

PART SEVEN

Albert and Eliza Ann Baskerville had six of their children reach adulthood, all of whom married, and eventually produced nineteen grandchildren.

GEORGE JOHN BASKERVILLE was born on the 22 October 1873<sup>(1)</sup> at "Newtown", Busselton and was baptized there at the end of November that year by the Reverend Brown<sup>(2)</sup>. George attended school at Busselton, and was fifteen years old when the family moved to Karridale, and he shortly after began to work for the MC Davies Company there. In 1902<sup>(3)</sup>, he married Catherine Brown, who had arrived from Victoria to housekeep for her brother Richard, who had recently been appointed a teacher at the Karridale School. By 1904, George had been transferred from the Karridale Mill to Boranup, where he was a Benchman<sup>(4)</sup>. He remained at Boranup until he was later transferred to Canning Mills, near Karragullen in the Darling Ranges behind Perth. By the outbreak of World War One, George had left the employ of 'Millars', and was working for the opposition

taken up by new settlers being sponsored by Premier James Mitchell's ambitious 'Group Settlement Program'. The mill was situated about six and a half kilometres north of Augusta<sup>(7)</sup>, and when it was moved on to another spot in 1927 George, now aged 53 years stayed on at Augusta. He built a home there in Suburban Road named "Linton" after his wife's birthplace in Victoria, and he ran the local Post Office from here<sup>(8)</sup>, just as his great-grandfather, John Herring, had done at Augusta a century before, until after the end of World War Two. In 1941, his wife Catherine died, and was buried at the Margaret River cemetery<sup>(9)</sup>. After he retired from Augusta, George went to live with his sister Bertha in Perth<sup>(10)</sup>. Following a period of intense illness spent in Royal Perth Hospital, George John passed away on the 17 February 1951, and was interred at Karrakatta<sup>(12)</sup>. George John and Catherine Baskerville had a family of three daughters - Beryl, Vida and Linda and one son, Laurence.

BERTHA OLIVE BASKERVILLE was born on the 11 April 1880<sup>(13)</sup> at Busselton, and was approaching her ninth birthday when the family stepped onto the Hamelin jetty in 1889. Having attended school at Bunbury for the previous four years, she finished her education at the Karridale School. Bertha then seems to have stayed at home, and perhaps worked at the Karridale office, or store, gradually becoming the main help to her ageing parents, especially after they moved to Perth, when Bertha is known to have lived with them from 1919 onwards<sup>(14)</sup>. About 1930, Bertha married John McLachlan, an Attendant at the macabrely

named "Graylands Mental Hospital" (15). They made their home in Reserve Street, now named Herdsman Parade, in Wembley Park, a new sub-division on the shores of Herdsman Lake, or Ngurgenboro as it was once known; a large, swampy Wetland and major bird haven. The Public Works Department was, at this time, attempting to drain the Wetlands of Herdsman, and create a market gardening area there. John McLachlan died about 1947 (16), and Bertha remained at the Wembly Park home until her own death twenty two years later in 1969 (17). Bertha and John McLachlan had only one child, a son named Ian David.

CHARLES BASKERVILLE was a spring baby, born on the 9 October, 1881 in Busselton (18). He was baptized nine months later at St. Mary's Busselton, by the Reverend Brown (19). Charlie was only five when the family moved overland to Bunbury, where he attended school until the family moved on to Karridale where he finished his schooling in 1894, and began work for the MC Davies Company at the Karridale mill painting timber and earning 2s 6d per week. He gained experience in the mill, and then transferred to Boranup, and then to Jarrahdene. Later he went to Jarrahwood, which he reached by coach to Busselton, then WAGR train to Wonnerup, then by the "Jarrahwood Paving Company" railway to Jarrahwood. From Jarrahwood, he went to Newlands, taking part in the Donnybrook gold rush that fizzled out to nothing in the end. Prior to 1907, Charlie worked at many mills, including the 11 Mile mill of the Gill-McDowell Company at Waroona, and Hoffman's Mill, of the Yarloop group of mills, then back to Karridale, then again to Waroona,

and then to William's Mill at Cookernup; all of these (20) mills, with the exception of Karridale, being located in the Jarrah forests on the Darling Range scarp between Pinjarra and Bunbury. Charles was in Perth in July 1906 at St. Bartholemews Church of England in East Perth when he married Harriett Louisa Harman (21), daughter of Robert James and Mary Harman who had arrived from Victoria in the late 1890's to work in the timber industry (22). In 1907, Charles and Harriett went to Wellington Mills about 35 kilometres south east of Bunbury, where he was a rip-benchman. While here, Charlie lost some of his fingers to the mill's saw, and in compensation recieved a guarantee of employment for the rest of his working days. He was later appointed foreman of Wellington Mills until 1918, when he was made foreman of a new board mill at Mundijong, remaining there until the mill closed in 1929 at the onset of the Great Depression. He was then transfered to Jarrahdale as foreman of the 'No. 2 mill' both these small milling settlements being about 20 kilometres inland from Rockingham. In the December of 1930, Jarrahdale 'No. 2' was closed, and Charlie was sent to Treesville, an isolated mill about 35 kilometres north of Collie, and when this also closed in 1931, he returned to Mundijong, where he remained until returning to Treesville in 1935 as the depression was starting to lift. The following year he was back as foreman of Jarrahdale 'No. 2' and there he stayed until 1954 when, at the age of 73 years, he retired as foreman, but remained on at the mill as saw-filer until 1961, when at the age of 80 he retired from the mill (23). He stayed on at Mundijong in peaceful retirement until after his 90th birthday, when he went to

live with his only daughter, Olive and her family in Redcliffe, a suburb midway between Perth and Guildford. He passed away in July 1972<sup>(24)</sup> aged 91½ years, and was interred at Karrakatta with his wife Harriett, who had predeceased him in 1955<sup>(25)</sup>. Charles and Harriett Louisa Baskerville had three sons - Victor, Albert and Robert and one daughter, Olive.

