

## CHAPTER XI

### Families

#### The Bloomer Family

Joan Humble

This story starts with a family trudging along Brown's River Road one warm afternoon in February 1949, searching for a bush block in the sleepy outer suburb of Taroona. My parents, Mr and Mrs John Thomas Bloomer, had chosen to walk from Lower Sandy Bay with my sister, Dorothy and I, at least partly because of the infrequent bus service. We were getting hot and thirsty by the time we reached the block which is now 103 Channel Highway, our home for the next 38 years.

We had left England two months earlier, sailing on the maiden voyage of the "Orcades". Arriving in Melbourne in a heat-wave, we promptly boarded the Bass Strait ferry TSS "Taroona" in search of cooler weather. This ship was a tremendous contrast to the luxury of the "Orcades", and we were sea-sick all over again. However, we arrived safely, with our cabin trunk each, and hoped that the various items which were supposed to follow us would eventually arrive to help us settle in our new country.

My parents' spirit of adventure and

determination must have been very strong for them to leave family, friends, and a large and well established building firm to come to the total unknown in their late forties. The incentive of leaving the red tape tangle of postwar Britain, and of giving my sister and I increased opportunities in a land of promise was strong enough to overcome all obstacles.

We moved from a dreadful boarding house in New Town to camp out in a shed on the block and Father started to build our new home. I can remember coming home from school and helping to carry bricks, bricks which were as hard to come by as were all other building materials at that time. My father incorporated an arch over the double garage to take the place of an unobtainable girder and I can remember him putting the key bricks in place to complete the arch. He also included arches above the ground floor windows for the same structural reason.

During this time Father was approached by an English lady to build a house for her on Bonnet Hill. She was so persistent that he eventually agreed to do so, thereby starting another building career in Taroona and Kingston, although on a much smaller scale than in England.



*103 Channel Highway built by Mr J.T. Bloomer.  
Note the arch over the garage door.*

PHOTO JOAN HUMBLE.

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Building materials were not the only items in short supply. Manpower was also scarce and so my father augmented his growing number of workmen by sponsoring migrants. He provided them with accommodation in flats which he had built in what is now Derwent Rise. Two of the larger of these were destroyed in the 1967 bushfires, and he sold the property soon afterwards.

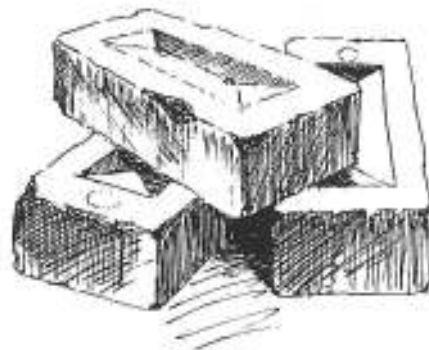
To obtain blue metal he started a quarry at Derwent Rise in 1949-1950, before the flats were built. At that time there was no water supply so he ran a pipe-line from the northern end of the block, pumping water up the hill to the storage tanks at night when some pressure was available.

After building a number of houses in Tarooma he donated an old quarry site at the foot of Churchill Road to be used for a turning circle for the Tarooma bus. Disused for some time following the removal of the terminus first to Tarooma Crescent and later to Monmeath, this land is now a garden reserve.

Each of the houses he built bears evidence of the traditional English way of building, even though he employed a Tasmanian architect.

By the mid fifties he was also building in Kingston. His career was cut short in 1957 by three massive heart attacks which he was fortunate to survive. By my mother's careful nursing, close attention to diet, and a good exercise programme he was spared to us until the age of 87, fully alert and capable until the last few months of his life.

It takes two to form a partnership. Whilst my father was the builder, my mother was the business manager. Each without the other would have been incomplete. It is marvellous to realise that their marriage lasted 62 years, the larger part being spent in Tarooma. They had several happy visits back to Britain in that time, but never wished to return there permanently. They stayed here and left their signatures amongst the houses of Tarooma.



## The Bonnitcha Family

Joan Cripps

In 1936, when my father and mother, Darbie and Phemie, brought my sister and myself to live at Tarooma, it was like living in a little country town with several small farms and many apricot trees, along with herds of cows. The name "Tarooma" was just a name on a farmhouse gate.

We came to live in a house which had been erected in Hinsby Road by a very good friend of the family, Richard (Dick) Hemingway, who had built it for himself and younger brother, Robin. They very kindly shared it with us. Hinsby Road then was just a gravel track leading to the beach. There were very few houses in the street, which had no sewerage, water supply or street lights, although electricity was connected to the houses. We had to rely on a bus service which ran through to Kingston several times a day and, as not many people had cars, we were quite an isolated little community.

My sister Pat (Mrs Ferguson) and I both attended the little state school which was then at the corner of Coolamon Road and Brown's River Road, now Channel Highway. At that time it was only one room and there was one teacher in charge of six grades.

My father and mother were foundation members of the Senior Citizen's Club and were both involved in community affairs up until my mother's death. My father is still an active member of the Senior Citizen's Club.



## The Charlton Family

June Kerr and Helen Morgan

Arthur Louis Charlton was born on the 17th April 1877, one of fifteen children. He was married in 1906 to Lillian Lavinia Beech who was born on the 13th February 1882, one of a family of twelve children. Their first son, David Spencer Beech Charlton, was born on the 7th February 1907, and a second son, Hilton Louis (Tubby) followed in 1909. There were four more children: Eila Evelyn, Raymond William (Bill), Arthur Alfred (Alf) and Mavis.

In 1912 they purchased a property which today encompasses numbers 163-167 Channel Highway and includes Coolamon Road which was built in the late 1940s when the property was subdivided. Arthur, who was a bricklayer, extended the then existing weatherboard building and installed more water tanks. He also planted three palm trees at the front of the house. These still flourish as an attractive setting to the units which now occupy part of this property.

