

Elements

OF WESTGARTHTOWN

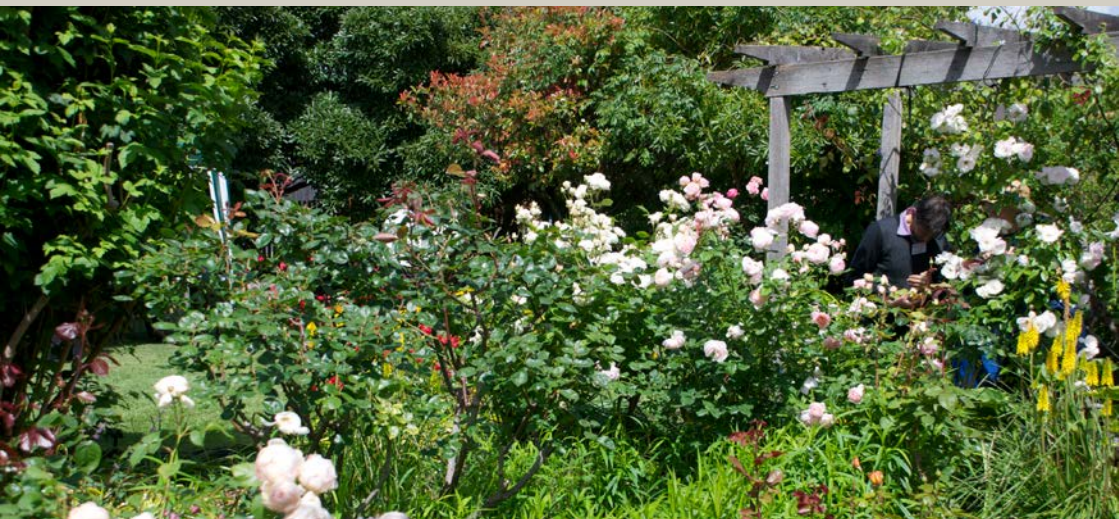


Roses

Volume 23. No. 2 • December 2019

Roses at Westgarthtown

The roses at Ziebell's Farmhouse are a living connection to past and current generations. The 145 year old Cécile Brünner rose thrives in the central garden, cared for by successive generations of Ziebell family women. On display now, our exhibition *Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden: Memories & Meaning* highlights their story. See page 4 for details.



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COMMUNICATION CHANGES

The final *Elements*

After 23 years of producing a large comprehensive newsletter twice a year, we are moving to more regular email communications supplemented by a journal style newsletter.

EMAIL was an emerging technology when Robert Wuchatsch produced and printed the first edition of *Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter* in February 1997. It was a rare household indeed that was connected to the internet. If you were, it was via a 'dial-up' modem boasting speeds 200 times slower than a typical NBN service!

Today, 85% of *Elements* subscribers receive our newsletter via email. In the next few months we will commence delivering email news quarterly, with additional timely communications as appropriate. These emails will be sent by Ziebell's Farmhouse

Manager, Gordon Johnston.

Rob will continue to produce a newsletter containing historical articles. As with *Elements*, you will receive this via post or email in the same way you do today.

These changes will allow us to produce communications material more efficiently and save time that can be redirected to preserving, developing and promoting Westgarthtown in other ways.

Whilst sadly, this means the end of *Elements of Westgarthtown*, we believe this change will allow subscribers to be more informed than ever before. Additional details will be provided in coming months.

Manager's update

In his first report for *Elements* since commencing in the position of Ziebell's Farmhouse Manager, **Gordon Johnston** keeps us abreast of some of the exhibitions, programs and changes occurring at our museum and heritage gardens.

It is an exciting and rewarding time. Since October 20 over 250 people have visited the museum and garden. Our new exhibition, *Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden: Memories and Meanings*, is installed. It focuses on memories

of the central garden, including the roses and the generations who have planted them. It builds on the importance of the garden as a reason for people to visit. As you would imagine the garden is stunning at the moment. With the

new opening hours in place (if you have forgotten I have listed below) and the publicity in *The Age*, we have had visitors travelling from as far as Ballarat and Mt Macedon, with the majority being from suburban Melbourne. Feedback has been exceptional.

We had a garden stall at the Taste of Thomastown. Over 1,000 people visited the event and there was a noticeable increase in visitor numbers to the museum and garden the next day. Thomastown Library story time in the garden commenced on November 20 with 46 children and parents enjoying activities on the lawn.

Five new volunteers have joined us to assist with the garden, tours, museum/visitor management and potentially other areas.

In collaboration with the Ziebell's Farmhouse sub-committee, overall

planning for the next two years is in place. Watch this space, as they say, for updates.

