

Families



If you would like to add information about your family history in the Cranbourne region or add/correct details contained in this paper, please contact the Local History Officer, Casey-Cardinia Library Corporation on 9704 7696.

Families in Cranbourne's History

By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

Many families have contributed to the growth and character of Cranbourne since European settlement in the 1850s. Some of these families are still living in the district today and others have moved away, but their mark remains in the buildings that we still have, in the monuments that they built in the cemetery, and in the street names and recreation reserves around the township.

The older families include the Lecky's, Pattersons, Camerons and Einsiedels. James Lecky and his son served on the Council in its early days, along with Alexander Cameron (Jnr). The Ridgways, Faceys and Bregazzis remain in the area today. Well-known families during the 1930s and 40s included the Rennies, Savages, Camerons (Roy Cameron served as a Justice of the Peace and ran a commercial sandpit), McKaskills (Colin McKaskill dedicated many years to the Turf Club), Taylors and Cowes.

We have included a little information in this section to provide an example of some of the Cranbourne families. Many will not be included due to a lack of information or unintentional neglect. If you have any



information that you would like to add, please contact the Library, the Cranbourne Shire Historical Society or the City of Casey and we will include it in the information files and on the web site. Similarly, if there are any incorrect details we would like to correct them. This material has been assembled from some family members, primary sources such as Church records and referenced from 'The Good Country' (see bibliography).

Women and Family

By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation



There were many women in the earlier history of Cranbourne who supported their husbands in their public roles while being responsible for family life in the private sphere. In most cases these women outlived their husbands and must have become quite notable personalities as older women.

Annie Duff, wife of the Reverend Alexander Duff, would have been in a prominent position next to such a community-minded man as Alexander. She would have entertained and been entertained by wealthy families in

the district such as the Lecky's at 'Cranbourne House,' the Camerons at 'Mayfield' and the Pattersons at 'St. Germans.' One of her daughters married into the Lecky family. It is possible that she was involved in organising church fundraising events and other township activities. We can speculate that she came to Cranbourne with her brothers William and Edward, who settled in the late 1850s. There she would have met her future husband who had occupied a central role in the township since his arrival in 1854. Annie lived in their family home in Childers Street, which Duff built shortly

after his arrival in the town. It was located in a block nearer to Cameron Street. Like most women, she experienced hardship and loss in her family. She suffered the death of their son Edward Tucker in 1877 at the age of only 7 months. She had already lost her brothers, William in 1870 who was only 29, and Edward in 1872 at the young age of 36. She was widowed in 1890 and lived on until 1905 when she was 74. She had been the wife of one of the most prominent men in Cranbourne, and indeed the region, and must have been a great support to her husband who was renowned for his hard work, travelling as far as Somerville, Gembrook and Bass to conduct services. It is possible that she had contributed some of the ideas for which the Reverend Duff was so famous. She must have shared his evangelical social reforming zeal and carried out her own work for this cause in the township.

Similarly, Annabella Lyall (nee Brown) had been the wife of another legendary district 'pioneer'. William Lyall was a partner in the Lyall Mickle Bakewell business that

occupied thousands of acres of land as far out as Yallock in the Great Swamp. He had built a family home, 'Harewood' in the 1860s and introduced game for sport to encourage a reputation for the district as a sporting destination. Lyall served on the District Road Board, an early form of local government in Cranbourne and laid the foundation stone of the Cranbourne Shire Offices in 1875. Annabella would have had quite a job keeping up with such a publicly active husband and was herself often in the public eye. She frequently entertained important guests, including the Governor of Victoria. She lived on for another thirty years after the death of her successful husband, and must have been quite a matriarch in the family. Annabella was born in Glasgow in 1827 and lived in Melbourne during the 1840s with her young family. She suffered the loss of four children after their move to Tooradin: Annabella in 1856 aged 2, Theodore in 1861 aged 5 months, Mary Francis in 1869 aged 3 and Edith in 1873 aged 16.

Individual Families

By Claire Turner, Casey Cardinia Library Corporation

Bregazzi Family

The Bregazzi family came to Australia in the 1850s. They settled in Cranbourne in 1858 and members have remained there ever since. Charles Lorenzo Bregazzi was born in Derby, England in 1822. He arrived off Cape Otway on the 1st November 1857 on a ship called the 'Carrier Dove' from Liverpool, England. He bought land in Cranbourne in 1860, now known as 'Junction Village'. He was a landscape painter and died in Cranbourne in 1886.

Charles' descendants have continued to live in Cranbourne. At the present time, he has one grandchild, four great grandchildren and six great great grandchildren still living in Cranbourne.

