mein friends are killing all mein relatives'.

Instead of gaining commendation for their contribution to the war effort, the Westgarthtown community

suffered shameful aspersions. As early as February 1915, an anonymous complainant accused the Siebel family of Thomastown of disloyalty, and also stated: 'There is a town of Germans called Germantown who are all very pro-German and require attention. There are miles of open channels of water leading to the Preston reservoir that may be poisoned by

these people’.

In 1914 the Broadmeadows Army Camp was established near Westgarthtown. Over the road was the farm of Bill Zimmer, a grandson of Westgarthtown settlers. Bill carted milk to the camp, removed nightsoil, loaned farm equipment and made land available, but his motives were continually questioned. ‘True Australian’ wrote: ‘The man who has the contract for the camp, Zimmer, has done well out of it since the war started. When the Government would give the contract to him it is a case of nourishing the enemy’.

Bill had eight Zimmer relatives who enlisted, including Bob Horwood, a signaller killed at Pozières in 1916 when a shell hit his dugout. Bob’s brother, Edwin, was wounded and died in 1917 after returning to Australia. Two other Horwood brothers also served overseas. In 1916, Cr Albert Wuchatsch of the Shire of Whittlesea was accused of disloyalty, despite having three Wuchatsch cousins fighting for Australia and a younger brother about to enlist. When he stood to speak at a public meeting, his accuser shouted ‘Sit down Germany. John Bull is master here, not the Kaiser’. Fellow councillors defended Albert, but he subsequently lost his Council seat.

One of Albert’s cousins, George Wuchatsch, a member of the 9th

Light Horse since 1914, was later awarded a Military Medal and was Mentioned in Dispatches for bravery in the Middle East. He committed suicide in 1920, the result of post-traumatic stress disorder. There were many other cases of persecution of Westgarthtown residents or descendants, as occurred elsewhere in Australia. While six members of the Ziebell family were serving overseas, five of whom were wounded, several of their relatives in Australia were falsely accused of disloyalty.

While all Australians anguished over the welfare of their loved ones fighting and dying with the AIF overseas, many German-Australians also had to endure totally undeserved persecution at home and this was especially apparent at Westgarthtown. No wonder people such as my father, Norman Wuchatsch, who was only twelve at the outbreak of war, never forgot or forgave the injustice of it all.

In 1919, when Ray Wuchatsch returned from the war, he and other soldiers were given a welcome home. One soldier responded on their behalf. He stated that some parcels received from Australia contained gum leaves, which would be put in a heap, then burned, to remind them of home. Home for them, including Ray and other German-Australians, was where the gum trees grew, not the lindens.

Rob Wuchatsch’s latest book

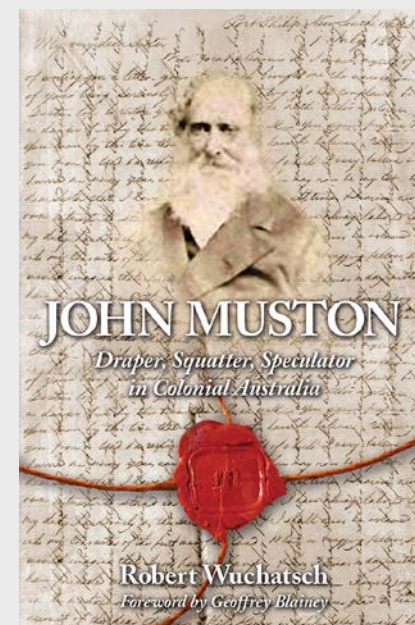
Rob Wuchatsch’s latest book *John Muston: Draper, Squatter, Speculator in Colonial Australia* was published in July 2017.

Rob dedicated the book to his late wife, Gaye Wuchatsch, who was John Muston’s great-great-great-granddaughter. Gaye was caretaker at Ziebell’s Farmhouse from 2001-03 and a former membership officer for the Friends of Westgarthtown.

The book is based on a collection of letters John Muston wrote from 1829-42. During his working life he was a grocer in Derby; draper in Hobart Town; squatter on the Barwon River and Muston’s Creek at Port Phillip; and a merchant, accountant and speculator in Sydney. Historian Geoffrey Blainey wrote the Foreword and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria has described the book as ‘well-written, well-researched, illustrated and placed in solid context.’

The book costs \$35 plus \$15 postage. For further details see www.stonyrisesrun.com.au


Rob hopes to complete and publish his next book, a history of the Wuchatsch family in Germany and Australia, in late 2018.




Curios from yesteryear

Exploring the past through historical items is the theme of our 2017 contribution to the City of Whittlesea's Cultural Heritage Program.

BY GILLIAN BORRACK



Our event will be held on Sunday 19 November 2017 from 12 noon to 4 pm at Ziebell's Farmhouse with parking provided on the Westgarthtown Reserve entering from German Lane. The event is free and all are welcome.



The museum at Ziebell's Farmhouse houses many heritage farm tools and domestic utensils you will be unaccustomed to seeing today. A selection of these will be presented by our guides who will

explain their use and operation to visitors.

What is a butter pat? How does a meat safe work? From moulis to bale hooks: explore an enchanting world of old-fashioned tools, demystified by our volunteers.

Wander through the historic farmhouse, outbuildings and gardens. Sample scones baked in the farmhouse's original wood-fired oven, or enjoy a Bratwurst from the sausage sizzle. Free tea and coffee will also be served.

Lalor Conversations Mural

In 2015, the City of Whittlesea installed a four-panel mural in the Peter Lalor Walkway, at Lalor's Station Street Shopping Centre.



