Windsor & Districts’ Historical Society Inc. servicing the old Windsor Town Council areas of Albion, Alderley, Bowen Bridge, Eagle Junction*, Eildon, Grange, Kalinga, Kedron*, Lutwyche, Maida Hill, Newmarket*, Wilston, Wooloowin and now extended to cover Gordon Park and Herston. *part of this suburb.

Photo: David Teague

Kalinga Park
WILLMINGTON

Who has two streets in Wooloowin names after him?

He is Morris Arthur John Willmington and the streets are Morris Street and Willmington Street.

It seems that twenty-year old Morris bought twenty acres of land, portion 159, Parish of Enoggera in 1892, on McLen- nan and Chalk Streets. The land was originally purchased by John McLean on 31 May 1858 costing £30. The land was still subject to a £240 mortgage from a previous owner, Corabelle Watts since 1881. Her husband died in September 1880 at Beulah Farm. In 1893 Wife Emma died on 28 April 1900 at Wilmington Estate and in 1904 and 1905 John is listed with son Morris at Coryton.

John Willmington was buried on 8 November 1907. Daughter Alice married local lad William Edward Birkbeck on 14 September 1898 at St Andrew’s, Lutwyche and bought land and lived 52 Morris Street.

Morris married Ada Aldeena Smith, daughter of John Smith, a builder, and Kate Farrell on 9 April 1902 at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Brisbane and went south for their honeymoon as they are recorded being on the mail train from Wal langarra on 25 April.

In the Telegraph, 28 March 1898 there was a report of the land sales.

Alice Maud was born on 13 August 1870 but died ten days later.

Morris Arthur John was born on 18 October 1872.

Frederick Joseph William was born in 1873 but died on 9 August 1879 under five years old.

Then followed two children who did not survive: a boy on 20 February 1875 and a girl on 9 November 1876.

Alice Elizabeth Temple was born in 1877.

Around 1883 his land and buildings at Spring Hill were offered for sale and in 1884 John is recorded as being a baker at The Oval, Kelvin Grove. Did John own Beulah Farm before Morris bought it? Also in 1884 John placed a notice in the Brisbane Courier offering a £5 reward for information that would lead to the conviction of the thief or thieves who stole a young pig from Beulah Farm at Lutwyche.

During 1886 there was a bakers strike affecting Brisbane bakers. It is recorded that John Willmington was one baker who agreed to the workers demands for higher wages. This must have had an effect on the business as a few years later he was declared insolvent but on 12 November 1890, in the supreme court a certificate of discharge was granted of insolvency proceedings against John Willmington, baker of The Oval.

In postal directories John appears as residing at Beulah, Chalk Street in 1893. Wife Emma died on 28 April 1900 at Wilmington Estate and in 1904 and 1905 John is listed with son Morris at Coryton.

John Willmington was buried on 8 November 1907. Daughter Alice married local lad William Edward Birkbeck on 14

Morris was the son of John Willmington and Emma Cooper. He was born in Brisbane on 18 October 1872.

His father, John, arrived in Brisbane on 24 November 1863 on the Fiery Star from London via Queenstown. He was born in Stockland in Devon, England in 1836. On 24 July 1869 he married Emma Cooper and started a family. They lived in Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill where John had a bakery.

Alice Elizabeth Temple was born in 1877.
Messrs Isles, Love and Co report a very successful sale on the ground of the Willmington Estate, Wooloowin, on Saturday afternoon. In spite of the threatening weather the sale was attended by fully 500 persons, and the biddings were lively and sustained throughout.

Of a total of 156 allotments, 129 were sold for £3,640, at prices ranging up to £430 per acre. Fifteen lots were held over, and 12 only passed in. A large marquee was erected on the ground as shelter from the rain, but early in the afternoon the force of the wind blew it down.

An examination of the sales shows that all the sales were of multiple lots ranging from two to ten 16 perch allotments.

