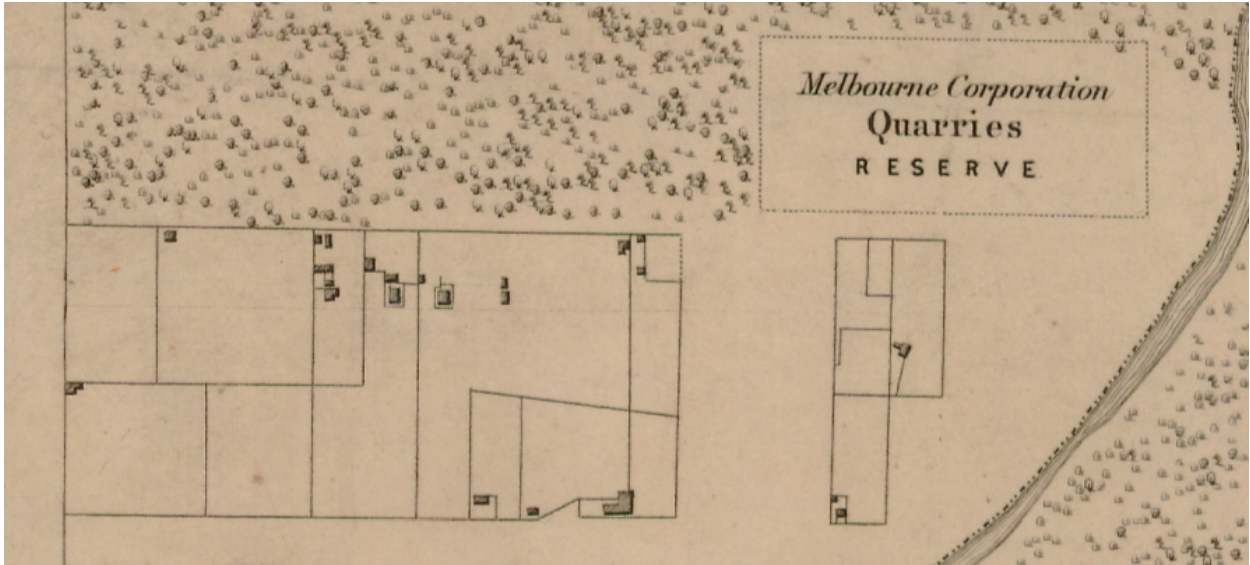


Collingwood Historical Society, Inc.

Annual History Walk: East Clifton Hill 14 November 2015

We acknowledge the Wurundjeri people as the original inhabitants of this land.

This is an expanded version of the handout used on the day of the walk. See the end of the document for Sources and Further Reading.



Melbourne and its Suburbs, compiled by James Kearney, draughtsman, Andrew Clark, Surveyor General. Detail. For the full map, see [Collingwood HS Maps](#)

Starting point Hall Reserve at end of Spensley Street

The area now known as Clifton Hill (a name first used in 1871) was (mostly) Crown land until late 1855 when it was annexed to the newly formed municipality of East Collingwood. However, at this date east Clifton Hill had already been settled by a number of inhabitants, including several contractors who used the local bluestone to build themselves houses, shown on the ca. 1855 map above, and still in existence. These people were most unimpressed by the annexation application, but were unsuccessful in opposing it.

The themes of today's Walk are bluestone, both quarrying and building, abattoirs and butchers, back lanes, and the pattern of local life, housing, and work over more than a hundred and fifty years. This area includes the oldest houses in Collingwood as well as early twentieth century subdivisions and housing developments, and pockets of interwar housing, which are an indication of changing patterns of land use. In some cases, this was because families retained large landholdings, in others because industries occupied sizable tracts of land. The presence of noxious industries, and the distance from public transport of the further reaches of east Clifton Hill, may also have had an impact. Of course there has also been the more recent pattern of development during the last 20 years or so and which continues today especially with the changing use of many factory sites.

Most of east Clifton Hill is covered by the City of Yarra's Heritage Overlay 316.

