

Elements

OF WESTGARTHTOWN

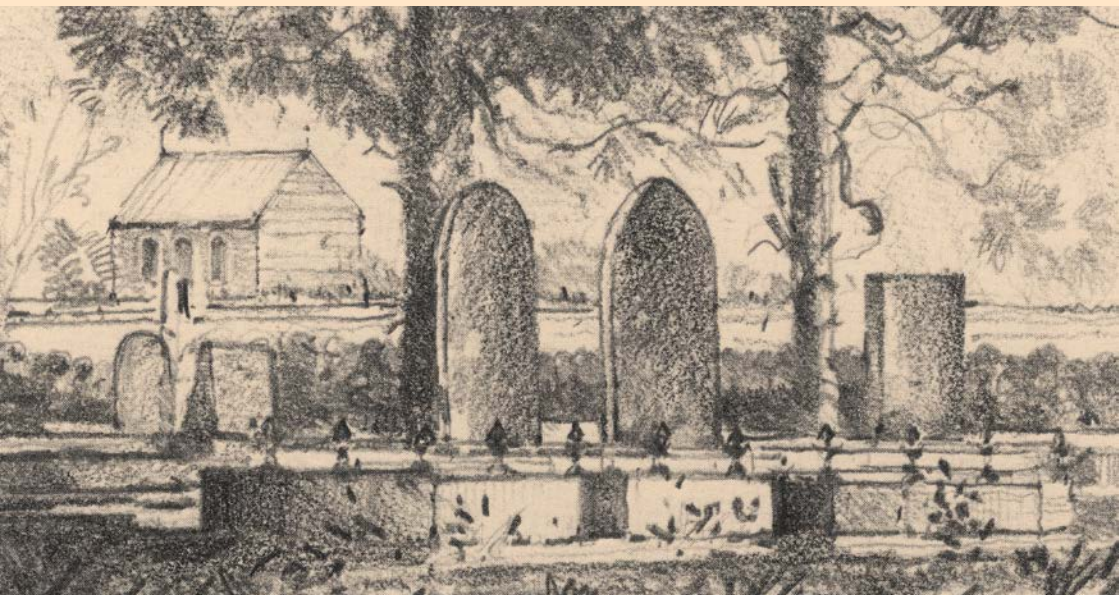


Faith

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Faith at Westgarthtown

The settlers at Westgarthtown were devout Lutherans to whom faith was an essential part of daily life. The church was the hub of village life in Germany and so too it became at Westgarthtown where Lutheranism proved to be the major force in the maintenance of their language and culture.



Thomastown Lutheran Church looking through the cemetery (drawing: Geoff Borrrack)

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Särka to Westgarthtown

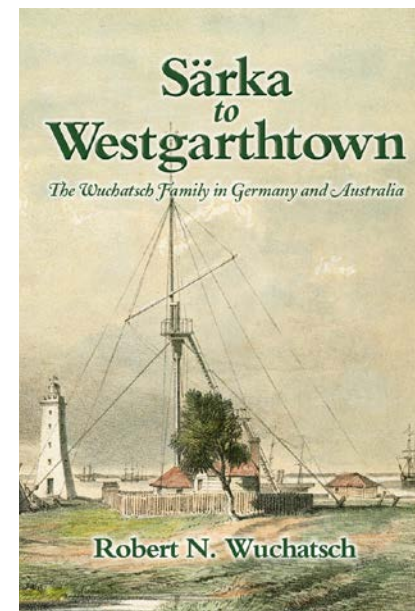
The culmination of 48 years of research,
Robert Wuchatsch's latest book places
the focus on his own family.

Särka to Westgarthtown:
The Wuchatsch Family in
Germany and Australia tells
the story of the Wuchatsch family
in Germany and Australia from
the early 1700s.

Profusely illustrated, it covers
the lives of Johann, Hanna and
Magdalene Wuchatsch; their
children; grandchildren; and
great-grandchildren.

Members and friends are invited
to attend the launch at Ziebell's
Farmhouse on Sunday 28 October
2018 from 1:30 – 2:00 pm. The
book will be on sale for \$85,
or can be ordered online at
www.stonyriserun.com.au for \$100,
which includes packing and postage.

Afternoon tea will be served from
2:30 pm. Please note the normal



Thomastown Lutheran Church
service will not now take place.

