

Hawthorn Historical Society



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NEWSLETTER

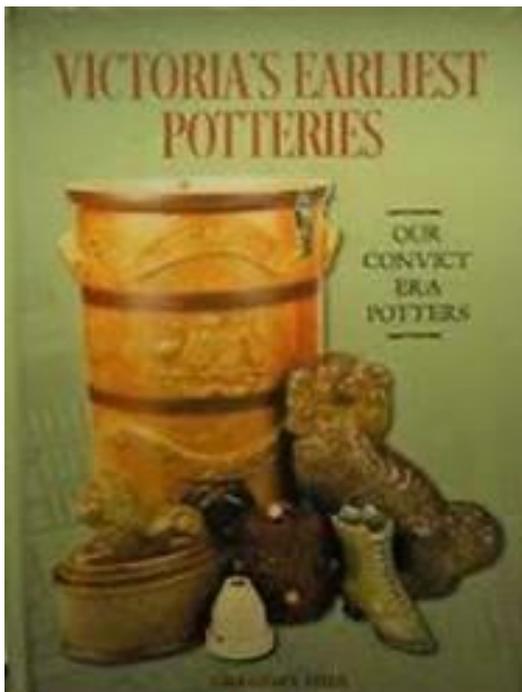
NOVEMBER 2019

COMBINED MEETING WITH RICHMOND and BURNLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER 2019, 2.30 pm
AT STUDIO ONE, 22 BENDIGO STREET, RICHMOND.

The afternoon will commence with the Richmond/Burnley Historical Society AGM (2.30 pm)
followed at 2.45 pm by our guest speaker:

GREGORY HILL

VICTORIA'S EARLIEST POTTERIES – OUR CONVICT ERA POTTERS.



As Melbourne's inner suburbs developed, so too did the establishment of industries manufacturing items in these local areas.

Richmond and Hawthorn's geology provided amazing early resources, such as clay pits, which led to the development of Victoria's early potteries and brickworks.

Gregory Hill is a leading authority on Australian Colonial Potters and Australian Art Pottery. With the support of a Public Record Office Victoria (PROV) grant he has published the comprehensive book *Victoria's Early Potteries – Our Convict Era Potters*.

Greg's book, and his talk on 17th November, is the result of more than seven years research, in which he discovered previously forgotten potteries.

For further information contact: Liz Yewers 9819 218.

We continue to be available in the Local History Room at the Hawthorn Library on the 2nd Wednesday of each month 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, to assist people with their research and to work on projects.

You may also use the Society's office for research on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 10 am to 12 pm, and other times by appointment. It is at 25 Inglesby Road, Camberwell, just behind the Council offices. Easy access by Tram 75.

UPCOMING EVENTS.

Convict Era Potters – Sunday 17th November, 2019, 2.30 pm
Hawthorn History Twilight Walk – Thursday November 28th 2019 6 pm
Meeting at Tay Creggan – 9th February 2020 – Speaker: Diana Little.

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**HAWTHORN HISTORY TWILIGHT WALK
THURSDAY 28th NOVEMBER, 6.00 PM.**



The drinking fountain at the Central Gardens, constructed in 1905 and dedicated to the memory of Cr William Cowper.
Photo courtesy of Liz Yewers.

Join us for a twilight walk starting and ending at Central Gardens (the Rocket Park). We will explore the wonderful history of Glenferrie. Come along to hear stories of Hawthorn's social and commercial development including: the great railway robbery; the opening of the Don Department Store; the opening of the electric tramline; nude bathing at Hawthorn swimming pool; and barracking at Glenferrie oval.

MEET – 5.50pm at the "Rocket" Central Gardens, Henry St Hawthorn

RSVP: Libby Love 0408 176 905

COST: \$5 Hawthorn Historical Society members \$10 others

ALL WELCOME

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ramona de Niese

The year 2019 is quickly coming to a close and hasn't it gone so fast?

