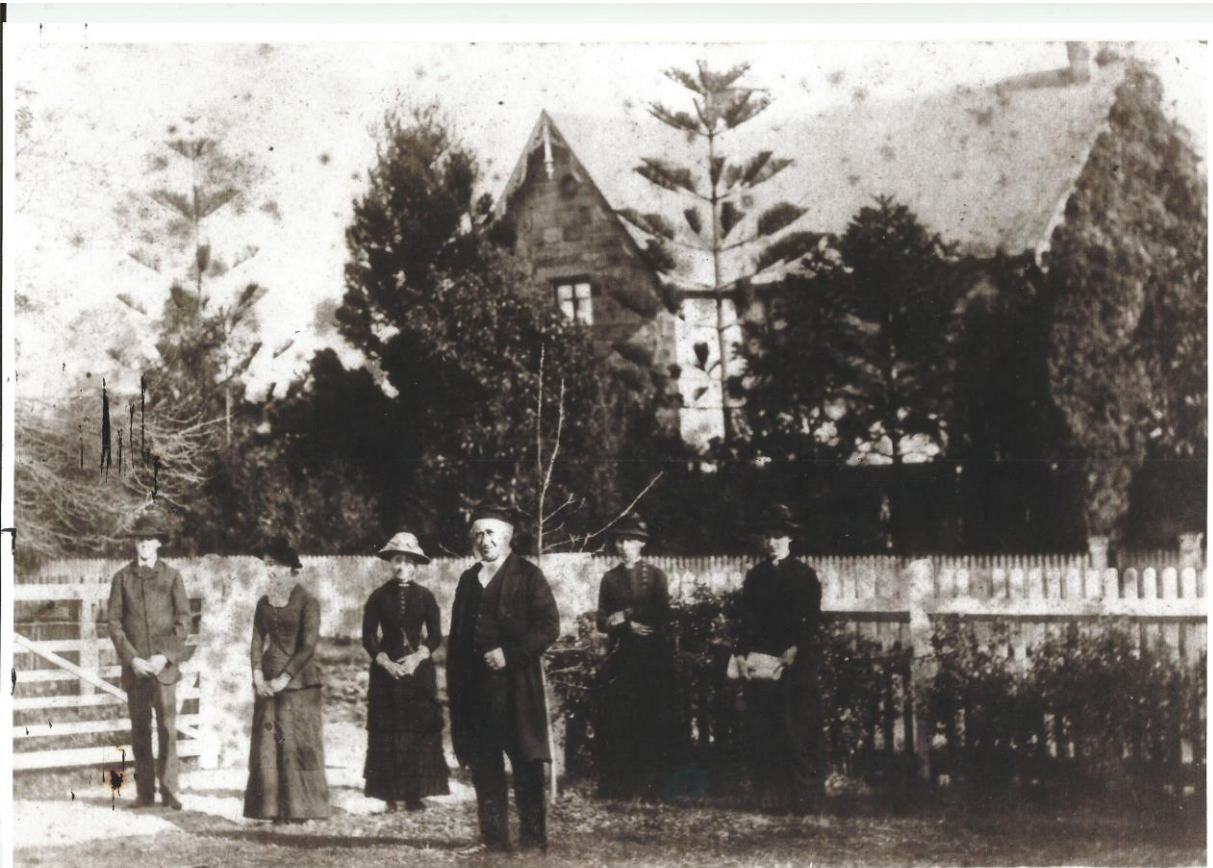


THE FAMILY HISTORY
OF JOHN THEOPHILUS SCHLEICHER

The Anglican in the Family

by Adrienne Doust, nee Schleicher

2015
Revised 2023



John Theophilus Schleicher in foreground, in front of Manse of St Paul's, Castle Hill, NSW.
Back row L to R: JTS's son Bernhard, daughters Selma and Hulda, and Misses Thorne.
Photo presented to Hunters Hill Historical Society 9.5.1962 by Miss E A Taylor.

Introduction

I am descended from Johan Gottlieb Schleicher who I believe (but have not been able to prove)
was a brother of

John Theophilus Schleicher.

The brothers came from the village of Schreibersdorf, Liegnitz, Prussia, sons of a farming family.

Johan Gottlieb and his family were Lutherans;

John Theophilus became a missionary for the Church of England, serving initially in India then,
after a period of rest in South Africa, in Australia.

The research into my Schleicher family was begun by my brother, John Ralph Schleicher (JRS), who attended All Saints Anglican Church Hunters Hill, in Sydney. One day JRS noticed a memorial on the church to John Theophilus Schleicher who had been the incumbent there a century earlier. Naturally, his curiosity was aroused and he initiated searches for information through the Anglican Church and later more generally. JRS and John Theophilus Schleicher again crossed paths, when JRS and his family moved house and began attending St Paul's Church at Castle Hill, where it was discovered that John Theophilus Schleicher had been the incumbent minister as well.

The following is a summary of information obtained by JRS and me about
John Theophilus Schleicher
as at 2015.

In 2023 I revised this story after more information came to light and corrections were necessary. My thanks to co-researcher, David Marsland, who provided a large amount of information that he gleaned from various sources. Also, I have included information provided to me by Anne Turner, a descendant of a previously unknown illegitimate child, fathered by Johann Carl Gottlieb Schleicher.

Below is a photograph of John Theophilus Schleicher,
provided by his great-grandson, Graham Lindsay Schleicher.



JTS Family Members

I have no direct evidence to support the fact that Johann Gottlieb Schleicher and John Theophilus Schleicher were brothers but have been delighted to find the following information which has been uploaded to the ancestry.com website, though not verified.

The parents of brothers Johan Gottlieb and John Theophilus were Johannes Erdmann Schleicher and Maria Elizabeth Schleicher in some cases and Maurer in others (1756-1791)

Older siblings of the brothers were listed as:

Maria Elizabeth Schleicher, 1785-
Maria Sara Schleicher, 1787- and
Johann Peter Schleicher, 1789- .

Anne Turner advises that as of August 2023, eleven of the descendants of Johann Gottlieb Schleicher's son Carl's illegitimate son, John William Redding, have DNA links to descendants of both JTS and JGS, thereby indicating that they were related, probably brothers.

John Theophilus Schleicher was known as Thomas by his colleagues during his time as a Church of England Minister. To save any confusion between him and his brother, Johan Gottlieb Schleicher (JGS), and for the sake of brevity, I have referred to him as Thomas.

From the inscription on Thomas's grave we know that he was born on 8 June 1815 and died on 2 May 1892. NSW State indexes of Probates confirm his date of death as 2.5.1892.

Information from his death certificate

His death certificate states that he was aged 76 and was living in Ryde Road Gladesville. (See more about this property later.) The certificate also indicates that Thomas's parents were Johannes Erdmann Schleicher and Maria Elizabeth Schleicher, formerly Schleicher. Unfortunately on the death certificate of Johan Gottlieb Schleicher, the names of his parents are "unknown" due to his death having been recorded by a hospital employee, so at this time the relationship between the two men is unconfirmed by 'paper records'. However, Ancestry DNA tests have found connections between descendants of both men, thereby indicating they were related.

Information which has been uploaded onto the ancestry.com website shows the parents of both Thomas and JGS as Johannes Erdmann Schleicher, born 1763, and Maria Elizabeth Maurer, born Kreis Lauban, Schleisien. The Cable Index of Anglican Clergy has Thomas's parents as Johannes Erdmann Schleicher and Maria Elizabeth nee Schleicher and that he and his first wife, Sophia Wehner, were married on 7.10.1844 at Allahabad Bengal India. These details usually are supplied by the member of the clergy themselves.

On his death certificate, Thomas's marital history is shown as:

Marriage No 1, when Thomas was aged 29 years (1844), in Calcutta East Indies, to Sophia Maria Dorothea Wehner, which resulted in one male child, who is described as deceased, because he predeceased Thomas. That child was named Theodore Athanasius Schleicher.

Marriage No 2, when Thomas was aged 34 years (1849), in Benares East Indies, to Caroline Marie Schulze. Thomas and Caroline's children were listed as follows:

Adelbert	aged	41
Alfred		40
Hermann		38
Mary		36
Selina		34
Bernhard		32
Hulda		30
Clara		27

Other marital information

From Coral Meldrum, a descendant of Thomas's, we know that Thomas married Sophia Wehner on 7.10.1844, that their child Theodore was born on 16.10.1845 at West Bengal. Sadly, Sophia died on 21.10.1845 at Christ's Church, Cawnpore, India. Also, Sophia's year of birth was 1819, the place of her birth was Brandenburg, Germany, and her parents were Johann Friedrich Wehner and Dorothy Sophia, nee Brueckmann.

After the death of Sophia in 1845, Thomas wrote to Caroline Marie Schulze, asking her to be his bride. Caroline was in Germany at the time, studying to become a Deaconess. She agreed and they were married in India in 1849. Caroline's parents accompanied their daughter to India for the wedding, then migrated to Victoria, Australia, with their other children, that same year.

Before Thomas migrated to Australia, he made a trip back to Prussia and took his first born child, Theodore, with him. This trip enabled him to catch up with his family, and to allow Theodore's mother's parents to meet the child through whom their daughter would live on. It also facilitated a discussion between Thomas and his brother, JGS, the result of which was that JGS decided to migrate to Australia and to allow his two daughters, Auguste and Henriette, to accompany Thomas when he and his family migrated, to assist with Thomas's young family.

In the New South Wales records of Unassisted Arrivals for the period 1842 to 1855, there is the following listing of Thomas's arrival in Sydney:

Schleicher, Rev Mr, Mrs and six children aboard the *Egypt*, arriving 15.5.1855; the ship having sailed from London and the Schleicher family having boarded in South Africa.

This information is confirmed in the shipping arrivals for Sydney, listed in the 16.5.1855 edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The listing also notes that the barque's captain was James H Walker, that she had left London 30 October then Cape of Good Hope 20 March and that Rev Schleicher and his family had joined the ship at the Cape of Good Hope.