The Lutheran Connection

Thomastown Lutheran Church's present-day pastor Tim Stringer reminds us that the traditions of Lutheranism at Westgarthtown remain strong to this day.

BY PASTOR TIM STRINGER

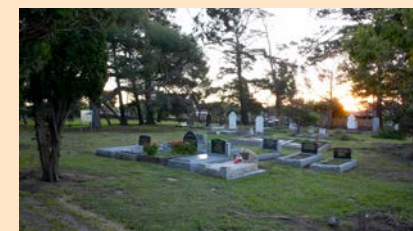
When I first received the call to serve as Pastor of Calvary Greensborough and Thomastown I was largely unaware of the Thomastown church and congregation, even though I had been serving the Outer Eastern Lutheran Church (Croydon and Lilydale) for eight years. The call documents I received outlined some of the history, who had established the church and some of the pastors who had served over the years. I was excited to accept the call and come to serve here and become a part of that history too.

The documentation I received stated that Thomastown is the oldest operating Lutheran Church in Australia. As such it is important to maintain that heritage and the legacy of Lutheran presence in this place. While our average attendance is sitting at around eight people it is still valuable to gather as the body of Christ in this historic place and to receive Word and Sacrament ministry together.

Each Easter Sunday morning, we gather in the Pioneer Cemetery before dawn and begin our Easter Sunday worship service around a fire pit, as we hear the story of the

first interactions with the risen Jesus at the tomb on that first Easter. We join with all the saints who have gone before who are laid to rest in that place, many who attend have relatives buried in the cemetery and it is a beautiful and symbolic moment as water from the small historic baptismal bowl is sprinkled on the worshippers and the nearby graves. When the sun has risen we make our way across the grounds to the church and conclude the worship service with Holy Communion. I'm sure the neighbours and passers by are wondering what strange things are happening in the cemetery before dawn, but it is a long-standing tradition that is dear to the hearts of all who make the early morning trip to this beautiful and historic spot.

During my recent rest and refreshment leave the congregation was served on three Sundays by the pastor from Ringwood and Knox and on the other Sunday by Pastor Christoph Dielmann from Trinity East Melbourne. This was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with the German Lutherans in Melbourne. Around ten people accompanied Pastor Christoph including three young people who are preparing for their confirmation. On the day Anna Lueders (née Steiniger) played the organ for the service, she is a daughter of Pastor Steiniger who served the Thomastown



Above: Pastor Tim Stringer at the doorway to Lutherhaus Wittenberg; the Thomastown Lutheran Cemetery

congregation for many years.

There is also a visit by residents of Martin Luther Homes at Bayswater planned for quarter three 2018 which also maintains connections to the German heritage of the Thomastown church.

While only a few of our current members are direct descendants of the original German settlers in the area, the Lutheran heritage is strong and the connection to this small church and the ground it sits upon is as strong as it ever was.



Tamara and Wasyl Kruczkowski

The Kruczkowski Family

Wasyl and Tamara Kruczkowski, who arrived in Australia in 1949, were World War Two refugees, or in the terminology of those times, 'Displaced Persons' or 'DPs'.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

On 3 August 1953 the Kruczkowski's purchased the old Winter family farmhouse and nine acres at Westgarthtown. The farmhouse was located on the east bank of the Edgars Creek, just north of the Lutheran Church reserve. During the mid 1960s, the Kruczkowski family subdivided their small farm for housing purposes, constructing

Ella and Victor Courts in Lalor. Ella Court was named after the family's youngest daughter who helped with the preparation of this article and also supplied most of the photos.

Wasyl Kruczkowski was born at Plaszowice in Poland on 25 October 1916. He worked there as a farm labourer and shoemaker, a trade at which he had served a three-year apprenticeship. In April 1942, however, during the Nazi



Wasył in uniform; Wasył and Tamara headed for Australia beside their shipping crate.

occupation, he was transported to Germany as a 'Forced Labourer' where he worked as a farm labourer, then kitchen hand and shoemaker. It was in Germany he met and married his wife Tamara, born at Tahanrog in the Ukraine on 22 March 1924. One of seven children, Tamara recalled many years later that as a young woman during the war she had to walk five miles in the snow to get bread for her family and was always hungry. She had possibly also been 'drafted' to Germany to replace German workers sent to fight at the front.