All the best,
Gordon

Ziebell's Farmhouse now open twice a week

Our new opening hours are every Sunday 11.30am to 3pm, excluding public holidays; and every Tuesday 9am to 12 noon, excluding public holidays.

Entry is free for all members of the Friends of Westgarthtown (excluding some special events). Non-members \$3.00 and children 50c.

Images from our new exhibition *Ziebell's Farmhouse Garden: Memories and Meanings*, on display now at Ziebell's Farmhouse.





Just completed: our *Pribislaw* model in creator Mario Vetter's workshop, Ribnitz.

The *Pribislaw*, the replica and the day!

BY GORDON JOHNSTON

From previous newsletters you would know the significance of the *Pribislaw* in the history of Westgarthtown. You would also know that it was Robert Wuchatsch who was instrumental in locating the ship's last resting place and building the relationship with the Bernstein Museum in Germany.

The resulting relationship lead to the Bernstein Museum's kind offer to construct a 1:40 scale replica of the *Pribislaw* as a gift to the Friends of Westgarthtown and Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum. The replica will be unveiled on April 26, 2020 with a special international guest joining us. We will keep you updated but save the date!

OBITUARY

John Waghorn

1936–2019

John Waghorn, one of Westgarthtown's very best friends, died on 13 September 2019 after several years of ill-health. He was 83.

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

John, born at Kew, was the son of Sidney and Mary Waghorn. John and his wife Phyllis married in 1971 and moved to Lalor later that year. The house they built in Begonia Court, just west of the Lutheran Cemetery, stands on part of the old Maltzahn/Kreitling farm. John's working life was spent as an accountant with the Postmaster-General's Department (later Australia Post) and he was an expert in Victorian postal history.

I first met John when I joined the Whittlesea Historical Society around 1980. At that stage he had about 15-20 filing cabinets of research material. In 1982 he published his first book *Gobur and the Golden Gate: A History of the Township and Parish of Gobur in the Shire of Alexandra* followed in 1983 by *Narbethong Post Office Centenary 1883-1983* and *The Grenness family in Australia* in 1986. John then concentrated on compiling *The*

Waghorn Collection of Victorian Post Office Records, a series of 52 bound volumes he donated to the State Library of Victoria. Local historians throughout Victoria continually sought John's advice about the history of postal services and post offices in the areas they were researching. As John never made the transition to computers his very helpful replies were always typed.

For many years John was Vice-President and later Treasurer of the Whittlesea Historical Society. In 1985, John and I co-authored *Historic Buildings of the Whittlesea Shire*, a book published by the Whittlesea Historical Society to highlight some of the area's wonderful heritage assets. I wrote the text and John took the photos for that book. He continued to take photographs which documented the rapid changes taking place within the Plenty Valley for many years, usually getting round on his trusty bicycle.

My fondest memories of John

**“MY FONDEST
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were our long and stimulating history discussions, especially while driving to and from monthly historical society meetings at Whittlesea, which we did together for over 20 years. Once when we were returning home late one night and parked outside my family's old farmhouse at Lalor to conclude

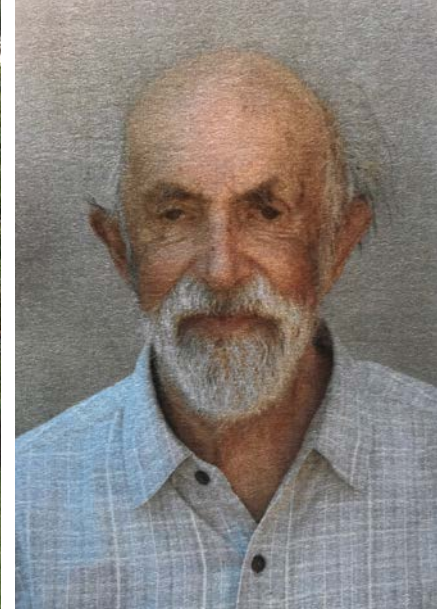
a discussion a police car stopped to ensure we weren't up to no good. At that time John's tally of filing cabinets was about 45 and he ultimately filled over 70, mostly kept in another house he built in Magnolia Court.

For the first 15 years after the Friends of Westgarthtown was formed in 1995, John acted as our postman, all our mail being directed through John's post office box at Thomastown. John and Phyllis were also regular volunteers at our Open Days at Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum at Westgarthtown.