The Charltons were almost self-sufficient, growing most of their own fruit and vegetables. They also kept geese, ducks, fowls and pigs. Arthur drove a horse and cart into the city each day to work and left the horse

in a paddock at the back of the "Royal Tavern" in Liverpool Street (now the site of Club Dimension). After his day's work he collected refuse from the shops and hotels for the pigs. As transport between Tarooma and the city was very limited, Lillian, and later Dave's wife Lucy would pack two large suitcases with eggs and other produce and walk the three miles to Long Beach to catch the tram. After selling or trading the goods they would catch the tram back to Sandy Bay and walk home.

Lillian's health eventually failed and she died in May 1952. Arthur died in December 1948.

Dave and Tubby followed in their father's footsteps and became bricklayers, although Tubby did not continue in the trade. Dave married Lucy Fisher of Burnie and for the first few years of their marriage lived with Arthur and Lillian. In 1937 they leased the property at 36 Seaview Avenue from the Rev. Cloudsdale. At this time there was no road but only a bush track along Seaview Avenue to the Channel Highway. On the 16th April 1953 Dave and Lucy purchased the cottage from the Rev. Cloudsdale. There was a two roomed shack on the property which they gradually extended to the present house. Dave and Lucy had six children: Lillian, David, June, Helen, Ann and Patricia.



Arthur Louis Charlton. JUNE KERR.



Lillian Lavinia Charlton with grandchildren.  
Back, Lillian and David Charlton.  
Front, Brian and Jimmy Morrisson, Helen  
and June Charlton. JUNE KERR.



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Dave continued to work in the building trade and in 1938 he and Arthur carried out extensive stone restoration work on the church at Port Arthur. Dave built a number of houses in the Norwood Avenue subdivision. He was forced to retire due to ill health in 1974.

When Dave was young he built a few boats and acquired advice and knowledge from Mr McKay, a boat builder who lived down the Channel, and Mr R. Fazackerly well known for his clinker built dinghies.

Dave built several clinker and plywood dinghies and a number of motor launches. The last of these was destroyed on Retreat Beach in the severe storms of 1951. Since his retirement Dave spent most of his time in the garden and making models of old boats. His workshop looks like a boat museum with models of almost every boat he has owned plus numerous pictures.

When immunisation for Whooping Cough and Diphtheria began in the early 1940s number 36 Seaview Avenue was used as a doctor's surgery. All of the children in the area trooped through to receive their shots and many tears were shed on those occasions.

Lucy was a tireless worker on the Mother's Club for both the State Primary and State High Schools, working in the canteens and was for many years Convenor for the Works Stall at the Annual State High School Fair held in October when a large amount of money was raised to purchase necessary equipment.

Hilton (Tubby) married Irean Wright

and they moved to Queen Street, Sandy Bay. After his marriage he worked for the Vacuum Oil Company until his death on the 30th January 1973.

Eila married Alan Morrisson who passed away in 1983, and Eila is now living in South Hobart.

Raymond (Bill) never married. He became a motor mechanic with Nettlefolds and advanced to the position of Service Manager. He died on the 8th January 1975.

Arthur (Alf) joined the army in World War Two and during his service, he married Veronica Freeman and had two daughters Gail and Jennifer. Alf went into the building trade and worked with Dave Snr. for a number of years. He then went to work for John Row laying sandstone. They lived at the old home until it was sold to the Uniting Church, which resold it for the present housing development. They now live at Glenorchy.

Mavis never married but stayed home to care for her father and bedridden mother. After the death of her parents Mavis worked in Hobart until she moved to South Australia in 1965.

Before his death Arthur senior subdivided the property and sold two blocks, one to Mr Farmilo and the other to Mr Denholm. Three blocks were left to Bill and the rest of the estate was left to Alf. Bill sold one block to his niece, Mrs June Kerr, and the other two to the Uniting Church. Alf sold the remaining blocks and eventually the land on which the old house stood.



*Dave Charlton with some of his models and pictures, 1986.*

PHOTO JUNE KERR.



*The home of Arthur and Lillian Charlton, now 163-167 Channel Highway, purchased in 1912. Later the home of Arthur (Alf) and Veronica Charlton, photo 1971. The house was demolished in 1973.*

PHOTO AMY ACTON.



## The Dixon Family

Grace Dixon

John Dixon, formerly of Yorkshire, England, and his wife Emma (nee Lyall) of London moved from the Broadmarsh area of Tasmania and settled at "Retreat Farm", Tarooma in 1894. A daughter, Annie, had married George Dann and a son, Walter, married Jane Donohue, but the others of their family, George, Will, May, Lionel and Violet came with them. "Retreat Farm" was purchased from Mr Frederick Simmons Gray who had carried out mixed farming there.

The family carried out general farming, a milk run and ran Tea Rooms. I remember, as a child, seeing the board advertising the Tea Rooms in an old shed.

In December 1900, while on a milk run, Emma slipped from a cart and a wheel passed over her. She was rushed to the General Hospital, Hobart, but died on arrival.

May married Alf Fenner, and after living at Richmond they returned to Tarooma and were occupants of "Oakleigh", before going to Melbourne. Lionel married Elsie Edge and settled at "Derwent View" on the Bonnet Hill, near Kingston.

In 1913, Will married Ellen (Nell) Jones at

St. George's Church, Battery Point and George married Amelia (Milly) Cooper at the Church of Christ, Hobart. In both cases the wedding breakfast was held at "Oakleigh", Tarooma.

Will Dixon settled on about 10 acres of land in the area where Illawong Crescent is now situated. He established an apricot orchard and sold fruit to Jones and Co. Jam Stores, to shops and also exported some fruit to Sydney. There were also apple, pear, plum and cherry trees as well as a mulberry and medlar tree. His wife, Nell, looked after about 100 fowls, as well as helping on the land. In later years vegetables were grown where apricot trees had died and were grubbed out.