One of our main functions for the year was the valuation day in August. It was a lovely Sunday afternoon, and it was well attended by people from all over Melbourne who brought along items to be inspected and valued. It was a fun day, with lots of afternoon tea and chatter among the crowd. Some of us also enjoyed viewing what others had brought along to have valued.

A big thank you to the four gentlemen who gave up their Sunday afternoon to be our valuers: Charles Leski, Richard Gordon, Harry Glenn from Leski Auctions, and Albert Isaacs.

Appreciation is also conveyed to the other Boroondara Historical Societies that sent volunteers to help on the day, namely Balwyn, Camberwell, Canterbury, Kew and Surrey Hills.

The speaker at our September meeting was Mel Constable who presented a very interesting and informative talk on the Constable family who, for three generations, were builders in Hawthorn.

In October we held our Annual General Meeting, and I must thank the outgoing 2018-19 committee for nominating again, and for their hard work throughout the past year; that is: Pam Carter, David Goldsworthy, Albert Isaacs, Libby Love, Andrea Talarico and Liz Yewers.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Grateful thanks must also go to the President, Ramona de Niese, for her enthusiasm and her exertions in many diverse areas, on behalf of the Society.)

On the day of the AGM, we also had a wonderful speaker in Barney Meyer, who is a panoramic photographer and who spoke about Melbourne's early photographers.

This Newsletter also contains details about two events in November:

- Sunday 17th November will be a combined event with Richmond/Burnley Historical Society where Gregory Hill will speak about his book "Victoria's Earliest Potteries";
- Thursday 28th November will be a twilight history walk, led by Libby Love.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all the Compliments of the Season and Safe Holidays.



From the Society's archives comes this 1913 photo of the first Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust electric tram in Glenferrie Road, looking north from near the Glenferrie train station. The Don Store (later Walkers) building still exists on the north side of the appropriately named Don Arcade.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 11TH OF NOVEMBER.

Albert Isaacs.