BY ROB WUCHATSCH

The panels, by Collingwood-based artist Bern Emmerichs, were funded as part of the Victorian Government's Community Crime Prevention Program and the City of Whittlesea in partnership with the Lalor Traders Association. They feature details of Lalor's history from the first people of the Wurundjeri Willum Clan to the culturally diverse suburb it is today.

One of the very attractive ceramic tiled panels celebrates Westgarthtown. It includes the names of Westgarthtown's original settlers, along with the names and images of the ships they arrived on, the Lutheran church and school, farmhouses, barns, milking sheds and farm scenes.

Unfortunately, the date of arrival of the *Pribislaw*, the ship on which over half Westgarthtown's Germans and Wends arrived in Australia, has been incorrectly recorded on the mural. The *Pribislaw* arrived in Melbourne on 2 February 1850, but the date given on the mural is July 1851, seventeen months later.

The Westgarthtown panel, one of four that make up the Lalor Conversations Mural in Peter Lalor Walkway. Photo Rob Wuchatsch.



Dirk Weissleder's visit to Westgarthtown

The Chairman of the German Federation of Genealogists recently visited Westgarthtown as part of a worldwide visit.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Dirk Weissleder, Chairman of the German Federation of Genealogists and co-founder of both the International German Genealogy Partnership and German-Australian Genealogy & History Alliance was accompanied during his visit by Eric and Rosemary Kopittke, well known Queensland genealogists

specializing in German migration to Australia. They were members of a roadshow for National Family History Month which visited Melbourne in August 2017 to speak at an Unlock the Past seminar on German research. To enable them to better understand nineteenth century German migration and settlement here Rob Wuchatsch

arranged visits to Westgarthtown and Doncaster.

On Thursday 17 August, Rob met Dirk, Eric and Rosemary at Melbourne Airport, then drove them past Westgarthtown's various old bluestone farmhouses and took them on a tour of the Westgarthtown church and cemetery reserve. After lunch at Ziebell's Farmhouse, kindly provided by Doretta Belot, John Fry escorted them through the farmhouse, outbuildings and garden.

Dirk was particularly interested in the *Pribislaw* and its timbers, which are displayed at Ziebell's Farmhouse. The *Pribislaw* brought more than half Westgarthtown's German and Wendish settlers and one of Dirk's distant relatives, a man named Friedrich Weissleder, travelled with them to Australia. It is probable Friedrich's mother Eleanor Weissleder also arrived on the *Pribislaw*. The fate of Friedrich's father Andreas Weissleder is not known, but he may have died during the six-month journey from Germany to Australia. Rob and Dirk both believe further research in Rio de Janeiro, where the *Pribislaw* docked for six weeks in late 1849, could provide additional information

about the voyage and its passengers, including Dirk's relatives and action is now underway to try to obtain more information there.

Rob then drove Dirk, Eric and Rosemary to Schramm's Cottage at Doncaster, where Eric Collyer, President of the Doncaster/Templestowe Historical Society, gave them a tour of the cottage and surrounds. In contrast to Westgarthtown, where the main activity was dairy farming, Doncaster's economy was based on fruit growing. During Eric's tour we saw some very interesting equipment from the orcharding period.

The Friends of Westgarthtown were delighted to host Dirk Weissleder and Eric and Rosemary Kopittke during their brief visit to Melbourne and look forward to continuing useful discussions and exchanges of information.



Above: Rob Wuchatsch and Dirk Weissleder at Ziebell's Farmhouse. Main: Rob Wuchatsch, Dirk Weissleder, Eric Kopittke and Rosemary Kopittke. Photos John Fry.

Descendants' Day 2018

The annual Descendants' Day for 2018 will be held on Sunday 4 March at Ziebell's Farmhouse, 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown starting around 12.00 noon.

BY DAVID ADAMS

The past few years have provided a great opportunity to catch up with family and friends and next year's event should be no exception. Everyone who has attended in the past has had a great day relaxing and mingling in the gardens enjoying a picnic lunch and afternoon tea. Tea & coffee will be provided.

As always there will be publications, seeds, souvenir pieces of the Pribislaw and a new addition of beautiful cards all relevant to the Westgarthtown area available for purchase.

The format for the day will be the same as past years - there will be a brief welcome to all and an update on the great work being done by the

Friends of Westgarthtown.

The Descendants' Day Committee convenes prior to the commencement of the day about 11.00 am to discuss ideas and formats to help keep the day a success and an ongoing event. If you would like to be part of our committee please feel free to come along. We would love to hear from any new members especially the younger generation.

For information regarding the day or details of the Descendants' Day Committee contact me on 0400 160 358 or drop me a line on david_f_adams@hotmail.com.

Hope you can make it to a great day out and look forward to seeing you and your family on Sunday 4 March 2018.



Descendants' Day 2017. Photo Jessica Adams.

Thomastown Lutheran Church services

SERVICES are held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 2.30 pm at the Thomastown Lutheran Church, German Lane, Lalor.

For further details, contact Irma Hatty on 03 9338 9064 or see the Calvary Lutheran Church website at www.calvarychurch.org.au

Visiting Ziebell's Farmhouse

ZIEBELL'S Farmhouse is open to the public on the second Sunday of each month, 1-4 pm. For enquiries, call 03 9464 1805 or enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au

Tours can be organised for groups of ten or more people. For information and bookings contact John Fry on 03 9464 5062 or johnsdfry@gmail.com

SWITCH TO DIGITAL

If you are receiving this newsletter in the post but want to switch to email, simply email us at subscriptions@westgarthtown.org.au

Elements

OF WESTGARTHTOWN

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The Friends of Westgarthtown Inc. does not accept responsibility for the opinions expressed or the accuracy of the statements made by authors of articles published in this newsletter.



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