

FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN

# NEWSLETTER

## EDITOR'S NOTE

### Changes to our newsletter



In our newsletter's 24<sup>th</sup> year, the Friends of Westgarthtown have refined the way we communicate with our members and friends. While a six-monthly newsletter is fine for research news, Gordon Johnston, Manager Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum, will now use email to advise people on a more regular basis about forthcoming events and significant developments.

Harvest at Ziebell's Farm  
(photo courtesy Henry  
Ziebell & Sam Ziebell)

In *Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter* we will continue to include reports about events held at Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum, such as Descendants' Day, Open Gardens, book launches etc. This issue includes a report about Descendants' Day 2020. Gordon will also report on activities at Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum. Our *Pribislaw* 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations and model launch, planned for 26 April 2020, was postponed because of the COVID -19 virus but we hope to reschedule that event for April 2021 should Dirk Weissleder be able to visit Australia then.

We will continue to include research articles on Westgarthtown's history and brief biographies of Germans who settled at Westgarthtown and surrounding areas such as Epping, Wollert, Mill Park, South Morang, Mernda, Greensborough, Preston and Somerton. Virtually all Germans in these areas had connections with Westgarthtown.

In this edition, we focus on the once sleepy, but now rapidly expanding Mernda/Doreen area. We feature the Graff and Neumann families, pioneer German-born residents of Cookes Road, who now have streets named after them. We also highlight Schotters Road, which we now find was named after an Englishman, not a German.

We celebrate the life of Joe Adams, a great-great-grandson of Christian and Sophia Ziebell. Joe, along with his brothers Carl and Francis and sister Sylvia Schultz, lived and worked at Ziebell's farm in their younger days. Joe died in November 2019 and we extend our sincere sympathies to his family at their loss.

In our final issue of *Elements* (Vol. 23, No. 2 of December 2019) we advised of our committee member Sam Ziebell's project to digitize his family's old family photos and objects. Sam digitized Alfred Ziebell's milk sales book and reading it led me to write an article about the Stuchbery family's dairies at Fitzroy and Northcote, which like Siebel's Pura Dairy, also retailed Westgarthtown's milk.

Our final article is about E. Ziebell & Son's 1891 trademark. We hope you enjoy this newsletter.

**Rob Wuchatsch**

Editor

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## OBITUARY

# Joseph Henry Adams (1929–2019)

Joseph Adams, a Ziebell descendant, died on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 aged 90. This obituary was prepared by his children.

Joe (as he was affectionately known) was the loved husband of Maureen, father of Susan, Christine, Geoffrey, Wendy, Rosalie and Bradley, father-in-law of Garry, Stuart and Lisa and adored Grandfather of Lindsay, Jacqui, Nicole, Lee, Andrew, Jessica, Jake, Rebecca, Chelsea and Oscar and great grandfather of Kaylan, Austin, Hamish, Tyson, Koby, Allira, Lucas, Caleb, Blake, Violet and Zoe.

Joseph Henry Adams was born in Griffith NSW on the 25th March 1929, the second child of Joseph Percy Adams and Sylvia Dorothea Adams (née Ziebell). He was the brother of



Sylvia (deceased), Carl (deceased) and Francis. He was raised for the first 6 years of his life, on the farm at Goolgowli, near Griffith.

When Joe was about 6 years old, his father got peritonitis and died. His mother, Sylvia, had to move back to Ziebell Farmhouse, Westgarthtown at Thomastown to live, so she could have the support of her family, while raising 4 small children. Joe worked on Ziebell's farm with his brothers as a small boy, milking cows before school and helping after school as well. He attended Thomastown Primary school until his mother moved to Thornbury, where she worked in a milk bar and the family lived upstairs. Joe then caught the double decker bus to Collingwood Tech for the next two years.



Joe celebrating his 90th birthday with family.

Joe left school at the age of 16 and gained employment at the Thornbury Post Office, where he delivered telegrams for 17 shillings a week. From there, he went to work at Reservoir Joinery, stacking timber. His next job was working at the Tannery in Preston, scraping, stretching and tanning hides to make leather cricket balls and footballs - very difficult work. Joe then went back to the farm to help his Uncle Henry Ziebell milk the cows at 5am each day and again in the afternoon. He would also plough the fields, harvest the corn and cut the hay with the Clydesdale horses.