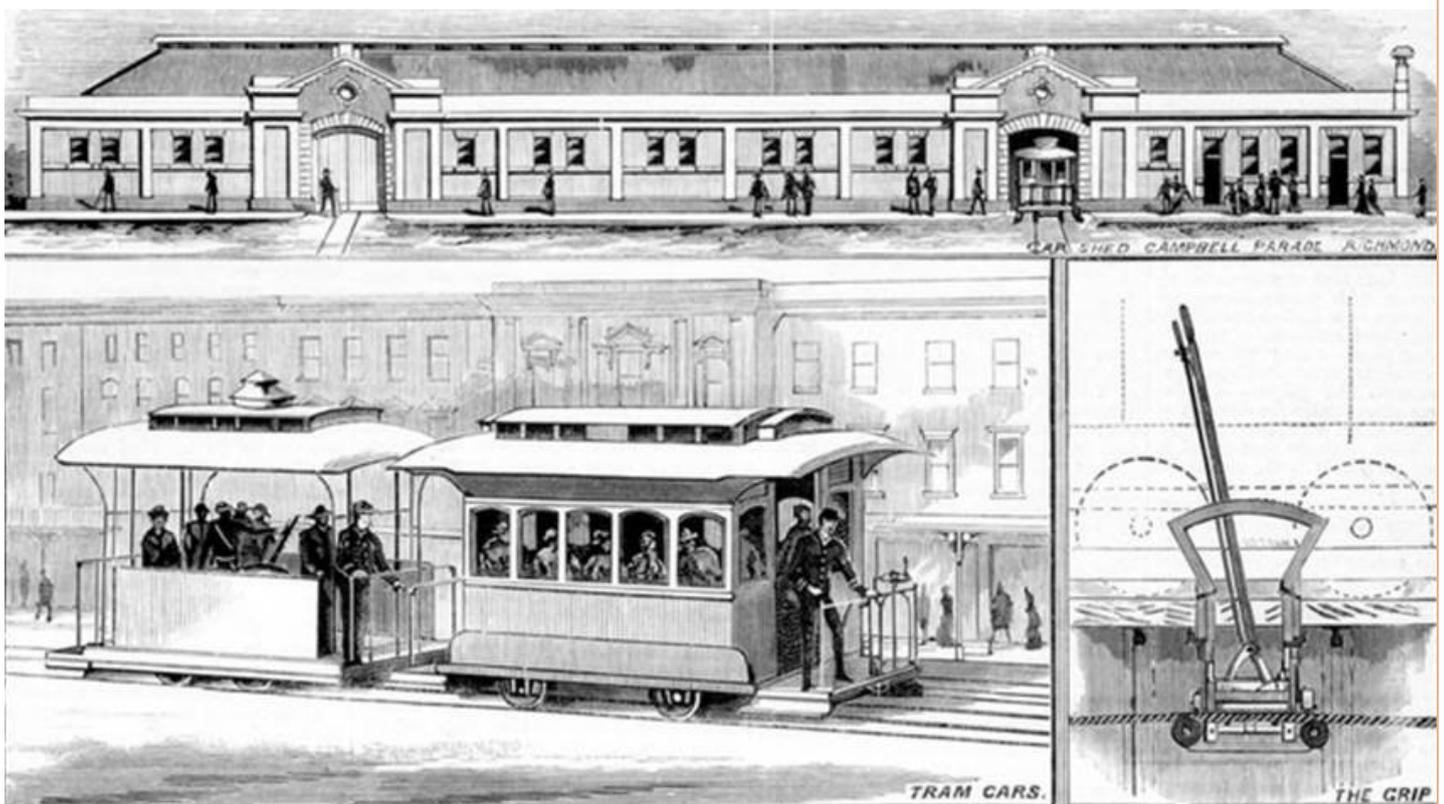
Most of us know at least two important anniversaries that occur on the 11th day of this month, November. However, here is a list of 10 anniversaries that affect Hawthorn residents because of their world standing, their Australian importance, or their local significance.

- * 1854: the Eureka Stockade commenced at Bakery Hill, Ballarat.
- * 1869: Victoria's Aboriginal Protection Act; the first such act in Australia, which deprived Indigenous Australians of self-determination.
- * 1880: Bushranger, Ned Kelly, was hung at Melbourne Gaol.
- * 1885: Melbourne's first cable tram line, to the Richmond side of the Hawthorn Bridge, was opened. From 1890, it connected with a horse tram running to the corner of Riversdale and Auburn Roads. (↓)
- * 1918: World War I: Germany signed an armistice agreement with the Allies in a railway carriage in the forest of Compiègne.
- * 1923: Adolf Hitler was arrested in Munich for high treason for his part in the Beer Hall Putsch.
- * 1934: The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne was opened.
- * 1942: World War II: France's "zone libre" is occupied by German forces.
- * 1975: Australian Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, dismissed the government of Gough Whitlam. Sir John then appointed Malcolm Fraser as caretaker Prime Minister, and announced that an election would be held in early December.
- * 1984: Martin Luther King, Sr., American pastor, missionary and activist (born 1899) was assassinated.

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/November_11

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-other-australia-day-november-11-throughout-history>.



Captions: Top – the cable car house at the far-eastern end of Campbell Parade (now Bridge Road), Richmond.

The exterior of the cable car house has now been incorporated into the outside of the Amora Hotel.

Bottom left: the dummy at left, showing the grip which held onto the driving cable under the road; and the trailer at right.

Bottom right: a close-up of the grip and the cable under the road.

(Illustrations courtesy State Library Victoria.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

Our membership year concluded on 30th September 2019; those who have not yet re-joined are invited to do so.