The family has been associated throughout the years with the dairying industry. Charles' son Thomas Henry Bregazzi (1877-1975) was born in Cranbourne and he started a milk round, which was carried on as a business for many years.

Thomas and his family were great supporters of everything in the community, particularly the school, swimming pool and war time functions. Thomas married Florence and had 6 children, Charles (Chas), Keith, Tom, Gladys, Winnie, and Ron.

Keith worked at the Melbourne Hunt Club quarters in Camerons Road/Narre Warren Cranbourne Road, Cranbourne for 45 years. He began his work at the kennels in the new Cranbourne headquarters during the Depression. The hunt club had moved to Cranbourne from Oakleigh in 1929. He was responsible for training and breeding the hounds, exercising the horses and generally became the backbone of the club. He and his wife Phyllis (nee Ratford, married 1937) lived on the Hunt Club property. Phyllis was famous for her beautiful dressmaking. She made the Debut dresses and wedding dresses for most of the local girls during the 1940s. Keith is described by the many people who knew him as a noble gentleman, a great friend and a great horseman.

Brunt Family

William Brunt (1845-1927) came to Australia from Northern Ireland in the 1850s with his cousin Ralph Brunt. He was apparently met at the dock in Melbourne by his future employer, who owned a large property in Beaconsfield. He worked at that property, 'Karlson Park' as a general farm hand until the owner moved back to England after the death of his son in a riding accident. Ralph settled in Berwick and later in Officer, where 'Brunt Road' is named after his family. William was able to purchase some of the furniture from his employer to take into his marriage (the mahogany chairs are still in the family).

William married Mary Jane Espie (1858-1928), known as Jane who was from one of Cranbourne's original settler families and they settled on the property 'Spring Villa', which stretched between the South Gippsland Highway and Narre Warren Cranbourne Road. The house was behind where the Settlement Hotel is today. They had four boys and three girls: Maggie, Laura and Eva, William (Willy), Harold, Sydney (Syd) and Norman.

William's granddaughter, Ruby Smith remembers that he was very Irish. Ruby also recalls that 'my grandfather had a sprightly horse for his jinker and my grandmother had a fat old slow-coach of a horse called Lou Lou'.

'Spring Villa' was a timber house. There was red striped wallpaper in the dining room and mahogany dining chairs. The table was sold by Aunt Eva in the 1930s to be replaced by a modern piece – Victorian era furniture was very out of favour during that period and people frequently threw it away.

The sitting room was lavish, with gold striped wallpaper and furniture that was covered in heavy green and gold satin and velvet. Ruby can remember that her aunts would go 'up the town' to buy supplies at Hudson's store. If they were in a rush, they would take the short cut through the paddocks using the steps that straddled the fences. By the 1960s, the property was being leased (furnished) to a horse training family named Osborne. The family home remained until quite recently.

'Spring Villa' was a farming property and William Brunt expanded into quarrying by purchasing the property across the highway. Local men worked there, shovelling the hand-dug gravel into the carts that were pulled by horse to the Cranbourne station. Much of this gravel was sold to the St. Kilda Council for their paths during the 1920s.

The Brunts were Presbyterian and were benefactors of Scot's Presbyterian church in Cranbourne. Jane told her family that she could remember when the original church was opened in 1860.

William and Jane's daughter Maggie (1881-1959) married Robert Campbell and settled in North Clyde on a property called 'Oakwood', a 722 acre farm on the corner of Thompsons Road and Pound Road. Another daughter, Laura, married Lawson Burdett Gustav Poole. Eve remained single, caring for her parents.

William Brunt served the Shire of Cranbourne as one of the founding members for many years. His cousin, Ralph, had settled in the Pakenham area and was involved in the neighbouring Berwick Shire Council. His son Willy also served on the Council and was Shire President from 1911-1912 and 1921-22.

Sydney, after leaving school, operated the family gravel pit, on the old Cranbourne tip site, until he sustained a broken leg in an accident during blasting operations. Later he farmed, in partnership with Robert Campbell at Clyde, where he first commenced business in grain and produce, selling stock feed from rail trucks to farmers to cart home in horse drawn milk carts. In 1928 he transferred his business to Cranbourne, its present site, and it still continues in his name.

Harold enlisted for active service in World War II, and was sent to France, and spent all his leave at the old family home in County Tyrone. He was reputed to be the first Australian soldier to land on Irish territory. After the war, he returned and operated the gravel pit, carting the gravel to Cranbourne Railway Station with horses and drays. Later he continued farming at 'Spring Villa' until his death in 1955.

Cam Family

Robert Cam was born in 1811 and came to Victoria in 1849. He is thought to have come to Cranbourne in 1884. The Cam family owned the land near the Brunt family property 'Spring Villa' and Camms Road is named after them.

