

Just a Little History.

After a request had been received asking for information of the area you are attending school in today the writer did some research and came up with the following. The request included social and environmental issues from the early days of white settlement to current issues. If you take note of the information you are given, you will not only obtain some historical knowledge of Kealba but also of the fact that history is created by people. Buildings for instance have been built by people. History is about the past or if you like events of the past. The environment has been greatly influenced by people and as far as social issues are concerned this is also the result of actions taken by human beings. In fact every action you or I take results in a reaction. So, let us begin with recorded history.

As you know, all the land within Australia originally has been claimed to belong to the Aboriginals because their ancestors had lived in this country for at least 40,000 years. This group of people consisted of tribes or clans each one with their own language and territory. Sometimes they met with other tribes. This movement was named a 'walk-about'. Early white settlers thought the Aboriginals were lazy because of their need for 'walk-about's'.

Today, the picture is totally different in that local people are able to talk in 156 different languages, but in this instance it means that they had to come from at least that many countries. These people are called immigrants, and funnily enough the Aboriginals were also immigrants for it is claimed they originally came from an area in Malaysia, an Asian country.

The very first white people in Victoria were men who sailed the seas quite often with their wives on board and were whalers by occupation and they harpooned the huge sea creatures. The main reason for killing whales was to obtain blubber. Blubber when boiled down made an excellent oil. This oil was needed for the use in lamps (for there was neither electricity nor gas then). These whalers originally had settled in Tasmania but one of the first known families moved to Victoria. The family was the Henty family who occupied land on the coast near Geelong.

In South Australia was another well-known family of settlers named the Barton family. I am pleased to say that my husband's family married into this family during the early years of settlement in South Australia. It is interesting to note that many whalers came from countries such as America and Canada. They would visit other seaports and either sell the ship's cargo or trade it for another one to local business people.

During this era Victoria and South Australia were united and formed one State named the Colony of New South Wales. It is in Sydney, then the Colony's capital city that the earliest records are being kept. In the 1850s this Colony became three separate ones, yet all were under the control of the Crown and the Government of Britain who used Australia as a penal colony for a period of time. For trade and jealousy reasons, the British, French, Portuguese, Dutch and other countries wanted to establish Colonies around the world. These countries were also at war with each other. Their people would remove the riches of the countries such as spices, gold, silver, copper, coconuts and timber for little recompense so they could enrich themselves and their own countries.

Once a Colony was obtained which was in Australia's case done by the placing of a flag pole into the ground, it was decided to populate Australia. As the English goals were overcrowded it was decided that convicts could be shipped here and so solve two problems for them at the same time. The prisoners voyaged under terrible conditions by the way. They were supervised on the ships by retired British soldiers some of whom remained in Australia in later years and because they were given land grants by the Crown as well as convict labour they prospered in this country. So gradual settlement of the country eventuated.

The first Victorian sales of land were conducted in Sydney the capital city. These sales were named Crown sales (meaning that all the land in the country was owned by the Crown and could only be dispensed by the Crown). The name given to the certificate of title of the land was known as a Crown Grant. A certificate of title is a piece of paper that provides proof of ownership of land. The very first sales and nearest to the Kealba area were the ones by the Foster brothers each receiving many square miles of land. One square mile of land contains 640 acres. There are five building blocks to an acre. One Crown Grant was on the east side of Calder Park Drive (firstly named Fosters Road and before that a surveyor named it "A Road to Keilor"). Another Crown Grant was on the west side of the Calder Park Drive at Keilor Park both on the east side of the Maribyrnong River.

The only other nearby early land grant was the one obtained by the McNab family of a property named Oakbank Farm. The first house built by the McNab family, who incidentally bred superior cows and horses, is a small bluestone house which is still in use today as a dairy on the north/west side of the Maribyrnong River very close to the Melbourne Airport.