In 1947 Wasył, Tamara and daughter Leila, born at Assmannshausen in Germany in 1946, were accepted by the International Refugee Organisation and on 10 June 1949 their application for resettlement in

Australia was approved. Poland and the Ukraine were then under Russian control. Wasył was assessed as fluent in four languages — Polish, German, Russian and Ukrainian — but not English. They chose Australia as their new home so they could all migrate together, whereas Canada required Wasył to go first and establish himself there before Tamara and Leila could follow.

The Kruczkowski family embarked aboard the *Dundalk Bay* at Naples in August 1949 with over 1,000 other 'DPs' and arrived at Port Melbourne on 14 September 1949. They then travelled by train to the Bonegilla Migrant Camp near Wodonga, but when Ella was born in March 1950, they were housed at the Uranquinty Migrant Camp near Wagga in New South Wales. By October 1950, however, they

were living at Williamstown in Melbourne.

In 1950 the Bold family, Winter descendants, sold 37 acres of their farm at Westgarthtown to Cherrywood Estates and this land was soon subdivided into Howell, Richards, Dickens and Ryder Streets. At a talk I gave to an historical society about Westgarthtown during the 1990s, a man who once worked for a surveying company in the northern suburbs told me those four streets had been named after various staff members in the surveyors' office. In 1951, the Bolds sold the remaining

“AS A YOUNG WOMAN DURING THE WAR SHE HAD TO WALK FIVE MILES IN THE SNOW TO GET BREAD FOR HER FAMILY AND WAS ALWAYS HUNGRY.”

farmhouse block and the Kruczkowski family purchased it from the estate of the late Harry Johnson, who died in 1952.

As a child, my main memories of Kruczkowski's Farm, variously referred to by my

parents as Bold's or Wasył's, were the hundreds of pigeons which lined the shed roofs and the many white geese which foraged along the banks of the creek. The geese can be seen in the colour photo taken by Pastor Ewald Steiniger for the 1956 Thomastown Lutheran Church centenary celebrations. Wasył worked as a kitchen hand or cook



at Mont Park and Tamara looked after the house, garden and animals — poultry, pigs and cows. Leila and Ella attended Thomastown Primary School, then Merrilands High School, along with the rest of us children at Westgarthtown.

In about 1964, Wasyl and Tamara began subdividing their land, the first 14 lots being released along the west side of Mount View Road. On Lot 7, or 115 Mount View Road, they built a new brick home for themselves. Over 50 years later I recall several enjoyable parties held in their garage. They then demolished the old bluestone and timber farmhouse and outbuildings and constructed two courts on the remaining seven acres along the Edgars Creek.

Wasyl planned to name one of these courts after himself, but for some unaccountable reason, the Shire of Whittlesea rejected the name Wasyl Court. He was apparently furious at the council's decision and it is hard to understand why Wasyl's name was not considered suitable — surely it wasn't because he was non-British — but what other explanation is there? Thankfully, Ella Court was deemed acceptable and today the City of Whittlesea allows non-British street names. No one seems to recall who Victor Court was named after.

As a child during the 1950s and early 1960s, I lived through



Clockwise from above: Ella Court was named after the Kruczkowski's daughter; a wooden section of the former Winter house in which they lived; plan of subdivision taken from the title certificate; the homestead and outbuildings c. 1956; Dundalk Bay.

the absorption of Westgarthtown's farmlands into the rapidly growing outer Melbourne suburbs of Thomastown and Lalor. Growing up in a safe and secure farming community, I was completely unaware of the war-torn backgrounds of many of our new neighbours, including the Kruczkowski family. I now see that Westgarthtown became Wasyl and Tamara Kruczkowski's safe haven from the traumatic events and places of their past, a past they apparently never spoke of. Perhaps it was Westgarthtown's European village feel which attracted them?

Wasyl, Tamara and Leila Kruczkowski were naturalised as Australian citizens on 5 April 1961. Wasyl died on 6 August 1994 aged 77 and was buried at Yan Yean. On Tamara's death on 24 July 2014, aged 90, she was cremated and her ashes placed in Wasyl's grave.

The Paulke Family

BY MELINDA TAM

My great-great-great-grandfather Friedrich August Hermann Paulke (also spelt Paulka) was born in about 1826 in Laesgen, Silesia, the third son of Gottfried Paulke, a cottager. Hermann Paulke was a master blacksmith, but was also described as a farrier and gunsmith.