It is believed that J & P Camm Reserve in Duff Street is also named after the Cam family.

Norman, after leaving local school, spent two years at Scotch College, Melbourne, intending to become a teacher; but returned to the family farm, and after his marriage to Agnes Greaves, another pioneering family, purchased a farm at the west end of Camms Road, which is now a housing development. He served as a Councillor for eight years from 1956-1964 being President in 1963-1964. After a long life involved in community services Norman lived in the township of Cranbourne in semi-retirement and died in 1978.

Cameron Family

Memoirs by Beryl Harrison (nee Cameron)

Roy Cameron was born at Doncaster in 1894 and lived in Box Hill as a youth. Margaret Barry was born at Homebush, Victoria in 1895. Roy joined the Australian Infantry Forces in 1915 and was posted to the 13th Light Horse Regiment. He was trained as a machine gunner and went to Gallipoli to fight in June 1915. He was one of the last Australians to leave the beaches in December 1915. He then went on to fight in Egypt and France and received a commendation for his actions. During this time he was affected by mustard gas which ultimately led to his death.



Roy Cameron, 13th Lighthorse Regiment, France, 1916

Upon his return home he married Margaret and in 1925 they moved to Homebush Orchard in Thompsons Road, Cranbourne where they grew apples and other fruit for export to the United Kingdom. Their children Phyllis, Beryl and Trevor were all born whilst they were at the orchard.

A feature of social life in Cranbourne at that time was Roy and Margaret's dances held in the large packing shed to raise much needed funds for the Red Cross. The dances were held by gaslight and featured Mr and Mrs Gunne Cowe and Mr Arthur Milne who provided the music. They also held other activities such as table tennis nights. Beryl and Phyllis remember the excitement of watching the trail of headlights coming up the long curving drive, the couples in their dance finery and the large dining table covered in cream sponges, jelly cakes etc., many of which were made by their mother.

Whilst living at the orchard the three children walked the three and a half miles to school and back until they were old enough to ride their bikes.

Various travellers called at the orchard, among them was the grocer in his horse and cart always with a bag of broken biscuits for the children. The iceman came with blocks of ice for the ice chest, the Raleigh's man with ointments etc. and often travelling men with suitcases filled with pots, pans, dress materials, cottons, and scissors. To the children these cases were like Aladdin's caves filled with all sorts of treasures.

Electricity and water were not available to the orchard so gas lamps were used and the water came from tanks. In dry times water had to be delivered to the orchard by cart.

The family lived at the orchard until 1939 and then moved up to Bakewell Street in the town. This year bought the terrible bushfires in Victoria, and World War 2. Roy became a Lieutenant in the Volunteer Defence Corps and his duties involved presenting a parting gift to each serviceman from the town. He also had the sad duty of personally delivering the news to families of dead, injured and missing soldiers. Margaret worked hard for the Red Cross, and Beryl and Phyllis knitted socks and scarves for the troops.

Roy planted peaches and nectarines on a block of land in Clyde Road, which provided the town with lovely fruit, and it became known as 'the garden'. He then bought a sandpit at the back of the cemetery where he worked until his death in 1956.

During his life in Cranbourne Roy was very active in many aspects of town life. He was a Justice of the Peace, Master of the Masonic Lodge, President of the Returned Servicemen's League and was in great demand by the youth of Cranbourne to be Master of Ceremonies for engagement parties, kitchen teas and 21st Birthday celebrations. One of his duties was to lead the Anzac Day ceremonies at the Cenotaph in front of the old Shire Hall. He was also a leading figure in forming the Cranbourne Golf Club and along with others created a golf course in the centre of the racecourse. He took a keen and active interest in the Cranbourne Centenary celebrations.



Roy and Margaret Cameron, 1926

Margaret was quiet, a behind the scenes worker who was a member of the Red Cross, Country Women's Association and Presbyterian Guild for over 40 years. She was an artist, well known for her floral arrangements and was a judge at the Red Hill Flower Shows. She died in 1990 in her 95th year.

Phyllis, Beryl and Trevor were also actively involved in Cranbourne's social life. They were members of the Tennis Club, Red Cross, Country Women's Association Younger Set, Presbyterian Fellowship Association and the local Country Fire Authority. With other young people in the town they arranged dances, balls and concerts to benefit local fundraising activities. Beryl was a member of the committee formed to build the Public Hall in High Street.

Campbell

John and Rebecca Campbell (nee McCrawley) emigrated from Ireland in the late 1860s/early 1870s. They first settled on a property at Maribyrrong before settling on land in Kernot. The country was densely covered and their eldest son helped John to clear the land.