It was at the land selling stage that the Government decided to appoint surveyors in Victoria. Surveyors' duties included the mapping of areas suitable for settlement and also roads. The surveyors were paid by the purchasers of land according to the area they wanted to purchase and of course surveyed. Many properties cost \$2 per acre an amount later reduced to \$1 an acre. Men and their employees (mostly convicts) bought cattle and sheep in Sydney that had arrived from South Africa, India or other overseas countries and then drove them along rivers and valleys until they found a suitable spot they could occupy. It was during this squatting period that a few conflicts occurred between the Aborigines and the white settlers (although of them were of a different colour). Both groups of people needed water to survive and as Australia is one of the driest continents in the world clashes for this resource would seem to have been inevitable. The groups with the largest numbers won the clashes.

The local squatters were the Jackson Brothers – a river Jackson Creek running from the Maribyrnong River to Sunbury is named after them. Their land was later secured by another large squatter William John Turner Clarke also known as Big Clarke. His square mile of land was acquired in the area where the Sunbury Township is located. It is often claimed that he named Sunbury but this is not so. The Jackson Brothers were the ones who named Sunbury. Another noteworthy early local was James Robertson and his family. This family, however, were not squatters in the true sense, they were farmers who became permanent settlers and purchased the land outright, unlike squatters who only obtained a Licence to Lease the land. The Robertsons named their property Upper Keilor and the homestead is still standing today albeit in a poor

condition and may soon hopefully be restored. Their house is also a bluestone house and can be seen if you visit the Keilor Golf and Driving Range on the Calder Highway on the north side before you reach the Organ Pipes National Park. The park was also owned by James Robertson in earlier times.

The James Robertson family had sold part of their land to William Taylor who by the way then built a large castle on the north side of the Calder Highway. The place is known as Overnewton and is in private hands owned by Dr. L. Norton and his family who run the castle and garden as a reception venue.

Now we come to the Keilor Plains area named Kealba originally known as St. Albans East. The area formed a small part of a farm property acquired after the death of Mr. William Taylor whose death occurred shortly after the Government of the day enacted a law wherein they forced large landholders to either lease or sell large tracts of their vast properties in order to establish farming properties in lieu of grazing ones. The Kealba section on which the St. Paul Primary School is located was once owned by various people; it included Lot N where people tried to dig for sand and allotments 1 to 20 inclusive, Section A. This land covered Main Road East on the south to what is now known as Green Gully Road (originally known as St. Albans Road and Taylors Road) and the Maribyrnong River's embankment. The west side of these subdivided allotments was later known as the Churchill Estate where the soccer ground is in Fox Street. It was presumed at the time that people would be able to make a living on about twenty acre allotments. Local graziers utilized five acres of land per sheep.

Apart from the land abutting the river where water was accessible there was only one allotment that had a small dam and this was on the corner of Sunshine Avenue and Green Gully Road. No houses or cottages were ever built there except some in what is now known as Driscolls Road. Mr. Michael Fox who owned allotments 8 and 8A fronting Stenson Road had a hut on his land. In 1960 a death by fire occurred in Driscolls Road on the east side. Mr. Robert Macrae a brother of Farquhar Macrae owner of the Lynalban farm in Taylors Road occupied a cabin built by him. One night he fell asleep whilst smoking, the cabin was burnt to the ground and Mr. Robert Macrae lost his life during the fire.

Driscolls Road was a new name for the road. It was known as Fox Road in the first instance because Michael Fox owned properties at the southern end of the road. The Fox family over the years has owned many properties within the municipality, yet because of the postal services' complaints that there was already a Fox Street in St. Albans it was thought prudent to have a name change.

A Mr. Jack Freeland and his family occupied a house on the east side of the same road. He sold his property to Norm Purchase who ran a piggery on it. It is interesting that the Freeland family later moved to Arthur Street east side, St. Albans near the Sacred Heart Church in Winifred Street, almost directly opposite the Maria Altar.