<http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/planning--building/Heritage/Heritage-Precincts/>

Hall Reserve, The Esplanade. The small stone hut in the reserve was built as part of the sustenance work provided for the unemployed during the 1930s Depression years. It was a gardener's shed but, having been unused in recent years, was being considered for demolition by Council. A local protest reversed the decision. Recent works have improved the building and a consultation was held with the community about possible uses.

If you have time, you may want to look at the houses of some Collingwood Notables before descending to the creek:

St Asaph 77 Heidelberg Road: Robert "Sugar" Roberts, bookmaker, associate of John Wren, and Labor councillor 1930-34, 1937-48.

22 The Esplanade: Collingwood-born William Ruthven, WW1 Victoria Cross winner and Collingwood councillor.

12 The Esplanade: Charlie Utting, Collingwood footballer and councillor.

Walk onto the Merri Creek Path

Follow the path south a short distance until, away from the road, you can look around for some sense of what the area might have been like pre-European settlement.

The local Indigenous people, the Wurundjeri-willam, were a river-based people and the Merri Creek and the Yarra river provided them with food and other resources. The area was a central camping site for them. Not far up the Merri Creek (in Northcote) is the site which has been suggested as the place where John Batman signed a Treaty with the local Aboriginal leaders in 1835, marking the start of major disruption of their way of life. In the early days of European settlement large groups of visiting Aboriginals from other northern areas would still meet together in this area (from Hall Reserve to Dwyer St) for ceremonial and other purposes.

The Lettsom Raid 1840

The area of Halls Reserve (where the Heidelberg Road crosses the Merri Creek) has been identified as the site of the infamous Lettsom Raid. The raid illustrates some of the tensions between the authorities trying to protect the Aboriginals (the few appointed Protectors) and those trying to protect the settlers and their flocks (troopers and police).

Major Lettsom had been dispatched from Sydney to apprehend Aboriginal leaders who were seen as responsible for attacking settlers on the Goulburn River. He followed them to Melbourne after learning they had gone there for a ceremonial gathering. He demanded Protector William Thomas hand over the Goulburn 'trouble makers' but Thomas refused as there were no warrants for their arrest. Lettsom then gained permission from Superintendent LaTrobe to make the raid (while Thomas was absent from Melbourne).

On 11 October 1840 Major Lettsom led a large group of armed police and troopers to raid a big encampment of Aboriginal families 'about three miles from Melbourne on the Heidelberg-road'. Two men were killed, including the young chieftain Windberry, others were injured, and men, women and children were marched away to the stockade in Melbourne where they were imprisoned. The press at the time reported:

Great excitement prevailed in town on Sunday in consequence of a number of blacks, about five hundred, having been arrested, and during the day successive crowds of persons were attracted towards the place where they were confined.

(*The Colonist* Sydney 24 Oct 1840 p. 2,3 quoting *The Herald* 12 Oct 1840)

The press described the raid by Major Lettsom and his forces:

The bivouac was reached about break of day ... the whole body were surrounded before they were aware of the near proximity ... On perceiving the military, the blacks appeared greatly alarmed, and some attempts were made to escape.

The newspaper described one of the men shot: 'The name of the savage is Windberry, a chieftain and a most determined scoundrel.'

In contrast Assistant Protector William Thomas wrote in protest: 'Windberry was one of the noblest minded blacks I ever met with – he had saved the lives of many shepherds and travellers on the Goulburn River and deserved a much better fate'.

What happened to the imprisoned families? Edward Parker, Protector for the Goulburn region, managed to free all but 30 of the Goulburn men, 10 of whom were put on trial and sentenced to 10 years for theft – without the benefit of defence lawyers or interpreters.

The area where the Merri Creek met the Yarra and what is now Yarra Bend Park became a government reserve and in the 1840s was the site of the Melbourne Aboriginal Protectorate Headquarters (1842-9), the Native Police Corps Headquarters (1842-3) and the Merri Creek Aboriginal School (1845-51). However, after 1847 few Aboriginals any longer visited the area as numbers dwindled due to displacement, death and disease.