Along Morris Street eight allotments were purchased by Archbishop Dunne and nine were purchased by Sister Potter to add to the adjoining Holy Cross and Magdalen holdings of twelve acres. Some were to be used for growing vegetables for the institution and oats and corn for their horses and cows.

Morris is listed as owning twenty allotments: 44-46, 91-93, 35-39, 97-102, 129-132, most ran back to back from Morris Street to Willmington Street.

In 1898 Morris had a house built at 45 Morris Street. It was still being built in 1900 and finishing touches continued until his marriage in 1902. The architect was William A. Caldwell.

Morris and Ada had two children: Morris Neville, born in 1907 (died 1970) and Enid Mary born in 1912 (died 2001)

Morris died on 30 April 1939 and Ada in 1954. The other street in the estate was an extension of Kob Street which started on land owned by neighbour Paul Kob. It was changed to Marne Road, possibly due to anti-German sentiments.
Corner of Kent Road and Rose Street, Wooloowin.

Then and Then

1925

Help us out!
Do you know anything about this building? When was it built and by whom? Which businesses occupied it and when. Since the preparation of this article, there was a fire in February 2019. Help us out?

Building up our collection
Your assistance is solicited in helping to build up our reference files. Write out your family’s story for the Family Section. Let us copy old photos. We want photos of people, houses, street scenes.

Our collection of old deeds is growing. May we copy any old deeds of your property.

We also want small items for our museum collection.

Windsor & Districts Historical Society Inc. Journal - May 2019 - Page Thirteen

2017 - Burnt down February 2019
The monthly meeting of the Windsor Town Council took place at the council chambers, Lutwyche, last evening. There were present: The Mayor (Ald K. M’Lennan), in the chair, and Ald T. Gardiner; E. Knight, J. Davidson, G. Bowser, A. D. Graham, A. Briscoe, J. B. Price, and J. Cock.

**PETITION.**

A petition was read from the ratepayers and property owners asking the council to try and induce the Brisbane Tramways Company to extend the tram lines along the Bowen Bridge and Lutwyche roads as far as Kedron Park. It was pointed out that under present, conditions the residents had no regular means of conveyance to the city, and “as the omnibus service was so poor, great difficulty was experienced in reaching the metropolis.” The Mayor and Ald Price, Graham, and Cock were appointed to interview the manager of the Tramways Company.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

From the No. 1 Windsor Ratepayers’ Progressive Association, suggesting the necessity for the provision of an increased supply of road metal, that tenders be called for hand breaking, and asking the council to favourably receive a petition for the division of No. 1 ward. From the Treasury, pointing out that the council was in arrears some £670; as steps had not been taken to liquidate the debt, the council was now called upon to levy a rate, or take such action as would provide funds for the meeting of the council’s obligations. From the Home Secretary’s Office, stating that the Metropolitan Joint Hospital Board would be dissolved on March 31. It was also pointed out that the council would now have to provide a hospital or enter into an agreement with the General Hospital Committee providing for the treatment of cases of infectious diseases. Ald Price and Graham were appointed to make the best possible arrangements.

From the Home Secretary’s office, stating that if energetic steps were not taken to destroy water hyacinth the Minister would be compelled to take firm action. On the motion of Cr Price, it was decided to call for tenders within seven days for the burning off of the water hyacinth.

The Mayor thought the Government were making too much fuss altogether about the weed in question. From the Brisbane Board of Waterworks, stating that the council would have to bear the cost of substituting screw-down hydrants for ball hydrants on mains within the shire. From the Commissioner for Railways, asking to be supplied with the total valuation of the benefited area in connection with the Enoggera branch railway: it was decided to give the necessary information. From 41 residents of Main street, asking that Main street, from Lutwyche Street to the Old Sandgate Road, be metalled and put in repair for traffic.