Thomas and his family then boarded the *Wonga Wonga* steamship on 19 May at which time they were described in the *Sydney Morning Herald*'s 21.5.1855 edition as "Mr and Mrs Schleicher and three children". The younger children, Adelbert, Alfred and Hermann are likely to be the three referred to, while the two teenagers, Auguste and Henriette, together with Theodore, may have been listed separately. The *Wonga Wonga* arrived in Melbourne on 22 May and this time they were described in the *Argus* newspaper of 23.5.1855 as "Mr and Mrs Schleicher and family".

When Thomas applied to the Victorian government on 30.3.1857 to be naturalised, he advised that:

- he was born in Schreibersdorf, Department of Liegnitz, Kingdom of Prussia
- he had been in Holy Orders of the Church of England since 1843 when he was ordained by the Bishop of Calcutta
- he had been a missionary in the East Indies with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts
- he left India in 1853 on account of ill health
- he resided for two years at the Cape of Good Hope
- he arrived in Victoria on 22.5.1855 via Sydney in the Steamer Wonga Wonga
- by the Bishop's appointment he has officiated as Clergyman of the Church of England in Ballan and Bacchus Marsh since 1.8.1855 and continued so to officiate
- He went on to say that he desired to reside in the Colony and therefore requested that he be granted the privileges of a native born British subject.

Thomas's education

In response to my enquiry, I received a letter dated 22.4.1982 from Humboldt University of Berlin Archives stating that Johann Gottlieb Schleicher had attended the University of Berlin from 19.5.1841 to 21.7.1842 and matriculated in the Philosophies Faculty. This is clearly unlikely, and it is probable that these details apply to John Theophilus Schleicher. Not only was JGS 40 years of age and married with 2 children in 1842, but his occupation was Farmer, whereas Thomas was single at the time, became a deacon in 1843 and continued from that time with a career in the ministry. Also incorrect was my assertion that Thomas had attended Oxford University; it was his son, Bernhard, who did that.

Thomas's career

The records of the Sydney University Department of History reveal the following details of Thomas's career, noted here in dot form. Corroborating information is added where appropriate.

- He was made a deacon on 29.9.1843 and ordained priest on 28.2.1845 by the Bishop of Calcutta when he was serving as an SPG (Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts) Missionary at Cawnpore, India.
- He was licensed in the Parish of Ballan and Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, on 17.10.1856.

(As previously mentioned, he had been at Bacchus Marsh for over a year at this time, and licenses were often issued/dated some time after the ministers had taken up office; also, Thomas himself stated on his naturalisation application that he had been serving there as a minister since 1 August 1855).

A listing in the Marriage Notices in the *Moreton Bay Courier* on 26.11.1855 noted that Rev J T Schleicher had performed a marriage at Bacchus Marsh "by special license" and a similar notice published in Melbourne's *Argus* newspaper on 14.8.1858 stated that Rev J T Schleicher had performed a marriage at Trinity Church Bacchus Marsh.

The *History of Holy Trinity, Bacchus Marsh*, notes that Thomas performed the first recorded marriage in that church on 8.11.1855 of Alexander Lawson and Emily Ball.

That book also quotes Bishop Perry who wrote to Thomas in October 1856 after he had ministered for 12 months, to tell him that he doubted whether he was fitted for the ministry in this country. "The people complain they see nothing of you ... it is possible that your foreign birth and speech and habits make you feel as a stranger among them ... I fear you cannot retain your present situation."

However just three months later Bishop Perry wrote to Thomas saying, "I regard you as a faithful and diligent servant of the divine master." The Bishop also wrote to one of the Trustees of the church, saying, "I hope that none of them will withhold their contribution towards the stipend of Rev Schleicher, who has shown himself, under great disadvantage, to be a faithful and laborious minister of Christ". However, an uneasy peace reigned and it appeared that Thomas was not on good terms with two of the church Trustees, Messrs Matson and Maclean. During 1859 he handed in his resignation but in fact stayed on for some time, eventually moving to "less troubled waters."

- Thomas 'took oaths' on 21.1.1861 and was appointed as a *locum tenens* at Cobbitty NSW (southwest of Sydney) for two months from 16.2.1861 then as minister to Hunters Hill Chapel, Ryde from 8.5.1861 to 1.4.1870, where he was to reside in the manse. During that time he held the part time position of Reader in German at Sydney University from 1.11.1865 at a salary of 30 English pounds per year. He was re-appointed as Reader in German the following year but then became redundant due to an insufficient number of students choosing to study German.

A listing in the Marriage Notices in Sydney newspaper *The Empire* on 3.6.1867 indicates that a marriage had been performed at All Saints, Hunters Hill, by the incumbent, Rev J T Schleicher, assisted by the Lord Bishop of Brisbane, and on 19.7.1869 a similar listing in the *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that Rev J T Schleicher had performed a marriage at All Saints Church Hunters Hill.

On 12.1.1869 it was reported in the Government Gazette (as published in *The Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser* of 14.1.1869, p.2 Local News) that Thomas had been appointed Church of England Chaplain of Cockatoo Island.

- In April 1870 he resigned from his position at Hunters Hill, having been given 'testimonial letters' to visit his parents. During the four years he was away he was a missionary to the London Jews Society. (See more about his work for this Society later.)

The Unassisted Immigrants Passenger Lists 1826-1922 include the arrival in Sydney from London of John, Caroline, Clara and Halda[sic] aboard the *Parramatta* on 24.11.1874. The Mariners and Ships in Australian Waters publication records the arrival in Sydney on 30.11.1874 from London of five Schleichers on board the *Parramatta*, being John, Caroline, Mary, Hilda [sic] and Clara.

- He was given a general licence again on 21.1.1875.

A Notice in the *Brisbane Courier* newspaper of 25.9.1876, states that John Theophilus Schleicher, a minister of the Church of England, residing at Townsville, was duly registered as a minister of religion authorised to celebrate marriages within the colony. This is curious and raises the question of why he went to Townsville, in North Queensland. Included in the shipping information in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 13.9.1876 was the departure from Sydney bound for various northern ports including Townsville, of the *Wentworth*, with

Rev J T Schleicher listed as one of its passengers, so it appears he travelled to Townsville for the purpose of conducting a marriage.

- On 31.1.1877 he was appointed minister of (St Paul's) Castle Hill plus Rouse Hill and Dural.

A listing in the Marriage Notices in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 4.9.1882 notes that Rev J T Schleicher had performed a marriage at St Jude's Church, Dural.

- He resigned from that position in December 1885.

When he left, he was presented with a magnificent Illuminated Address by the Parishioners, expressing their "most grateful thanks for the sincerity and earnestness with which you have endeavoured to promote the spiritual welfare of the people."

- At the age of 71 he was given a temporary licence to serve as curate from 26.7.1886 at Newtown and Macdonaldtown. (In 1898, his daughter Mary married Canon Robert Taylor, who was the incumbent there during the time Thomas was curate. In 1901 and 1902 Thomas's son Bernhard's brother-in-law, David Laseron, served there as curate.)
- Thomas again was given a general licence on 19.2.1891.

Coral Meldrum provided the following:

Johann Theophilus SCHLEICHER was born abt 1816 in Schreibersdorf, Kreis Lauban, Schlesien, Preussen. As a young man from Silesia, Prussia, he found his way with missionary purpose, first to Berlin, and then by 10th August 1842 to Hamburg for departure to England, arriving in Hull ten days later. In England he was trained and sent to the East, and it was in West Bengal, British India in 1843 that he received Holy Orders of the Church of England, ordained by the Bishop of Calcutta. He afterwards became a Missionary of the Society For The Propagation of The Gospel in Foreign Parts, in British India, Burma and the Far East, until about 1853.

In late 1868 the Rev. J. T. Schleicher was appointed as Anglican Chaplain to the Prison establishment at Cockatoo Island, NSW and was Chaplain to the Hospital for the Insane at Gladesville until about May 1870. (Note: The Gladesville hospital was the first mental hospital built in New South Wales. It was established in 1838 and in 1869 was re-named the Gladesville Hospital for the Insane, having originally been named the Tarban Creek Lunatic Asylum.)

During an interim in 1871 he was doing church work at Islington, London, England.

A History of the Holy Trinity Church of England at Bacchus Marsh, written by Betty Osborn for the local historical society, contains several mentions of Thomas.

In the list of clergy he is shown as having been the incumbent for the period August 1855 to November 1860, with the qualification that although officially he is listed as having been appointed to Bacchus Marsh from 17.10.1856, Bishop Perry's Letter Books indicated that he had been at Holy Trinity for over a year by that time.

The Registers of the Church of England at Bacchus Marsh contain details of the births and baptisms of all children of John Theophilus Schleicher up to and including 1861 while Thomas was the officiating Minister there, and they were in his handwriting.

As to the first four children, Thomas wrote as follows:

“The following were born and baptised in the East Indies and at the Cape of Good Hope respectively, but, as in all probability the Registers were destroyed in Cawnpore, the entries are here made from copies of the Bapt. Registers I hold. (Sgd) J T Schleicher”

Those entries are:

1. Theodore Athanasius Schleicher, son of John Theophilus and Maria Sophia Dorothea Schleicher, who was born at Cawnpore, East Indies, on 16.10.1845 and had been baptised at Cawnpore on 30.11.1845. The person who performed the baptism is shown as W H Perkins, a Missionary for PGFP.
2. Adelbert Theophilus Schleicher, son of John Theophilus and Caroline Mary Schleicher, who was born at Cawnpore on 18.1.1851 and had been baptised at Cawnpore on 3.3.1851. The person who performed the baptism is shown as L Poynder, a Missionary for PGFP.
3. Alfred Waldemar Schleicher, son of John Theophilus and Caroline Mary Schleicher, born at Cawnpore on 14.4.1852 and had been baptised at Cawnpore on 28.7.1852. The person who performed the baptism is shown as J T Schleicher, a Missionary for PGFP.
4. Hermann Edmund Schleicher, son of John Theophilus and Caroline Mary Schleicher, born 6.12.1853 at Stellenbosch, Cape of Good Hope and had been baptised at Stellenbosch on 20.1.1854. The person who performed the baptism is shown as J T Schleicher, Clerk in Holy Orders of the Church of England.