Joe met Maureen through the Methodist Church social club, at the local church dances. The first time he went to her home to ask her out he rode his horse. Later, he used to drive her home, together with anything up to 10 others, in his 1926 Chev. During their courtship, which lasted three years, they attended local dances and watched movies at the Reservoir picture theatre. On the weekends, Joe played cricket in summer and football in winter for Epping Football Club, along with his brothers Fran and Carl. Maureen supported Joe from the sidelines and she helped with scoring at the cricket matches. Joe won the best and fairest player in the Diamond Valley Football League in 1951. He played for Fitzroy for one year and his coach was the famous, Norm Smith. He also played for the Northcote Football Club.

After beginning his relationship with Maureen, Joe found work at Jutsons, making plaster sheets and then learning to do plastering. It was hard work lifting the old hemp made sheets. Joe and Maureen sealed their love in marriage on the 26th March, 1955 and set up home in the house that Joe built for them at 70 French Street, Lalor, moving in when it was at lock up stage, using fruit crates for furniture. Joe had bought the land from the Peter Lalor Co-Op and then built the house himself. Their love was enhanced with the birth of their children Susan, Christine, Geoffrey, Wendy, Rosalie and Bradley. They remained living in this house until 1993, when they moved to a new home in Epping.

In the 1960's Joe and Maureen began holidaying at Bonnie Doon caravan park in a tent, then later upgraded to a big new caravan and bought a boat as well. After many years they bought a block of land in Moonah Road, Bonnie Doon and Maureen's parents then bought the block next door. Joe built a holiday home on the block with the help of the children, who picked up a hammer when needed and then helped to build his in-laws home as well, on the block next door. Joe had found the family's happy place at Bonnie Doon, where they shared many happy times, fishing, water-

skiing and swimming together. Many family cricket matches were played in the backyard and there were numerous card games and water fights. Almost every weekend, the car was packed and off to Bonnie Doon they all went.

In March of 2015, Joe and Maureen celebrated 60 years of marriage with a party, but a few weeks later, Maureen passed away and Joe was lost without her. Every Sunday, the family would visit him, or Brad would take him on fishing trips to the pondage, trying to catch trout, but often coming home empty handed. Joe enjoyed relatively good health other than arthritis until the beginning of this year. He remained living independently and cooking for himself, working in his veggie garden and doing oil and watercolour paintings of landscapes, birds and fishing spots. However, he became very frail in October 2019 and was admitted to Northern Hospital, where he was diagnosed with lung cancer. Joe spent the final 7 weeks of his life in Epping Gardens Palliative Care, where he passed away peacefully on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019 with his family by his side.

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## Ziebell's Farmhouse update

BY GORDON JOHNSTON

Dear All,

As you know the museum is closed due to the pandemic. At present we don't have a reopening date, but I am monitoring the current restrictions and the plans of other museums.

The pandemic has impacted museums around the world. In the meantime, they are offering a myriad of online programs and events. We are offering our new educational resources which can easily be adapted for children who are not necessarily part of a school group. You might be surprised what you also discover about Westgarthtown. Please see [westgarthtown.org.au/schools](http://westgarthtown.org.au/schools)

For Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden, the pandemic not only meant the cancellation of the *Pribislaw* launch but it also curtailed the marketing of our new education resources and group bookings. Our very positive word of mouth and increasing visitation is impacted and, in some senses, we will need to start again. However, compared to the potential pandemic outcomes it is a very small price to pay. I'll keep you updated. When safe to do so we will re-open and we will be back!

On more positive outcomes, our ship has landed! The *Pribislaw* replica arrived safely by air freight from Germany and is at the museum ready for installation. It is stunning and a credit to its maker Mario Vetter. We are discussing a new launch date, but it will depend on the changing responses to the pandemic. We will keep you updated.



Mario Vetter with the model *Pribislaw* he built in Ribnitz, Germany prior to being shipped to Australia.



Our new Facebook page is still in its early stages but is receiving positive responses to recent posts regarding WW1 and the Gumleaf Germans plus the broken china doll. If you are not sure what I am talking about, please visit our page. Also, as mentioned above, please don't forget our new education resources which are on our website.

If you have any questions, feel free to email – [gordon@westgarthtown.org.au](mailto:gordon@westgarthtown.org.au)

I hope you are all well.

Take care,

**Gordon**

Manager, Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum and Heritage Garden.