Will and Nell had three children, Milfred (Milty), Doreen and Lila, who helped on the orchard and enjoyed fishing and boating in their dinghy off Tarooma. In the Second World War Milty was in the 9th Division, A.I.F. and Lila was in the W.A.A.F. in Melbourne.

Nell was always ready to lend a hand to her neighbours in times of sickness. She died in 1949, aged 64, and Will died in 1954, aged 78.

My father, George Dixon, took over "Retreat Farm", an area of 22 acres, and also rented the land, mostly bush, as far as the



*Retreat Farm House as owned by the Dixon Family, c 1910.*

PHOTO GRACE DIXON.

Grange, with the exception of "Aberfoyle" which was the late Mr and Mrs Alex McGregor's weekend place.

In 1914 George and Milly Dixon had a son, George Norman, who lived only five days. I was born in 1915.

John, after helping his sons get established on their farms, built a cottage at the back of "Derwent View" and Violet looked after him until they both moved to Melbourne. He died in 1924.

The families met together periodically for picnics. On Empire night I had a bonfire in the bush near where the Roman Catholic Church now stands. On the Queen's Birthday there was a bonfire at Will Dixon's. We children, and others in the district, were at both. I had two and sixpence worth of crackers: Tom Thumbs, a packet of small crackers, a Flowerpot, Catherine Wheel, Jack Jumpers and Sparklers.

With my cousins, Doreen and Lila, I collected shells from the Tarooma beaches. I have a very fine collection. The beach below "Retreat Farm" was known in the district as Dixon's Beach, by the family as Uncle George's beach and by the children as Grace's Beach.

At "Retreat Farm" there were eleven pear

trees, comprising eight different kinds. The one left near "C" Block of Tarooma State High School is where I had my play-house. Some limbs had been cut out of the centre and I tacked bagging all around and had the seat from the old sulky up there for my dog and myself to sit on. There were also plum and cherry trees and a beautiful English Oak near the house. Later we set five apricot trees.

The two pine trees that today are on the eastern side of the tennis courts were planted by my Mother in the fowl yard, which was to the right of the main house. The pine trees on the waterfront were planted by my Father.

There was a 60 foot well about 30 yards from the house and also a dairy near by. Cans of milk were hung in the well for coolness. The meat safe hung on a plum tree near the house.

For inside lighting we used kerosene lamps and candles. Outside hurricane lamps and lanterns were used and carriage lamps for the dray and sulky. We did not have electricity until early 1950 because it cost three pounds for each of the three poles from the highway when electricity was brought to Tarooma. As on many farms there were good and bad years and we could not afford electricity.

As well as vegetables my father grew oats,



"Retreat Farm" from the Channel Highway, looking east towards the River Derwent, 1940.

PHOTO GRACE DIXON.



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barley, maize, green peas and mangels for the animals. At times there were up to four men working for him. We had two horses, a pony and up to eight cows, two hay carts, a town cart and a sulky.

To buy a new horse we travelled to Risdon Road and caught the punt over to Risdon to Mr Shone's place. I remember one trip, coming back there was a car and driver. My father held onto the new horse and also the pony, while my mother and I sat on a seat at the side. My father would have to walk some of the way home and mother would drive the pony.

One day we bought two beehives and Mr and Mrs Charlton gave us bee swarms. Mrs Charlton kindly came and took the honey when it was ready.

Father went to Mr Vince of Longley for seed potatoes and also obtained some seed from Cresswells in London.

When digging the ground my father often found coins which had probably been there since the "Retreat" of earlier years. This would not have been far from our house.

Vegetables were taken to Murdoch's Mart and Wise and Sterling's mart and shops.

Potatoes were also shipped to Sydney. I used to put the brand on the cases and nail the lids on, and also helped on the land. As a child it took me a long time to pick a kerosene tin of peas, for which I received sixpence. My other pocket money was one penny a week and later, when I was at Hobart State High School, I sometimes had sixpence or even a shilling.

On Saturday morning I took milk and cream to the late Mr and Mrs Alex McGregor, the late Mr and Mrs Frank Purchas where Mrs W.L. Escott now lives, and to the late Mr Wolfhagen, now 27 Norwood Avenue. These were their weekend houses.

The first place I remember going to for our mail was Mrs Fitzpatrick's shop, opposite Illawong Crescent. Mr Fitzpatrick was the schoolmaster.

There were three haystacks in the stack yard at "Retreat Farm". Some of the hay was cut into chaff. Mr W.D. Maddock and his men would come up from Kingston and be there for a few days. As a child I was fascinated to sit and watch the belts on the machinery going around. The chaff was put in the chaff house. In later years, when there were fewer animals,



*The front of "Retreat Farm" house, with Grace's pear tree to the left, 1954.*

PHOTO GRACE DIXON.



a small chaff cutter was used.

Mr Maddock was called to a sick horse or cow. I remember when one cow had a large tear on her stomach and he stitched it up. I came along to watch but was sent away.

My father grew grain where Winmarleigh Avenue is now, and potatoes at the bottom of the farm towards the Grange sideline. I would sometimes take his dinner along the beach and up the track to where he was working.

Our road from the highway went through to the beach. There was a tank at the end of the creek where the animals drank on their way to and from the bush. There was also a bank of pipe-clay which we used "to do" the four white steps at the back of the house.

The main road went across the bush parallel with the house. When walking to Sandy Bay, or returning, we took a short cut instead of going up to the gate and along the road. If we missed a bus, and there were three a day, we just set off and walked to the tram in Sandy Bay. We also travelled to town by town-cart or sulky. If Mother and I had to attend a meeting in Hobart in the evening Father would come in the sulky to meet us at the tram terminal in Lower Sandy Bay.

Mushrooms could be found on the headlands, paths and paddocks. Some as large as bread and butter plates grew in the hollow near the present Tarooma State High School car park.