The following four entries in the Registers were made by Thomas in his handwriting for his next four children, who were born in Victoria:

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|------|------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 5. Mary Augusta Sophia | born | 27.8.1855 | abode | Ballan |
| 6. Selma Theodora | | 20.11.1857 | | Ballan |
| 7. Bernhard Alexander | | 30.7.1859 | | Kororeit Creek, Myrniiong |
| 8. Hulda Caroline | | 6.9.1861 | | Myrniiong |

In each of these four cases, the person who performed the baptism is shown as J T Schleicher, Clerk in Holy Orders of the Church of England. The (Mormon) familysearch.org website and the Victorian government records (Digger, Pioneer Index for the period 1836 to 1888) confirm these four records.

When Thomas first arrived to take up his position as minister at Ballan and Bacchus Marsh, he and his family lived in a vicarage in Ballan, which is where Mary and Selma were born. However, when Ballan became a separate parish at the end of 1858, they had to vacate the vicarage at Ballan and they lived in a house at Kororeit Creek, Myrniiong, which still stands today. This is the place of birth of Bernhard and Hulda. Thomas was appointed to his first Sydney parish in early 1861, so it would appear that Caroline remained in Myrniiong until after the birth of Hulda.

The ninth and last of Thomas's children was born after the family moved to Sydney, as listed in the NSW Indexes of Births:

- | | | | | |
|---------------------|------|------|----|---------|
| 9. Clara Theophilia | born | 1865 | at | Sydney. |
|---------------------|------|------|----|---------|

Thomas's time at Bacchus Marsh

The Church of England parishes of Ballan and Bacchus Marsh were linked from the late 1840s when Bishop Perry wrote to Mr CA von Stieglitz, one of 13 concerned members of the faith whose properties were located in the Bacchus Marsh area, assuring him that a clergyman would be appointed to their neighbourhood in the near future, provided that the community there could afford to pay a minister at least £100 per year. In August 1855 Thomas became the fourth minister in seven years to be appointed to Ballan, and the parish of Bacchus Marsh was added to his role. His annual stipend was £220, as noted in The Church of England Record for Victoria (an e-book available through the NAA Trove website).

As recorded in *A History of the Holy Trinity Church of England at Bacchus Marsh*, the first Church of England church at Bacchus Marsh was an iron building imported from England or an 'iron pot' as they were irreverently called. These buildings were intended to be temporary and their attraction was that they could be erected or dismantled fairly quickly. After two acres of land were donated by William Bacchus junior, the iron church, capable of holding up to 200 people, was opened in July 1855 and consecrated by Bishop Perry the following month. On 2.11.1855 a licence for the performance of divine service was issued and six days later Thomas conducted the first marriage in that church. Despite being 'temporary' the iron church was used for 20 years. The last service was held in 1877 and a new church building was opened shortly afterwards.

An item in the *Argus* of 13.2.1858 which was titled 'Indian Relief Fund' described the outcome of a public meeting which had been held for the purpose of setting up a fundraising body in aid of the "sufferers by the late Sepoy mutiny" in India. Thomas, who was described as having been a missionary at Cawnpore for 10 years, addressed the meeting and fully explained the previous relative positions of the European residents with the natives of India. 17 men were appointed to form a committee for the purpose of obtaining subscriptions, one of which was Thomas, and a considerable sum of money was donated by those present at the meeting.

Thomas's missionary experience with the London Jews Society

During the period between April 1870 when Thomas resigned from his position at Hunters Hill Church in order to visit his parents and November 1874 when he returned to Sydney, his movements are somewhat of a mystery. It is clear that upon his return, he brought with him his wife and three daughters, however, it is not known which members of the family went to Germany with him or where they stayed while over there.

The London census of 1871 shows Thomas alone boarding at a house in Islington, London. He applied for missionary employment with the London Jews Society and was sent to Hamburg, arriving there in the latter part of May 1871. As reported in the Society's annual reports, Thomas located himself near the principal Jewish quarter in Hamburg which was also near Altona where there were Jewish populations of 13,000 and 5,000 respectively. He began seeking out Jews wherever he might find any of them willing to listen to his message - in the streets, at their shop-doors, on the wharves etc. He always used a conciliating course of discussion, telling them that far from thinking that he could convert them, because conversion means change of heart and life and that only the Holy Spirit could effect that, "his heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved" and that this can only be done by their accepting Jesus as their Messiah.

The following year Thomas embarked on a 'missionary journey' in company with Rev Dr Klee of Danzig, during the summer months, visiting a number of towns and villages in Schleswig-Holstein,

the two Mecklenburgs, and Pomerania. He found that a village near Lubeck, formerly almost exclusively inhabited by Jews, was now wholly forsaken by them in favour of larger towns; a situation he found to be the case in several provincial towns. Thomas also found that the Jews of Hamburg and Altona made excellent provision for the education of their children with even the poorest being well taught, including the English language.

Thomas was successful in a small number of conversions, but in 1873 he resigned owing to failing health. His own words were, "I feel greatly distressed and humbled at having to take this step, which will sever my connexion with the Society, but I feel it an imperative duty nevertheless to do so, inasmuch as my efficiency is impaired by this visitation which our Heavenly Father has seen good to send me."

The Ryde Road Gladesville Property – 'Johannesburg'

It is presumed that Thomas and his family lived either in the manse at the parishes to which he was appointed or, early in his career, in the homes of members of the congregation, where no manse existed as yet. However at some point he acquired property which is described as Lots 6, 7 and 8 as shown on Parish Plans dated 1882 and 1886, comprising eight acres between Ryde Road and Princes Street, Gladesville, New South Wales.

The following newspaper advertisement of 29.5.1886 indicates that he operated a boarding school at that home:



According to Gil Wahlquist, an acquaintance of JRS and his daughter Nicole Schleicher, Thomas's property in Ryde Road Gladesville, which was called 'Johannesburg' according to two sources - Joan Hellegers (a grand-niece of Thomas) and Mrs E E Knilands (a long time friend of Thomas's grand-daughter Dorothy, since their school days together at Cambridge School for Girls, Hunters Hill) - can be seen in an old Higinbotham & Robinson map at the Hunters Hill Museum.

The property, which comprised a large orchard as well as the family home, ran between Ryde Road and what was Princes Street, now called Thompson Street, near Westminster Road. Mr Wahlquist says this can be located in a current street directory. The property has been subdivided, with streets named after birds – Swan, Halcyon, Pelican and Gannet. He said that part was in the old Hunters Hill; now the suburb ends at Pittwater Road. Margaret Spinks, historian with All Saints Church, Hunters Hill, understands that there was a soccer field on the property at one time.

In his Will dated 23.12.1889 Thomas bequeathed this property (described as eight acres with buildings and orchard at Ryde Road Hunters Hill) to his widow Caroline with the proviso that if she sold the property, the first £500 was to go to their son Adelbert and the remainder invested so that his four sons and four daughters would benefit in a ratio of 3:1 in favour of the girls. An item in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 21.6.1892 containing various items of government information, included the detail that duty had been paid on Thomas's estate of £1,510. This amount is quite possibly the value of the property at Ryde Road, unless Thomas had any other major assets.

Less than five years after Thomas's death, his son Bernhard died in 1897 and only days later Thomas's widow Caroline died. At around this time, his son Alfred went to England to live and his son Hermann, who had married in 1895, moved to Western Australia. His daughter Mary married

Canon Robert Taylor in 1898, his son Adelbert married next-door neighbour Mary Holdsworth in 1899. Presumably each of these children moved out around the time of their marriages, leaving Bernhard's widow Rosa and her three children, Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth, and the unmarried sisters, Hulda, Selma and Clara, residing in the family home.

In 1915 Bernard is listed in the telephone directory at Ryde Road, although in a book by Ken Goodlet called *Hazelbrook & Woodford, a story of two Blue Mountains Towns* it states he first came to Hazelbrook in 1909. In fact, Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth apparently purchased property in Hazelbrook in which they all lived together, in 1917. Bernhard's widow, Rosa, died in 1916 and in 1925 Hulda died.

In 1927 Clara bought property at 32 Kemp St Tennyson. That same year Selma together with her now widowed sister Mary Taylor bought property at Hazelbrook located directly opposite the house in which Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth were living, although neither Selma nor Mary seem to have lived there on a permanent basis. Selma moved in with her sister Clara at Tennyson. Adelbert had died in 1924 and Mary Taylor moved in with Adelbert's widow Mary; the two widowed Marys then living together at the property bought by Adelbert and his wife, at 30 Figtree Road Hunters Hill. Mary's bachelor brother, Alfred Holdsworth, 22 years younger than her, also lived in the house for about 30 years, up to a year before Mary died. (Info from Holdsworth descendant, Colin Parkin.)

In view of the various real estate activities described above, it would seem likely that the Ryde Road property was sold in or about 1927.

Family burials

We know (info from JRS) that Thomas purchased 8 burial plots in the Field of Mars Cemetery, Ryde (Sydney), which are enclosed in a cast iron fence in the Church of England section. From their monuments we know that the following are buried there:

- John Theophilus Schleicher born 8 June 1815, fell asleep 2 May 1892. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life".
- Caroline Mary Schleicher who fell asleep 2 March 1897 aged 75. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. Heb.IV.9.";
- Bernhard Alexander Schleicher who entered into rest 28 Feb.1897 aged 37. "Thy will be done."
- Bernhard's baby daughter – "Also of our little Mary who died at sea 19 February 1891 aged 11 months. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."
- Bernhard's widow – "Also of his dear wife Rosa Ellen who entered into rest 17 Sept 1916 aged 56. With Christ which is far better."
- Thomas's daughter – "Also of our sister Hulda Caroline who fell asleep 22nd August 1925. Till He come."
- Thomas's son – "In memory of Adelbert Theophilous Schleicher, died 24th Sept. 1924 aged 73 years."

More information about Thomas's family

Caroline Mary Schleicher, Thomas's widow, who died 2 March 1897 aged 75, late of Ryde Road Gladesville.

Caroline was born 27.12.1821 in Sorau, Lower Lusatia, maiden name Schultz or Schulze. Information from Mark Taylor (Australian Cricket Captain 1994-1999) who is a

descendant of Caroline's daughter Mary's husband's (Taylor) family, is that Caroline's parents were Johann G. and Marie Schulze.