Their younger son Robert (1876-1953) somehow managed to meet a girl from Cranbourne, while living in Kernot and married her right in the heart of Melbourne, at the Victoria Coffee Palace. His wife's father, William Brunt, paid for all the guests to stay overnight at the Victoria Hotel. Robert and Maggie first lived on one of William Brunt's properties, outside Tooradin, while they established a house and farm at Clyde North. This Clyde property, 'Oakwood' was a triangle shape and was 722 acres encompassed by Thompson's Road and Pound Road. The timber house had been moved from Brunt's Tooradin property in about 1920. It was divided into

sections and put on the train. Robert carted the structure in sections from the Clyde Station using horses and a dray along the five miles to his farm.

Robert and Maggie had four children, Ruby (married to Doug Smith, Cranbourne), Marjorie, Grace, William (married Phyllis Bowman) and John. John moved to Queensland whilst the other children remained in the district. William Campbell continued on the family farm with his wife Phyllis (her grandfather was Harold Keys and the suburb Keysborough was named after her mother's family. The Bowman family connection is to the Bowman Hotel along the Gippsland Road during the 1860s). Robert and his son William served as Councillors on the Shire of Cranbourne for many years. Robert served for 25 years and was Shire President from 1937-1940, and William (Bill) served for 28 years. This was in the days when Councillors were unpaid.

Close Family

The Close family owned the land where the Amstel Golf Course is today along Cranbourne Frankston Road. Their house was called 'Willowdale'. James Close was the elder in the family and he died in 1908.

Cockerill Family

William Cockerill was born in Leicestershire, England. He married Miss Glover in 1851 and came to Victoria in 1859 on the ship 'Erroll'. The Cockerill family home was located at 17 Stawell Street in Cranbourne and remains today. They were a Church of England family. Their sons were builders and worked on many of the houses in the area.

Francis, the son of Charles and Mary Cockerill, was a Private in the 5th Australian Pioneers and was killed in action on the 13th of August 1916. The family were originally from Tasmania.



Cockerill Family

Donnelly Family

Compiled using the memoirs of Mr Eddie Donnelly.

John Donnelly was born in Ireland. He came to Victoria in 1854 on the sailing ship 'Stanboal'. Six months later he landed in Melbourne and hunted around for work, finally settling for a job on a dairy farm at Lyndhurst. In 1857 John had saved sufficient to buy 27 acres from a Mr Glass who selected a lot of land in the district. He proceeded to build his own residence by putting in red gum posts, mailing ti-tree saplings to the sides. The gaps he filled with a mixture of lime and loam and the inside plastered over. Wattles were used for rafters and fence palings formed the roof. In the kitchen was a big open fireplace with a crane. The latter was used to move the camp oven and kettle when necessary. The floor, common in those days, was a dirt one.

Eventually he married Miss Ann O'Neill (?) and reared a family of five sons and four daughters. His daily routine consisted of milking cows and growing potatoes. This was interspersed with periods of work for the Cranbourne Shire. His horse and dray were in frequent use on shire road works, construction and maintenance. As business prospered he was able to acquire more land. In 1869 he bought 55 acres of land nearby for £6.30 an acre. This increased the milk output and cream was now made into butter and sold to butter hawkers.

An elder son, born in 1859 followed John in such things as road making, wood cutting etc. In 1875 the two were carting bricks for the new Shire hall which was built that

year. When he was about thirty years old he ventured out on his own, leasing a property on the Frankston Road and bought and sold cattle. Five or six years later he paid a deposit on the property and quickly paid it off. In 1895, he married and like John before him raised five sons and four daughters. Further land purchases were made during this period.

John joined the cemetery trust in 1895. Due to advancing years he resigned in 1911, his place being taken by one of his sons and subsequently his grandson. Between family members a total of eighty years was dedicated to the work of the Cemetery Trust.

In the sporting world four brothers played football for Cranbourne at the one time. John's grandson, Henry was captain when Cranbourne won the first premiership in 1926. His father was made a life member of the Cranbourne Racing Club and Henry's brothers were on the committee for a number of years. Cycling was one of the chief interests of Henry's brother Eddy who as a young man took part in such races as the Melbourne to Warrnambool, Bendigo to Ballarat, Dandenong to Tooradin. As a result of a substantial donation to the Dandenong District Hospital Eddy was made a life governor of this hospital in 1946.

Donnelly Reserve is located in Lesdon Avenue and is named after this long serving family.