Current membership fees are:

Family Membership: \$35.00 Family (concession) \$25.00 Single: \$25.00 Single (concession) \$20.00

Direct Payment to our Bank account:

By EFTPOS: BSB 033 050 Account: 146 383

The Hawthorn Historical Society (Please include your surname so that we can track your payment)

Our mailing address

Cheques can be mailed to: The Treasurer, Hawthorn Historical Society Inc.
584 Glenferrie Road Hawthorn 3122

Queries: hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com , or contact our Treasurer, Pam Carter, on 0400 644 042

RECENT DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION.

Jillian Dwyer has compiled and donated a comprehensive family history of William Lamborn and family, residents of Kinkora and Auburn Roads during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Diana Little from Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School has donated copies of historical documents related to the heritage listed property, Tay Creggan, at 30 Yarra Street.

Shirley Ramsay has donated several books about Hawthorn and George Coppin, from her private collection.

Elizabeth Love has donated a copy of *Portrait of a Parish – Immaculate Conception Parish, Hawthorn*.

We are also most grateful for recent donations to our photographic collection, notably from Jillian Dwyer; that is a family group portrait of the Lamborn family at Currajong, 337 Auburn Road Hawthorn East. (See also the separate article about the family on pages 9 & 10).

As well, we have received nine photographs from the 1980s, by photographer Gaynor Robson, of businesses and views in Hawthorn including several from the flagpole tower of the Hawthorn Town Hall.

TAY CREGGAN

Recently, Strathcona Baptist Girls Grammar School opened their historic house Tay Creggan, to the public during Open House Melbourne 2019. This occasion gave the society the opportunity to take photographs of the building and discuss the history of the house with Diana Little (Strathcona's Project Officer). Diana has been enthusiastic about the sharing of information, and not only has the school donated to us copies of numerous documents relating to the house, but has agreed to allow the Historical Society to hold a meeting in the Tay Creggan ballroom on 9th February 2020. Diana has kindly agreed to be our guest speaker on that occasion.



NEW MEMBERS.

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since the last list was published: Christopher Feil, Robin Kelly, Anne McLeod, Mitzi Mann, Andrew Tulloch, Jen Thwaites and Douglas Milne. We hope you find your membership to be rewarding!

RECENT FUNCTION – VALUATION DAY, 25th AUGUST 2019.

The Hawthorn Historical Society recently organised a very successful Valuation Day for the combined Boroondara Historical Societies. Many people were able to have a range of diverse items valued by our four experts: Charles Leski, Harry Glenn, Richard Gordon and Albert Isaacs. The items assessed ranged from extremely large collections through to individual items. The feedback from those who had items appraised was quite positive. Our thanks go to our four assessors for sharing their knowledge.