At one stage before the Kealba High School had been built, the properties in Driscolls Road were used by small business owners and farmers. One such owner was Harry Heger, a man of German extraction, who had purchased a piggery from Alby Aitken who had a house on the property.

Anecdotal history records that Harry Heger used to feed his pigs fish offal from the Fish Market. Piggery-owners used to collect offal from various sources. This one had the unfortunate result of the pigs smelling of fish. Imagine fishy pork – not exactly an inducement to a mouthwatering experience. Harry Heger at times dropped off some of the pigs he wished to sell at the Calf and Pig Market in Market Street, Sunshine. When the auctioneer scrutinized Harry's pigs, he refused to auction them because of the smell.

Another smelly (this time imagined) issue was when Council's Sanitary Contractors purchased some land in Driscolls Road. Since establishment of closer communities homeowners used to erect a toilet in their backyards which was often named 'the small house'. Health regulations in place stipulated that sanitary workers – they were the men who delivered a clean bin on a weekly basis to 'the small houses' – had to collect the full bins and deliver the empty bins very early in the morning. The men would take the full bins to the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works depots (mostly to the Werribee farm) where the bins would be emptied and sprayed with chemicals. The men would then return with empty bins and store them on the property belonging to the Sanitary Contractors in Driscolls Road. Some people objected to the use of the property for this purpose, to no avail.

There were also some chicken farms in Driscolls Road. People reared chickens for a living or as an extra income. They used to trade the eggs for bread in the 20th century when the baker started coming around once weekly, while chickens were crated in lots of up to 50 depending on their size and sent by rail to David Hyland's company in Melbourne for processing.

On the south/east side of Stenson Road was an eight acre property; part Lot 4 owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stenson who had established the very first vineyard in the municipality. Mr. Stenson also owned lot 3 consisting of 19 acres - this allotment abutted the quarry. Another 25 acres was listed as being in the name of a Mr. W. Sydenham. Mr. Stenson also built a weatherboard dwelling on this property which ran to the river where he obtained the necessary water for his produce. Mr. Charles Stenson later became the owner of the Sacred Heart Presbytery in Winifred Street, St. Albans, a house built by Mr. Padley back in the 19th century.

At one stage the farm property was share-farmed by Bill Epema originally from The Netherlands. One day his young son was playing with matches in a hayshed and lost his life in the fire that ensued. A tragedy for this family and a lesson for us.

A distant relative with the surname Sydenham who lived in India during the 1960s claimed to be the heir to the Sydenham Township, mistakenly believing that the township at one time was in the ownership of this Mr. W. Sydenham who had sold 25 acres previously.

Also remembered is a Mrs. Dobson who lived in a weatherboard house on the south side of Stenson Road. The soil was not very good there and she only kept a few cows. Her property was near the land occupied by a quarry. Originally screenings were extracted from this quarry which were used in the formed roads traversing the municipality. Currently the quarry site is being used for cement production. Very many complaints over the years have been lodged about dust, truck and blasting noises from this quarry especially since the area has been transformed into a residential one.

Stenson Road itself for very many years an unmade road, leads to the Maribyrnong River and at one time to market gardeners' apricot orchards. The Maribyrnong River at this point provided a welcome swimming hole for local youths as well as families on hot summer days when the water supply in the water mains was comparable with hospital drips. Youths used to ride their bicycles, swim and sometimes climb the surrounding hills infested with Scottish thistles – contact with which is not recommended!