John applied an intellectual rigour to his research, accepting nothing as fact unless it was



John's wife Phyllis with John, Cr. Kris Pavlidis, former Cr. Adrian Spinelli, Friends of Westgarthtown Secretary Gillian Borrack, President John Fry and former Westgarthtown Tour Coordinator Tatiana Joukoff at the launch of our Heritage Walk brochure in 2013.



documented, preferably several times. For that reason, his marvellous collection of historical material has been and will always be of great value to researchers. John was an historian's historian. He often found material for me I would never have found myself. In 2000 I had the pleasure of successfully nominating John for a Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV) Award of Merit. John was a member of the RHSV for over 50 years.

I am sure John's interest in history was instrumental in seeing him through the tragedy of the Queen's Street massacre in 1987 when his life was endangered when

a gunman attacked his office and killed eight of his workmates. John then withdrew for several months to the peace of the family's bush block at Swift's Creek and proceeded to build another house there. When he retired from Australia Post in 1991 his farewell gift wasn't a gold watch but a photocopier to help him with his research.

A Requiem Mass for the soul of John Francis Waghorn was held at St Clare's Church, Thomastown West followed by a burial service at Yan Yean Cemetery. Our sympathies and best wishes go to John's widow Phyllis and children Rosemary, Peter, Suzanne and Michael as they adjust to life without John.

Descendants' Day 2020

WORDS & PHOTO BY MEGAN MORITZ (NÉE BELOT)

THE next Westgarthtown Descendants' Day will be held on Sunday 1 March 2020 with a picnic lunch.

Descendants' Day 2019 was quite a warm gathering which saw the marquees being used for shade. It was quite cool under the verandah of the old house showing off the skill of past ancestral architectural design.

2020 will see a few additions to Descendants' Day. The sausage

sizzle will be on again for a gold coin donation. There will be a lucky door prize as well as a present for the oldest and the youngest descendant.

There will also be a digital display of Sam Ziebell's Family History.

The Descendants' Day committee will meet at 11am before our picnic lunch — please come along if you would like to contribute further to the day — it would be much appreciated.

We hope to see you in 2020!

Schoolhouse excavation update

IN our April 2019 edition of *Elements* we advised that the Friends of Westgarthtown believe the time is now right to reveal the hidden heritage of Westgarthtown's former Lutheran schoolhouse.

Although the building was demolished during the 1950s, the footings remain, buried during the 1970s when the area was landscaped with earth excavated during construction of roads for the Urban Land Authority's residential estate on Ziebell's old dairy farm.

The Friends of Westgarthtown raised this matter at the April 2019 quarterly meeting of the

Westgarthtown Pioneer Precinct Committee, which is composed of representatives of the Friends of Westgarthtown, Thomastown Lutheran Church and City of Whittlesea.

As it was not known whether the former schoolhouse site was now owned by the Lutheran Church, the City of Whittlesea, or both, the City of Whittlesea undertook to check this and has since advised it is owned by the Lutheran Church. Should funding become available, the Thomastown Lutheran Church's approval will be required to commence the archaeological excavation.



2019 Descendants' Day

Thomastown Lutheran Church services

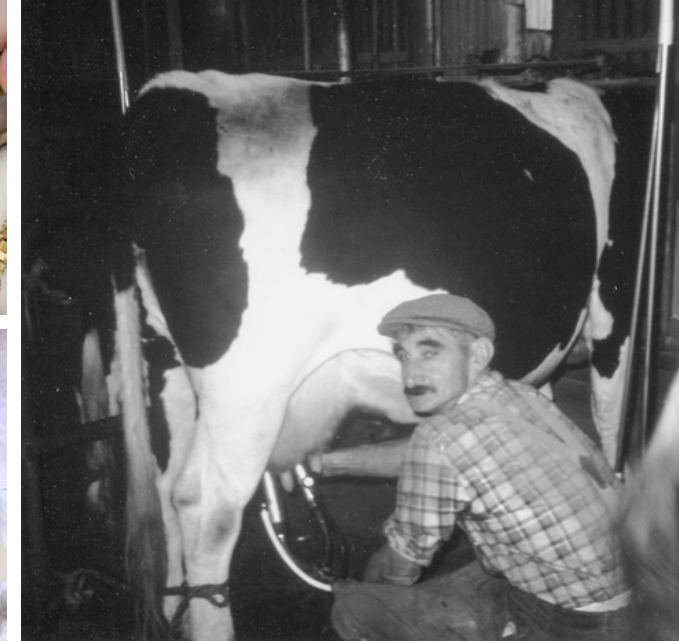
SERVICES are held on the second and fourth Sunday of the month at 2.30 pm at the Thomastown Lutheran Church, German Lane, Lalor.