An obituary in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 5.3.1897 states that her death, just three days after the death of her son Bernhard, was due to heart disease, from which she had suffered for a considerable time. That obituary also stated that a large assemblage gathered to pay their respects at the funeral which was conducted by Rev R E Bellingham M.A. and Archdeacon Langley, and that the service at the grave was performed by Rev Wm Lumsdaine and Canon Robert Taylor. Other clergy present included Rev David Laseron (brother of Bernhard's widow Rosa), Rev Mervyn Archdall M.A., Rev R Noake (son-in-law of Canon Taylor) and Rev E C Robinson.

The following information from a German Archive was provided to me by Robert Wuchatsch, Westgarthtown resident and author:

- Caroline was born 27.12.1821 in Sorau, Lower Lusatia, was baptised in the main church in that town then her family moved to Wellersdorf, where she attended school.
- She applied for entry into the Diakonissenanstalt in Kaiserwerth and was accepted in October 1842. She graduated and attained qualification as a Diakonissin (Deaconess) in June 1843 after which she was sent with five other Sisters of the 'new charity' to Berlin.
- She went to Dresden for the consecration of the new Hospital in 1844.
- In April 1848 she attained the title of Housemother.
- On 10 August 1849 she left for East India, having accepted the marriage proposal of John Theophilus Schleicher after his first wife had died.
- Thomas had written a polite letter to the head of the Diakonissenanstalt, Pastor Fliedner, asking that he release Caroline from her five year contract to the Diakonissendienst in which he says that marriages are made in heaven, that Herr Fliedner is a Christian and therefore a man of his word, and that he is reminded of the maxim of forgiving and forgetting and especially the 'forgetting part' of consequences – this latter comment apparently referring to the 'sin' of his taking away one of his students who had been trained for the purpose of serving in the hospital.
- In 1849 Caroline went to India and married Thomas and it is interesting to note that her parents came to Melbourne, Australia the same year.

In the book *A German Church in the Garden of God, Melbourne's Trinity Lutheran Church 1853-2003*, written by 17 authors (including Robert Wuchatsch), General Editor Herbert D Mees, published by Aki, the Historical Society for Trinity German Lutheran Church, East Melbourne, the names Gottlob, Maria, Ernst, Ferdinand, Pauline and Christian Schulze, all residing at Dry Creek (Westgarthtown), Anton and Dorothea Schulze, residing at Richmond, and Wilhelm Schulze, residing at Melbourne, are included in the list of Foundation Members of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Melbourne 1853. Schulze families are also mentioned in that book as living at Breslau (Doncaster) and Buninyong.

In 1853 several German families settled in the Doncaster area of Victoria when land that had been subdivided from large estates became available for purchase. They called the area Breslau initially as most had emigrated from the Görlitz district of the province of Silesia (the same area in which Schreibersdorf, Department of Liegnitz, is located) and from neighbouring Saxony.

It is possible that it was Caroline's parents who encouraged Caroline and Thomas to come to Victoria, and this might explain why Thomas was appointed to the parishes of Ballan and Bacchus Marsh, as these are reasonably close to where the Schulze family had settled.

Coral Meldrum advised that Caroline's parents were Johann Gottlob Schulze and Marie nee Kluge, and that the death certificate of Johann Gottlob Schulze reveals the following:

- He was 87 years of age when he died 20.10.1875 at Woodstock of old age/debility,
- He was buried at Westgarthtown and had been in the colony of Victoria for 25 years,
- He was born in Wellersdorf Prussia and married Maria Kluge at age of 32.
- His children were listed as: Ernestine dec, Caroline 51, Maria 50, Auguste dec, Augusta dec, and Ernst 40,
- The names of his parents were Frederick Schulze and Pauliene Petzold (farmers).

1. Theodore Athanasius Schleicher – Thomas's first child, to his first wife, Sophia Maria Dorothea Wehner, was born 16.10.1845 and died by suicide on 23.12.1888 aged 43.

When Thomas and his family first arrived in Victoria, they lived in the Vicarage of the Church of England in Ballan and Theodore went to the church's school there.

Coral Meldrum discovered that in 1854 Thomas and Theodore were aboard the *Moselle* from Hamburg to London, together with Misses Julie Kruger, A and H Schleicher. This indicates that Thomas had taken Theodore back to Prussia for a visit before the family migrated to Australia. The A and H Schleicher are Auguste and Henriette, daughters of Thomas's brother, Johann Gottlieb Schleicher (JGS). JGS also migrated to Australia with his family the following year and the girls were reunited with their own family. The brothers lived near each other for the next five years near Ballan. In 1861 Thomas was appointed to a parish in Sydney and JGS then moved to Northcote, a Melbourne suburb.

Theodore worked as a Bushman on cattle/horse/sheep properties in Merriwa and Bourke in New South Wales, Nappa Merrie in Queensland and Glen Helen station near Alice Springs. In 1881 the missionaries at Hermannsburg Mission employed him to work with their horses and sheep. In about 1883 he formed a relationship with an Aboriginal girl named Katabukaia who was living in the Mission camp, after her baby and husband died. In 1884 they had a daughter, who they named Tina. Because the missionaries disapproved of European men having relationships with Aboriginal women, they discharged Theodore and he went back to work at Glen Helen station.

Along with other members of the Western Aranda, Katabukaia and Tina were baptized by the missionaries at Easter 1888 and their chosen names became Magdalena and Ruth. The missionaries also performed a wedding of Magdalena with a fellow Aranda, who was baptized as Joseph.

Shortly afterwards, Theodore travelled to the Mission with his wagon and horses (all his worldly goods) and set up camp at the Mission's sheep camp on Ellery Creek, where he previously worked for the missionaries. After attending the Mission's repentance day service, he travelled back to his camp and the following morning committed suicide. He left no 'suicide note' or a Will.

Magdalena, Joseph and Ruth remained living in the Aboriginal camp at the Mission. Ruth married Joshua Ebatarinja, had many children and died on 31.7.1966 at the age of 82.

Many of her descendants live in the Alice Springs and Yuendumu area in central Australia.

2. Adelbert Theophilus Schleicher – Thomas's first child to his second wife, Caroline Marie Schulze (born 18.1.1851) died on 22.9.1924 aged 73, late of 'Maryland' Figtree Road Hunters Hill (info from the death notice which appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald* on 27.9.1924 stated he died on 24 September).

The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 30.1.1873 published notices which appeared the previous day in the NSW Government Gazette. The list included Adelbert, who had been appointed a Licensed Surveyor. A similar listing of 26.3.1895 stated that Adelbert was one of four surveyors "specially licensed" for Sydney. In the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 8.2.1897 there is a report of the outcome of the annual general meeting of the NSW Institution of Surveyors in which it notes that Adelbert was elected Vice President.

The following biographical sketch is located in *The Aldine Centennial History of NSW, 1888*:

Atchison & Schleicher, Civil Engineers and Licensed Surveyors ... 92 Pitt Street Sydney, have been established in business since April 1882 prior to which time they were engaged in the Works and Survey Departments of the NSW government. Since commencing practice they have carried out a large number of country subdivisions for the government and for private firms, besides city and suburban detail surveys of all kinds. They have also made surveys, estimates etc for several private railways and have carried out other engineering works.

Adelbert's work was reputed to be of very high quality. Both the National and NSW State Archives hold copies of plans for many projects he and his partner worked on, many of them large subdivisions of residential land. One such project is located at St Marys in Sydney and two of the streets are named after Adelbert (Schleicher Street) and his partner (Atchison Street). Another of his many government surveys is interesting in that the 100 acre subdivision which he surveyed contained a block of land on which JRS and his family lived for seven years, at that time being unaware of the connection between Adelbert and our family.

Sydney Morning Herald records of shipping arrivals indicate Adelbert arrived in Sydney on 20.2.1882. Many years ago a gentleman named John Brandes who was writing a history of surveyors in NSW told me that he believed that Adelbert had acquired his qualifications overseas. His obituary published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 30.9.1924 states that he had practised as a licensed surveyor for over 50 years.

The website monaropioneers.com contains details of Thomas Holdsworth, a pioneer of the Cooma district. A Holdsworth descendant, Colin Parkin, advises that Thomas Holdsworth's son, Charles Holdsworth, a stonemason from Holbeck England, and Catherine, nee Dunn, an Irish Catholic orphan who arrived on the *Eliza* on 18.9.1855, lived next door to Adelbert.

Their daughter, Mary, was born in Ryde/Hunters Hill, and married Adelbert in 1899 in Sydney. This is corroborated by a listing in the indexes to marriages at the NSW State Archives of a marriage in 1899 between Adelbert Schleicher and Mary Holdsworth. Adelbert was aged 48 and Mary (born 27.11.1874) was 25 at the time of their marriage. They were married at St Peters, Woolloomooloo. They had no children. Mary was the fourth of fifteen children of Charles and Catherine Holdsworth.

In 1893 Adelbert purchased property being Lot 2 Section 3 comprising three roods nine perches located very close to the family home in Ryde Road, Hunters Hill. Upon Adelbert's death that property was transferred to Mary and it was subdivided into four blocks which were sold between 1928 and 1938.

(In 1882 and 1886 Adelbert's wife Mary's father, Charles Holdsworth, owned property across the road from this property, being four acres on the corner of Ryde Road and Pittwater Road.)

In 1900, the year after his marriage to Mary, Adelbert purchased more land, being Lot 2 DP 920546 comprising 31.75 perches on the corner of Drummoyne Street and a 20ft lane at Hunters Hill. He bought the land from District Court Judge Rogers and sold it in 1920 to Hunters Hill Town Clerk William Wise.

In 1921 Adelbert and Mary jointly purchased Lot 30 DP 9243 on the northern side of Figtree Road Hunters Hill comprising 28.5 perches and built their home, which they named Maryland. Adelbert died just three years later.

This property transferred into Mary's sole name upon Adelbert's death and for a while Adelbert's sister Mary Taylor moved in and the two widowed Marys lived there. Margaret Spinks, historian of All Saints Church, Hunters Hill, advised that an older local resident told her she remembered old women living in the family home, who were teased by local larrikins. Mary's younger brother, Alfred Holdsworth, also lived with her for many years, up to a year before her death. Following Mary's death, there being no 'inheritor', ownership of the property passed to the Perpetual Trustee, who sold it in 1955.