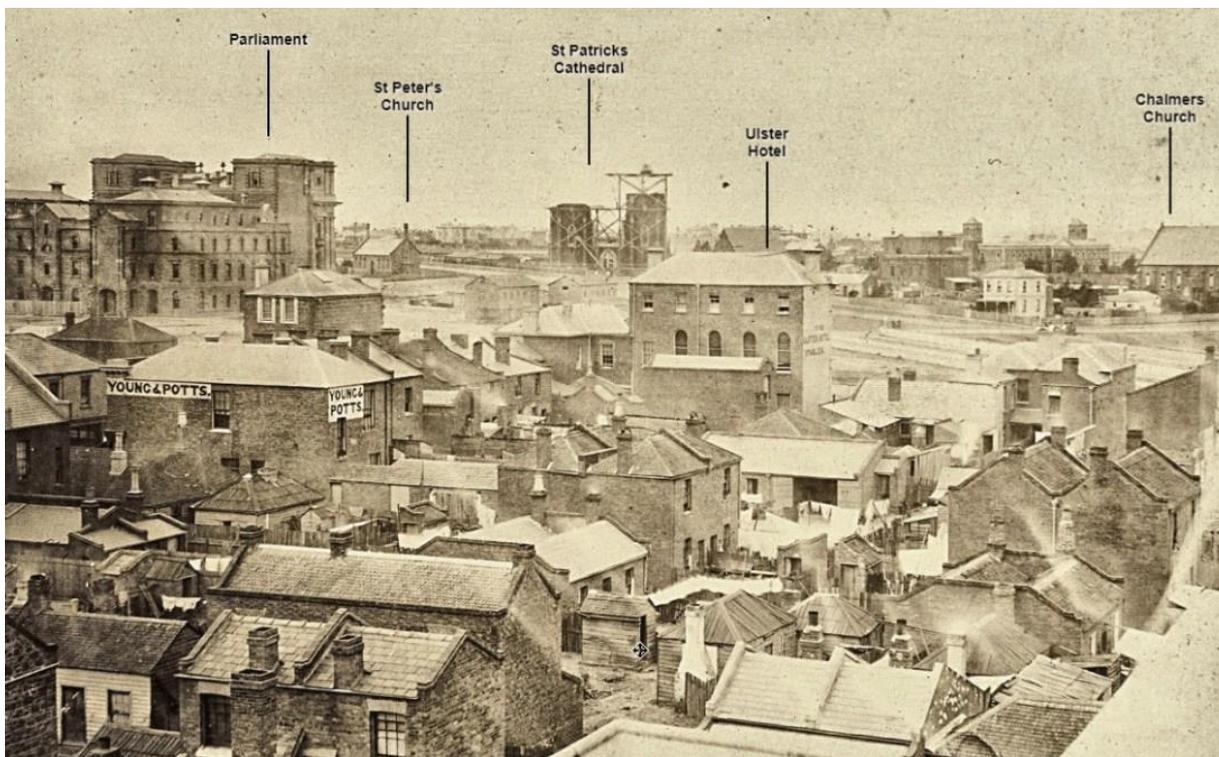


Captions: Top row – a nice miniature portrait that was valued on the day.
 Middle row – some other items valued by our experts.
 Last row – Charles Leski hard at work valuing a stamp collection; our four valuers: left to right – Harry Glenn, Charles Leski, Albert Isaacs and Richard Gordon.
 (*Images: Elizabeth Love, Jim Love, etc.*)

RECENT FUNCTION – A.G.M. / PANORAMIC PHOTOGRAPHY, 13th OCTOBER 2019.

The Hawthorn Historical Society’s A.G.M. was held on 13th October, at which all 2018-19 office-bearers were re-elected for a further 12 months (see *From the President* – page 3, for the names of the Committee). The full minutes of the meeting will be included in the next issue of this *Newsletter* in February 2020 .

After the A.G.M., we welcomed our guest speaker Barney Meyer who gave an illustrated and well researched talk on panoramic views of Melbourne from 1841 to 2017. There was much feedback, and thanks were extended to Barney.



Top: an 1861 Walter B. Woodbury view of Melbourne taken from Parliament House;
 Bottom: a J. H. Kerr panorama taken from the Melbourne Club.
 (Photos from Barney Meyer’s website Hidden Melbourne.)

HAWTHORN STREETS YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF – FOUR – PALMER PLACE. Albert Isaacs.

The latest in our series of articles about streets in Hawthorn, past and present, which hardly anyone knows much about, looks at what may be the least-known street currently existing in Hawthorn. Ironically, HHS Secretary Liz Yewers lived just around the corner in Coppin Grove, at the time that the street was renamed.

An earlier article in this series on Hawthorn streets that are not well known, explained that for just a short while in 1920, the eastern end of Burwood Road (between Camberwell and Burke Roads) was renamed Eastern Road. Paradoxically, in the 1990s, the far western end of Burwood Road was also renamed. It is now Palmer Place.

What is now Palmer Place runs the short distance between Coppin Grove and the park area on the eastern bank of the Yarra. Palmer Place consists of just two homes (Nos 2 & 8) and one block of units (No 6). Nevertheless, the street does lead to the two riverside rowing club buildings, and to the Hawthorn Rowing Club war memorial.