There were 100 fowls in the fowl yard. Sometimes hens would sit in the briar bushes or in the grain and would bring their brood home to join those set in their coups. There were also ducks and cats, wild ones in the stables, where dishes of milk were

put. Snakes used to be seen drinking from these dishes.

I remember the thick cream from the top of the dishes of scalded milk. My mother made butter, dressed poultry and packed eggs in large biscuit tins for customers. She also helped on the land and always looked after the heifers. Once there were seven heifers at one time. She was a listening friend to our neighbours when they visited.

I went to school at seven and a half, at the Old Tarooma Public Hall, and when that closed in 1926 I went to Albuera Street and later to Hobart State High School.

On Sunday afternoons we attended either the Church of England or the Methodist church service held in the Old Public Hall. Because there was no Sunday School in Tarooma we drove to Hobart in the sulky so that I could attend the Church of Christ Sunday School in Collins Street. We would stay to have tea with my grandmother and come home after the church service at night.

Father won many prizes at the Kingborough Show and also at the Collinsvale Show for vegetables and grain. Mother won prizes for dairy products and jam, while I won prizes for schoolwork.

In 1953 Father sold approximately 14 acres to the Education Department as the site for the planned Tarooma State High School.

In 1956 the Education Department bought a further 7 acres, leaving just our home on  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an acre. After Father's death the Education Department bought the house and remaining land.

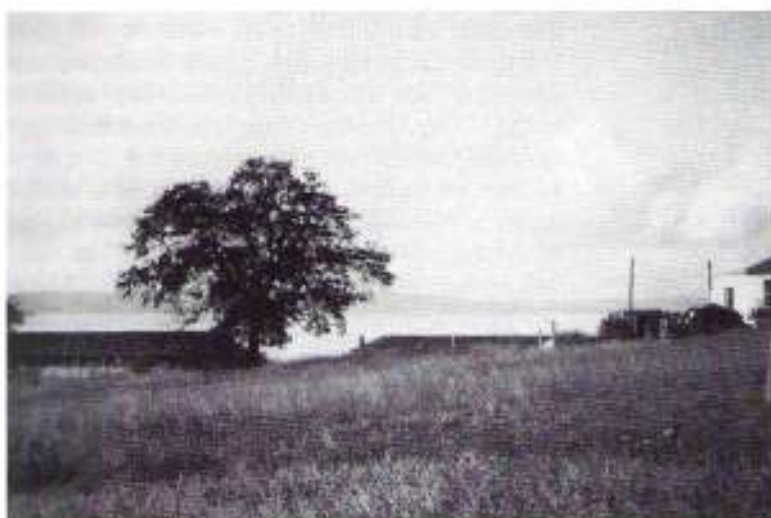
My Mother Amelia (Milly) died in 1956 in her eightieth year, and my Father George in 1972 in his ninety eighth year, when the house was demolished.



*The "Town Cart"  
at the back of  
the house, 1958.*

PHOTO GRACE DEXON.

*Families*



*Looking towards the river with the farmhouse on the right, "A" and "B" block of the Taroona State High School in the background and Grace's pear tree in the centre, 1960.*

PHOTO GRACE DIXON.

*"Retreat Farm" house with the Assembly Hall of the Taroona State High School to the right, 1968.*

PHOTO GRACE DIXON.



*A crop of George Dixon's tomatoes at the rear of "Retreat Farm" house, "B" block of the Taroona State High School in the background, 1968.*

PHOTO GRACE DIXON.



## The James Family

Carlyle and Ken James

In February 1967 the "Kendalville" homestead at 148 Channel Highway was burned to the ground. With it were lost the bulk of the documents, letters and memorabilia which summarised the history of George James and his family in Taroona. George was a bookbinder at the office of the *Mercury* in Hobart. He was one of the children of William James who had arrived from England in 1855. In fact, William was following his English sweetheart, Ellen Omant, whom he subsequently married, having a family of four sons and three daughters.

George was born in Wapping, the old Hobart Town suburb in Lower Macquarie Street. On the 3rd August 1889, at the age of 27, George married Emma Cotton, aged 23, daughter of Thomas Cotton, of Kelvedon on the East coast. For nearly ten years they lived in a small cottage at 13 Hill Street, West Hobart, during which time three sons were born: Roy, Frank and Winston.

On the 15th April 1899 George purchased about 10 acres of land, previously part of Poynter's "100 Acre Farm", from Arthur Denison Watchorn for the sum of £350<sup>1</sup>. This was the land upon which the new home, "Kendalville", was built on the Brown's River Road. In today's terms it is the area bounded by the Channel Highway, Nubeena Crescent, and the sideline at the back of the houses on the northern side of Taroona Crescent. The southeast boundary extended through what is now Taroona Park. The house itself was situated in the middle of what is now the parking area in front of the Taroona Village Shopping Centre. The title also included a right of way to the beach and a site for the erection of boatsheds just below the present Ashton's Lookout.