Duff Family

The Reverend Alexander Duff (1824-1890) came to Cranbourne in 1854, before which he taught at Campbellfield. He had an MA from Glasgow University and was an evangelical man with an interest in applying the gospel to all facets of everyday life. He was absorbed by agricultural developments and had his own farming properties. He was known for his ploughing matches and having his own team of bullocks. Skilled crafts were another area of interest, especially that of the blacksmith. He was a hard working minister, who travelled great distances and worked long hours to conduct services in places like Somerville, Bass and Gembrook.

The town allotment maps tell us that Reverend Duff purchased many blocks of land in the original carve up of the earlier runs. He had around 10 lots near the railway line, where Duff Street is today. He also had land in Clyde. Duff was part of a close network of original European settlers in the Cranbourne district. His close family circle included the Pattersons, Leckys and the Camerons. They were all Presbyterian families who strove to develop Cranbourne as a successful, evangelical community. They worked together to establish the first school in 1855. Duff campaigned heavily with the Denominational Board to start the school and was successful. In 1860, they had pooled enough funds to build their first church, Scot's Presbyterian.

The Rev. Duff married Annie Tucker, who came to Cranbourne in the late 1850s with her brothers Edward and William. Her brother Edward was born in America and it is possible that they had come to Cranbourne directly from there. Their children were Walter (1855), William (1859), Alexander (1869), Edward John (died in infancy), Annie (1857), Maggie (1864), Dora (1861) and Minnie (Mary Clarissa 1865). Edward John, who was named after Annie's brother, died in 1877 at the age of 7 months. Their eldest daughter married a Church of England minister called Gason, another daughter Maggie married James Lecky (Jnr) and another married Robert Gibb. Walter Duff became Shire President in 1886-1887.

The Reverend Duff's brother Robert also settled in Cranbourne and started the Cranbourne Hotel, to rival the Mornington Hotel. Robert and his wife Margaret ran the hotel together. Robert died in 1860 at the age of 31 and Margaret re-married Edward John Tucker (Annie's brother), who also died at a young age in 1872 when he was 36. There is also a family grave for a John Duff who may have been Alexander and Robert's father. He died in 1869 age 78.

Einsiedel Family

The Einsiedel family came to Victoria in 1849. Pauline and her four children had emigrated from Prussia and came on the ship 'The Godeffroy'. The passenger list suggests that Pauline's husband and a couple of other children had died in a cholera epidemic directly before leaving for Australia. Pauline's surviving children were Gustav aged 13, Paul aged 11, Frederick Louis aged 7 and Bertha aged 2. It is Gustav that settled in Cranbourne and married Mary Ann Doile who was from Avoca, Ireland. They had ten children (not listed in order): James who died in infancy, Arthur who settled in Melbourne, Cassey who married into the Tindall family, Mary Frances who married William Burdett Poole, Carl Gustav who married Mary Hartness, Richard who married Florence Hall, Julia Suzanne Cora who married Roger Billington, Fred William who married Teresa Jones, Charles Percival who died quite young, and James Charles Percival who was known as 'Paddy' and settled in Yannathan and married firstly Grace Smethurst and possibly a second time to Anita Hill. Julia Suzanne Cora was known as 'Cora' and her daughter was called Cora Violet but is known as 'Violet'. Violet married William Arthur Tempest.

Mary Ann ran the Cranbourne Hotel in the late 1880s and 1890s. Mary was taken to Court in 1888 and fined for allowing illegal gambling on her premises. The hearing was held in the Old Shire Offices and was presided over by Alexander Patterson. It must have been awkward for her as a well-known identity, to be publicly fined and reported in the local paper. She died in 1906 age 69 and must have been a very strong woman, running a successful business. There is a possibility that Gustav and Mary Ann were living separate lives later in their marriage. Their family home was on the corner of the South Gippsland Highway and Brunt Street and this location was known as 'Einsiedel's corner'. This site is now that of the southern end of Ray Perry Park.

Mary's daughter Cora went to the old Cranbourne Primary School. Her grand daughter Sylvia has married into the Tanti family. Well-known local identity Lawson Burdett Gustav Poole was also related to the Einsiedel family. His mother was Mary Frances Einsiedel and his father was William Burdett Poole.

Facey Family

Compiled by Graham Facey for students at Cranbourne High School when 'Facey' House was named.

In 1848 Anthony Northey Facey was born in England. His father James was the local blacksmith in the town of Peeralston, Devonshire. When Anthony was 12 years of age he sailed to Australia with his father and his Uncle Arthur. They arrived in Melbourne in 1859, and like many others headed for the Ballarat goldfields. At the diggings Anthony worked a mine with his uncle – this would have been very hard work for a boy of 12, using a pick and shovel all day. Anthony's father set up as a blacksmith, sharpening the picks and tools for the other prospectors. Those prospectors who struck gold were expected to pay cash for having their tools repaired, the alternative was to pay double if and when you did have some luck. Their efforts on the goldfield must have been worth while because they returned to England and made plans to bring all the family to live in Australia.