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

Visiting Ziebell's Farmhouse

ZIEBELL'S Farmhouse is open on Sunday 11:30 am–3 pm and Tuesday 9 am–12 noon. 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



Some of the images digitised by Sam and Naomi: a wonderfully detailed pocket watch that belonged to Carl Alfred Ziebell, Ziebell family dairy farm records and Sam's grandfather Henry Ziebell milking. With digital images, the objects can be shared visually, while the actual object stays in the care of the descendant.

Recording family history

BY SAM ZIEBELL

I have recently started this process with the collections of my late father, James Ziebell, and my uncle, Henry Ziebell.

When their parents, Henry and Annie Ziebell passed away during the 1980s, James and Henry shared the family photos and objects, as would be the case with many of you. This left both with some treasured memories, but not with all of them.

I was recently able to scan both sets of photos. We also took scans of documents (wills, property sales,

etc) and some detailed photos of any objects held by both families. I was then able to provide both families with a full digital copy, which they can view and print off any photos they wish to have a hard copy of or make a photo album with. We now wish we had done this years ago.

The process really was quite simple. I gathered the photos and documents, so I could scan them and my wife Naomi took photos of all items. After I had scanned all the photos, I took a digital copy back

to Henry, where we had a coffee and looked through them on my laptop (they can also be viewed on most TVs).

I also asked Henry if I could film him with my phone, as he told me about his recollections of farming on the Ziebell Farm. This was very interesting and I have made a short 20 minute film on this (which will be available for viewing at the next Descendants' Day on 1 March 2020).

I would encourage you to film other descendants this way, so we can all hear their (and their families) memories and stories of when they spent time in the Westgarthtown precinct. Naomi

and I can help make a digital copy of photos, documents and objects relating to Westgarthtown.

If you have anything of historic significance to Westgarthtown, no matter how small or how large, please contact us. Items could be as small as a photo or two, a box of photos, slides or old home movies, or maybe some household items or farm equipment.

Do not lose these precious memories to time, but save them for future generations.

Contact Sam Ziebell on
0478 638 213.

The Bormann Family

BY MELINDA TAM



Rosina and Gottfried Bormann

My great-great-grandfather Georg Falk's second wife was Rosina Friederike Catherine Bormann (née Seeber). She was born on 5 July 1841 at Eichach, Württemberg, the eighth of ten children of Johann Andreas Philipp Seeber, a farmer and Rosina Catharine Seeber (née Elsässer). She was baptised in the Lutheran Church at Eichach in 1841 and after finishing school was confirmed in 1855.

Rosina Seeber's father Philipp Seeber had died in 1852. Rosina's brothers Philipp, Ludwig and Christian Seeber immigrated to Victoria in 1856 and Rosina with her

other brothers Johann and Gottlieb Seeber followed in 1857. They applied to emigrate at Zweiflingen; this included surrendering their citizenship rights in the Kingdom of Württemberg. Johann Seeber was issued with a passport which included Rosina and Gottlieb Seeber. Rosina was described as 5' 4" in height, slim stature and healthy complexion. They left their home in Eichach on 15 June 1857 and travelled via Heilbronn, Mannheim and Rotterdam. They sailed on the ship *John Linn* on 26 June 1857 from Liverpool, England, arriving in Melbourne on 30 September 1857.

On 1 May 1860 Rosina Seeber married Gottfried Bormann at

Bendigo. He was born in about 1823 in Dankerode, Mansfeld Prussia. His parents were August Bormann, a farmer and Christina Bormann (née Doring). A baker from Blankenburg, Brunswick, he emigrated on the ship *Wandrahm* on 20 April 1854 from Hamburg, arriving on 8 August 1854 at Port Adelaide, South Australia.

In 1858 Gottfried Bormann was a quartz miner residing at Snob's Gully, Eaglehawk. He gave evidence at the inquest

into the death of Martin Loemann, a puddler of Eaglehawk. Another puddler, Christian von See was later convicted of the murder of Martin Loemann and hanged.

Rosina Bormann's mother Rosina Seeber and younger sister Carolina Seeber immigrated to Victoria in 1861. They were accompanied by Georg Falk and Friedrich Vockensohn.

Gottfried Bormann owned shares in the Princess Alice Claim, a quartz gold mining claim, from 1863 to 1865. In 1866 Gottfried was a share owner in the Canada Company Claim, a quartz gold mining claim. In 1867 Gottfried was the owner of three claims all of which were

named Bormann's Claim; they were puddling dams. Gottfried resided in a slab house with zinc roof with stable and land in Snobs Gully, Eaglehawk.

In about 1868 Gottfried and Rosina Bormann moved to Epping, joining four of Rosina's brothers who resided either at Westgarthtown or Epping. In 1868 Gottfried Bormann, baker of Epping, purchased a two-acre block of land on the corner of High and Rufus Streets for £68.

