



BULOKE BULLETIN NO. 295 SEPTEMBER 2021

Donald History Enquiries for August:

Lockdowns 5 and 6 have slowed our enquiry line to a trickle.

Colleen, a granddaughter of Francis Colbert from Sydney, contacted the archives for information on him. Francis was the eldest son of John Edmund Colbert and Catherine Darcy from Watchem. The other sons were Jim and Vincent. The three sons started on their father's farm, trading as Colbert Bros. In 1914, they purchased a butcher's shop in Watchem which they eventually ran as a Stock and Station Agency. Colleen sent us two valuable photos, one of the Colbert Bros. Watchem shop and the other of the 1898 Watchem School children, of which Frank is one, pictured in front of the school. Jim and Vince remained in the area but Francis moved to Sydney. We have put Colleen in touch with the local descendants of Vince.

A descendant of Godfrey Morgan Junior has contacted the archives for information on his family. Godfrey Junior took over The Donald Times when his father, Godfrey Sr. died in 1891. Godfrey Jr. moved to Queensland in 1908 handing the reins onto his brother J. P. Morgan.

We had an enquiry from Joy Price, a descendant of Thomas and Ethel May Wiseman. Their son, Norman Wiseman was born in Donald in 1914. His father was involved in the building of water towers. We were able to ascertain that the family was in Donald for only a short time and is connected to the St Arnaud Wisemans.

Marg O'Shannessy requested information on the original selectors of the land owned by Oakleys and worked by the Trollop family for many years. The original selectors were a couple named Robert Alexander Mitchell and his wife Margaret. Robert died in 1897 and Margaret died in 1913. They had eight children and the land was left to the three daughters and two sons who were unmarried at that time. All of these five children subsequently left the district and the land was sold to G.F. Oakley who later handed it on to his two sons, Frank and Harold.

Quote from a satisfied customer whom Mary Archbold dealt with this week. "Your help is appreciated. We novice researchers would be nowhere without helpers like you".

Blasts from, the Past: September 1921

September 2.State Elections Korong. Hansen (National) 1674, Weaver (VFU) 2376. The Lawson Government (N) was returned. (*There were 32 polling stations in the Korong Electorate*)

Sept. 6. Shooting Fatality. Lad Accidentally Shoots His Mate. On Saturday afternoon Arthur John Smith, Clifford Vallance and Charles Golts, schoolboys, went rabbiting with two shotguns. At a dam in Mr Arthur Young's paddock Smith went for a swim. The two guns were left on the bank. There was a live cartridge alongside them, and Vallance thought it belonged to the nearer gun, and, as Smith was coming out of the water, took it up and jokingly pointed it at him and pulled the trigger. To his amazement the gun was loaded and the full charge entered Smith's body. Smith fell back into the water exclaiming "You've got me". Death was almost instantaneous. The lad was the son of Mr James Smith of St Arnaud and was fourteen years old.

Sept. 9 Railway Commissioners' Visit. Mr H.W. Clapp, Chief Commissioner of the Victorian Railways, accompanied by Commissioners W.M. Shannon and C. Miscamble passed through Donald on Wednesday last. A request was received from the Donald Council for the installation of an electric warning bell at the Mill crossing. This was refused, as it was pointed out that instructions had been given to the employees in connection with the safe-guarding of traffic at the crossing. Mr Clapp said that, should it be discovered that these instructions were not being carried out, complaints should be made to the station master or to the district superintendent. However, congestion at this crossing was being constantly lessened, and should shortly be reduced to a minimum because of the enlargement of the railway yards at the other end. Mr E. Bieske, who is now station master at Donald will no doubt be remembered as having occupied the position of clerk during the period when Mr Hodges was station master in 1894. Mr Bieske has successfully risen to the position he now holds, and his many friends and acquaintances will be pleased to hear of his appointment to our town. It will also be remembered that Mr E. Wallace, one of the finest coursing judges in the district, was also stationed here at the same time as Mr Bieske. The Commissioners expressed themselves to be well pleased with the general state of affairs at the station.

Sept. 13 Floods at Donald. The sudden and heavy rains of last Wednesday resulted in the rapid rise of the Richardson River in the two days following, with the result that the bottom end of the town experienced another flood. On Friday, many rumours were current in the town as to the possibility of the flood exceeding all previous records, but by midnight on Friday it had already begun to subside. The level reached here was not so great as last year, but this is probably accounted for by the partial demolition of the weir.

Residents of Rich Avon and Banyena report among their losses large quantities of fire wood and posts while Mr T.O. Guthrie is of the opinion that at Rich Avon the water reached its highest level since 1911.

In Donald itself damage was occasioned to private property, in the way of fencing and outbuildings, and the Show grounds and Cricket ground were both under water. The river has fallen rapidly, and these are practically clear.

On Friday night about 7.45 a sharp shower was accompanied by a few minutes of cyclonic wind, which caused some damage to property particularly near the railway station. Mr R.H. Barber's new residence, in the course of construction, was razed to the ground, while Mrs Crocker's boarding house had portion of the veranda facing McCulloch Street, torn off and carried away. (*Mrs. Crocker's boarding house was formerly the Railway Coffee Palace on the cnr. of Walker and McCulloch St*). Cave Street and other streets in the vicinity were for a time rendered well-nigh impassable owing to the amount of rain that had fallen.

Sept. 16 Cars for Sale.

1 1920 Model 6-cly BUICK done 2,000 miles. Will take low price if sold before Saturday 17th.

1 1914 Model HUPMOBILE

1 FORD Touring Car complete

Premier Motor Garage Donald

Sept. 20 A Narrow Escape Mr H. Borden of Watchem had an unenviable experience on Friday last when ploughing with an eight horse team about a mile distant from his homestead at Watchem. During the thunderstorm which passed over the district in the morning, the lightning appeared to strike the ground a few yards in front of the team, causing the horses to break away for a considerable distance before they could be stopped. Closer investigation proved that the telephone wires had been burned right through and the insulator blackened. Luckily the telephone at the house was, at the time, disconnected.

Sept. 23 Donald Anglers Club. A meeting of all interested in the above has been convened for tonight at Dooley's Mt Jeffcott Hotel, to consider the advisability of re-forming the club. A full attendance is desired.

Sept. 30 Rifle Shooting. One of our local riflemen, Capt. W. Sproat of the Donald Club, has been asked to shoot in the tests preparatory to the choosing of the Victorian State team. The tests commence today and extend over three days.