Crossing Sunshine Avenue almost in a straight line from Stenson Road on the other side of the round-about, was the location of a share-farmer's weatherboard house occupied by the Hill family of dairy farmers and hay growers. They had three sons and one daughter, none of them ever married so there are no descendants and no one left to tell their story but me. Mr. Hill's youngest son a 14 year old boy was employed by Mr. John William Mansfield who owned a farming property just north of Arundel Road (at Keilor) and that now forms a part of the Melbourne Airport at Tullamarine. During the early twentieth century there was no bridge over which one could cross the Jackson Creek. A small holding ford of rocks (Bertram's Ford) had been built to retain water on one side and farmers travelling across the creek would use these rocks as a means to cross the river. Mr. Mansfield and his young son drowned during a crossing of the creek after a heavy rain. The young boy was only seven years' old at the time. It happened when father, son and Steve Hill were travelling in a jig across the creek. The horse pulling the jig slipped, Steve Hill survived because he had been holding onto the spare horse's rein during their journey to St. Albans and the horse saved him from drowning.

Death at Bertram's Ford: 1906

They were leading a horse they'd sold to Macrae
Who lived near St. Albans over Keilor way.
John Mansfield was driving, his son sitting near,
Young Steven Hill who was leading the horse, sat in the rear.

Young Mansfield and Steven were mates at school,
Spent their free time together as a general rule,
So John let him come on the trip 'cross the river.
His wife wasn't happy: the risk made her quiver.

With a look at the sky and the storm clouds that loomed
She pleaded, 'Don't go now, or you will be doomed!'
But John reassured her as they clambered on board,
'We'll be right as rain, crossing down at Bertram's Ford'.

Half way there, the sun vanished – came a curious silence –
Then the sky opened up with murderous violence;
The clouds, basalt black, burned day into night
As the three reached Arundel and turned to the right.

'Young Hilly, don't wind that rein round your arm',
His friend's father said, 'It will bring you to harm!'
Then they ceased their descent, to the right they curved:
The rear of the floodwaters the horses unnerved.

But John urged them on and into the current;
Soon the horse lost its footing so swift was the torrent
And the jinker was swept like a leaf in a gale:
Mansfield grabbed for his son who had started to wail.

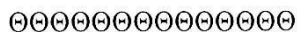
By lightning above the scene ghoulishly shown,
The three from the overturned jinker were thrown.
Sounds of whinnies and screaming and, 'Where are you, son?'
And the grim reaper's harvest had already begun.

While the Mansfield lad to the murky depths sank
The towed horse's reins dragged his mate to the bank.
The father, now desperate, with a weakening yelp
Gasped, 'Steve, please Steve, go and get help!'

At first, due to shock, comprehension he lacked
But his friend's father's pleas soon made him react;
He mounted and thundered away up the slope,
And John dived again, he'd ne'er give up hope.

With the last of his strength, Mansfield surfaced again:
That would have been it – for lesser men,
But for John Mansfield that would not suffice
His son was worth any sacrifice.....

By the time that help came it was far too late.
The father and son had shared the same fate.
Miss Rowe and her pupils on the morrow
Would share the grieving widow's sorrow.



Sunshine Avenue now a busy thoroughfare especially at morning and evening peak times did not exist in that it had not been formed even though it had been marked on maps.

Farquhar Macrae and family members who after the release of land for sale after the death of William Taylor of Overnewton owned that part of Kealba that included Sunshine Avenue used to travel to Sunshine and Footscray to do their shopping. In order to get to Sunshine on their fortnightly shopping trip they travelled along Arthur Street which was then a road with a surface of clay interspersed with large chunks of bluestone, crossed Main Road East and following the formed road along the railway line to Albion, crossed the Highway and travelled along Anderson Road where they would buy huge hessian bags of flour, sugar and other essentials.

The family followed the same route along the railway line to reach Footscray monthly for items of furniture, clothing, hats, gloves, and the like. They travelled by horse pulling a covered wagon. During this period Sunshine Avenue was enclosed by wire fencing and used for grazing of animals as were very many other roads, the main offenders were large landholders who used to enclose the road with their own properties.