Continue to follow the Merri Creek path south

Enjoy the ambience of the path which is now a lovely treed route for us to enjoy, listening to birdsong and the distant tinkle of flowing water. Look to the left to see the Merri Creek and its high banks on the east. Look to the right to see, firstly, remains of low stone walls built by sustenance workers during the 1930s Depression, then the remains of the high basalt cliffs which were excavated for bluestone.

Stop by the rocky outcrop just before the path up to Quarries Park.

Here you can get a close-up view of the stone. And perhaps those pieces of rusting metal in the crevice are some remainder of quarrying work?

Quarries. Lava flows left a rich resource of basalt for early Melbourne contractors which was to create a distinctive look to lanes, gutters, and buildings in Collingwood and surrounding districts. Both Melbourne Council and Collingwood Council had quarries here. The basalt, which forms the steep sides of the Merri Creek valley, was from lava flows up to 2 million years ago and the cliffs have the distinctive columnar form of weathered basalt.

The quarries were located along and west of Merri Creek near the end of Ramsden and Noone Streets and became long term fixtures in the area. Quarrying was carried out from the late 1840s until the closure of the Collingwood Council Quarry in 1963. The quarries provided much of the bluestone that is so much part of Melbourne & Collingwood's lanes, gutters and buildings. The quarries became a tip on closure and are now Quarries Park. Contractors Samuel Ramsden and Charles and Henry Brown were early exploiters of the quarry. There will be more on Ramsden later in the walk.

View of the quarry:

http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9148.html

The quarry workers had a dangerous and difficult job in the early days getting the bluestone out by hand. The hours were long and continued in all weathers, six days a week. Mechanisation made it a bit easier in later years but there was still the danger to workers and the public from explosions going wrong.

The Melbourne City Council Quarry in Wright Street closed in 1939, maybe due to blasting operations in 1934, which caused rocks up to 13lbs to be thrown hundreds of yards into the houses in Wright, Yambla, Caroline & Dwyer Streets; a number of houses were damaged, and adults and children were injured. Mr Thompson of The Rate Payers and Property Owners Defence League, was struck whilst repairing his car in Dwyer St. Mr Dunkin, a former Mayor of Collingwood and President of the League, said 'residents had been fighting for 20 years, against the Quarry, which they regarded as a menace to life and property, as has now been proven.'

To see the location of quarries in the early twentieth Century, use the State Library catalogue to view MMBW Detail Plans 1277 and 1279.

The Labyrinth is a 2001 addition to the Merri path. Another use for bluestone!

Yarra Bend Asylum. Across the Merri Creek.

In 1845, the NSW Legislative Council allocated £1000 towards Yarra Bend Asylum and in 1848, *The Argus* reported that the new asylum, the first of its kind in Victoria, was 'now open for the reception of its unfortunate visitants.' It remained the only asylum in Victoria for 20 years and was therefore central in the early history of care for the mentally ill in Victoria. Set on 620 acres, the site could initially accommodate 25 patients but the number swelled to 700 within only ten years of opening. By 1870 one report commented that Yarra Bend was the eighth largest asylum in the world, which when comparing population sizes put 'Victoria in the most unenviable position of being the maddest place in the world'.

Problems of overcrowding were contributed to by the hasty admission of inappropriately assessed patients, including alcoholics, paupers and gold-field criminals. The asylum, run initially by non-medically trained supervisors, worked for its duration under the practice of requiring only one signature for admission but two for discharge. Retired military officer, George Watson, was the first Superintendent. Admissions were rarely reviewed, leaving many inmates lingering unnecessarily for years. Overcrowding, coupled with reports of rampant mistreatment and neglect were persistent and the impetus for numerous Enquiries. Despite calls for its closure from as early as the 1850s, the last remaining patient is recorded as being transferred to Kew Asylum in 1925.

The original structure consisted of bluestone cottages and later new wards of makeshift wooden structures. High bluestone walls were supposed to block views, but there are also stories of Clifton Hill residents talking to patients. A typical cottage consisted of a day room, store room, two rooms for attendants, and two patient dormitories each holding approximately 16 patients. The first inmates were put to work on pig and poultry farming as well as tending to vegetable gardens that sloped towards the polluted river. The Asylum was located beyond the municipality, so Collingwood Council was not concerned for the inmates tormented by air pollution.