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## Schotters Road, Mernda

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

In the conclusion to my 1985 book *Westgarthtown, the German Settlement at Thomastown*, I lamented the lack of German street names in the Shire of Whittlesea, given the considerable German presence there since 1850. Thankfully, the City of Whittlesea has gone a long way in recent years to rectifying this deficiency and we have profiled some of the German families behind the new street names in our newsletters over the last ten years. One family, however, was always a mystery to me - the Schotters. Now I know why.

In my 1985 book I noted there were only six streets named after our early German settlers – German Court, Thomastown; Nebel Street, Lalor; Zimmer Court, Epping; Bindts and Lehman's Lanes, Wollert; and Schotters Road at Mernda. Now I find there were only five – Schotters Road was not named after an early German settler.

The name Schotter was always a mystery to me as I could not find a German named Schotter anywhere in the district. Not wishing to be accused, however, of understating the number of German named streets, I included it in the conclusion to my 1985 book, because of its German spelling. But it should have been Shotter, after William Shotter, an Englishman who settled at Mernda (then named Morang, later South Yan Yean) in the early 1850s.

William Shotter was born in Derbyshire, England around 1809, the son of Sarah Shotter. A farm labourer, he was convicted on 14 October 1834 of stealing a heifer, sentenced to transportation for life and arrived in Tasmania aboard the *Aurora* on 7



Contemporary street sign for Schotters Rd, Mernda (photo: Sally Rowe).

October 1835. He received a Ticket-of-Leave in 1844 and Conditional Pardon in 1847 and seems to have arrived in Victoria during the early 1850s.

In Victoria, in 1853, Shotter married Bridget Cane. The *Victoria Police Gazette* of 28 September 1855 noted that a warrant had been issued for the arrest of a man named Samuel Gilbert for stealing a bag of flour 'from the tent of William Shotter, Plenty Road'. Gilbert was duly apprehended and indicted for stealing the flour 'the property of William Shotter, at Morang' but found not guilty.

From then until his death on 2 November 1889, aged 80, William Shotter's name rarely appeared in print. He and Bridget had three daughters, Elizabeth, Maryanne and Emma, although Elizabeth had died by 1889. In 1875, he received title to almost five acres of land extending to the Plenty River, which was valued for probate purposes when he died at £300. His improvements were described as 'a two roomed weatherboard house and Slab Dairy. The land is fenced in and there is a very small vegetable garden.' In his probate papers Shotter was stated to have been illiterate.

William Shotter was buried at Yan Yean and George Cockerell served as his undertaker. Bridget Shotter died at Northcote in 1896. For the next fifty years, Shotters Road was always spelt that way, but by the 1960s, it had somehow changed to Schotters Road. Why it changed is a mystery I will leave to the Mernda locals to work out. South Morang and Epping residents might also like to check how McDonnells Road became McDonalds Road.

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## Ernest William Graff of Westgarthtown, Doreen and Day Dawn

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

When I was researching the Graff family for my 1985 book about Westgarthtown I could not trace Ernest William Graff. The late Alison Graff of Mernda told me she thought he went to Western Australia but I couldn't find him. Thanks to the wonders of digitization, however, Alison has now been proved right.

Ernest William Graff was born at Westgarthtown in 1870, the son of John Graff Jun. and Pauline Auguste (née Roy) Graff. I don't know his birthdate but he was baptized on 24 May 1870. Along with two older brothers, he appears to have attended the Westgarthtown Lutheran School until it closed at the end of 1876, then transferred to Thomastown State School where he remained until 1884.



Dry blowing for gold at Day Dawn.

John Graff Jun. lived at Westgarthtown, but also had a 100 acre farm in Cookes Road, South Yan Yean named 'Mount View' which he had purchased in the 1860s. Following the death of his first wife Pauline in 1876, John Graff Jun. married Salome Metzenthin, of Harkaway. When his eldest surviving son Charles married in 1891, John Graff Jun. allowed Charles and his wife Catherine to live on the old Graff farm at Westgarthtown, which he had inherited from his father Johann Graff Sen. He and Salome then moved permanently to Cookes Road. Although South Yan Yean was later renamed Mernda, the site of Graff's farm is now at Doreen. When he died in 1901, John Graff Jun. left a substantial estate valued at £4,717, but a complicated will. Most of his estate was placed in trust for his widow, children and grandchildren and it was over 40 years before the estate was eventually wound up.