This was Lots 11, 12 and 13 Section 17 Township of Epping. A four-roomed weatherboard baker's shop and a brick kitchen and bakery was built on the site.

In 1870 Gottfried donated five shillings to the

Franco Prussian War Benefit. From 1873 to 1880 Gottfried donated a total of £2/10/- to the building fund for Trinity Lutheran Church, East Melbourne and later reduction of the debt on the building.

Rosina Bormann's mother, Rosina Seeber died in 1871 and was buried in the Westgarthtown Lutheran Cemetery.

In 1879 Gottfried Bormann purchased a five-roomed weatherboard store and a three-

quarter acre block of land on the corner of High and Coulstock Streets for £200. This was Lot 9, Section 16, Township of Epping.

In 1879 Gottfried advertised for another baker to assist him in his business. He also purchased a two-roomed slab hut and a one-acre block of land between Wedge and Coulstock streets in Epping before 1882.

Gottfried and Rosina Bormann had four children:

1) Eliese Bormann, born in 1861 at Eaglehawk. She died in 1865 aged about four years and was buried on 9 April 1865 in Eaglehawk Cemetery.

2) Johannes (Hans) Bormann, born in 1867 at Eaglehawk. He died of accidental scalds on 6 November 1872 in Melbourne Hospital aged five years and was buried at Westgarthtown.

3) Wilhelm Bormann, born on 23 September 1870 at Wollert. He was later described as an imbecile in his father's will.

4) Hermann Bormann, born on 12 September 1876 at Epping.

In August 1881, Gottfried went surety for the Epping postmaster,

Friedrich Vockensohn for £30. When Vockensohn was convicted and sentenced to gaol, Gottfried lost a portion of his £30. He felt this loss keenly and from that time laboured under the idea he was ruined and his wife and family would be left destitute.

In February 1882 Gottfried sold his bakery business to his employee, Mr Paterson. On 15 April

1882 Gottfried remained up until after midnight, treating a horse which, although in good health, he insisted had been poisoned. The following morning Elizabeth Seeber, Rosina Bormann's niece, found him suspended by a rope in the cart shed.

Gottfried

Bormann died on 16 April 1882 aged about 59 years old. An inquest was held on 17 April 1882 at Epping. The evidence of Rosina Bormann showed that Gottfried Bormann was of unsteady habits, and since meeting with an accident about a year before his death, had shown frequent symptoms of insanity, and on two previous occasions had attempted to kill himself. He was found to have died by hanging himself while in

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Seeber family c.1862. Wilhelm Bormann as a child.



an unsound state of mind and was buried at Westgarthtown.

Gottfried left a widow and two sons who were both minors. His estate, valued at about £421, was left to his widow Rosina until her death or remarriage; it was then to go to his two sons. Wilhelm was to get two-thirds of the estate and Hermann one-third on his majority. The money for Wilhelm Bormann was to be held in trust for his lifetime. Rosina Bormann was appointed guardian of her children during their minority.

Rosina Bormann was a storekeeper in Epping until her remarriage in 1886. In June 1883 she donated £1 to the Lutheran Church for the mission. She also had an illegitimate child, Phillip Gottfried Bormann or Seeber, born in 1884.

On 17 February 1886 Rosina Bormann was married to my great-great-grandfather Georg Falk by Pastor Herman Herlitz at Trinity Lutheran Church, East Melbourne. Georg Gottfried Friedrich Falk was born on 3 June 1837 in Kemmeten,

Württemberg. His parents were Ludwig Falk, a farmer and Dorothea (née Gross) Falk. Georg was a widower with six children, his first wife Augusta (née Paulke) Falk having died in 1885. In 1884 he had been recorded as a repairer with the Victorian Railways.

On 14 June 1886, Gottfried Bormann's real and personal estate was sold by his trustees, Johann Wuchatsch and Ernst Schultz. This was because Rosina Bormann had remarried and therefore lost her interest in her deceased husband's

estate. Georg Falk bought the store Rosina Bormann was operating as well as household furniture, spring cart, a set of harness, cow and sundries at auction.

Tragedy struck the family again in 1888 with the death of Phillip Bormann. He died of congestion of the brain and coma on 29 May 1888 at Epping aged four years. He was buried at Westgarthtown.

Georg and Rosina Falk and Hermann Bormann were members of the Westgarthtown Lutheran Church at Thomastown. From

1891 until 1903 Georg and Rosina Falk donated £9/10/- to the church and from 1900 to 1902 Hermann Bormann donated £1/4/-.