Inmates were predominantly treated with 'moral therapy' – a way of dissolving their level of deviance. Physical punishment was applied indiscriminately – straightjacket, handcuffs,

gloves, chaining to trees. Inmates were left to simply roam the airing yards all day, no matter the weather, and patient fights and violations were left unchecked.

Yarra Bend is the only asylum in Australia that has completely disappeared, yet it is still the burial place of upwards of 1000 patients. A lone bluestone gate pillar, and, for the keen observer, a line of deciduous trees that would have formed the entry, are the only visible remnants of the site's history. **Urban legend** has it that the phrase 'going around the bend' refers to the Yarra Bend Asylum. However most institutions around the world at this time were situated at the end of long driveways with the main buildings around a curve so that people approaching could not see where they were heading ...

Follow the path around to the beginning of Ramsden St, near the sports oval. If you have time, walk up to the high point between the Merri Creek path and Ramsden St for a fine view of the surrounding area

Abattoirs. By the mid-1850s, the privately owned meat works of Charles Alexander and later the municipal abattoirs of East Collingwood (established in 1861 and extended a few years later) were characterising the industrial focus along the Merri Creek in Clifton Hill, and creating processing works which included tanneries, fellmongering, soap and candle manufacturing and wool scouring.

Despite the bad reputation they gave Clifton Hill and the odour and squalor they created, the meat works and the abattoirs were of financial benefit to Council through letting and grazing fees. For 24 years, council let the abattoirs to a couple of butchers, including Charles Alexander. They charged fees to others butchers wishing to slaughter. For a further fee, the council permitted butchers and stockowners to graze their animals on newly acquired reserves in Clifton Hill. Butchers worked knee deep in blood and offal in the municipal abattoirs. They were considered poorly managed and undersized, so illegal backyard slaughtering and use of public spaces - such as at the bottom of the Reilly St drain – remained rife. Dozens of butchers were willing to risk the occasional fine in order to maximise profits, and added blood and offal to the water and sewage which ran in open channels down to the flat.

In the mid 1860s epidemics forced closure of the abattoirs for a time. Butchers, who included resourceful and influential men, campaigned to win toleration from councillors. John Pritchard, leader of the abattoirs boycott, eventually became one of the wealthiest Smith Street traders, with a stylish residence at 217 Gold Street Clifton Hill.

By the 1870s the abattoirs, filthier than ever, were being used mainly by butchers from outside the district. In 1880 with epidemic outbreaks imminent, a large number of Clifton Hill residents attended a meeting to discuss the removal of several nuisances in the area, including the abattoirs. The abattoirs were deemed 'highly prejudicial to the health of residents' and particularly injurious to the health of the asylum inmates because of nightsoil and excreta 'buried so shallow it could be uncovered with a common walking cane'. The abattoirs closed not long afterwards, but illegal slaughtering and boiling down continued well into the 1890s.

Walk west along Ramsden Street towards Brockenshire Street

Ramsden Street. This was the original access road to the quarries. Now it displays a mixture of architectural styles from various periods of development, with Victorian, Federation and Edwardian styles represented. More recently modern housing developments have been created, starting at Feild Street which had not previously been settled.

The former quarry site became a tip and is now a park. View of the tip:

http://www.picturevictoria.vic.gov.au/site/yarra_melbourne/Collingwood/9493.html

Brockenshire Street. This is a late subdivision lined with houses built at the same period and thus showing consistency in building style. The subdivision occurred in 1925/26. The Collingwood Council called for tenders for the construction of Brockenshire Street, off Ramsden St on December 16th 1925. In 1926 the houses were being built with seven completed on the east side of the street, with three being vacant. Four houses on the west side were built and all were occupied. In 1928 eight houses were built on the east side and six houses on the west side. By 1930 all houses were occupied. In Sands & McDougall Directories the street is listed as being off 109 Ramsden Street.

It was named after Edward Brockenshire, who lived at **109 Ramsden St** from around 1912 until his death in 1943 aged 78. He was responsible for the subdivision and built the houses. Edward, born in Maldon in 1864, was a jeweller, originally having a shop in Smith Street, Collingwood and later an optician.