During the 1950s the land in Sunshine Avenue was used by the Macrae family for horse grazing. A horse trainer was employed to train the horses for the races held in Flemington, Caulfield and other places. It was also a wonderful place for collecting mushrooms when in season by the Missen boys. (Farquhar Macrae was their grandfather.) The Missen family had arrived at the Lynalban homestead in 1942 after their grandfather had fallen ill. The boys recollect being kept pretty busy on the farm with cropping, tending 300 sheep, milking 50 cows twice daily and looking after the horses of which there were 12.

Kevin Missen recollects that he and his father did the sheep dipping. This was done firstly at Overnewton but later they had a sheep dip built on the farm. All the milking was done by hand, twice a day, seven days a week and finished about five or six in the late afternoon. Once weekly a sheep was killed for meat, although often the time the meat would last a fortnight. It all depended on how many visitors and workers had to be fed. At harvesting time a lot of cooking had to be done. They would make apple pies, scones, biscuits and the like and cook a daily roast. Every morning and afternoon they had a tea break and the days were pretty long, from dawn working to dusk. Kevin claimed their cooking must have been pretty good for Sunshine policemen, local Members of Parliament and Councillors used to call in for a meal or sometimes for morning or afternoon tea.

The horses had to be fed, fencing repaired, wood chopped for the stove that was kept going all the time, getting rid of wild dogs or foxes, dig out the Scotch thistles and other weeds growing on the farm and hand feed lambs or heifers and look after the farm machinery such as tractors.

Two horses bred in Sunshine Avenue achieved some success; they were named Welkin Sun and Welkin Prince. One came second in the Melbourne Cup and the other won the Caulfield Cup two years in a row.

Survey Co-ordination Act 1958

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ALTER A NAME

Pursuant to the powers conferred under Section 28 of the above Act, the Place Names Committee hereby gives notice of its intention to alter the name of the under-mentioned locality:-

Municipality – Keilor

Location – That portion of the City bounded by St. Albans-road, Taylors Creek, the Maribyrnong River, McIntyre-road, Main-road East, and Sunshine-avenue.

Present Name – St. Albans East

Proposed Name – Kealba

Any person who objects to the above proposal may give notice of objection, in writing, stating the reasons therefor, to the Secretary of the Committee not more than two (2) months following the publication of this notice.

By order of the Committee,

C.E.E. BARLOW
Secretary.

LAND AUCTION

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, AT 2.30 P.M.

IN A SEATED MARQUEE

KEILOR HEIGHTS ESTATE

Cr. St. Albans and Fox Roads.

KEILOR

(Post Code Keilor 3036)

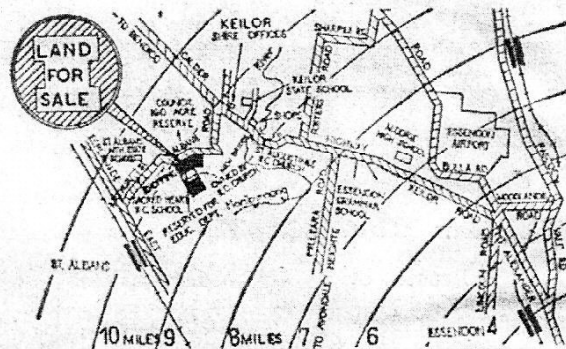
28 EXCELLENT HOME SITES

Features include Attractive Court Settings. Some allotments have delightful views overlooking Keilor. 160-acre Council reserve opposite. Brick or B.V. Covenant. Made & Govt. Rds., Water, Gas & Electricity. NOTE: Education Dept. has reserved 20 acres on Estate for Primary & Post Primary schools. Roman Catholic Church has purchased 10 acres.

\$150
DEPOSIT

\$30 mthly. incl. int.
at 7% Cal. qtrly. Bal.
3 yrs. 5% discount
for cash.

FOR BROCHURES
AND PLANS, ETC.,



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PTY. LTD.

The above advertisement was the original subdivision mentioned later.