Wilhelm Bormann died of typhoid fever on 11 April 1901 in Epping aged 30 years old and was buried at Westgarthtown. Rosina Falk received a five-roomed weatherboard house and land in Cooper Street, Preston as well as about £48 from her son's estate.

In about 1901 Georg Falk gave up operating the store, then in 1906 moved to a house in Howard Street, Epping where he lived until 1911. The store in High Street, Epping was rented out to various tenants.

In 1910 Georg and Rosina Falk separated and Georg placed a notice in *The Age* stating he would not be responsible for Rosina's debts. In 1910 and 1911 Rosina mortgaged her house in Preston then sold it in 1912. Rosina was naturalized in 1910 and in 1911 took up a selection which included a house and 20 acres of land at Bruce's Creek, Whittlesea. Her son Hermann Bormann lived with her and was working the land as an orchardist.

George Falk died on 1 July 1913 in Epping aged 76 years and was

buried with his first wife in Epping Cemetery.

During World War 1 Hermann Bormann was almost interned. In 1916 a neighbour Minnie Blair made a complaint to the Australian Intelligence Corps about his behaviour. He is said to have made personal remarks about her brothers who were soldiers at the front and also insulted an Indian hawker. An investigation by Constable J. Crawford found Hermann Bormann

was very much addicted to drink and very abusive when under the influence of liquor.

Rosina Falk was an old age pensioner residing at Bruce's Creek, Whittlesea in 1916 when she died of cardiac failure

and senility at Preston on 14 July 1916 aged 75 years. She was buried at Westgarthtown and her selection taken over by Hermann Bormann but he had relinquished it by 1923.

In 1937 Hermann Bormann was described as a labourer residing at Noorinbee in East Gippsland when he was sent to Sunbury Mental Hospital having been deemed to be "psychotic with alcoholic basis". He died there unmarried on 18 November 1948 aged 72 years. He was buried in Springvale Cemetery.

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RESEARCH

Johann Christian Froebel

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Johann Christian Froebel farmed in the Janefield and Wollert areas from the late 1850s until the early 1870s, when he moved to 304 acres of bushland he had selected in the Parish of Scoresby (today's Boronia). When the railway was extended from Ringwood to Fern Tree Gully during the land boom of the late 1880s he sold his farm and became a wealthy man. Sadly, however, his wife and only child had predeceased him, so he left most of his fortune to relatives in Germany and the Melbourne and Alfred Hospitals and the Benevolent Asylum.

Johann Froebel, the son of Johann Nikol Andreas, a master wheelwright and Christiana Katharine (née Kloepfel) Froebel, was born at Kranichfeld, Meiningen, Thüringen in 1828. Johann arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg aboard the *Malvina Vidal* on 5 October 1854. His earliest movements in Victoria are unknown, but in July 1857 he wrote to the Sewers and Water Commission in Melbourne, requesting £25 damages caused when the pipeline carrying water from the newly constructed Yan Yean Reservoir burst and flooded his wheat field at Janefield. He received £10 compensation.

Johann married Johanna Caroline Zeising (née Scholz), a 36-year-old widow born at Kunzendorf, Prussia at St. John's Anglican Church at Heidelberg on 28 August 1858. It is not known why they did not marry in a Lutheran Church. Caroline had two young sons – Heinrich and Ernst. Her first husband, Ernst Traugott Zeising, a butcher and farmer, died at Janefield in January 1851 after falling from a tree. Ernst Traugott and his son Heinrich had arrived aboard the *Godeffroy* in February 1849 and Caroline and a newborn baby aboard the *Wappaus* the following month. A further child Ernst was born in 1851 after his father's death. The Zeisings were

one of several German families living at Janefield (now Mill Park) during the 1850s on land leased from Henry Miller in the Parish of Morang.

In June 1860, Johann was a godparent to Susanne Pauline Hallmann, whose parents lived at Janefield. In May 1861, at the inquest into the death of a man named Hugh Lorimer, he gave his address as Morang and occupation as farmer. He may have still lived at Janefield, or perhaps elsewhere within the Parish of Morang. Caroline's address was given as Morang when she was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital in July 1864, where she remained until October while being treated for rheumatism.

In late 1865, Johann was elected auditor to the Morang District Roads Board and served in that role until he resigned in November 1866. In August 1866 he was a juror at the inquest of former Westgarthtown resident, Friedrich Timm, who farmed in Bindt's Road, Wollert. As most of the jurors were from Wollert, Johann Froebel may also have lived there, as in 1868 he leased 240 acres of Timm's farm in Lot 16, Parish of Morang. Among his Wollert neighbours were Carl and Maria Ewert, who had also previously lived at Janefield. In April 1869, Caroline Froebel, along with Friedrich Ewert and Ernst Schultz, was a godparent

to Emma Magdalena Bindt, Maria Ewert's niece.