The houses in Brockenshire Street represent a fine example of a group of timber bungalows of the inter-war period. These bungalow style houses were detached, one storey with gabled roof forms, expressed chimneys, weatherboard and corrugated iron roofing.

Walk west along bluestone lane at end of Brockenshire Street to Horne Street

As well as being used for buildings both grand and small, bluestone was extensively used for kerbing, channeling, and paving and has created a very distinctive infrastructure in the inner suburbs. As we walk down the back lane made from the quarried bluestone, note that before the sewerage system was installed by the Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works, these lanes were essential for the “dunny cart” man who removed “nightsoil”. In some lanes (not this one) you can still see signs of the old openings which enabled access to the pan. It is well worth a walk around the back lanes to identify the few that remain.

1 and 3 Horne St. 1850s, formerly 97 Ramsden St, residence of Henry Brown (greatly altered).

2 Ford St. Built by 1853, originally residence of Charles Brown, a contractor in partnership with Samuel Ramsden and Henry Brown. Formerly 87 Ramsden St. Brown purchased the Crown land allotment of one acre 32 perches on 8 May 1851 for £37/4/0.

Ford St. At this point look at the ca. 1855 map on page 1 which shows three houses in a row. You can also look at MMBW detail plan 1223 showing the same houses around 1905. We are standing outside Charles Brown’s house at **2 Ford St.** On the corner is Henry Brown’s house, now known as 1 and 3 Horne St. Each of the three houses appears to have had a separate kitchen, which in the case of Henry Brown’s and Ramsden’s houses have ended up as separate properties. With the current arrangement of streets, and the encroachment of later houses, it is hard to get an idea of what it was like for the 1850s residents. If we look to the south, where, most conveniently for today’s walk, a house has been demolished, we can get a feeling of the former landscape. Although their addresses until well into the twentieth century were Ramsden St, the houses were oriented to look down the hill and across

Collingwood towards Melbourne. With no encroaching high buildings, they would have had a vista that stretched for miles.

Charles Brown later let his house to a builder called William Cooper and during his long tenancy Miss Cooper ran a private school within the house, from 1886 to 1894. Enrolments started at 7, peaked at 34 in 1891, then dropped, perhaps because Spensley St State School opened in December 1891. There were lots of small private schools in this era. Mr Cooper purchased Samuel Ramsden's subdivided land when it was auctioned in 1888. A later resident was Charles Batty, a wood and coal merchant, who is believed to have added the Federation style veranda. Ford St was constructed in the 1920s when land subdivision took place, and was named after a later owner, William Ford.

To see Samuel Ramsden's house you will have to first peep over the back fences from Ford St for a view of the roofs, then retrace your steps to Horne St, turn left, left again into Ramsden St, and left into Clifton Avenue to see the front of the buildings.

27 and 29 Clifton St. Early 1850s stone buildings. Residence of Samuel Ramsden. Former address Ramsden St.

Samuel Ramsden arrived in Melbourne in 1844, as a journeyman stonemason from Yorkshire intending to make his fortune, and soon set up business with Charles and Henry Brown (friends from England). They had a successful contracting and building business, getting the contracts to provide paving in Collins St, working on Yarra Bend Asylum, building the North Melbourne Benevolent Asylum and many other buildings. Samuel also helped in the building of the court house in Portland.

Ramsden and the Browns acquired the deeds to plots of suburban land in Jika Jika in 1851. Samuel, after building with the Browns the earliest houses (made of bluestone) in Ramsden St, went on to other businesses after 1854, notably a flour mill in Carlton and the first paper mill located on the southern bank of the Yarra in what is now Southbank. It was a very successful business and eventually became part of APM in 1895. Many people in Collingwood collected rags for the paper mill thus providing themselves with a small income. The rags were used in the making of paper. Around 1855 Samuel built Fitzroy Terrace in Clarendon St, East Melbourne and then a substantial house next door, which he was to live in until his death. These buildings were demolished for the Mercy & Freemasons Hospitals. He had also acquired a sheep property near Hamilton. Ramsden was a Collingwood Councillor in 1857-59, and was particularly conspicuous when stonework was under discussion.