Adelbert was Mayor of the Municipality of Hunters Hill from 1896-97 and 1914-15 and retired from the Council in 1916. Reports of council business were published in the *Sydney Morning Herald* from time to time and one item, in the 19.3.1897 edition, reported on the deputation consisting of Mayor Schleicher and the aldermen of the council which approached the Postmaster-General over the cutting and thereby injuring of trees in Hunters Hill so that telephone wires could be erected. The PMG stated that the cost of putting the cables underground would be considerable - £600 - but that he would look into the matter. This was interesting as Hunters Hill council had a 'tree policy' from as early as 1870, planting avenues of trees and giving away trees to its residents on the proviso that they be planted near the street frontages, and by 1897 Hunters Hill was considered to be especially picturesque because of its trees and gardens.

Electoral roll records indicate that Mary continued to live at Gladesville (later shown as Hunters Hill) between 1930 and 1949. Mary died 3.7.1954 and NSW State Archives hold the Probate of her Will, which was granted on 1.10.1954.

Mark Taylor's info includes that Mary Holdsworth was born 1865 in Ryde, that she died in Ryde in 1954, that her parents were Charles and Catherine (this information accords with the index listing at NSW Births Deaths & Marriages for the death of Mary Schleicher), and that between 1926 and 1949 she resided at 30 Figtree Road Hunters Hill.

3. Alfred Waldemar Schleicher (born 14.4.1852). (Waldemar was the name of a popular Prussian Prince and it was common practice for Prussians to use names such as these for

their children.)

NSW State Archives' index of Probates has a listing of Alfred Waldemar Schleicher who died in Sydney on 4.1.1932, probate of his Will being granted on 29.6.1934. (This conflicts with family recollections that he died in England.)

The following information is from Coral Meldrum:

Alfred died at Hastings, Sussex, England. He married Julia Brazier Smith (date and place of marriage not yet known) Julie was born January 1843 at Bodiam, Sussex, England, daughter of James Brazier Smith, 1812-1892 and Sabina Levett, born 1814. Julia died 20.11.1931 in Hastings, Sussex, England.

Alfred and Julia had one child:

- John Waldemar Schleicher (1882-1954), born Denbighshire, Wales, died in Hastings, Sussex, England. John married Kathleen Mary Cullen (1890-1965) in 1923 in Sydney (this marriage information is also shown in the NSW BD&M indexes) and they had:
 - Elizabeth, born Bournemouth Sussex, and
 - Jeannet, born Hastings Sussex, who married Jean Malherb.Many of their family live near Watford in the north of London.

4. Hermann Edmund Schleicher (born 6.12.1853) died 20.8.1936 at Kalamunda WA (buried Anglican section). In 1903 he was described as residing at Kalgoorlie WA, occupation Storeman.

The following information has been derived from descendants of Hermann's, Marcia Clarke and Coral Meldrum, the WA Births Deaths & Marriages, the A/asian Genealogists Computer Index and from NAA's Trove website.

Hermann, whose occupation on the marriage certificate is shown as Commission Agent, was married to Elizabeth Jane Laws on 21.2.1895 at Holy Trinity Church, Lower Fort Street, Sydney.

Elizabeth was born 11.10.1869 in West Leckbury, Northumberland England (according to the birth certificate of her son Hermann). On their marriage certificate Elizabeth is shown as a widow aged 26, born in England and living in Newcastle NSW at the time. Her parents are shown as Thomas Scott (occupation miner) and Elizabeth nee Lawson. However, Marcia Clarke advises that the correct names of her parents are Thomas Laws and Elizabeth Scott. Interestingly, the witnesses to the marriage were two of Hermann's sisters, Mary and Selma, and the officiating minister was Rev Reginald Noake, Mary's brother-in-law.

Elizabeth arrived 3.2.1885 from Plymouth England at the age of 16 as a single woman. She travelled as an assisted immigrant on *Gulf of Venice*. She died at East Coolgardie and was buried 4.11.1917 in Kalgoorlie WA.

Elizabeth's obituary in the West Australian newspaper described her as having been a well respected member of the Brown Hill community and she was interred in the Methodist section of Kalgoorlie Cemetery. Tributes were received from the local Lodge and the Methodist Sunday School.

Children of Hermann and Elizabeth:

Note: Hermann and Elizabeth's first three children were born in Sydney. Marcia Clarke advises that their first two children, Maud and Hermann, were born out of wedlock and so each child was registered under Elizabeth's surname, Laws. (Hermann and Elizabeth married in 1895.)

- a) Maud Isabella Schleicher, born 1889 Sydney. Coral Meldrum info is that Maud married her first husband, George Johns, in 1908 in Boulder WA and died 30.12.1928. On the record of her burial in the C of E section of the cemetery at Karrakatta, WA, Maud's surname was Smith. This was her third married surname, Windsor being her second husband's name.
- b) Hermann Edmund ('Snow') Schleicher, born 2.9.1893. On his birth certificate his place of birth is shown as 23 Roseby Street Birkenhead Drummoyne which was the address at which his mother was then residing. He died 17.8.1949 at Beverley WA.

A news item appeared in the Perth newspaper, *The West Australian*, on 19.8.1949 describing his death. It reported that he died in a tragic accident while cutting wood at his home with a circular saw. He was wounded in the head and was found dead beside the saw, which only stopped when it ran out of fuel.

Hermann married Edith Riseborough 18.11.1915 at Wesley Church Wagin WA. Edith was born 29.9.1895 in Baroota SA, daughter of William Riseborough and Annie Ganzer; she died 1.9.1991 Como/Beverley WA.

Hermann joined the Army in 1916, giving his religion as Methodist, his occupation as locomotive fireman with the Western Australian Government Railways and his wife's address as Care of W H Riseborough, presumably her father, at Almondgrove, Wagin WA. He served at various depots until 10.1.1917 when he was assigned to the Railway Corps, Private, No 958 at Blackboy Hill. On 19.1.19 he was promoted to 2nd Corporal, Fireman. He embarked at Fremantle aboard the *Miltiades* on 29.1.17 with the 3rd Railway Corps and arrived at Devonport in England on 27.3.17. After 14 days off duty in April with pleurisy he proceeded to France on 11.5.17; his unit being renamed the 5th Australian Broad Gauge Rail Operating Company. From 4-11.9.17 he was detached to the 268th Railway Company, Royal Engineers. He had leave to England in March-April 1918, then after the Armistice, leave to Paris in November-December that year. On 13.1.1919 he was detached to the R.O.D. at Calais then granted leave to England in February-March 1919. He left France on 1 May and embarked in England on 21.6.1919, arrived home on 2.8.1919, was discharged from the AIF on 10.9.1919 and returned to Wagin, where he took up farming.

Hermann and his brother-in-law, Harry Riseborough, were clearly close friends and Hermann was best man at Harry's wedding. Hermann's family still possesses an undated postcard he wrote from France during WWI to Harry, who was a Lighthorseman in the Middle East:

I received a letter from Edith today and everything is OK. Well Harry, I suppose you have had enough of soldiering by this, it's not the best of games especially where you are. I won't forget my first encounter with Iron Rations

(enemy fire) – a very suitable name. Well we are faring pretty well up to the present but I don't suppose it will be all milk and honey all the way through. Well never mind we will make up for that when we get back.... Snowy.

The following photo is of Harry Riseborough's wedding, with both Harry and Hermann in uniform. Harry is seated, his bride Beatrice is standing beside him, and Hermann is beside her.



Marcia Clarke advises that Harry is an interesting character - an original ANZAC. He was aged 17 at the outbreak of World War 1 and went to enlist with a West Australian regiment but was rejected due to his age. Not deterred, he joined up in South Australia with a light horse regiment. He fought in Gallipoli and later in Palestine.

An item in the *West Australian* newspaper of 24.6.1939 which described the results of an outing of the Wagin Rifle Club included the names of a Ken Riseborough, an R Riseborough and a B Schleicher which suggests that these two families continued to be close. Harry again enlisted in the Army during the Second World War. The following photo is of Hermann (in uniform) with his younger brother, Cyril.



Children of Hermann and Edith

- Bernal Edmund born 11.1.1921 at Cereila, Wagin Katanning WA; died 6.2.2009 Midland WA. Bernal married Marjorie Rebecca Combs 2.1.1942 in Northam, WA. Marjorie was born 7.7.1923 in Subiaco WA, daughter of William Combs and Carmel Tully. She died 23.1.1999 in Karawara WA. Bernal served in the Second World War but at this stage I do not have details of his war service.

Bernal and Marjorie had the following children:

- Kaye Ellen born 2.2.1943 Beverley WA, who married John Ambrose Simpson 6.6.? (John born 13.3.1941)
 - Graham Lindsay born 1.9.1947 at Beverley WA, who married Susan Elizabeth Miller (Susan born 21.7.1955 at Manly NSW) and they had the following children:
 - Matthew, born 11.11.1982 in Gove, NT
 - Kate, born 28.10.1984 in Gove, NT, married Jared Faint
 - Lauren, born 10.10.1987 in Perth, WA
 - Marcia Jean born 20.5.1949 at Beverley WA, who married James Raymond Clarke 29.5.1970 at Hurstville NSW (James born Wellington NZ 1.1.1948); they live in New Zealand
- Doreen E born 1922 at Wagin Katanning WA. Doreen married Roy A Strange 1941 at Beverley WA.
 - Albert Vincent born 4.4.1925 at Wagin Katanning WA

Albert served in the Second World War as an Able Seaman from March 1943 for three years. His address on discharge from the Navy was Beverley WA. On 13.6.1950 there is an item in a West Australian newspaper in which Constable A V Schleicher describes the arrest of a thief who had been 'caught in the act', having been found hiding under a table in a warehouse in North Fremantle.

- Norman L born 1929 at Wagin Katanning WA.

Hermann and Elizabeth's third child was:

- c) Winifred Mary Schleicher, born 1896 at Waverley Sydney. Winifred married Walter D Lyon 1917 at Mt Margaret WA. (I have no further information about this couple.)