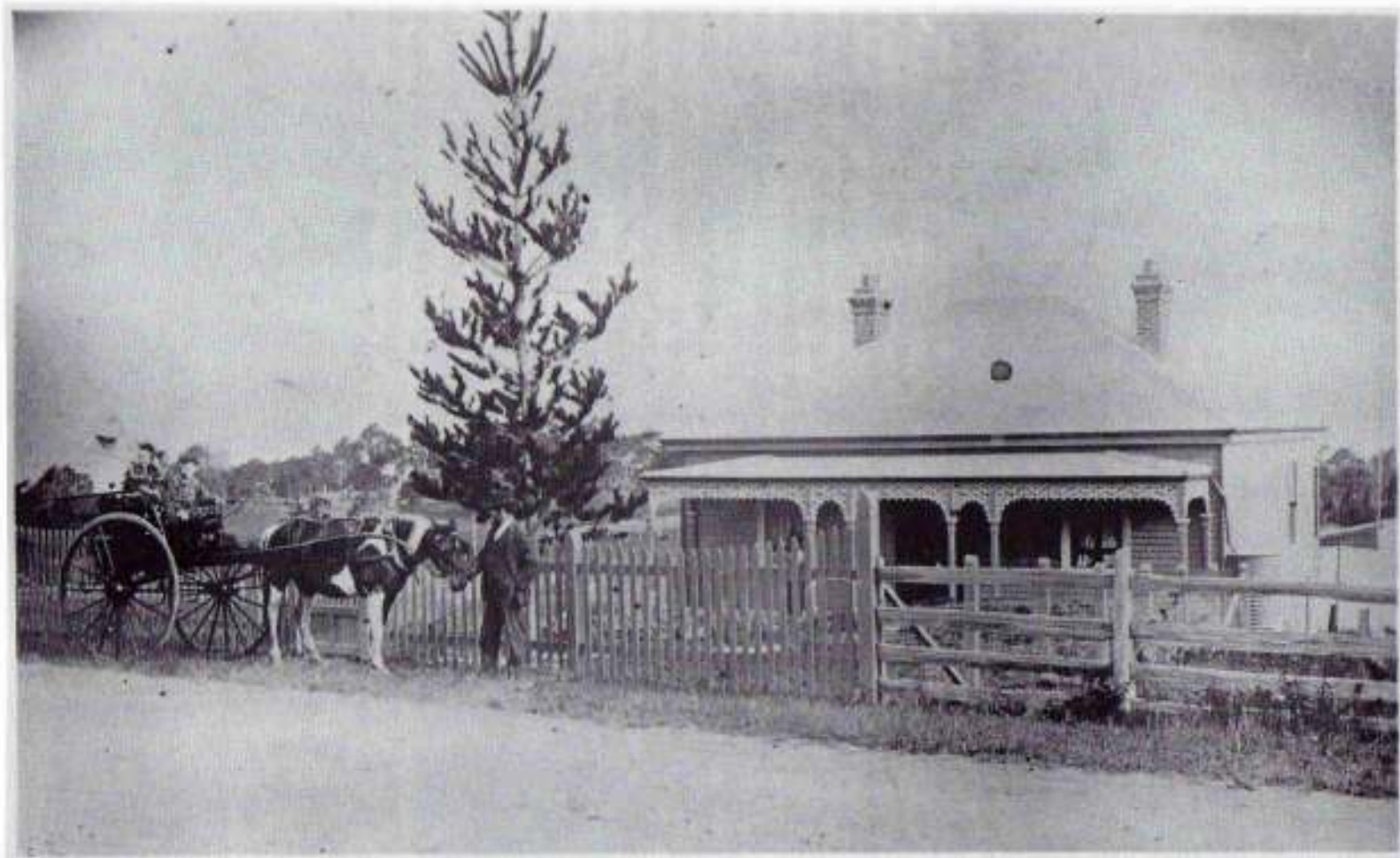
The amount achieved in a short time in the years that followed is astonishing. Firstly the house was built. Frank recorded that the windmill, well-known to our previous generation of Taroona folk was bought soon afterwards. It was used to produce flour, wholemeal, peameal, oatmeal, bonemeal and chaff, all of which were grown on the farm, and also for cutting firewood<sup>2</sup>. As well as this a family of young boys was cared for. In the

year 1900 Roy would have turned ten years of age, Frank seven and Winston three. Adrian was born in 1901 and Alan in 1908. During all these years George maintained his job as a bookbinder at the *Mercury* with only Saturday afternoons and Sundays off duty. Furthermore Sunday was strictly "the Lord's day". Church was compulsory, and likewise Sunday School for the boys. The time left available for George to supervise and assist with the running of the farm was minimal. One thing is certain: the boys, and especially Emma, did not have an easy time.

On the 10th August 1903 George purchased an adjacent plot of about 9 acres from Richard James Lucas for £300<sup>3</sup>. This was another remnant of Poynter's "100 Acre Farm" and included all the land which now comprises the Kelvedon Avenue subdivision and the northern side of Nubeena Crescent, extending east as far as the boundary to Kelvedon Park soccer field. The northern boundary of this plot, between the Kelvedon Avenue and Sea View Avenue subdivisions is, in fact, the southern boundary of the Cartwright Estate. A large portion of this newly acquired area was planted out as an orchard including apples, pears, plums and quinces, but mainly apricots.