In 1862 the family with furniture, trees, plants and seed sailed for Australia. When they arrived in Melbourne, Anthony's father James and Uncle Arthur went to a land sale and purchased a 160 acre block in Cranbourne, this block was in Thompsons Road, where Wagstaff Abattoirs is today. When they arrived at Cranbourne they were very disappointed in their block, so they purchased the adjoining 160 acre block '[Springmount]' from Mr C.B. Peed. This block had much better soil and also a house. This is the property on the south east corner of Thompsons and Narre Warren Roads, where Cranbourne Pony Club now have their rallies.

When they left Melbourne to come to Cranbourne, they loaded all their furniture and belongings on a wagon and drove along the road (or track as we would call it today). It must have seemed an empty and dry country to these people, as most of the road was through thick bush or scrub, with an occasional little

town with few buildings – Dandenong was one of these. The town of Cranbourne had a store, hotel, blacksmith, church, school and a few houses and was considered to have a great future.

In January 1863 the family moved into '[Springmount]'. The house was typical of the era – a frame of bush poles, then mud was packed between sticks which were nailed to the poles (this was called Wattle and Daub) then slabs of timber were laid like tiles to form the shingle roof. Anthony's mother found the Australian conditions very different from England. No neighbours, boggy unmade roads in the winter and in the summer very hot days, always a shortage of water and the risk of bush fires.

Anthony's sister Elizabeth was now aged 13 – his brothers James aged 8, and Arthur a small baby. Anthony aged 15 worked with his father and uncle – they planted the fruit trees and berry bushes they had brought from England – set up a forge to make the tools and implements necessary to farm this new land. They also bought cows to milk and horses to ride and work.

By the time Anthony was 18 he was tall, broad shoulders and had a full beard and moustache. The farm was now producing more than they could sell locally, so one of Anthony's jobs was to cart the fruit and butter to Melbourne in a horse drawn wagon. This led to Anthony becoming a storekeeper at St Kilda. While living at his store he married Mary Norquay, the daughter of Alexander Norquay of Lyndhurst. Anthony, his wife Mary and children Elizabeth and James, returned to Cranbourne in 1872 when their store was burnt out.

While Anthony had been at St Kilda his father James and Uncle Arthur had been farming '[Springmount]', and also leased the 10,000 acre Tobin Vallock run at Lang Lang. This partnership continued until 1877, when they held a three day clearing sale of cattle and horses –

total proceeds were about £5,000 (a lot of money in those days). Arthur then went to live on a property they had purchased at Lang Lang. James continued to farm 'Springmount'.

In 1876 Anthony now aged 29 and the father of six children became a Cranbourne Shire Councillor. He and his father lived opposite '[Springmount]' on the 160 acre property '[Pine Grove]' (the north west corner of Thompsons and Narre Warren Roads) which they had purchased for £600. Anthony cleared the property, planted an orchard, milked cows and made butter and cheese which was sent to Melbourne to be sold.

In 1884 the Cranbourne Shire Council was in serious financial trouble – owing thousands of dollars – they couldn't even afford staff. Anthony offered to be Shire Secretary without pay until hopefully things improved. With six months of careful budgeting the Shire was then in a position to employ a Shire Secretary again. Anthony then continued as the Shire Secretary – a position held for nearly 30 years. For part of this period he was also the Shire Engineer.

He was a well known and popular person as he travelled to work and around the Shire in his buggy and pair of grey ponies. During this time Anthony purchased the property 'The Park', 160 acres for £450 on the north east corner of Thompsons and Narre Warren Roads.

Anthony's brother, James Thomas Facey had now married and lived at 'Springmount'. He had eight children, the eldest being Frank Facey who later became the Real Estate Agent in Dandenong. In 1888 a new brick house was built at 'Springmount', six rooms for a total cost of about £500.

Anthony's eldest son James or Jim as he was known locally, worked at 'Pine Grove' milking the cow and working the orchard. In 1895 Jim Facey married Maria Poole, a daughter of George Poole – they selected a block at Heath Hill near Lang Lang. A few years later, unable to make a living they returned to Cranbourne to live on a 170 acre block they owned where Facey's Nursery is now. Jim Facey then became a road contractor – they used horses and drays to cart stone and filling to the roads they were making. They also used horse drawn scoops and graders to form the roads and drains. Jim Facey camped with his men and horses wherever the work took them, then on a Saturday night he would ride his bike home and spend Sunday with his family. He would cut enough firewood to last until next weekend. On Monday morning he would ride the bike back to Lang Lang or Koo-Wee-Rup or wherever they were working.