In his 1896 will, Ernest Graff's father left him £200 and four blocks of land at Epping, but not long before his death he added a codicil which removed the land from Ernest's entitlement. This suggests there had been some sort of disagreement between Ernest and his father. It was later stated John Graff Jun. had been 'bitterly disappointed that after setting up a very nice little farm, [at Cookes Road] none of the boys [Charles, Ernest and Herman] were interested in staying to farm it.' Ironically, Graff's youngest child, a daughter named Martha, born in 1891, went on to own and run 'Mount View' farm for over 50 years. On her death in 1977, Martha, who married Charles Johnson in 1918 and had three daughters, left the farm in trust to the RSPCA. It was valued for probate purposes on Martha's death at \$70,000 and the RSPCA sold it in 2005 for \$21 million. Unfortunately, no money could be found to restore the old Graff farmhouse, despite its heritage significance.

Graff house, Cookes Road Doreen, now demolished (photo: Nancy Johnson, via Lost Mernda); a contemporary street sign for Graffs Avenue Doreen (photo: Rob Wuchatsch).

Apart from a possible reference to Ernest living at Brunswick in 1900, no trace of his movements between 1884 and 1903 has been found. In 1903, however, he appears at Day Dawn, near Cue on the Western Australian goldfields, as a partner in the firm of Graff and Smith, gardeners and produce merchants.

In January 1906 Ernest's camp was destroyed by fire and not long after his partnership with Smith was dissolved. He then appears to have begun prospecting for gold with a man named Fraser, but soon returned to the produce business. In 1912 he wrote to the editor of the *West Australian* complaining about the late arrival of trains carrying perishable goods and the consequent loss of business caused by spoiled foodstuffs. In 1915 he was described as a 'Vegetable hawker' although electoral rolls refer to him as a market gardener.

In 1916, during the First World War, Constable Cusack of Day Dawn police advised Military Intelligence in Perth that 'it is alleged [Graff] has strong German sympathies but is very cute & discreet in his utterances'. Cusack had been asked to report on an anonymous letter from 'A True Britisher' which accused five Austrians at Day Dawn of misconduct. Cusack believed Graff had written the letter in order to have the Austrians interned following a personal dispute over the sale of a house and also because if action was ever taken to intern him, Graff could claim he had been a loyal British subject by warning the authorities.

Nothing further appears to have come as a result of this allegation. However, Ernest found his loyalty again brought into question six months after the Armistice. On 7 May 1919 he got into an argument with a prospector named Thompson and brought an unsuccessful charge of common assault against him in the Cue Police Court. Graff testified that he was having a 'pot' at the Cosmopolitan Hotel at Day Dawn when Thompson 'began to chip him about being a German'. Graff replied 'I am a German born in Australia of German parents and I am proud of it, and my name is going to carry me through the world'. Graff added that Thompson tried to get into an argument about the war and called him 'a dirty German snipe'.

Thompson testified that when Graff was passing his claim on the morning of 7 May [King's Birthday holiday] he said 'I'll not work today. I am going to keep up a holiday'. But in the afternoon when Thompson was passing the place where Graff was working he said 'I see you are working and Graff replied 'B----- King George. He doesn't keep up my birthday'. In the evening I did not assault him or strike him – just pushed him.'

The case was dismissed, with costs against Graff, amounting to 17 shillings. The police investigated whether he could be prosecuted or interned for disloyal utterances but the matter seems to have been quietly dropped.

In 1921 it was reported that Anderson and Graff had taken 9.68 fine oz of gold from 44 tons. Ernest continued prospecting until his death in 1924. In 1923 his camp at Behring Pool had been destroyed by fire when a 'willy willy' rushed into the open doorway and whirled the fire from the fireplace. The house, which consisted of four wood and iron rooms lined with hessian, was destroyed along with the furniture and contents, which included a phonograph and 700 records. Graff, who was not insured, estimated his loss at £200.

Ernest was found dead in his bed in January 1924 'at Behring Pool, on the Rabbit Proof fence, about 30 miles from Cue'. A post-mortem found his death was due to natural causes. In his obituary, entitled 'A Lonely Death' it stated that 'During the more prosperous times of Day Dawn, the late Mr Graff, who was 50 years of age [he was actually 53] carried on business as gardener and greengrocer, but of late years had again followed the call of prospecting. He had just recently returned from a trip to Geraldton, and on Saturday last set out for Behring Pool, where he had left his dryblower, and from there intended going to Quinns.'