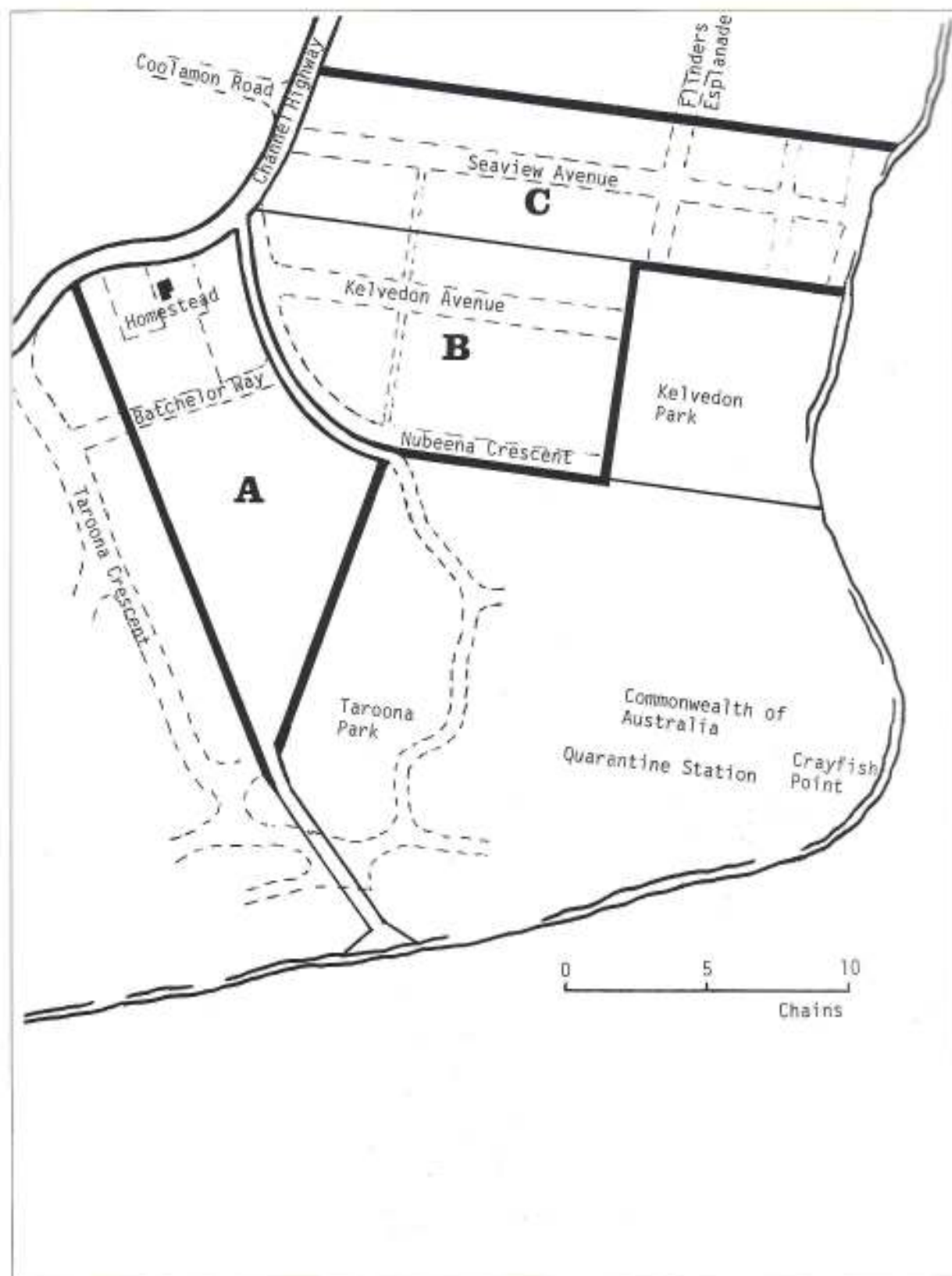
The final addition to George James' estate took place on the 5th April 1906 when George purchased the Seaview property from the Misses Cartwright for £300<sup>4</sup>. This occurred at about the same time that Mr W. Wolfhagen purchased the Norwood property from the same owners. Frank described how he and his brothers took part in the grubbing and clearing of the land, 11 acres, prior to its being planted out as an apricot orchard. This brought the maximum area owned by George James to just on 30 acres, as indicated in the accompanying sketch map. About 15 acres consisted of an apricot orchard, while the remainder served for general farming and grazing. The Seaview property was retained by George until the 21st April 1923 when it was sold to Leslie John Crozier and Douglas Ockenden<sup>5</sup>.

There are no records, except for a few early photographs, to indicate what life was like during the years between 1906 and 1920. From comments of the boys there was of course the hard work, but most of their casual conversation was of other things: the interest developed by the whole family in boating, boat building and sailing, the purchase and



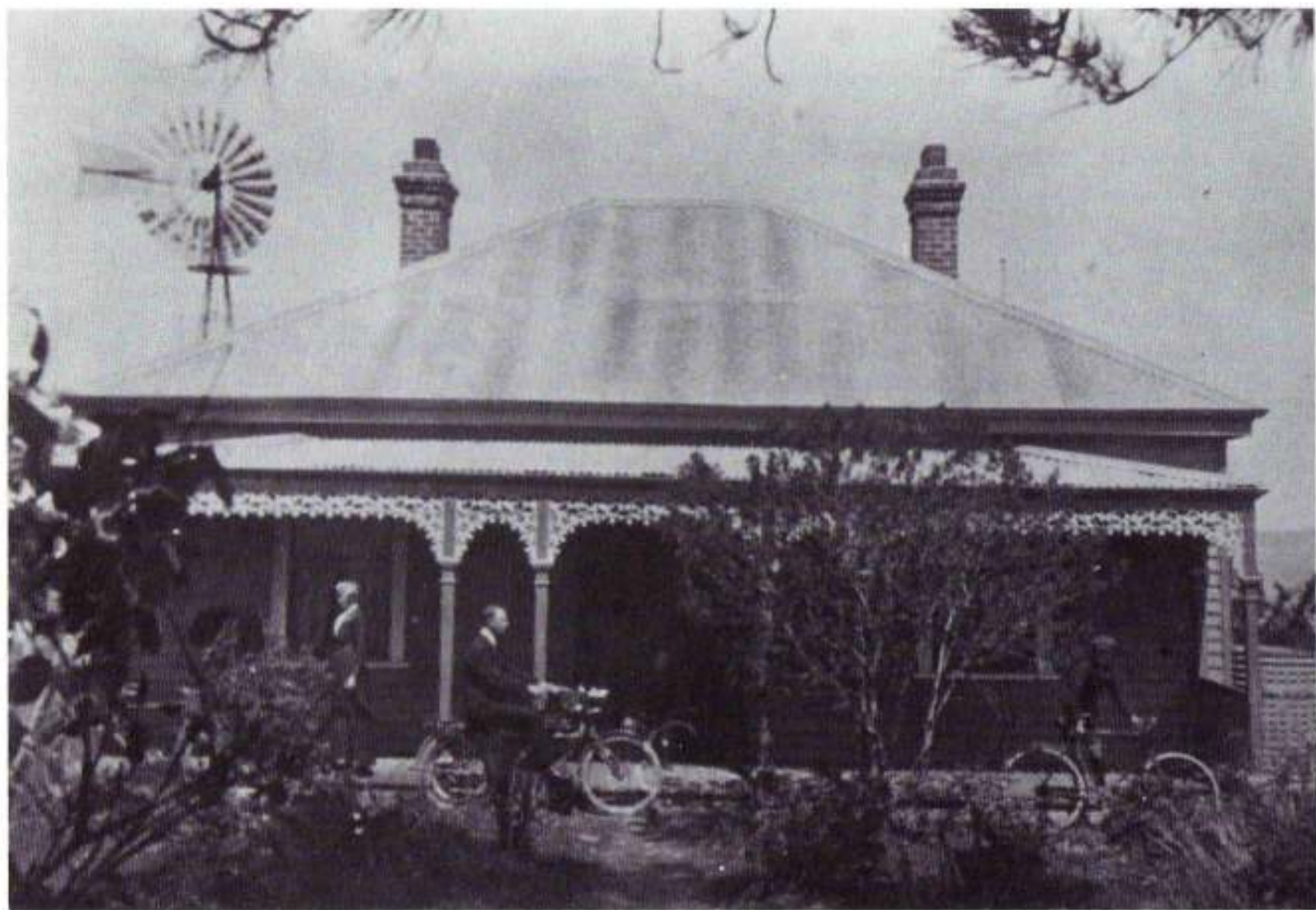
*"Kendalville" the home of George James, c 1908.*