In 1912 Jim Facey and his family moved into 'Springmount'. His Grandfather James had bought the two storey house 'Merlin', in Dandenong and lived there. At 'Springmount' Jim Facey and his family milked about 40 cows in the big 28 bail cow shed. Farm machinery now made it possible for them to clear much more land and harvest crops of oats and maize.

In 1913, 50 years after settling in Australia, the Facey family owned about 800 acres of land in Cranbourne. James, now 91 years old, died at his home in Dandenong. In 1915, 2 years later, Anthony also died aged 68. Anthony and his father James, had seen Cranbourne grow from very little to a thriving country town. Jim Facey now owned 'Springmount' which he farmed until he died in 1948 aged 77. His wife Maria had died when the children were young and his daughter Myra cared for her four brothers.

Hook

Isaac Hook was born in Gloucestershire, England in 1815. He came to Victoria in 1849 to the Bendigo goldfields where he spent 2 years. He came to Clyde in 1859 and purchased 160 acres and married Miss Durham of Scotland in 1865.

Hudson

James George Hudson was born in Westminster England. He came to Victoria in 1852 on the ship 'Marlborough'. He was a storekeeper in Prahran in 1855 and started a general store in Cranbourne in 1869, which continued for many years.

Lecky Family

The Lecky family were amongst the earliest European settlers in the Cranbourne district. James Lecky came to Melbourne from Ireland in 1841. In 1846 he purchased the Gin Gin Bean run on the Cardinia Creek where he built 'Cranbourne House'. James was very involved in the development of Cranbourne, particularly the establishment of the first school and the Presbyterian church. He served on the District Road Board and the Cranbourne Shire from 1860 - 81 and was District Road Board Chairman and Shire President between 1865 and 1871 and again between 1876 and 1880.

His son James (Jnr) also served on the Council between 1876 and 1905 and was Shire President in 1885, 1888-89, 1894-95 and 1900-1. James (Jnr) and his wife Maggie (nee Duff, daughter of the Rev. Duff) had suffered the sad loss of both their sons in the First World War. Mervyn and James were killed tragically at the end of the War.

James and William (known as Mervyn) probably enlisted together at Cranbourne and must have caused their parents anguish by both enlisting, as they were the only sons. James, a renowned horseman, was a driver in the 8th Brigade Field Artillery and died in France on the 14th of November 1918, sadly just days after the armistice was signed. Mervyn was a gunner in the 4th Brigade Australian Field Artillery and was killed only two months before his brother on the 1st of September 1918. Their parents were so devastated by the loss of their sons that they sold the farm in Officer, unable to manage it on their own and moved away.

News of the Lecky family was recorded in the South Bourke and Mornington Journal on July 17th 1919. It was written that:

Mr and Mrs. J. Lecky, of Cardinia Park, Officer, have been notified that their son, Gunner Mervyn, of 12th Battery, who was killed in action in September last, has been awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty.

Lineham Family

James Lineham (1824-1901) established this pioneering family in the district. Lineham road is named after the family.

Patterson Family

Alexander Patterson was born in Blawerie, Berwickshire, Scotland on the 24th January in 1813 and died on the 29th December in 1896. He came to Adelaide in 1839 and worked on many large cattle stations before purchasing the 'St. Germain's' station in 1848. He married in 1852.

Patterson played a leading role in agricultural development in the district and indeed in Victoria and was a founding member of the Mornington Farmers Association. He was chairman of the Cranbourne District Road Board in 1863-4 and served on the Cranbourne Shire between 1860 and 1877, 1872-3 as President. Alexander was an elder and trustee of Scot's Presbyterian church.

Lyall Family

Their monument in the Cranbourne Cemetery says it all – they were a very wealthy and successful early family in the district.

William Lyall (1821-1886) was a member of the Lyall-Mickle-Bakewell partnership that owned thousands of acres of land in the district. He immigrated to Tasmania from Scotland in 1835, lived in Melbourne in the 1840s and settled in Tooradin in the 1850s. He built the home 'Harewood' on the South Gippsland Highway in 1865. It was built by George Binding & Son and most of the materials were shipped in by sea. The family had previously been living at 'Frogmore'. Lyall was interested in natural history, and was an original trustee of the Melbourne Zoo in 1861. He introduced hares, deer, pheasants and partridges to the area for sport. He also had a vested interest in experimenting with methods for draining the Great Swamp that covered two of his large property runs in Yallock. He represented Mornington in Parliament from 1859 – 1861, and served the community both on the District Road Board and

Council and on recognition, was asked to lay the foundation stone for the Shire Offices on 6 March 1875. (A replica of the trowel used to lay the foundation stone was presented to the Lyall family, who in turn presented the trowel to the Shire of Cranbourne for its historical collection in 1978 as a gesture of goodwill. It is now located at the City of Casey Offices in Narre Warren.) William's good friend, the Reverend Alexander Duff conducted his funeral service in January 1886.