Note: After the birth of Winifred in Sydney, Hermann's brother Bernard died (28.2.1897) then just a few days later his mother, Caroline Marie, died (2.3.1897). His father had died in 1892 and his brother Alfred had moved to England - so possibly these events gave Hermann the impetus to move away from Sydney. Or maybe Hermann just went to WA to see if he could find gold?

Hermann and Elizabeth had a further three children, in Western Australia:

- d) Clara Schleicher born 1899 Kalgoorlie WA; died 13.12.1900 Boulder (Kalgoorlie) WA
- e) Cyril Schleicher born 16.3.1901 Kalgoorlie; died 12.1.1970 Kalgoorlie. Cyril married Vera Mildner Lyon (7.2.1900-9.3.1984 Melbourne) in 1924 at East Coolgardie WA.

The following further information came from Coral Meldrum:

Vera's mother, Wilhelmina Carolina (Lena) Lubcke (1870-1953) was born in Bendigo, one of 14 children of Johan Lubcke (1834-1906) and Margaretha Mackelmann (1843-1909) who had come from Schonberg and Schleswig Holstein in the 1800s. Lena's husband was Robert William Lyon (1867-1933), the son of a watchmaker and jeweler who had come from Sweden. Robert went to Kalgoorlie to make his fortune on that city's famous "Golden Mile". Cyril and Vera both grew up and went to school in Brown Hill. During WWII Cyril was a Drill Sergeant stationed at RAAF Training Base, Somers between 1942 and 1945 and the family lived close by in Balnarring, Victoria. After the end of the war, the family returned to Kalgoorlie.

Cyril and Vera had the following children:

- Esme Carolene, born 6.5.1925 who married Laurence Bouvard Fisher and had two daughters. Laurence (Jock) was an Electrical Engineer from Greenock Scotland and a ham radio operator.
- Coral Margaret, born 29.12.1931 who married Eric Geo. Currie, with whom she had two daughters, then Arthur Meldrum with whom she had one son, named Carl.

Coral added: *When my sister, Esme, won the Hackett Bursary we were all very proud - especially Dad. It's uncanny how his sentiments were much the same as Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth Schleicher's, viz., EDUCATION IS THE MAIN THING IN LIFE!*

- f) Doris Hermine (Doll) Schleicher born 12.12.1903 at Brown Hill, East Coolgardie, died 27.9.1979. Doris married Louis William (Lawrence) Gericke (1896-1974) in 1923 at Katanning WA. Doris and Louis had three daughters. One of these daughters has been named as Florence Joan Gericke, born 28.1.1925 at Wagin WA, died 2008 in Perth, who married Kevin Charles Hamilton, 1926-2004 and they had a son and a daughter. (This information has not been verified.)
- g) a son (no name) born 1909, who died the day he was born.
5. Mary Auguste Sophia Taylor, nee Schleicher, (Thomas and Caroline's fourth child) born 27.8.1855, died 3.7.1949 aged 94, late of Marrickville's Home of Peace.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Mary became a Deaconess and was the first Church of England Deaconess to be ordained in Australia. During the period when Thomas was curate at St Stephens Newtown, Canon Robert Taylor, then rector of that church, "searched for some way to keep in touch with all the parishioners in his very large parish and in particular for some way to understand its women," according to an article written for the Church of England's *Southern Cross* newsletter of July 1986 which celebrated the centenary of the work of deaconesses in Australia. Mary responded to Canon Taylor's call, indicating her willingness for the role and was prepared for ministry. In Mary's own words, she "went two or three times a week to Bishop Barry for Bible Questioning, shivering in my shoes." On Sunday 25.7.1886, during the evening service at St Stephens, she was ordained by Bishop Barry. Although it was not until 1891 that the Deaconess Institute was opened, the centenary dated from Mary's appointment.

Mary was not only working as Deaconess at St Stephen's, she was actively involved in the St Stephen's Benevolent Society, of which Canon Taylor was President from its beginnings in 1894. She also held the role of Hon Secretary of the Church's Mothers' Union from 1908 to 1926 and was a Life Vice President of that body.

In her work Mary covered the areas of Newtown, Kingston, Annandale, Johnston Street, Camdensville, Darlington, Enmore and Macdonaldtown. Again quoting the *Southern Cross* article, Mary said her work "was never done." Firmly in her bishop's view a lay minister, in the scope of her work she anticipated the faithful service and ministry of the many deaconesses who have ministered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ since that time.

Mary's husband, Canon Robert Taylor, had a distinguished career. He built the Church of England's parish church of St Stephen, Newtown, which "was crowded to its capacity during his long ministry from 1866 until his death in 1907" - quote is from the *Centenary History of Moore Theological College* by Marcus Loane.

On 28.12.1898 at the age of 43, Mary married Canon Robert Taylor whose first wife had died, in the Christ Church, Gladesville. The wedding was performed by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Cumberland, assisted by Revs W Lumsdaine and F B Boyce and a witness on her marriage certificate was her brother Adelbert. Mary and Robert had no children together.

In 1927 Mary and her sister Selma purchased land at Hazelbrook located across the road from land which had been purchased by the children of their late brother Bernhard –

Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth. The sisters built a house there, which they named Ferndale. However, Selma lived in Gladesville with their sister Clara, and at some time Mary moved in with her sister-in-law Mary Schleicher and the two widowed Marys lived at 30 Figtree Road Hunters Hill. Mary's name is listed on the electoral rolls for the years 1930 to 1943 inclusive at Gladesville (Hunters Hill). Interestingly, she is listed on the electoral rolls for Kiama in the year that she died, 1949, presumably residing with Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth as they also were listed there that year.

After Selma died in 1942 the Hazelbrook property transferred into Mary's sole name and Mary bequeathed it to Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth. When Bernard died the property transferred into the names of Dorothy and Ruth. In 1973 they gave the property to neighbours and friends, Bernie & Pat Harris. The house still stands there today and it is still called Ferndale.

Mary's death is listed in the NSW death indexes. The 3.9.1949 edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald* (page 13) on the NAA's trove website, states that Probate of Mary's Estate was to be handled by her nephew Bernard, the other Executor, Stephen Taylor, having renounced Probate. Mary is described as being late of Gladesville and Hazelbrook.

6. Selma Theodora Schleicher, (Thomas and Caroline's fifth child) born 20.11.1857, died 22.5.1942 aged 84, late of Ryde Road Gladesville.

Following in the footsteps of not only her mother but also her sister Mary, on 10.3.1889 Selma was admitted as a Deaconess at St Philip's Church of England Sydney where she served for nearly 40 years - info from July 1986 edition of Church of England newsletter *Southern Cross*.

Sydney Morning Herald records of shipping arrivals indicate that on 15.12.1881 Selma arrived in Sydney from London aboard the *Parramatta* (the same ship on which her parents and sisters had returned from London in 1874). She was 24 years of age at that time and it is possible she had travelled to Europe with her parents but not returned with them in 1874, or had gone to London on her own to further her education.

In 1927 Selma and her sister Mary purchased land at Hazelbrook on which they built a home and named it Ferndale. However, electoral roll records indicate that in 1930, 1933, 1936 & 1937 Selma was residing at Gladesville. It appears that in 1927 she moved in with her sister Clara who had purchased property at 32 Kemp Street Tennyson (a suburb which adjoins Gladesville). Following Selma's death in 1942, the Hazelbrook property transferred to Mary alone and she willed it to Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth, the children of their late brother Bernhard. Ferndale was located directly across the road from Currawong, the home that Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth built, and it remains there today.

Selma is also described in places as Selina and her signature as a witness on the marriage certificate of her brother Hermann appears more like Selina than Selma. A family member ('Joan Maude') called her Selina and said that she "used to sew the boys' trousers", and that in her old age she "used to wander".

7. Bernhard Alexander Schleicher, (Thomas and Caroline's sixth child) born 30.7.1859, died 28.2.1897 aged 37, late of Ryde Road Gladesville and his widow Rosa Ellen, nee Laseron, who died 17 September 1916 aged 56, also late of Ryde Road Gladesville.

Bernhard's education in Sydney during his childhood is unknown. At some point he went to London and was educated at University College Oxford. He gained an MA with a First in the School of the Humanities. Mark Taylor's information includes that he was a "Taylorian University Scholar, and a Hall-Houghton Syriac Prizeman". The Cable Index of Anglican Clergy notes that in 1878 he was non-collegiate at Oxford, in 1879 he was at University College, in 1882 he achieved a BA at Oxford, in 1883 he was a Hall and Houghton Syriac scholar and in 1885 he achieved an MA. On 20.5.1883 he was a deacon, London, and on 8.6.1884 became a priest in London.

The Cable Index also lists his appointments as: 20.5.1883-1886 curate Christ Church Spitalfields, Middlesex, London; 1887-1891 curate Holy Trinity Sheerness diocese Canterbury; 23.3.1891 exhibited letters of orders, general licence Sydney and 30.6.1891-1897 principal Moore Theological College, Sydney.

When Bernhard was at Oxford University he boarded with the Laseron family (Rosa, her father and mother) at Tottenham as evidenced by 21 year old Bernhard being noted as a visitor in their home at the time of the 1881 census, and described as an Oxford Under Graduate. The Laserons had been of the Jewish faith, however they moved to England, became British subjects and adopted the Church of England for their religion.

It is possible that the Laserons became acquainted with Bernhard's father, Thomas, during the period of time between 1870 and 1874 that he was in England working with the London Jews Society, converting Jews to Christianity.

Bernhard and Rosa were married at Tottenham in 1884 and their first three children, Bernard, Dorothy and Mary were born in England. He then received an invitation to be Principal of the Church of England's Moore Theological College in Sydney at a time when it had been closed for over two years and its Trustees were hoping for its revival. Funding for the principal's stipend was difficult and it was due to the delicate state of Bernhard's health (he suffered from tuberculosis) that he accepted the poorly paid position.

In March 1891 he and his family arrived in Victoria from England aboard the *Ormuz* (second saloon passengers bound for Sydney) described as Rev B Schleicher, aged 34, Mrs S, aged 31, Nurse with Schleicher aged 27, and children named Schleicher aged 5, 2 and 1. The child described as one-year-old was Mary, who sadly died at sea during the voyage of bronchitis and convulsions. A report of the family's arrival on the *Ormuz*, including mention of the death of their infant daughter, was printed in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 17.3.1891. Their last child, Ruth, was born in Newtown, Sydney. See further detail regarding the children in coming pages.