George James' Estate shown outlined in heavy black: namely blocks A, B and C.

CARLYLE JAMES



*"Kendalville", c 1919.*



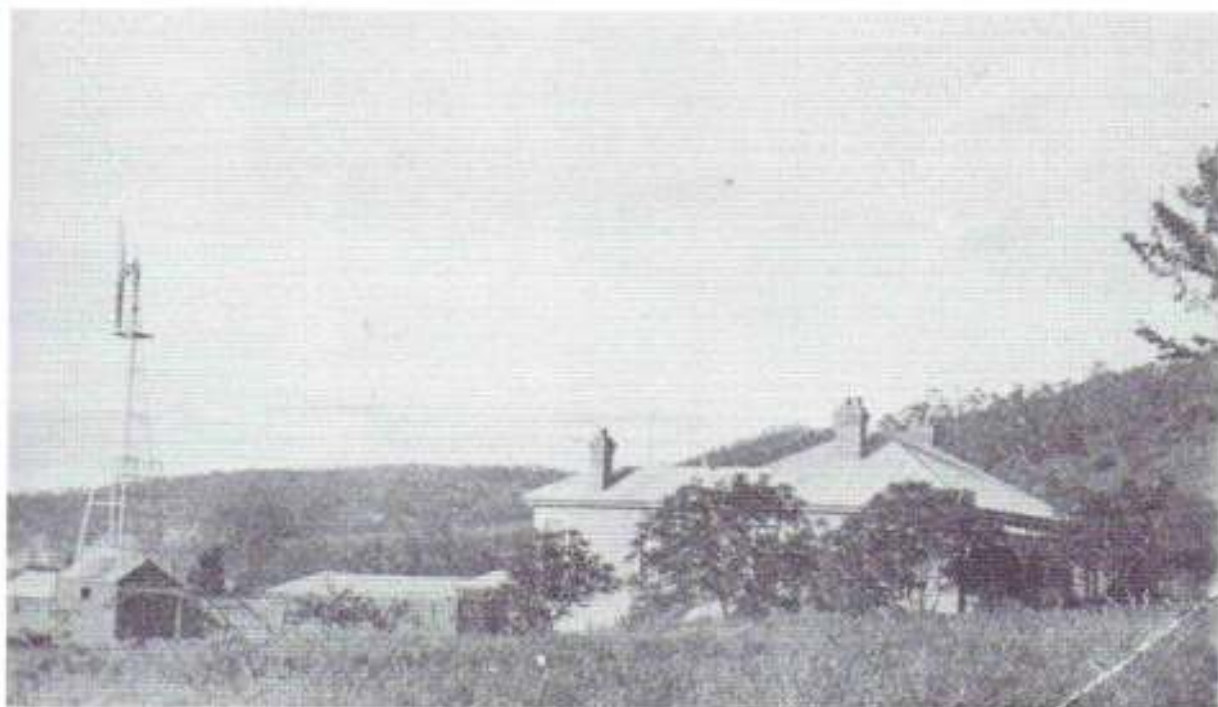
maintenance of bicycles and motor bikes, walks and picnics in the hills, visits to neighbours, and travelling to Hobart in the horse drawn coach. There was at least one major journey in horse and trap to Kelvedon, near Swansea, to visit Emma's Family. Conversation also included visits from grandfather and grandmother James (William and Ellen), local characters and their activities. One of the features that those who visited "Kendalville" still remember is the dazzling floral display in the garden which Emma loved and cared for. In retrospect, life in those years looked good.

Increasingly, however, the boys developed interests outside the farm. This was inevitable because it was obvious that the small holding, although probably sufficient to provide a modest living for one family, certainly would not be able to provide a living for them all.

Roy was apprenticed to E.H. Burgess and Company and became qualified as an electrician. He also trained himself as a craftsman in wood, producing many items of furniture and household articles of exquisite workmanship. He was a competent organist and played regularly for church services each Sunday at both Methodist and Church of England services which were held on alternate

weeks. In 1920 he married Birdie Owen and the couple moved into a new house built by Roy and his brothers on the property at the bottom of what is now Nubeena Crescent. One of Roy's outstanding achievements was to set up a poultry farm on this part of the property. Like his father he achieved an extraordinary amount in a relatively short time. With the assistance of his brothers, two large fowl houses were built covering an area of 2,400 square feet linked with large fenced chicken runs. Accessory buildings included a cellar with incubators, two large brooders, store houses, a nursery for germinating oats, a workshop and two garages. In 1936 disaster struck when Roy died at the age of 46 years. Birdie carried on under very difficult circumstances, especially while her four children were young. However, it was impossible to continue the poultry business and the buildings were dismantled when the property was later subdivided.