Ernest Graff was buried in the Cue Cemetery on 16 January 1924 and his personal estate (horse, carts, harness, bicycle, rifle, shotgun, mining tools) sold soon after by the State Trustee. That Ernest had become completely estranged from his family in Victoria was confirmed by an advertisement in Melbourne's *Argus* newspaper of 31 October 1932 in which it was noted that Ernest Graff had been missing 'for the past thirty years' and if still alive would be entitled to claim a share of a deceased uncle's estate.



# The Neumann Family of Doreen

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Carl Gottlieb Neumann, born 24 February 1818 at Rosenthal near Zittau in Saxony, arrived in Melbourne from Hamburg aboard the *Pribislaw* in February 1850 with his wife Johanna Christine (née Friederich) and a daughter Amelia Sidonia born 21 December 1849 during the voyage. Another child is believed to have died at sea. Carl and Johanna had been married at Hirschfelde on 3 October 1844.

On 7 February 1854, Carl purchased 80 acres at today's Doreen (Lots 18-25, Portion 1, Section 4, Parish of Yan Yean) from John and Henry Cooke for £640. He had been naturalized as a Victorian citizen on 23 January 1854. He gave his age as 36, address River Plenty, occupation carpenter.

Shipmate Johanna Graff is recorded as having worked for the Neumann family during the 1850s when they supplied milk to construction workers on the nearby Yan Yean Reservoir and Pipe Track. Carl himself also apparently worked on the Yan Yean water supply project. During the 1860s Johanna Graff's brother, Johann Graff Jun., also purchased 100 acres of land in Cookes Road.

A further five Neumann children were born in Australia – Agnes Wilhelmina (1852), Annes Wilhelmina (1853), Charles (1855), William (1857) and Emma (1861).

In 1866 Carl applied to select 80 acres at nearby Arthurs Creek. By 1872, improvements to the value of £120 had been made there, including a four-roomed slab house and outbuildings. He obtained title to the land in 1873, but sold it in 1876 to his German born son-in-law Ignatz Kinzel, who his eldest daughter Amelia had married in 1870.

The 1870 Shire of Darebin rate book records Carl Neumann as a farmer and owner of a house and land at Yan Yean [now Doreen]. Carl presumably built the house himself soon after buying his property. By 1878, however, he had moved to North Melbourne where he worked as a carter. In 1883, when he sold his farm to Charles Smithson, he described himself as a grocer on Little Lonsdale Street West.

In 1888, aged 70, Carl sought naturalization as a Victorian citizen for the second time, but the reason for his reapplication is not known – perhaps he had lost his documentation.

Johanna Neumann died at home at Boundary Road, North Melbourne on 21 August 1900, aged 78. Carl died at his daughter Amelia's home at 9 Brooks Crescent, North Fitzroy on 7 May 1917, aged 99 years and two months. He was buried with Johanna



Street sign for Neumann Rd Doreen (photo: Rob Wuchatsch).

in the Melbourne General Cemetery. Today's Neumann Road at Doreen reminds us of the family's former presence there.

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## Stuchbery Family Dairies

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

Dairy farming was the main activity at Westgarthtown for over a century from the 1850s to the 1970s. Most of the milk produced was sold to small dairies in the northern suburbs of Melbourne. During the 1860s Carl Frahm, Christian Ziebell's son-in-law, retailed some of Westgarthtown's milk through his Thomastown Dairy in Melbourne and in the 1880s, the Kreitling family carted and sold much of the milk through their dairy in Canning Street, Carlton.

Friends of Westgarthtown committee member Sam Ziebell recently digitized his family's old photos, records etc and in Alfred Ziebell's milk sales book the name Stuchbery appears from 1913, replacing Hopton's Dairy. I can recall seeing the name Stuchbery painted on the driver's door of the truck which picked up the milk cans from Ziebell's and Wennagel's farms at Westgarthtown during the 1950s, so the Stuchbery family obviously had a long association with Ziebell's farm.

The Stuchbery family were connected by marriage to the Winter family of Westgarthtown. Friedrich and Maria Winter's daughter Emily married John Ward of Epping in 1879 and their daughter Eliza Ward married Albert Stuchbery in 1913. Albert's father, William Woodstock Stuchbery, had a dairy at North Fitzroy and it was probably this dairy the Ziebell family sold their milk to from 1913.