**PLAGUE PRECAUTIONS.**

The Board of Health wrote asking the council to observe certain precautions in order to prevent, as far as possible, any further outbreak of plague. It was decided to receive the letter, and on the motion of Ald A. D. Graham it was agreed that the question of any action to be taken should be left in the hands of the chairman.

**STONEBREAKING - A BREEZE.**

A variation in the calm of the proceedings was introduced through a request from the No.1 Ward Ratepayers’ Association, asking for an increased output of road metal, and that hand breaking be introduced to expedite the supply. Ald Graham promptly moved that the whole matter be referred to the Works Committee, which was composed of practical men, who would be able to say definitely if the stone-crushing machine of the council was worth keeping or not. Ald Cock seconded the motion. He agreed that it was desirable to come to some decision on the matter.

A Ratepayer (loudly): The thing is no good at all.

The Mayor: Order, order there. Ald Knight moved an amendment that three or four men be put on at hand breaking to assist the stone crusher.

A Ratepayer: Hear, hear. That’s the way to talk.

The Mayor: Order! order!

Ald Knight: I have known that machine for 16 or 20 years, and I will say that it was not in order 16 years ago.

Ald Graham: If Ald Bowser will say that I will believe it.

Ald Knight: I also am willing to take Ald Bowser’s word. He is a practical man, but I consider I know that stone crushing machine as well as he does.

Ald Graham (laughing): Oh, well, I will apologise then.

Ald Price said he considered that if the machine were in good order, it could do great deal more crushing in a day than could be done by hand.

Ald Davidson wanted to know if they could not get some statistics.
to give the exact cost per yard of the stonecrusher.

A ratepayer: That’s it. Hear, hear.
The Mayor: Order, order.
The Mayor said he thought the work with the stonecrusher had been carried out at a loss, and the machine ought to be supplemented by hand breaking.

Ald Bowser: I think you might as well put on a dozen men instead of three.
The Mayor: I could do with three or four only.

Ald Bowser: Well, then, put them on for it week, instead of three of four for month.
The Mayor; I do not think that could be done!

A ratepayer: Hear, hear.

Ald Gardiner said he thought they were simply catering for the gallery, and making electioneering speeches. When the machine was bought, the eyes of the council were not shut, because the opinion of the best engineer in Brisbane had been obtained about it. There was no better machine, in his opinion.

Interruption and ironical laughter at this stage came from the gallery, and the speaker turned angrily in the direction and cried: “Never you mind, gentlemen, you can have your say somewhere else. But I am not going to be interrupted in this way. I never heard of such a thing (turning to the chair), Mr Mayor, as being interrupted in this way.”

A ratepayer: Well, we cannot listen to such statements about the stonecrusher without saying the truth.
The Mayor: Order, order.

Ald Price: This is not right at all. We ought not to be interrupted in this way.

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In 1864 increased provision and change of site having become necessary, a new Hospital was built on the spot known as “The Quarries,” on Bowen Bridge Road, its present site; and in 1867 the new building was occupied.

In 1869, 57 per cent of the patients were from other parts of the colony.

*from Brisbane Hospital: Facts about its development.*
The final days of the year in 1935 brought serious thunderstorms to the Brisbane and surrounding Districts. One boy was killed at Caboolture.

Front page news of the *Telegraph*, 26 December, was a story headlined as:

**FIREBALL AT LUTWYCHE**
**Phones Out of Commission**

It related that the most serious storm damage locally occurred at Lutwyche. During the height of the storm a fireball caused something of a sensation when it struck a telephone post and put all surrounding telephones out of order near the Imperial Picture Theatre on Lutwyche Road.

Mr Willing, of Ann’s Cafe, which is close to the theatre, said that following the fireball about 8.15 p.m. there was a tremendous burst of blue flame. He thought the cafe had been struck, and at first it appeared as though some damage must have been caused to the Imperial Theatre.

The blue flash ran along the wires outside the theatre, and shattered two street lights. The cafe was shaken, and the tenants made a thorough search afterwards, being sure that something had been struck.