As late as the year 2004 there were public meetings held to discuss and argue for and against the adoption of another name for the area named Kealba. Some residents sought to have the name changed to Keilor Heights stating that delivery people had difficulty in find the locality. Did this statement reflect the truth? All one had to do is look at a Melways Street Directory. Besides, it was pointed out that a primary school named Keilor Heights was already operative.

Just a couple of years' ago, people living in Kealba expressed a desire to be amalgamated with the Keilor Township. Kealba however, became a part of St. Albans with the implementation of the Closer Settlement Act. Before this, back in the 1800s, this area was called Keilor Commons. For those interested in this locality let me explain that a Commons was an area set aside for a specific purpose. There were farmer commons, school commons, church commons even road commons. Later on the word Commons was replaced by the word Estate and later still by Subdivision.

In the area formerly St. Albans East as well as St. Albans North there were also some smaller acreages, of about 10 acres where people had built a weatherboard dwelling with a few sheds – had a house cow for their own milk supply and butter and kept chickens for fresh eggs. Chickens were not eaten as much then as they are now – a 'boiled chook' broken into little pieces to supplement a salad or a rice dish would be considered an appropriate meal – in fact the rice dish was labelled as a Chinese dish that went by the name of chop suey.

St. Albans at the time of the first great influx of migrants in the 1950s provided snakes, blue tongue lizards, an incalculable amount of flies, Scotch thistles, boxthorn hedges, a few gum trees, the odd palm tree, kangaroo grass, tussocks, onion grass, a few magpies, foxes, a small State School, some weatherboard houses, a few shops, a mechanics' institute, two churches, one sports ground, a tennis court, a railway station and a railway siding, a galvanised shed named a fire station, a shed named a police station, private water mains, three roads with some large bluestone chips embedded in the soil, a barbershop, a National Bank building, chicken farms – in fact every migrant's dream who at the time were named New Australians.

Occasionally, people have tried through newspaper articles and official platforms such as Council meetings to change the place name St. Albans to something else. One such effort was a change to Brimbank and on another occasion part of St. Albans was declared it would be better served by another name. In a newspaper report Mr. Colin Thorpe said the actions of the Kealba area of St. Albans' residents were portraying St. Albans as a "cultural and social backwater" and dividing the two suburbs. "What they are trying to do is disassociate themselves from St. Albans as if it's a bad smell," he said. Mr. Thorpe believed 'snobbery' was the main force behind the proposal, which was insulting to St. Albans' residents.

In the same article Kealba resident Charles Baullo who proposed the name change, said offending people was not his intention. He said residents saw themselves of being part of Keilor, not St. Albans and changing the name to Keilor Heights would better reflect this link and was the original name of the first housing estate in Kealba, he said.

A public meeting was held on the 21st May 2004 with the Brimbank's Mayor Cr. Sam David, J.P. declared the meeting open and stated that everyone would be given an opportunity to speak on the subject matter. Also present were Councillors L. North, D. Costa, and Mutilini as were Council

employees. The meeting was a very rowdy one and at times looked as if it would get out of hand. The meeting was not chaired properly with no-one in apparent control except some citizens.

The person who proposed the name change also supported a post code change – the reason for the latter was that there were insurance variances between the two areas, St. Albans residents having to pay a higher premium. Those attending the meeting were advised that the post office would not consider a postcode change. As previously stated the meeting was an unruly one and was chaired in an ineffectual manner.

The outcome of the meeting was – no change and to carry on as before.

Some dates of importance to the area have been set out hereunder. They are-

Braybrook Road District proclaimed in 1861
Braybrook Shire proclaimed in 1871
Sunshine proclaimed a city in 1961
Keilor proclaimed Roads District in 1863
Keilor proclaimed a Shire 1871
Keilor proclaimed a city in 1962
Sunshine and Keilor amalgamated on 15th December 1994 when it was
Proclaimed as the City of Brimbank.