Later Albert Stuchbery and his son Ward (who was Secretary of the Fitzroy Football Club from 1957-64) operated a dairy at Fitzroy for many years and several of Albert's brothers also had dairies in the Fitzroy and Northcote areas. It was probably Albert's youngest brother Leslie Stuchbery who owned the milk truck I used to see at Westgarthtown as a child. My father's milk sales book shows he sold milk to L. N. Stuchbery from June 1934 to March 1938 and I have an old milk bottle I found many years ago in a shed on our family's farm at Westgarthtown which is branded L. Stuchbery, Northcote.

Milk bottles were a hot topic among dairymen during the 1930s. As mentioned in my 1985 book *Westgarthtown: the German Settlement at Thomastown* in reference to Albert Siebel's Pura Dairy, which also retailed milk from Westgarthtown, most milk then was delivered loose into customers' jugs, billies or saucepans, bottles being a rarity. An old dairyman named Stuart Thompson told me bottles were so scarce during the 1930s that rival dairymen scoured cemeteries for milk bottles used as vases on graves. In 1937 Leslie Stuchbery was sued by Larcher's Dairy of Fitzroy for illegally using its bottles. Evidence was given that an inspection of 'Stuchbery's



An L. Stuchbery milk bottle

premises...found 300 bottles filled with milk and 270 of them were 'foreign'. Of 1,100 bottles washed and ready for use, 900 were 'foreign' and there were 328 'foreign' bottles in the washing room. As I also have one of Larcher's old bottles, found on our farm, maybe my family contributed to the problem.

The Ziebell and Wuchatsch milk sales books have proven extremely useful for my Westgarthtown research – does anyone else out there hold any interesting old records?

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## E. Ziebell & Son Trademark

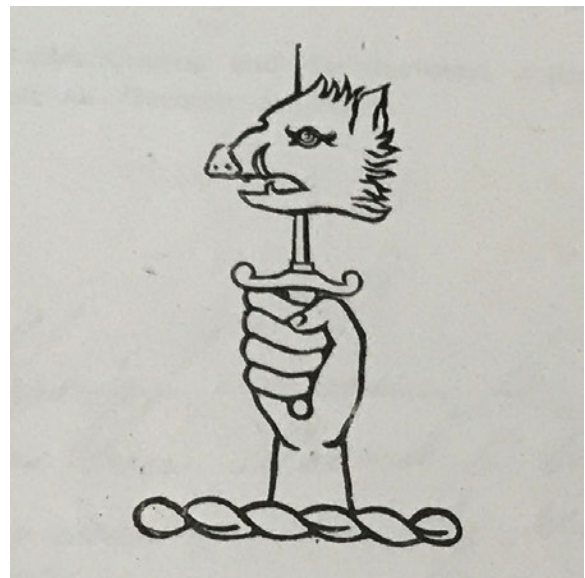
BY ROB WUCHATSCH

In 1891 the newly formed meat preserving business E. Ziebell & Son registered a trademark of a pig's head stuck on a dagger. I discovered this rather grotesque trademark during a visit to the National Archives of Australia in Canberra in 2017. However, there is an interesting story behind E. Ziebell & Son and their trademark.

The Ziebell family had been pork butchers in Germany prior to their arrival in Australia aboard the *Pribislaw* in 1850. As well as farming, Christian Ziebell began producing hams, bacon and sausages soon after settling at Westgarthtown. Later his sons Henry and Carl moved to Somerton on the Sydney Road and established their own farms and ham, bacon and sausage manufacturing operations there. On Henry's death in 1880, Carl continued the business and in 1887 was said to produce 'German, Frankfort, white, and black sausages' as well as ham and bacon. His produce was 'celebrated all over the colonies, the firm having customers in New Zealand, South Australia, Queensland, Sydney and Riverina.' In the lead up to Christmas 1886 Carl sold his total stock of 900 hams.

On Carl's death in 1890 his meat preserving business passed to his widow Elisabeth (née Sprenger) and eldest son Albert, who had trained as a butcher at the William Angliss Meatworks at Footscray. It was Elisabeth and Albert Ziebell who registered the trademark for E. Ziebell & Son in 1891. Elisabeth's father Heinrich Sprenger and her brother Bernhard, who lived at Bendigo, were also butchers.

Following Elisabeth's death in 1892, Albert took his brother Charles into the partnership, but retained the name E. Ziebell & Son. By 1895 the business had moved to Windsor and in 1896 Albert retired from the partnership. Albert later worked as a butcher at Preston then as a meat inspector and butcher at Benalla.