The reason for the change of name came about because there were actually two Burwood Roads between Coppin Grove and the Yarra: the main road leading to the Hawthorn Bridge and to Bridge Road, Richmond; the other at a 45° angle to the main road and, as we've just seen, containing just three buildings.

The house at 4 Palmer Place was formerly known as Invergowrie Lodge, and was built between 1861 and 1871. Invergowrie Lodge was originally the home of Sir James Palmer, after whom Palmer Place was named, and was the first building in the Palmer Estate. The second owner of the Lodge and the Estate was theatrical entrepreneur George Coppin. With just a little sarcasm we can note that Coppin named the two streets in his estate after his two favourite thespians, namely Shakespeare Grove and Coppin Grove.



Left: 8 Palmer Place; right: 4 Palmer Place.

(Acknowledgements: The Heritage Council of Victoria; realestateview.com.au.)



Dr Sir James Frederick Palmer (7th June 1803 – 23rd April 1871) was a medical practitioner, a Victorian pioneer, the first President of the Victorian Legislative Council and a Mayor of Melbourne. He was born in Great Torrington, Devonshire. In 1835-37 he edited a four volume edition of the works of John Hunter, the anatomist. He also supplied the glossary to *A Dialogue in the Devonshire Dialect*, written by his grandmother in the 18th century, but not published until 1837. On 21st November 1831 Palmer married Isabella, third daughter of Dr John Gunning, C.B. After failing to

secure two surgical appointments, Palmer migrated to Melbourne, arriving at the end of September 1840. In addition to practising his profession, he was proprietor of a cordial manufactory and later, a wine merchant. Palmer was an early member of the Melbourne City Council and was elected Mayor in 1845. In September 1848 he was elected as one of five members for the Port Phillip District for the New South Wales Legislative Council, but resigned in June 1849. When Victoria became a separate colony in 1851, Palmer was elected a member of the Victorian Legislative Council for Normanby, Dundas and Follett. He was later the Speaker of the Council. Sir James was knighted in 1857.

(Photo of Sir James by courtesy of parliament.vic.gov.au. Acknowledgements are also due to Wikipedia.)

CURRAJONG: 337 AUBURN ROAD, HAWTHORN EAST.

Elizabeth Love.



This elegant double fronted Victorian villa (←) set on a deep block on the north-east corner of Currajong Road, built in 1886/7, has become the centrepiece recently in a grass roots community campaign to protect it from demolition. A petition which received over 5,000 signatures was sent to The Hon. Richard Wynne, State Minister for Planning, earlier this year and no doubt facilitated his decision to provide a temporary protection order for this property. However, there is continuing community concern about the preservation of this and similar houses, and the potential loss of many of the heritage properties in Boroondara which, because of their larger allotments and proximity to transport, have been prime targets for developers. These fears are not unfounded, as

evidenced by the recent demolition of two nearby properties also identified as worthy of preservation. Although recognised as contributory to the Longford Estate Overlay by the City of Boroondara's Hawthorn East Heritage Gap Study, they were able to be demolished because the permits had been granted prior to the formal ratification of the heritage overlays. This situation will have significant ongoing implications for other areas within Boroondara as the process of identification, research, community consultation and Council approval, creates a significant lag time.

The Context Heritage Consultant's evaluation of Currajong in May 2019 concluded with the statement that: *"Its loss would have a negative impact on the precinct as "Currajong" illustrates the earliest residential development in the area and the largest and most elaborately detailed Victorian Italianate dwelling in the precinct"*.

The Hawthorn Historical Society also recently wrote to Minister Wynne in support of the Council's request for the granting of permanent protection for Currajong, viz:

We write in support of the City of Boroondara's recent request to protect this property which we consider to be an integral part of the Longford Estate Heritage Overlay. We commend the review undertaken by Context Heritage Consultants on behalf of the Council but wish to also highlight the important contribution this property and its original owner have played in the social, cultural and historical development of Hawthorn East. Below is part of our submission.