Frank entered the Philip Smith Teachers Training College in 1910 and subsequently taught in a number of country schools in Tasmania. He married Phoebe Ford in 1926 and remained in the teaching service until early in 1938 when he resigned and devoted his time to developing his apple orchard at Dover.



*The northern side of "Kendalville" showing the windmill, c 1919.*

KEN JAMES.

## *Families*

However, with the aid of Winston and Adrian, he built his own family home at Taroona on the property at 2 Nubeena Crescent in 1938, and travelled to and fro between Taroona and Dover, sometimes by car and sometimes by boat. His orchard was acquired by the Education Department in 1947 and is now the site of the Dover District State High School. He was an amateur historian with a specialized knowledge of early Tasmanian history and has left quite a number of unique notes. Frank died at Taroona in 1973 at the age of 79 years. His activities distanced him from the farm during its years of decline, but a few surviving letters written to him by his mother give us the little information we have about those years.

The other three boys remained with Emma and George. Winston and Adrian became builders, and were less dependent on the farm. Winston was cheerful and out-going, always ready for a joke. He became an excellent craftsman and enjoyed his work and his boating, fishing and camping trips. He tended to avoid the more serious matters of business and the estate. Adrian was quiet, gentlemanly, sincere and obliging, with wide educational interests. As well as being an excellent

craftsman he was systematic and competent in matters of business and the estate, which he took very seriously. Alan was friendly, kind, always cheerful and exuberant, but from an early age it was evident that he would never be able to look after himself.

George and Emma declined in health and the farm ceased to operate as an economic venture some time before 1920, but continued to be used for domestic purposes. Emma became tragically ill in 1921 and was taken to Melbourne for surgery in 1922. She survived at home for about another eight months under the care of cousin, Edith Cotton (Blyth) and died on the 10th March 1923, aged 57 years.

After Emma's death there was a general air of disillusionment and it was not a happy household. George sold the Sea View property very soon afterwards. Cousin Edith stayed on at "Kendalville" housekeeping for George and the boys, but this did not last long. George's health continued to decline and he and Alan moved to William James' old house at 190 Bathurst Street, Hobart, under the care of his sister Caroline, where he died in 1928 at the age of 66 years. In the meantime Winston and Adrian built a new house, now 101 Channel



*"Kendalville", after the 1967 bushfires. This area is now the car park for the Village Shopping Centre.*

PHOTO PAMELA MOORE.





*Looking south along the snow-covered Channel Highway, 25th July 1986. All the Highway frontage on the left of the picture was at one time the western boundary of George James' property.*

PHOTO ANDREW LORD.

## Families

Highway, and moved there with Cousin Edith, leaving "Kendalville" empty. Between 1928 and 1937 the house was let to a number of temporary tenants.

Winston and Adrian continued as builders, working together for the rest of their lives and constructed many homes in the Hobart, Tarooma and Brown's River areas. In their later years they built several houses in the Kelvedon Avenue and Nubeena Crescent subdivisions. Adrian married Gwen Davis in 1937. He and his family lived in the old "Kendalville" homestead, where he died in 1963 at the age of 62 years. Gwen remained in the old home until it was burnt out in 1967. Winston married Beth Cornish in 1938 and built a new home at 144 Channel Highway, where he died in 1953, aged 56. Alan was cared for by his Aunt Caroline (Carrie) until she died in 1962. Alan continued living there for about six years, after which he was moved to the Royal Derwent Hospital where he died in 1979, aged 71 years.

During the early 1950s the Kelvedon Avenue and Nubeena Crescent subdivision was completed. The last remaining portion of the George James estate was the original plot purchased from A.D. Watchorn in 1899 between Nubeena Crescent and Tarooma Crescent. This was sold in parts to the Kingborough Council by 1966<sup>6</sup>, the last piece being the site of the present Tarooma Village Shopping Centre.

The family owes much to two extraordinary women, Edith Blyth and Caroline James. They appeared when the need was greatest and by their commitment helped the family to survive its times of crisis.

Edith was the daughter of John Cotton and cousin to Emma; the two girls were close friends. It was Edith who came and attended Emma during her illness and after her operation until she died. Edith then continued at the home caring for George and Alan for a time and then housekeeping for Winston and Adrian until they were married. She continued to spend much time with the James family and was of great assistance to Birdie after the death of Roy. We children did not know where she came from nor why she came-everyone simply referred to her as "C.E." which we found out later was short for "Cousin Edith". She spent her last years living in a small bungalow converted from one of the poultry farm

buildings where she died in 1945. Altogether she spent over 20 years closely associated with the James family.

Caroline James was the daughter of William James, and sister to George. She lived at 190 Bathurst Street in the house which had belonged to her father. Her upright figure was well known about Hobart for many years especially by those who received the sharp edge of her tongue. She had the reputation of being some-what difficult to get along with; nevertheless it was to her that George turned after Emma died when his own health was failing, and she cared for him until he died. She then continued to care for Alan for another 34 years until she herself died. Alan loved her very much and with good reason.

### Acknowledgements

Mr G.D. Brown for title searches, documents and plans.

Mrs G. James, Miss J. James, Miss E. White and Miss. G. White for interviews.  
Kingborough Council, Records.  
Education Department of Tasmania.  
Archive Office of Tasmania.

### References

1. DO.
2. F.W. James, private notes.
3. DO.
4. DO.
5. DO.
6. Kingborough Council records.