On 29 June 1847 he married Johanna Dorothea (known as Anna) Kupke in Rothenburg Lutheran Church. Anna was born on 27 August 1823 in Lansitz, Silesia, the eldest daughter of Gottfried and Christine (née Feind) Kupke. Her father was a cottager and lay court

of justice member.

Hermann and Anna Paulke's first child, Auguste Pauline, was born on 16 August 1848 in Lansitz. The Paulke family emigrated on 11 September 1849 from Hamburg on the *Emmy* and arrived in Melbourne on 19 December 1849. Shortly after their arrival, the Paulke family were named in an advertisement listing German immigrants from the *Emmy* who were available for employment. It is not known where Hermann Paulke was first employed following his arrival — he may have been the blacksmith at Westgarthtown after the settlement was established in March 1850.



GERMAN IMMIGRATION.
LIST of German Immigrants at the Government Depot now ready for engagement:—
Arndt, wife and one child, potter
Brose and wife, farmer
Kropin single man, surveyor
Paulke, wife and one child, smith
Schultz, single man, farmer
Schuber, wife and three children, shepherd
Schwerkolt, single man, brewer
Siebel, wife and two children, farmer
Frausche, wife and four children, farmer
Wieland, wife and two children, turner.
By order of the Committee.
A. BRALLE, Secretary.



Clockwise from main: Epping cemetery plaque commemorating three generations of the Paulke family; Epping street sign; 3 January 1850 advertisement for employment.

Hermann and Anna Paulke had a second child, Friedrich Wilhelm Paulke, born on 13 February 1851. He was baptised in a Lutheran service at the Independent Chapel in Collins Street, Melbourne on 18 April 1851, one of the first two children to be baptised as Lutherans in Victoria.

Hermann and Anna Paulke were known to be residing in the Westgarthtown area in 1855. Hermann Paulke may have been the 'Mr Boelke' who did the carpentry work and supplied materials during the building of the Westgarthtown Lutheran Church and was paid £134

and four shillings in 1856. In March 1855 Hermann Paulke was listed as contributing £5 to the building fund for the Mecklenburg Lutheran School. This building is now the Westgarthtown Lutheran Church. His eldest two children were listed as engaged to attend Mecklenburg Lutheran School.

Hermann Paulke of the German Colony (Westgarthtown) is listed on a petition in Melbourne dated 31 December 1856. The petition was against the introduction of a three-year waiting period for naturalisation to take effect.

In 1856 Hermann bought a half-acre block of land in the township of Epping at a sale of Crown lands, paying £6 and ten shillings for it. This was Lot 5, Section 5. In 1862 Hermann Paulke was a blacksmith residing at Epping. In order to legally own his land, he needed to be naturalized in Victoria. This took place on 30 September 1862. By 1863 Hermann Paulke had built a house facing Rufus Street on his block at Epping. In 1867 he purchased another half-acre block of land at Epping from John Mason, paying £10 for it. This block was Lot 6, Section 5 and adjoined the property he already owned.

Hermann Paulke was described as a blacksmith/toolmaker and stonemason by his descendants. He is said to have helped build many of the Epping area's old bluestone

buildings, including St Peter's Catholic Church, Epping and St John's Church of England, Epping. Hermann and Anna Paulke are remembered by their descendants as growing much of their own food on their property.

Hermann and Anna had a further three children: Holda Bertha, born about 1854; Karl Hermann, born 3 August 1856 at Westgarthtown; and Johann Gustavus, born 8 March 1862 at Epping.

In 1870 Hermann Paulke contributed five shillings to the Franco Prussian War Benefit.

Hermann Paulke died on 17 August 1875 at Epping aged 49 years and was buried in the Epping Cemetery. He died of valvular disease of the heart and general dropsy. He left an unproven will in which his widow Anna Paulke was appointed his executor and he left his real estate to her for life. The property was then to go to his youngest son, Johann Paulke, after his widow's death. Johann Paulke was to pay £15 each to his brothers Wilhelm and Hermann Jr in order to get his inheritance.

In 1876 Anna Paulke contributed two shillings and sixpence to the reduction of debt on Trinity Lutheran Church, East Melbourne. She died on 5 December 1897 at Epping aged 74 years of liver cancer and exhaustion and was buried with her husband in Epping Cemetery.

All Hermann and Anne Paulke's children resided in Epping and four of them married:

- Auguste (1848-1885) married Georg Falk in 1865 and had seven children, six surviving infancy.
- Wilhelm (1851-1927) married Ellen Taggart in 1882 and had eleven children, eight surviving infancy.
- Holda (c1854-1934) married William Payne in 1875 and had no issue.
- Hermann (1856-1890) married Ellen Legg in 1886 and had two children.
- Johann (1862-1931) remained unmarried.