This property belonging to William Lamborn was one of the first to be built along this section of Auburn Road following the Auburn reserve subdivision along Currajong Road in 1883. At the time the location had a semi-rural ambience, as to the north, land along Harts Parade and Invermay Grove were subdivided later in 1884 and 1886 respectively. The home predates the other individually significant building, the Riversdale Hotel of 1888 and the adjacent shopping strip as well as the horse drawn tram terminating at the intersection of Riversdale and Auburn Roads. The Context Heritage Consultant's report suggests that the heritage architect John Beswicke, who designed the Hawthorn Town Hall, was likely responsible for the design of Lamborn's elegant home. We believe this is supported by the fact that the two men most likely knew each other. Two of William Lamborn's sons married daughters of engineer James Robison, one of the two early residents in Harcourt Street, Hawthorn. The other was the family of John Beswicke, who a few years later was to design Balmerino, a house for Robison. At least one of these weddings was held at Balmerino.

In many ways William Lamborn epitomised the post gold rush colonial man, rising from poor circumstances and through a combination of aspiration, intelligence, determination and application, securing for himself and his family financial security and social mobility; inconceivable had he remained in his birthplace in the slums of Victorian England. "Currajong" was a symbol of his commercial success and the fulfilment of his early dreams.

..... continued next page

CURRAJONG : 337 AUBURN ROAD, HAWTHORN EAST. Continued.

Arriving in Melbourne in 1852, goldsmith William Lamborn, within four years had formed a partnership with Leopold Wagner as Lamborn & Wagner. It was one of the earliest firms of manufacturing jewellers in Victoria and in association with Lamborn Bros, one of the most successful and enduring. After William's retirement in 1885 two of his sons continued as Lamborn Bros. Lamborn & Wagner items are highly prized at auction and several pieces are held in the collections of both the Australian National Gallery and the Victorian National Gallery.

The families of William Lamborn and his sons, including Albert, who lived close by in Auburn Road, were closely involved in the Hawthorn community. The children attended local schools such as Auburn State School, Hawthorn College, Astolat, Annesley, and Methodist Ladies Colleges. Family members were also members of Auburn Lacrosse Club, Boroondara Rowing Club, Auburn Heights Recreation Club and the Eastern Suburbs Cycling Club. They regularly attended Mayoral and charity balls, and married within the Hawthorn community. William supported the newly erected Anglican church, St Columb's (1883) and both William and his son Robert served on the vestry and the Board of Guardians between 1899-1905. Numerous baptisms and marriages were conducted at St Columb's and elaborate receptions and parties (were) held in the grounds of Currajong. Alfred's son Harold Lamborn's name appears on the St Columb's honour board of those who served during the First World War

We hope that this information will assist you in evaluating the significance of this gracious property and appreciating the community's concern that this valuable part of its historical, cultural and architectural heritage should be protected.

**Captions -**

Left: The Lamborn family in 1903, taken at William and Eliza Lamborn's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Right: Interior view of Currajong as it is today.

(Acknowledgements: Elizabeth Love, the Lamborn family, R. T. Edgar (real estate agents).

CAN YOU ASSIST THE SOCIETY?

The Hawthorn Historical Society is looking for someone with marketing and graphic knowledge who can assist the Society for about six hours per month. If you think that you can help us, or if you know someone who can, please contact us on 9819 1218 or hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

HAWTHORN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER –**Editor: ALBERT ISAACS****Contact through the HHS:****Email: hawthornhistoricalsociety@gmail.com****Website: <http://hawthornhistoricalsociety.com.au>****Facebook: <https://facebook.com/Hawthorn-Historical-Society>****Phone: 9819 1218****Thanks go to the office of John Kennedy M.L.A. for printing hard copies of this Newsletter.**