Johann Froebel took an interest in politics. In January 1868, he attended a meeting at Grant's Hotel at South Morang, called to ensure the election of Messrs Balfour and McCaw. He proposed a committee be formed to ensure their return and served as a member of that committee. Then in 1868 and 1869 he stood for the Morang District Roads Board but was defeated both times. A

possible reason for Johann's interest in politics was his belief in financial responsibility. In September 1869, he sought and was granted a Supreme Court injunction restraining the Epping District Roads Board from

entering into a contract for a new stone bridge over the Merri Creek at Northcote, as no provision had been made for the bridge in the Board's annual estimates. The Court found the Board could not legally enter into a contract regardless of the need for a new bridge.

In August 1869 ten-year-old Karl August (Charles) Froebel, Johann and Caroline's only child, shot himself in the left hand when he picked up a gun he did not know

was loaded. Charles was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital and spent a month there recovering before being discharged on 10 September.

In February 1869 Johann, aged 40, applied for and was naturalized as a Victorian citizen, enabling him to own land. In June 1870 he selected 304 acres (Section 58B, Parish of Scoresby) and moved there shortly after. He was granted a Crown Lease in 1873. His eldest stepson Heinrich Zeising had

also selected an adjoining block of 86 acres (59B) in 1870 and was granted a Crown Lease in 1874. By 1880 all payments had been made and freehold titles were granted for both blocks. Many other Germans also lived nearby.

CAROLINE'S FIRST HUSBAND, ERNST ZEISING, A BUTCHER AND FARMER, DIED AT JANEFIELD IN JANUARY 1851 AFTER FALLING FROM A TREE

Ernst Zeising, Johann's other stepson, married a neighbour, Henriette Auer, in 1878, then in 1880 Heinrich Zeising married Sophia Steinwart, of Bright. Their mother Caroline, however, died at home of paralysis on 7 September 1880, aged 61 and was buried in the Waldau Lutheran Cemetery at Doncaster. More tragedy followed in December 1884 when Johann's unmarried son Charles, aged 25, took his own life. Found dead in

bushland on the farm, Charles was first buried with his mother at Doncaster, but his body was later exhumed and transferred to the Melbourne General Cemetery.

In July 1885 Ernst Zeising was admitted to the Melbourne Hospital following a shooting accident. Like his half-brother Charles before him, Ernst suffered a gunshot wound to his left hand, caused when his gun exploded as he was getting through a fence. Ernst and his family lived on 60 acres excised from Johann Froebel's farm and also operated a store there.

Johann's nephew Albert Froebel, also from Kranichfeld, arrived in Melbourne in December 1885 on the *Sorrento* with his wife Alma and young children, Anna and Otto. They are said to have lived briefly on the farm with Johann. In 1888, however, with the railway to Fern Tree Gully about to be constructed through the north-east corner of his land, Johann sold his remaining 244 acres to Melbourne solicitors Alfred Strongman and William Crawford. Selling at the height of the boom Johann is said to have received £11,000. He held a clearing sale on 2

July 1888 to dispose of his livestock, farm machinery and furniture. Members of the Zeising family, however, remained until the 1960s and the Boronia Railway Station was built on part of Heinrich's farm in 1920.

Johann placed most of the proceeds from the sale of his land in fixed deposits at the Bank of Victoria and the Commercial Bank. In September 1888 he lent £3,000 to Conrad Lehrke, licensee of the

Buck's Head Hotel, in Little Lonsdale Street. In March 1889 this mortgage was transferred to Emil Dürre when he took over from Lehrke.

Johann Froebel died of heart disease on 12 April 1889 at 72 Hotham Street,

East Melbourne, aged 60 and was buried in the Lutheran Section of the Melbourne General Cemetery. His will was dated 2 November 1888. From his estate, valued for probate at £10,369, Johann left £500 in trust for his widowed sister-in-law Auguste Froebel of Stettin, and after her death for her daughters Auguste and Johanne; legacies of £1,000 to his brother August Froebel of Lauscha, schoolmaster; £1,000 to a sister Hermione,

wife of George Schubert of Sichebreuthe, Thüringen; £500 each to his stepsons Heinrich and Ernst Zeising; and generous donations of £1,000 to the Melbourne Hospital; £1,000 to the Alfred Hospital; £1,000 to the Melbourne Benevolent Asylum; with smaller sums to other charities.