He died in 1877 survived by his second wife and four sons. His funeral had a cortège of over 120 vehicles and the Mayor of Melbourne was a pall bearer. He had become an important business man of Melbourne and had made his fortune.

The 1888 Auction Brochure for Ramsden's property:

http://search.slv.vic.gov.au/MAIN:SLV_VOYAGER1171288

If you are interested in cricket, you might like to detour to 50 Dally St to see the home of Jack Ryder. Return to Ramsden St

Until about 1908, Mrs Thompson's dairy, with 6 cows, occupied the block between Clifton Avenue and Myrtle St, on about 1¾ acres land, with a stone house. The land was eventually subdivided and by the late 1920s, shops between Clifton Avenue and Myrtle St provided most daily needs. There were Mrs Mills, confectioner and grocer, Mr Olding, Dry Produce, Mr Adams, pastrycook, D Jones, hairdresser, Joseph Edney, butcher, Mr Webb, grocer, Mr Guinane greengrocer, and finally another butcher whose building remains:

47 Ramsden Street. Marshall's corner butcher shop which closed just a few years ago.

40 Ramsden St: Look across the road at *Clydebank*, the rather sadly altered corner residence of a series of Collingwood notables: John Christopherson, Collingwood headmaster; Donald Campbell, Clifton College principal; and the Vale family.

33 Ramsden Street. The resident has lived here all her life. She described her many memories of what life was like in Clifton Hill, the shops, the residents, and recreation such as the roller skating rink in Grant St. She attended Spensley St state school and later the Collingwood School of Domestic Economy in Vere St.

There were shops on both the Grant Street corners:

18 Ramsden St former confectioner's shop.

14 Ramsden St site of former grocer's shop.

Walk north along Grant Street towards Spensley Street

The buildings in Grant St represent a mixture of styles of various eras which indicate the development of east Clifton Hill, from former industrial sites to housing starting in the late 1880s through to the units of today.

19 – 29 Grant Street (west side) William Brewer owned a large saw mill and timber yard here from 1891 for many years. By 1902 the business was producing portable iron houses, packing cases, doors, sashes, windows and other items for houses, window frames and mouldings and using imported oregon, deal, walnut and cedar as well as a variety of New Zealand and Tasmanian timbers. It also dealt in ironmongery.

The timber yards suffered a very large fire on 15th April 1910. The attracted a large number of spectators and the fire also caused damage to the platform buildings on the railway station and houses in John St. The inadequate water supply made fighting the fire very difficult.

The factory was expanded in the 1920s. The tall red brick chimney still just visible behind the modern flats is the last reminder of the saw mill. The chimney, square in plan, tapers as it rises and has a corbelled cap, embellished with scalloped wrought iron decoration. Brewer also had a place at 8 Grant St, offices and a timber yard and houses and another timber yard at 25 - 35 Grant St, which is north of the intersection with Spensley Street.

William Brewer also owned houses in Grant St (numbers 25-35). The building at 29 Grant St (c1910) was probably used as an office and store for the Brewer saw mill and box factory.



1926 advertisement

Brewer's business was gone by 1930. In the 1930s Millsom & Sons Pty Ltd who were plaster manufacturers occupied this site and developed part of it as the Clifton Hill Roller Skating Rink (which opened in 1936). They had first considered using it as a picture theatre or dance hall. The Clifton School of Physical Culture was also located here. By 1944 the Roller Skating Rink had gone, and the building was a storage facility for the Department of Import Procurement. The School of Physical Culture was replaced by the Eureka Youth League in 1944 and in 1948 by the Collingwood and Abbotsford Angling Club, which was still there in 1975.

J J Miller was a later proprietor of the site. By 1962 Miller was operating a printing works which was still operating in 1978. J.J. Miller started Australia's first sweepstakes and in later years published The Miller's Guide, sometimes called the Australian Racing Bible, until 1952 when it was acquired by The Herald and Weekly Times.