A local newspaper article mentioned that Kealba was the first part of St. Albans to have a distinguishing name and that happened because the high school was being built in Driscolls Road and had needed a name. It was claimed that Cr. Ciro Lombardi who was school council chairman, had suggested the combination of names of Keilor and St. Albans and the name of Kealba was taken up enthusiastically by the area's developer and had stuck. The writer begs to disagree partly with the assumption for the land in question was owned at the time by family members who desirous of subdividing and having the land sold because farming had become impossible by stress. A couple of variant combinations of the two names were considered at the time. The stress was caused because calves, sheep and goods were frequently being stolen, fires started, shooting parties trespassing at all hours and many such incidents were endured by the farm's occupiers.

The owners consulted Mr. Garnet E. Price the then City Engineer of Keilor and Eileen Macrae and Garnet Price. Together they came up with the Kealba name which was then placed before the local Council for a decision. (Other names had been suggested mostly combinations of the Keilor and St. Albans place names.) The Council adopted the recommendation contained in the City Engineer's report that 'the new subdivisional area be named Kealba'. The developer was informed of the decision, who had advertised the first subdivisional sale as Keilor Heights.

Apart from the quarrying operations mentioned previously, environmental issues have changed over time in that people are far more conscious of the need to consider the environment. Groups have been formed to carry out the planting of trees and the removal of unwanted and inadequately disposed of debris within the municipality. Yet, the main cause of environmental worry in the Kealba area would most likely be the noise emanating from the Melbourne and Essendon Airports. Many overseas pilots on 'take off' appear to ascend their planes immediately, whereas Australian

pilots used to wide open spaces fly their planes at a lower level on take off. Of course the traffic flow in Sunshine Avenue especially is one of non-existence at peak times; cars have to crawl along to reach the freeway. Noise pollution has increased to a great extent.

In conclusion I would like to paint a picture of how children were used in the early years of settlement.

Children as young as 7 years of age were apprenticed to bakers, farmers, brickmakers and others for a period of up to 10 years. Education was practically non-existent. Families needed a roof over the heads, clothes on their backs and food in their stomachs – nothing has changed in this respect. The roofs were frequently huts, tents or if they were lucky a weatherboard house. Clothes were made of course materials, girls and women wore long skirts not suitable for our environment and there were not so many outfits available for it was not considered necessary and a waste of money. Food consisted (if you were lucky enough to live on a farm) meat with the three daily meals, home-made bread, lard or dripping on the bread, home-made jam, eggs, perhaps some pork if the farm had a few pigs, milk from the cows, butter made from the cream on top of the milk.

If the need arose, the butter would also be sold to get some income. Girls used to help mother at home with the cooking, baking, sewing done mainly by hand, keeping the fire burning all day and night, ironing with three irons on the fire and when hot enough to be used on the garments. What about doing the weekly wash? Hand-washing, boiling water, put in the clothes, stirring with a stick was the procedure. Then scrubbing the clothes on a board and after rinsing hanging the clothes outside on long stretches of steel wire supported by poles in wind, rain or the hot sun – not a pleasant task. Water had to be fetched in buckets from tanks or underground wells. The Lynam farm had an underground well made of bricks; the farm had water tanks also. Education for girls? Not on your life! This was not considered necessary for were not the men the head of the family and the income earners in the family? They were the providers – this was a man's duty. Education for boys? Only if they could not be usefully employed and earn some money to support their families.

To end this summary – I would like to point out that everyone can learn from the past or history as it is named, but only if you are willing to do so and can convince others to do the same. A prime example of people's unwillingness to learn from history is the present economical condition experienced all over the world. Similar conditions existed in the 1890s. It involved excessive borrowing and lending and greed. If you can get a chance borrow not money but a book from your library or search the internet for information on the financial conditions of the 1890s period and learn a lesson from that, perhaps we will be taking small steps to ensure safety from the same circumstances ever happening again.

This was my story about Kealba and the past; it is up to you to provide the future story.

Ray Gibb Poem
Alie Missen – History
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