William married Annabella Brown who was born in Glasgow in 1827. She outlived him by 30 years and died in 1916. They had many children but lost four in childhood. Annabella in 1856 aged 2, Theodore in 1861 aged 5 months, Mary Francis in 1869 aged 3 and Edith in 1873 aged 16. The Lyall family enjoyed social prestige, entertaining visitors from Melbourne including Governor Sir George Bowden, Lord and Lady Hopetoun and Premier Hon. J.G. Francis. The Lyall family continued to live at 'Harewood' until the 1960s

Poole Family

The Poole Family originally came from Yorkshire England. Mr and Mrs Frederick Poole settled in Cranbourne with their son William Burdett who was 20 years of age (Lawson's father). Their property "The Parks" was situated on the South Gippsland Highway adjoining the present Cranbourne Golf Club.

William Burdett married Mary Frances Einsedel whose family were licensees of the Cranbourne Hotel. They had three children: Lawson, Violet and Myrtle. At first they settled on a property of 240 acres that Mr Poole selected at Loch, name "Loch Park". They then moved to Cranbourne where Mr Gus Einsedel built the family home of "Rangebank" at the corner of Thompson Road and South Gippsland Highway. The family attended Cranbourne Primary Schools PS 2068 and were conveyed to school in a phantom which was a four wheeled horse drawn vehicle, and they considered it quite a feat to walk home. Lawson completed his education at Swinburne Technical School.

Contrary to his father's wishes he was not interested in farming but displayed a keen appreciation of all things mechanical and electrical. He commenced working for Mr A.C. Colvin, a garage proprietor at Koo-Wee-Rup, who also engaged in building Shackcloth cycles.

About this time, Lawson's father, who had a 30 year association with Cranbourne Turf Club, resigned and Lawson became a Committee member, a position he held for 63 years, being President since 1959.

At the age of 21 years, Lawson had the option of farming the 240 acres at Loch or building a garage at Cranbourne. He accepted the challenge and established

the first motor garage in Cranbourne with a limited capital of £14 (\$28), a bicycle, and financial assistance from his father. The garage was situated on the corner facing the Post Office (on the corner of Sladen & High Streets). Mr Les Butcher was employed for 18 years.

Whilst in the garage, Lawson built 1821 Poole Street Bicycles as well as conducting the motor business. He had a reputation for being first in Cranbourne, namely:-

- 1 He brought the first motor car to Cranbourne in 1919, a 1918 Model Buick.
- 2 Installed the first telephone line 1920.
- 3 Sold the first car, a Dodge Tourer to Mr Alex Duff of Cardinia.
- 4 Installed first talking picture plant in 1929.

Lawson was a Justice of the Peace for over 40 years, Chairman of the Court of Petty Sessions in Cranbourne for 8 years during that period, and Treasurer of the Cranbourne Masonic Lodge for 40 years. A keen photographer, his work was frequently exhibited by Herbert Smalls in Collins Street, Melbourne.

Mr & Mrs Poole had no children, but nevertheless were concerned with the welfare of others in the community and donated generously to many hospitals, schools and Guides.



Ridgway

Anthony Ridgway (1822-1890) emigrated from Buckinghamshire in England and settled in Melbourne in 1849. He farmed at Moonee Ponds and then spent two years at Ballarat before coming to Clyde in the early 1850s. He married Miss Sophia Cadd in 1843. They lost an infant son Thomas in 1854. The Ridgways remain in the area today. Anthony's daughter Jane was married to John George Wenn (1841-?) in 1866. Wenn was born in Norfolk, England and came to Australia on the 'Royal Dan' in 1863. He worked as a labourer in Cranbourne and bought a property at Cardinia. Another daughter married into the Lineham family.

Sparks

Frederick Sparks was born in Bath, England in 1825. He came to Victoria in 1841 on the 'Duchess of Numberland'. He first went to Gippsland and then came to Melbourne, where he worked as a stonemason at the Melbourne Gaol. In 1852 he went to the Bendigo goldfields to try his luck. He next came to the Cranbourne district and purchased 110 acres from large landowner Hugh Glass and married Miss Kellett in 1852. He died in 1917 aged 92.

Presumed connections:

A child Frederick Sparks died in 1864 aged 4

Robert Sparks died in 1937 age 81 and was probably Frederick's son

Mary Sparks died in 1911 age 81 and was probably Frederick's wife