In the *History of Moore College* written by Marcus Loane, Bernhard is described as the first Oxford man to be Principal of Moore College. He was a distinguished Hebrew and Syriac scholar and a well-read theologian, a High Churchman of the old school, one who held and taught the doctrine of the Baptismal Regeneration. He was appointed Principal on 30.6.1891 and it was said that in spite of his ill health he was a man of great charm and gentleness. As the college was endeavouring to attract and train for the ministry as many students as possible, Bernhard recommended reducing the fees (from £100 to £80 per year) and soon

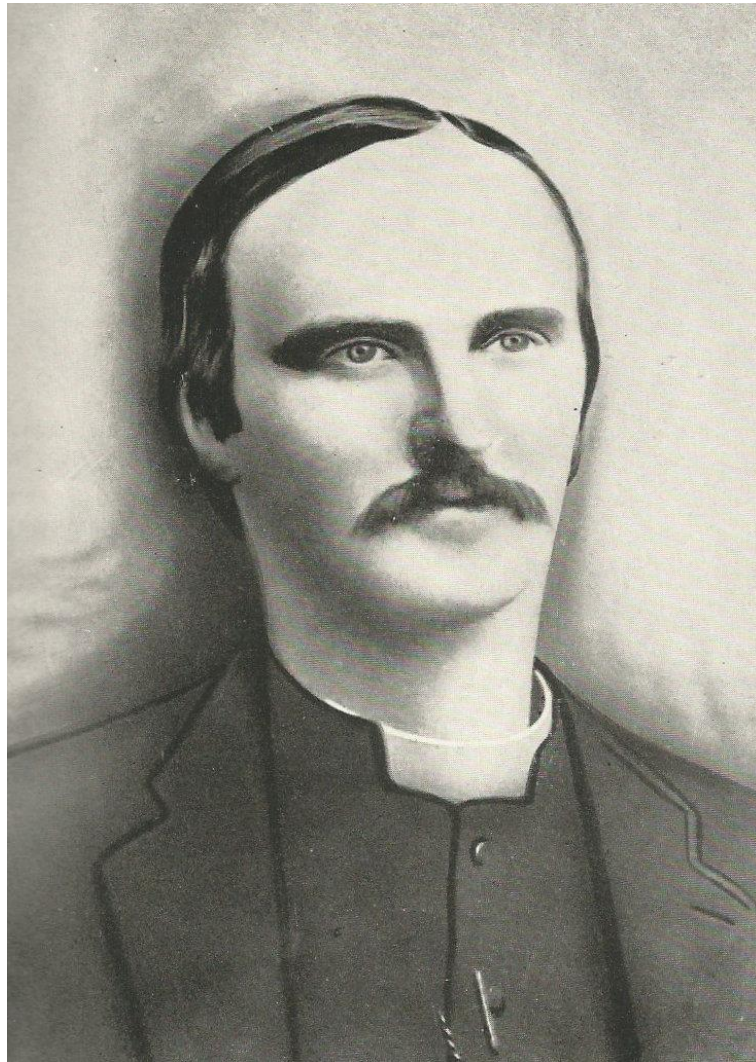
the number of students increased from four to nine and later to 11.

Bernhard had only been back in Australia for a short time when he wrote a letter to the Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* as Principal of Moore College which was published on 3.11.1891, in which he defended two Assyrian clergymen who he believed had been unjustly dealt with.

On 9.11.1893 and 29.4.1895 the SMH included news items describing lectures which had been given by Bernhard, the first titled 'When were our Gospels written?' and the second 'The Jew who Blessed the World.' The NSW State Library holds a copy of a sermon titled 'The Historic Episcopate' preached by Bernhard at St Stephens Newtown (where Rev Robert Taylor was then the incumbent) on 19.5.1895.

Bernhard's health gradually deteriorated and in 1895 Rev Robert Taylor kindly loaned to the college his property called The Grange at Mt Victoria in the Blue Mountains in the hopes that the cleaner mountain air would be beneficial for Bernhard. Bernhard, his family and the students all resided there and he reported after having spent one year at The Grange that through God's compensating goodness and the earnestness and zeal of the students, that year had been in every way the happiest and most successful that he had spent at the college.

During the latter half of 1896 Bernhard was granted leave of absence, during which time two ministers, one of them Robert Taylor, carried on his work. Although Bernhard returned to work at the end of that year, sadly, he died shortly afterwards, having served for only six years as Principal.



Bernhard Schleicher – picture from *The Centenary History of Moore Theological College*

The family of Bernhard's wife, Rosa nee Laseron, is interesting.

Bernhard married Rosa Ellen Laseron in 1884 while in England. Rosa was born in Edmonton (near London) in 1861 and her parents were Dr Michael Laseron, born 1820 in Elbing Prussia, now Elblag in Poland, who was educated at Jena University, and Clara who was born in Konigsberg, Denmark (info from Marcia Clarke).

In 1858 Dr Michael Laseron founded and operated a 'Ragged and Industrial School' for the needy in Tottenham. The building, close to Laseron's house in Snells Park, Edmonton, comprised one schoolroom for boys and girls and another for infants. It was vested in Anglican trustees and the income came entirely from voluntary contributions. (info from '*Tottenham: Education*', *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 5*: 1976; Ed. 7/87; Fisk, Tottenham, ii. 293-4).

In 1897 Rosa's brother, Rev David Laseron (full name David Henry Melville Laseron), was present at the funeral of Bernhard's mother, Caroline. On his birth certificate David's parents are described as Michael Maximilian Augustus Henry Laseron, a

Doctor in Medicine, and Clara Eda Amalia. The *Brisbane Courier* of 10.6.1892 contained a news item which it copied from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, which related the story of the wounding of Rev Laseron by gunshot, whilst he was travelling on a train in Sydney. In an extraordinary incident, a man who was a NSW Member of Parliament and was seated near Rev Laseron fired a shot at him while in a drunken state. The newspaper article revealed quite a bit of information regarding Rev Laseron including that he was a stout, well-built man and that he had a wife and three children. Also it stated that he was the incumbent of St George's, Glenmore Road (Paddington, Sydney) where he had served for the previous 12 months, that he was very popular with his parishioners, and that previously he had resided in England. It also stated that Rev Laseron did not know the MP who shot him and was at a loss to account for the man's actions.

More items of information about Rev David Laseron come from the Cable Index of Anglican History (anglicanhistory.org), ie that he was born 25.10.1857 in Edmonton Middlesex, England, and was married there to Frances Bradley. His mother's full name is shown as Amelia Louise nee Von Paschwitz. Interestingly, David's education began at a Moravian school in Niesky near Goerlitz, Germany (1867-1872). Also, he was curate at St Stephens, Newtown, from 1.3.1901 to 1.5.1902

Bernhard and Rosa's children

Bernhard and Rosa had four children:

- Bernard Michael John born 1885 at Edmonton,
- Dorothy Caroline Mary born circa 1888 (possibly also at Edmonton),
- Mary Clara born 1890 at Sheppey, Kent, UK who on 19.2.1891 at the age of 11 months died at sea during their voyage to Australia, and
- Ruth Constance born 29.4.1893 at Newtown (Sydney) after their arrival in Australia (info from Mark Taylor)

Bernard was educated at Sydney University. The *Sydney Morning Herald* of 8.5.1905 in its list of academic results, showed Bernard as having achieved first class honours after one year of study of the classics - Latin and Greek - and having been granted a Cooper scholarship of £50. He achieved his BA in 1907, his MA in 1911 and completed a Dip Ed in 1914. Bernard became a Teacher, teaching at Parramatta High School for some years, including 1917 to 1922 inclusive, later part-time at Stratford Girls School, Lawson, and he was also a private tutor. During his time at Stratford, Bernard taught Languages, Mathematics and History in the Senior School. The Principal of Stratford when Bernard taught, there was a Miss Gertrude Watkins, who had been in charge of the 'Holmer' School at Parramatta between 1915 and 1925 so it is possible she knew Bernard during that period.

In 1927 when he and his sisters purchased property at Hazelbrook, Bernard described his occupation as Classics Master. In 1937 an item in the *Sydney Morning Herald* indicated that Bernard had been elected President of an association which formed for the purpose of lobbying the Education Department to build a school at Hazelbrook.

Family members believed Bernard studied for the ministry but ill health prevented him from completing his degree, that he was associated with the Boys Own Paper, though in what connection we are unaware, also that he was a Rhodes Scholar, but his name does not appear in the complete list of Rhodes Scholars from 1903 to the present.

Information regarding both Bernard's and Dorothy's tertiary achievements has been obtained from Sydney University's archives.

Dorothy achieved a BA at Sydney University in 1911 and it was reported by Mrs E E Knilands, Dorothy's friend from their school days together, that Ruth had studied geology but did not finish her course. According to family friend, Pat Harris, Dorothy was a very shy person who suffered with "bad nerves". On the title of their property both Ruth and Dorothy are described as Horticulturists.

When their father Bernhard died, the three siblings remained living in the family home at Ryde Road along with their mother and aunts. After their mother died, they moved out, determined to 'head for the bush'. The three of them stuck together. None of them married or had any children.

They tried farming at Collaroy and Broughton Vale Road, Berry (address from Mark Taylor) before retiring to Hazelbrook, according to a cousin on the Laseron side of their family, Judith Richter. In 1928 they took up a lease of a small area of land at Fairy Meadow near Wollongong but did not proceed to purchase it. Electoral roll records indicate they were enrolled at Kiama in 1949 and their aunt, Mary Taylor, was also enrolled there that year. Electoral roll records also show the three siblings living at Lawson in the Blue Mountains (Hazelbrook is in the district of Lawson) in the period 1930 to 1943 and again in 1954.