An article appeared in the *Courier-Mail* on 31 December suggesting that it was probably only a direct flash of lightning. It said that in the past controversies have been waged on the question whether there are such things as fireballs, and, if not, what are the flashes and balls of light which are often reported during severe thunderstorms.

This question was raised again by a report from Lutwyche that in the storm on Wednesday night a large fireball struck a telephone post in Lutwyche Road and burst with a blue flame.

Mr T. Rimmer, lecturer in physics and meteorology at the University of Queensland, said yesterday that he doubted very much whether the phenomenon was a fireball. It was probably what was known as a direct flash of lightning from a cloud to the earth. Usually lightning was seen passing from one part of a cloud to another or from one cloud to another, but occasionally a direct discharge took place between the cloud and the earth.

At the place where the discharge occurred trees or posts would be splintered and wires fused if the discharge were violent enough. Light such as described in the report would also be seen. What used to be commonly known as a fireball was generally a globular discharge of lightning. Such a discharge would come down and float about in the air, and on this had been based many fantastic tales about fireballs chasing people about rooms or fields.

*AN ARTIST AMONG THE HOLIDAY MAKERS*

*Courier-Mail*: 26 December 1935.
Prime Minister Robert Menzies made a nationwide broadcast on 31 August 1939. He covered the many preparations made in anticipation of war. He mentioned that all ships of the Australian Navy in commission were ready to take up war dispositions at once. Work on ships in reserve had been expedited so that they could be commissioned within a minimum of time.

On 1 September 1939, Germany invaded Poland and as a result Britain declared war on Germany two days later.

The **Courier-Mail** put out a special 9.30 pm Edition announcing the war on Sunday (3rd) night. Passengers left trams and taxi cabs, and others dashed from private cars. Those waiting at tram stops let homeward-bound trams go on, and joined the groups jostling to buy the papers, then moved off to read them.

Later on, it was no surprise that in the Senate the representative of Minister for Supply made on 30 November, an announcement which was reported in the **Courier-Mail**.

**Windsor Quarries To Store Oil**

CANBERRA, Wednesday.— The estimated cost of the completed work to provide oil storage at Bowser and Lever’s stone quarries, Windsor, Brisbane, was £60,000. Senator Foll, Minister representing the Minister for Supply, told the Opposition Leader (Senator Collins) in the Senate to-day. No agreement, he said, had been reached with Bowser and Lever, Ltd., for the rent of the premises involved, or for the purchase of the property. The land was compulsorily acquired on November 16.

Things moved quickly with the plans of not only the three tanks but for the easement to Newstead Wharf. The 13 inch pipeline crossed Lutwyche Road from the quarry, along the back of the Perkins Soft Drink factory, along United Milk Vendors’ factory driveway and down Cartwright Street to Breakfast Creek where it is crossed by the railway bridge and across the Mayne Railway Yards. It then followed along the streets to the Newstead Wharf.

Many contractors were engaged to supply and build the tanks and pipeline. Evans Deakin Co. was one of them. The area was fenced, diesel pumps supplied, pump houses built and a caretaker’s cottage acquired. It is believed to have been owned by Grant the butcher that was next to the northern rim of the quarry.

Men from the Civil Construction Corps were engaged to construct the concrete footings for the tanks.

One side benefit of the pipeline was for the Perkins Soft Drink factory. As a result of the trench dug through the Brisbane Tuff, they were finally able to connect with the sewers at minimal cost by placing their line over the oil pipeline.

Included in the files at the Queensland Maritime Museum are records from 3 July 1940 of the ships which unloaded oil and the other ships who refuelled from the storage. The Norwegian tankers Teddy and later Solheim brought stocks of bunker oil. The first ship to take advantage of this new resource was the HMAS Moresby on 16 August. In 1942 warships that had been involved in the Battle of the Coral Sea were refuelled from the Newstead Wharf.