E. Ziebell & Son trademark as registered in 1891 (NAA, Canberra, A11731, 2614).

Charles operated E. Ziebell & Son until the First World War when anti-German sentiment ruined his business. Until then he had lived at and retailed his meat products from a shop at 69 Chapel Street, Windsor and made them nearby at a factory in Union Street, Windsor. In 1904 *The Cyclopedia of Victoria* noted:

The goods from Ziebell and Son's factory are well known, and find favour in the eyes of all good house-keepers, especially the German, Frankfort, and other kinds of sausages, pies etc. Over one hundred carcasses of pigs and calves are treated weekly, and a large trade is done with the leading stores, including George and George, the Mutual Store, and others in the city. The factory is fitted up with all the latest steam apparatus and necessary appliances, and forms one of the most up-to-date establishments of the kind in the state.

Like his brother before him, Charles also became a meat inspector when E. Ziebell & Son ceased operations, thus ending a long tradition of ham, bacon and sausage production in the Ziebell family.

For further information about Ziebell's meat preserving factory at Somerton see *Friends of Westgarthtown Newsletter* Vol. 5, No. 1, March 2001.



69 Chapel Street Windsor c. 1906. Image published in *City of Prahran jubilee history and illustrated handbook: South Yarra, Toorak, Malvern, etc.* via Stonnington History Centre.

## Descendants' Day 2020 Report

BY MEGAN MORITZ (NÉE BELOT)



On 1 March 2020 the Friends of Westgarthtown held Descendants' Day at Ziebell's Farmhouse. It was quite warm and the garden looked amazing. It was the first Descendants' Day that coincided with a Sunday opening.

It was great to see everyone who was able to come and the sausage sizzle was very enjoyable. The money raised from the sausage sizzle will fund next year's BBQ lunch. Thank you for all those who donated.



Thank you to Sam and Naomi Ziebell who kindly took the time to photograph and take notes on descendants' items and stories from Ziebell's Farmhouse and other places at Westgarthtown. It is very important to create a digital catalogue of these items and memories to ensure they are not lost to future generations. Thank you to descendants who bought their items along.

As usual we had prizes for the oldest and youngest attendees — John Borrack took the prize for the wisest and Audrey Van de Vreede was the youngest at 4 months old. We also had a lucky door prize, which was well received by the winner, Naomi Ziebell.

The next Descendants' Day is planned for 28 February 2021, being 'the Sunday before the Victorian Labour Day weekend', however, with the current climate of COVID 19 this date will be confirmed in the October 2020 newsletter. Please stay safe and well hope to see everyone next year.



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## Errata

BY ROB WUCHATSCH

In our December 2019 issue of *Elements* (Vol. 23, No. 2), I wrote about Johann Froebel, who farmed in the Mill Park and Wollert areas from the late 1850s to the early 1870s.

Unfortunately, when I referred to Johann Froebel's mother, I gave the name of his father's first wife rather than his second. Johann's mother's name was Christiana Katharine (née Kloepfel) Froebel, not Regine Katherine Karoline (née Dittelbach) Froebel. Thanks to Bruce Watson, a Froebel descendant from the first marriage, for this correction. The electronic version of that issue of *Elements* has been corrected on our website.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:johnsdfry@gmail.com)

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# FRIENDS OF WESTGARTHTOWN NEWSLETTER

**Editor** Rob Wuchatsch

**Subscriptions** Léon Borrack

[subscriptions@westgarthtown.org.au](mailto:subscriptions@westgarthtown.org.au)

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ABN 74 674 258 165 • Inc. Reg. No. A0032721Y

PO Box 1 Mernda Victoria 3754

Tel (03) 9464 5062

[enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au](mailto:enquiries@westgarthtown.org.au)

[www.westgarthtown.org.au](http://www.westgarthtown.org.au)

**President** John Fry

**Vice-President** Rob Wuchatsch

**Secretary** Gillian Borrack

**Treasurer** Léon Borrack

**Committee** Paul Schultz, Doretta Belot & Sam Ziebell

**Historian** Rob Wuchatsch

**Ziebell's Farmhouse Museum Manager** Gordon Johnston

**Heritage Architect** Geoff Borrack

**Tours Coordinator & Guide** John Fry

**Caretakers** Darren & Sheryl Kennedy