Wilhelm Paulke and Hermann Paulke Jr were both local government contractors

constructing and maintaining many of the roads in the Epping and Thomastown areas, including those at Westgarthtown. Johann Paulke worked for the local council.

Two of Hermann and Anna Paulke's granddaughters married into other Westgarthtown families — Elizabeth Falk (my great-grandmother) married Friedrich Nebel and Annie Paulka, daughter of Hermann Paulka Jr, married Charles Hehr, son of Jacob and Magdalena (née Wuchatsch) Hehr.

The Paulke property in Epping remained in the family until the late 1960s. Today the Epping Telephone Exchange stands on part of the land. Hermann Paulke and his family are remembered in Epping with Paulka Court named after them.

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

Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum Accreditation

At the 2018 Victoria Museum Awards held at the Melbourne Museum on 29 August the Friends of Westgarthtown received our Museum Accreditation certificate for Ziebell's Farmhouse. A transcript of Léon Borrack's acceptance speech is reproduced here.

ON the evening of the 2nd of February 1850, a German immigrant ship named the *Pribislaw* sailed quietly into Port Phillip Bay and docked at Williamstown. Aboard were my great-great-great grandparents, Christian and Sophia Ziebell. As they disembarked, I wonder what they felt at that moment as they took their first steps on Australian soil, their heads filled with the dream of forging a new life for themselves and their large family in this faraway foreign land.

Today, Ziebell's Farmhouse in suburban Thomastown is a cultural

heritage destination quite unlike any other. It's open to the public as a heritage building, a historic garden, an interpretive centre and museum. But I like to think of Ziebell's Farmhouse as a home to stories. Some of them are more recent, but in the main they are from a time that would otherwise be long forgotten.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution of the four founders of the Friends of Westgarthtown. In 1993, the late Sylvia Schultz created a vision for Ziebell's Farmhouse together with Geoff Borrack, Robert

Wuchatsch and Gillian Borrack. Over 25 years they have made that vision reality. Tonight is a very special moment for us to witness their success.

I would like to express my gratitude to the City of Whittlesea for their belief and ongoing financial support. Thank you to the Museum Accreditation Program team, particularly Caroline Wall. A big thank you to Cassie May and Liza Martin for their assistance. And finally, congratulations to our entire committee of John Fry, Gillian Borrack, Robert Wuchatsch,



Léon Borrack accepts our Museum Accreditation certificate from Frank McGuire MP

Paul Schultz and Doretta Belot who have dedicated their energies to this outcome.

Grave of Sapper Charles William Dau

HELEN Dennett, of Coogee in New South Wales, has kindly provided this photo of the gravestone of Charles William Dau, who is buried in the Pont Remy Cemetery in France.

Charles William Dau, a member of the 6th Field Company Engineers, died of wounds in France on 26 July 1918. For further details about the Dau family see *Gumleaf Germans: Westgarthtown During World War 1* on our website westgarthtown.org.au.



Descendants' Day 2019

Descendants' Day for 2019 will be held on Sunday 3 March at Ziebell's Farmhouse, 100 Gardenia Road, Thomastown, starting at 12:00 noon.

BY MEGAN MORITZ (NÉE BELOT)

Descendants' Day is a special event to add to your calendar. The day provides a time and place where families and friends of Westgarthtown and Ziebell's Farmhouse can come together, catch up and honour our heritage.

2018 was a fantastic day blessed with great weather for our now established tradition of having a picnic lunch and afternoon tea in the garden. During the yearly update from the Friends of Westgarthtown it was lovely to learn that Ziebell's Farmhouse was in the process of being accredited as a museum by Museums Australia.

Many of us had spent some part of our childhood running around the

beautifully manicured garden at Ziebell's Farmhouse and I think it is amazing that the next generation of our families can have those same treasured childhood memories.

The Descendants' Day committee will meet at 11:00 am which is an important part in making sure the day continues. It would be great if you would like to come along and join our committee or even if you would like to come along and share your ideas. Please email me for any further information at meganbelot@gmail.com

On behalf of the Descendants' Day committee, we hope to see you and your family on 3 March 2019 with your picnic lunch. Tea and coffee will be supplied.



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