On the east side of Grant Street at numbers 10 – 24, there is a small but distinguished group of inter-war semi-detached villas that were built between 1938 and 1940, on land that had been part of Brewer's timber business. Note the Art Deco influence on the design of the villas. In 1956 Housing Commission flats were built at numbers 5-17.

Walk east along Spensley St towards Berry St corner

33 Spensley St. Ramsden boot factory / Stagg glove factory

A series of bootmakers were listed at this site in the early 20th century, for example Peter Phillips in 1910. It is believed the building dates from about 1920. It was a single storey factory constructed in brick with stuccoed parapet. In 1930 A L Ramsden, boot manufacturer, was listed here. Ramsden (no relation to Samuel) was previously partner in the firm James & Ramsden in Keele Street, Collingwood.

During the 1930s it became the home of the Stagg Glove factory. Local newspapers give glimpses of its history. *The Argus* 9 September 1935 has a public notice saying the partnership between Thomas William Stagg and Sidney Edward Ramsden carrying on the business styled Stagg Glove Manufacturing had been dissolved by mutual consent to be carried on by Stagg with Ramsden retiring.

According to the real estate pages (not always accurate) the old Stagg Glove factory made helmets for WW1 pilots. Stagg did however make leather jackets for WW2 uniforms.

The Argus 31 July 1934 reported:

Shortly before 8 a.m. yesterday, thieves broke into the warehouse of Mr Stagg, glove manufacturer, North terrace, Clifton Hill, and stole £230 worth of leather overcoats and jackets.

Stagg Gloves was advertising for workers at 33 Spensley St in the 1940s and for machinists as recently as 1973. Stagg Leathergoods continues today as a wholesaler from a Queensland base, advertising as:

‘Australia’s leading supplier of Quality Leather Motorcycle Apparel since 1929’

34 Berry Street. The Clifton Hill Grammar School was run here from 1893 to 1901, first by Mrs Jenkins and then by Joseph and Mary Roughan. Later Mr Rule, who was born in the house, taught music here.

28 Berry Street. This fine double fronted two storey house was the home of John Brewer.

24 Berry Street. This was the home of John Prescott Dyason, the proprietor of Dyason’s Cordials, whose factory we saw in Oxford St on last year’s Walk.

Corner Spensley and Berry streets. Another typical early twentieth century shopping centre. There was a butcher’s, dairy, grocer, confectioner, and greengrocer, but within a few years there was also a newsagent, hairdresser, tobacconist, draper, ham and beef shop, chemist and ironmonger. A trip to Queen’s Parade or Smith Street would have been necessary only rarely! Look up at the parapets of the single storey shops on the southeast corner and you will see they were built as a group in the same style.

The Royal Hotel. The hotel was built in 1889 -1890 for John & Josephine Anderson. It is an imposing three-storey building being in a decorative Italianate style. The architect was George Jobbins. On the original design there was to be a corner tower which would have made this hotel an even more notable landmark. It now remains as the only three story hotel in Collingwood, after the demolition of the Earl of Zetland and Mac’s Hotel.

The Andersons quickly became involved in the local community, especially John, who was a keen sportsman. He hosted smoke nights for the Clifton Hill & Northcote Cycling Club as well as belonging to various other sporting clubs like the Clifton Hill & Northcote Harriers. The Andersons ran the hotel for many years and after John’s death in 1938, his sister-in-law Elizabeth Graham took over the licence. Both Elizabeth and her brother Ernest (Josephine’s siblings) had worked in the bar for many years. Elizabeth gave up the hotel licence in 1941. From 1942 until 1972 the Hotel was run by the Venticich family. Essentially the Royal Hotel from its beginnings to the present day, has been run by three families.

If you want to walk further along Spensley Street, look for the following:

57 Spensley St, built as a corner shop as part of a terrace of two storey houses; it was a grocer’s or greengrocer’s for many years.

77A Spensley St. former factory of Sidchrome from 1934 to 1959; the site has been re-developed as housing but part of the two storey factory is still there.

There is another group of shops on the corner of **Fenwick St**, including another branch of Marshall’s butcher’s, a dairy, and a confectioner and pastrycook.)

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