Johann Froebel's father (1789-1870) married twice. Johann was a child of the second marriage and the beneficiaries of his will in Germany

all came from that marriage. Why Johann's nephew Albert Froebel, a descendant of the first marriage, was not a beneficiary is not known. A tanner, Albert Froebel settled in Preston and worked for fellow German Paul Hardenack, who owned a tannery there. I am grateful to Albert's descendants, Keith Froebel and Bruce Watson, who kindly provided information about the Froebel family in Germany.

STOP PRESS

Education program to be launched for 2020 school year

GORDON Johnston and John Fry are working together closely to coordinate the introduction of a new education program for Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum.

The aim of the program is to provide curriculum support for visiting schools based on the Victorian Curriculum. It is hoped this approach will increase school interest in Westgarthtown and attract more school tours.

Passionate educator Sue Allen is the architect of the new curriculum material, having personally volunteered hundreds of hours of

her time to develop three separate inquiry units for years 1 through 6. "With its heritage buildings, original gardens and pioneer reserve, Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum at Westgarthtown provides an ideal venue for children to learn about early rural life on the outskirts of Melbourne", says the retired primary school teacher and Westgarthtown enthusiast.

In the week before publication we received confirmation of a \$2,000 grant from the City of Whittlesea to make the program available online for use during the 2020 school year.

The Walkeden Family

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Karsten's Cottage at Westgarthtown was built during the 1850s by Heinrich Karsten, a son-in-law of Christian and Sophia Ziebell. Demolished in the 1980s, it stood on two acres of land on the site of today's Elder Court. After Heinrich Karsten's death in 1886, his widow Maria moved northwards to live with her daughter Alwine Kreitling, at Maltzahn's Farmhouse. Karsten's Cottage was then occupied by various Kreitling children until it was sold to neighbour Arnold Graff in 1922. William Walkeden purchased it in 1923, then in 1938 his widow Sarah sold it to Henry and Annie Ziebell (née Zimmer), who raised their two sons Henry and James there.

WILLIAM and Sarah Walkeden (née Johnson), both then living at Oakleigh, were married at Carlton on 12 November 1891. William, a widower born in Staffordshire, England around 1861, was the son of Thomas and Mary Walkeden. His occupation was given as labourer. Sarah, born at Alton in Staffordshire in about 1865, was the daughter of George and Mary Johnson. It is not known when William and Sarah

emigrated to Australia. Their only child, Louisa Phyllis Walkeden, was born on 6 December 1891.

The Walkeden family lived in various suburbs in Melbourne. They had been living at Port Melbourne for over 20 years when William Walkeden purchased Karsten's Cottage from Arnold Graff on 5 September 1923 for £160. Graff had bought it the previous year for only £80 but may have made improvements. William lived at Karsten's Cottage with Sarah until his death on 16 August 1931 aged 70. The property, described as a stone and weatherboard house on two acres, was valued for probate purposes at £120, reflecting the sharp decline in property prices caused by the Great Depression.

Sarah Walkeden remained at Karsten's Cottage until 1938 when she sold it to Henry and Annie Ziebell. She then moved to Ballarat where she died on 12 June 1942. Sarah was buried with William at Fawkner Cemetery. Their daughter Phyllis, who married Charles Alexander Pennant in 1912 and had three sons — Charles, William and Thomas — died on 4 July 1953.

Särka to Westgarthtown wins book award

In May 2019 Rob Wuchatsch's book *Särka to Westgarthtown: The Wuchatsch Family in Germany and Australia* was declared joint winner of the Family History Connections (AIGS) Alexander Henderson Award for 2018.

S*ärka to Westgarthtown* was launched at Ziebell's Farmhouse at Westgarthtown on 28 October 2018. In their award citation 'the judges commented on the delightful, long preface which sets the tone for the book. It is very well researched, clearly written, nicely presented and fulfills the criteria of providing appropriate referencing, bibliography, indexing etc.'

Rob said it was a great honour to win the prestigious Alexander Henderson Award, established in 1974 for the best Australian family history. Two winners were selected

for 2018, whereas no award was made in 2017, indicating the high standard required. Having since read the other joint winning book *Threaded Lives: stories of the Symonds, Price, Walker, Hitch and Moody families* by Eril Jolly, Rob said he was pleased to have been selected in such good company.

The judges for the Alexander Henderson Award were Gail White, President Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies; Helen Doxford Harris OAM; and Associate Professor Don Garden OAM, President from 2013-19 of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria (RHSV).

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Elements

OF WESTGARTHTOWN

EDITOR Rob Wuchatsch

DESIGN Léon Borrack

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ABN 74 674 258 165 INC. REG NO. A0032721Y

ENQUIRIES

(03) 9464 5062

PO Box 1 Mernda Victoria 3754

enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au

www.westgarthtown.org.au

PRESIDENT	John Fry
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