Obviously security at the site was essential and patrols were made on a 24 hour basis. The tanks were camouflaged by having the tops of them painted to represent tennis courts and netting stretched over the voids and blast walls were placed between the tanks.

It would not have been much fun for the France family who had refused to sell their property to Bowser and Lever some thirty years prior and ended up in between the tanks.

After the war the tanks continued servicing Australian naval ships, but as the propulsion fuel of bunker oil began to be superseded, their usefulness diminished until in 1972, HMAS Supply emptied the tanks and then they were dismantled.

After the 1974 floods it was decided to straighten Keodron Brook and clean up Breakfast Creek. Much of the spoils were used to fill in Bowser & Lever’s quarry and on it was then constructed a retail centre.
You might have seen this wonderful stone house at 10 Fosbery Street and wondered who built it. It was built by Scottish stone mason, John Grant.

He purchased subdivisions 109 and 110 from the Stoneleigh Estate in April 1889 with an area of 28 perches. He started building almost straight away and the building was financed by a £400 mortgage taken out in August of that year. The building is constructed from local Brisbane tuff and Albion sandstone. The stone on the street frontage has been carefully finished in rectangular blocks but the side walls have been finished in a random pattern.

The two hips have wooden ventilators, ornate timber brackets and cast iron ballustrades complete the effect.

John Grant, son of Grigor Grant and Ann, was born about 1834 in Granton-on-Spey in Scotland.

In 1854 he left his homeland to travel to Moreton Bay on the clipper ship William Miles, arriving on 19 January 1855. Also on that voyage was the McPherson family - John McPherson and Elspeth (Bruce) and children including the eldest Jane. The McPhersons initially worked on Cressbrook Station before becoming one of the initial group of settlers at Bald Hills. Younger brother, James Alpin spent his early years here at school and then he was apprenticed to John Petrie. Later he carved out a career for himself as a bushranger, known as the Wild Scotsman. He robbed mail coaches and cattle stations in central Queensland.
John Grant married Jane in Ipswich in 1859 and started a family:

- Elspeth - 1860
- Alexander John - 1862
- Gregory Grant - 1863
- Ann - 1866
- John Alexander - 1868
- Christina - 1871
- Felix Calvin - 1873
- William Gregory - 1876
- Russell Walker - 1878

After John Grant's death in 1899 and Jane's in 1916, the property was left to John Alexander and Russell McPherson as trustees of the will. It was now 35 perches with the addition of part of subdivision 111. Russell died in 1933 and John Alexander in 1948. In 1959 it was transferred to Gregory Russell McPherson Grant.

In 1974, new owners Russell and Sandra Balaam started to restore it. Verandahs had been boarded in, rooms separated and the house had been divided into three flats. They even collected the right type of furniture. They repaired the cast iron, replaced fretwork on the twin gables, removed interior partitions.

Basically the house consisted of a long, high ceilinged hallway with a living room and a dining room to the left and bedrooms to the right. The back of the house included a bathroom and a huge old kitchen.

Layers of lino were stripped away and the floors, and original cedar skirting boards were revealed.

In the 1980s, retired policeman Ted Butler and his wife became the new owners.

Extra information was revealed in an interview with the Sunday Mail in 1988.

As a Police Officer's wife, Rita hadn't lived in one house for longer than six years. This move to Brisbane was to be their last, to retire to a convenient house on ground level to stay put.

At the moment Rita looked at the "old stone place" the love hate relationship began. She loved it. Ted hated to see the work that had to be done, but is learning to love it ...

The Butlers bought the treasure five years ago to continue the work. It had the essentials for the family to start living.

From the front veranda, a stone slab announces the entry, then the wide central hallway continues to the back verandas which are L-shaped with a wide sitting bench at the edge of the garden.

The family kitchen has been renewed to create an efficient modern kitchen. There is a breakfast room, laundry and extra shower room.

The house now has new owners. Both the late Ted Butler and his wife Rita were active members of this Society,