According to Ken Goodlet's book *Hazelbrook & Woodford, a story of two Blue Mountain Towns*, Bernard moved to Hazelbrook in 1909 when he purchased the property named *Currawong*. Goodlet quotes Bernard as saying that the only store in the town until about 1915 was the small wooden building opposite the station on the southern side. JRS has ascertained that Bernard and his sisters obtained (some by Crown Grant and some by purchase) 10 blocks of land totaling over three acres, at Hazelbrook in the period 1917 to 1936. They built their home, which they called 'Currawong' on the first of these blocks. These blocks of land were in Stonham Parade (now Origina Ave) and the siblings donated part of their land for the extension of Oaklands Ave, which previously ended at their property, through to Birdwood Avenue.

The northern boundary of their land adjoined the reserve on which the Horseshoe Falls are located, a natural feature which remains a popular tourist attraction today. Their modest home in Hazelbrook still stands and has that name today. They did not have town water connected to it and when it was mooted to put the sewer line through their property they objected and were successful in having it diverted. The home did not have electricity except for lights but it did have one power point, which was not earthed. A humorous anecdote of Bernard's relating to the coming of electric light to Hazelbrook in 1917 ("everyone went about carrying hurricane lanterns before that") is quoted in both Ken Goodlet's book and a book titled *Hazelbrook Heritage, a social history of Hazelbrook and Woodford* published by the Hazelbrook Public School's P & C Association.

Hazelbrook poles were put up in a very slapdash manner. Some poles were upright, some leaning to the right and some to the left, which gave a most untidy, not to say intoxicated look. There was no provision on the contract for supply of current to private consumers but the company allowed private houses to be connected to the street lighting mains, for lighting only. This of course meant that current was only

available when the street lights were switched on (for four hours a day between 6pm and 10pm. Still, most people felt that half a loaf is better than no bread and were very pleased to be able to have electric light in their houses at night.

The electric wiring was gradually extended down the side streets and in 1919 reached the bottom of Oaklands Road where our property is. We had the house wired and a connection made to the mains; there was then a long wait for a meter to be installed, as there was at the time a serious shortage of meters. At last, after a wait of about two months the meter arrived and the great day came when the electric lights could at last be switched on.

We had at that time an elderly aunt staying with us, who had lived all her life in houses lit only by kerosene lamps and candles. She was much upset at first by the unwanted brilliance of the new lights. She declared she would get sunstroke and went about with a broadbrimmed hat on.

The three siblings were voracious readers and had a very large collection of books which they happily loaned to anyone interested. They held the belief that education was the most important thing in anyone's life. They adored their pets and were very generous to close friends.

They were reputed to have had very little regard for money. Bernard's teaching appointments have already been mentioned. In his book *Hazelbrook & Woodford, a story of two Blue Mountains Towns*, Ken Goodlet mentions that Bernard was employed in the 1960s at The Hall for Children, which catered for intellectually handicapped children. He was also at one time an agent for a tyre company. Dorothy and Ruth's income came from the sale of their fruit and eggs on what is described as their 'mixed farm'.

In September 1970 they sold their Hazelbrook property, including all but one of the blocks of land, giving one to Mrs E E Knilands, Dorothy's long-time friend.

In 1927 their aunts, Mary Taylor and Selma, jointly purchased land which adjoined land owned by Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth, and built a home there which they named Ferndale, on the opposite side of the road from Bernard, Dorothy and Ruth's home. In 1950 the three siblings inherited Ferndale, which had passed into the name of Mary alone in 1942 upon the death of Selma. After Bernard passed away, the property passed into the names of Dorothy and Ruth, who in 1973 gave this property to neighbours and friends, Pat & Bernie Harris.

Unsurprisingly, given their family's deep involvement in the Church of England, the siblings attended St James Anglican Church Hazelbrook, where either Dorothy or Ruth played the organ for the services and Bernard served in several capacities. In November 1970 a small fountain was constructed in the grounds of the church commemorating Bernard's 51 years of service to both the church and local community (1919 to 1970), described as follows:

- As lay preacher and lay reader at St James and other local churches;
- As churchwarden and secretary, from 1917 almost continuously;
- As parish secretary and treasurer since 1925.

Speaking at the dedication of that memorial, the local MP, Alderman H G Coates, mentioned Bernard's other services to the community which included the RSPCA, the Progress Association and the Blue Mountains Flora and Fauna Preservation Society.

As an active member of the Progress Association, Bernard wrote their monthly newsletter called 'Progress'.

In Ken Goodlet's book it mentions that in the 1920s, meetings of notable people of Hazelbrook including Colonel Charles Lester, Henry James and Bernard, took place at the home of Mr Bourne, Blue Mountains Council President, to discuss community welfare matters. It also mentions that Bernard, a capable, community-minded resident was elected Hon Secretary of the Hazelbrook Reserves Trust in 1930 and continued in that role until 1968. Bernard wrote two booklets, '*Notes on the History of the Hazelbrook Reserve Trust to 1930*' and '*Notes on the History of the Hazelbrook Reserve Trust from 1930*', in September 1968. Also in 1968 he wrote a booklet titled *Old Hazelbrook* in which he described his own experience of life in the early days of the town.

Bernard wrote many letters to the Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, one of which seems very modern in that he voiced concern over the inordinately high rainfall experienced in the Blue Mountains region during that year (1950) which had received over 30 inches in just 10 weeks, whereas in 1949, 86 inches had fallen and its annual average was 45 inches.

The role of the Hazelbrook Reserves Trust was to oversee the establishment and maintenance of the various Reserves in the area and liaise with Council in the event that any major work needed to be carried out. The Horseshoe Falls Reserve, located on the northern boundary of their land, was a source of great interest to the siblings. In 1930 the Trustees formed the Alston Park Camping Ground on the reserve and one advertisement describes it as having accommodation for cars or caravans, with fresh water, open fireplaces and earth closets. Applicants were invited to contact Bernard, on behalf of the Trustees. Two years later the Trustees were instrumental in adding an area called The Amphitheatre to the reserve and in 1941 a further 300 acres were added after the Trustees protested about timber-cutting in the area.

Bernard also wrote to the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1940 as Hon Secretary of the Trust in relation to bushfires, an ever present threat in the area. Fortunately, despite several bushfires occurring in and around Hazelbrook, Currawong was never affected.

To quote Mr John Low in his article in the Conservation Society's August 2010 issue, "In the 1930s Bernard initiated a local branch of the RSPCA and was elected its Chairman." He stated that one of its activities in the late 1930s was to erect horse troughs in Hazelbrook and Woodford to ensure adequate animal watering facilities.

In the 1920s there were a few reports in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of speeches Bernard had given to members of the Freetrade and Land Values League and the Henry George League supporting the concept of land value for rating purposes, an accepted fact today but one which probably came into being through pressure applied from groups such as these. Another of Bernard's letters to the Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in October 1938 rails against the "folly" of appeasing Hitler, forecasting that this would do nothing to stop him, whilst another, in November 1940 cynically outlines the "poor

showing of Italy's armed forces since her entry into the war", going on to list that country's military disasters over the previous century.

There are many other instances of Bernard's letters to editors, in particular to the Blue Mountains' *Echo*.

Like her brother Bernard, Ruth also was a member as well as Hon Secretary of the Blue Mountains Flora and Fauna Preservation Society and the society's meetings were held at their home. That organization morphed into the Blue Mountains Conservation Society which is still active today.

Ruth also was a prolific writer of letters to the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, championing issues such as the formation of the Blue Mountains National Park and condemning such practices as the use of live rabbits for the training of greyhound dogs and the culling of kangaroos.

Another issue Ruth wrote about 60 years ago was the felling of trees in the city of Sydney which she stated were valuable because they "take up the gases poured into the atmosphere, use the carbon and release oxygen again into the air" – an issue which is discussed today as if it is relatively new. However, of all of her letters to the Editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* that she wrote over many years, the one I particularly like was written in 1913 (when she was in her mid twenties and probably only recently had been studying geology at university) in which she ruminates on the possibility of the Museum employing a person who could explain to people visiting the Museum what the various exhibits were, and so enhance their appreciation of the objects.

After selling their home, Bernard and Ruth moved into Bodington aged care complex and Dorothy moved in with her friend Mrs Knilands. One by one the three siblings and Mrs Knilands went to live in Red Cross Bodington Hospital, located nearby at Wentworth Falls. At that time, Bodington was an aged care facility operated by the Australian Red Cross Society. The Society first obtained the hospital in 1916 as a convalescent home for soldiers. During the mid 1960s, as a member of the Red Cross Voluntary Aid Detachment, I went to Bodington as a voluntary nurse's aide on a few occasions, unaware that my distant relatives were to become residents there in the next decade. It was not until 1980 that I discovered not only the family connection between us but Dorothy's location. I wrote to her and my letter was read to her but she was unable to respond to it and died shortly afterwards.

Each of the siblings passed away while at Bodington - Bernard in 1971, Ruth in 1976, Dorothy in 1980 and Mrs E E Knilands shortly afterwards.

An interesting name appears on the Honour Roll of those Hazelbrook young men who died in World War I, and that is Richard Knilands who had been born at Berry. His occupation was Farmer and yet he lived at Hazelbrook at the time he went off to War. Whether there is any connection between this young man and Mrs E E Knilands, and the short-lived farming venture at Berry undertaken by Bernard, Dorothy & Ruth, is unknown.

8. Hulda Caroline Schleicher, (Thomas and Caroline's seventh child) born 6.9.1861, died 22.8.1925, late of Ryde Road Gladesville.

Mark Taylor's info includes that Hulda lived at MacKenzie Street Waverley in 1897. A family member ('Joan Maude') described Hulda as "real German". Unfortunately this is the only information I have regarding this member of the family.

9. Clara Theophila Schleicher, (Thomas and Caroline's eighth and last child) born 1865, died 11.8.1943, late of Ryde Road Gladesville.

The family member mentioned above ('Joan Maude') described Clara as the one who did the cooking in the family home ('Johannesburg'). In February 1927 Clara purchased property at 32 Kemp Street Tennyson (a suburb which adjoins Gladesville) and her sister Selma lived with her. Electoral roll records indicate that in 1930, 1933, 1936 & 1937 she was living at Gladesville. Probate of her Will was granted on 20.9.1943 and this record is held at the NSW State Archive. Clara bequeathed this property to the daughters of her late brother Bernhard - Ruth and Dorothy - who sold the property in 1952.

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