HENRY THOMAS BASKERVILLE was born in the last winter month of August 1884<sup>(26)</sup>. He was the last child of Albert and Eliza Ann to be born in Busselton, and was only a few months old when the family made the overland journey by bullock wagon to Bunbury. Henry was known as "tiny" by his contemporaries, owing to his small stature<sup>(27)</sup>; and he arrived at Karridale just in time to begin his schooling there, growing up in Karridale and inevitably joining the workforce employed by the timber industry. By 1908, Tiny was working at the 'No. 5' mill at Yarloop, about half way between Bunbury and Pinjarra. By 1910<sup>(28)</sup> he was married and at Nanga Brook, then in 1911 he was a mill-hand at Waterous, then back to Nanga Brook, these<sup>(29)</sup> mills both being in the Jarrah forest of the Darling scarp behind Pinjarra. By the beginning of World War One, Tiny was working as a mill-hand at Jarnadup (sometimes written as Jardanup, or Jarradup, now called Jardee) just south of Manjimup, in the Karri forest, before moving on to Big Brook, or Pemberton as it is now known, and here he<sup>(30)</sup> stayed with his wife, Lucy Matilda Johnson.<sup>(31)</sup> Like his brothers, Tiny moved about from mill to mill as work was available, but the responsibilities of marriage may have been a major reason why he chose to settle permanently

at Pemberton after 1919, deep in the heart of the Karri<sup>(32)</sup> forest, where he was a Sawyer at the mill. Henry and Lucy Baskerville raised a family of three sons - Norman, Stanley and Kevin, and one daughter, Iris, at their Pemberton home.

AMY GRACE BASKERVILLE was born at Bunbury in August 1888<sup>(33)</sup>, only a few months before the family moved to Karridale, where Amy attended school and spent her childhood. Amy married about 1910 to an English labourer working at the mill, George Roberts<sup>(34)</sup>. After the Karridale mill closed in 1913, Amy and George went to Wellington Mills, where Amy's brother Charlie was the foreman. George obtained work there as an Engine Driver, which may also have been his occupation at Karridale, and the couple stayed there until sometime after 1920<sup>(35)</sup>, when George returned to his native England and taking Amy with him. George and Amy Roberts had only one child, a son named Edwin George, before Amy contracted Pneumonia and died, never returning to the land of her birth. Edwin George Roberts returned to Western Australia some years later, where he married and raised a family<sup>(36)</sup>.

ALBERT VICTOR BASKERVILLE was born during the midwinter of 1891<sup>(37)</sup> the first of Albert and Eliza Ann's children to be born at Karridale. Although Albert Victor grew up amidst the Karri forest, unlike his brothers he did not enter the timber industry via the felling of trees, but instead upon leaving school in about 1905, he immediately began work in the Karridale office of "Millar's"<sup>(38)</sup> where he stayed until 1913 when the mill closed, and he

transferred to the Jarrahwood office, about 40 kilometres south east of Busselton with his parents<sup>(39)</sup>. From there, he left home and went to the Mundijong office, and then the Jarrahdale office for sometime. He married a young French(?) woman, Isla Franz while there, and they had a family of two sons - Lloyd and Murray Albert, and two daughters - Elizabeth and Isabel Jean. The marriage of Albert Victor and Isla Baskerville was not fated to last, however, and they were divorced sometime after 1925. In 1939, Albert Victor married again, at Mundijong to a widow, Grace Caporn, formerly Ward. In 1942, Albert Victor and Grace Baskerville moved to Bunbury, where he began working for the 'Bunnings' Company in their Bunbury Office. After a few years, however, Albert Victor's health began to deteriorate, and he passed away in Bunbury in 1962 after suffering a number of strokes. Albert Victor and Grace Baskerville had only one child - a daughter, Janice Amy in 1941<sup>(40)</sup>.

Seven of the children of Albert and Eliza Ann died in infancy. They were:

Harriett E., born and died at Bunbury 1872<sup>(41)</sup>, Albert Edward, born and died at Busselton 1875<sup>(42)</sup>, Alethea Eloise born at "Cattle Chosen", the Vasse 1876 and died at "Newtown" the Vasse 1878<sup>(43)</sup>, Louisa born and died at "Newtown", the Vasse 1878<sup>(44)</sup>, Harriett A., born at the Vasse 1886 and died at Bunbury 1886<sup>(45)</sup>, Ethel C., born at the Vasse 1887<sup>(46)</sup> and died at Bunbury 1888, and Clarice Augusta born 1894 at Karridale and died 1895 at Karridale<sup>(47)</sup>.

There are in 1984 about 150 living descendants of John and Harriett Baskerville throughout Western Australia, in all walks of life from a retired State Parliamentarian to the Unemployed, and this has been the story of some of their ancestors.

None of them left any diaries or journals, or letters tucked away in a draw somewhere. John and Harriett could neither read nor write; and if Albert and Eliza Ann ever thought to write down their feelings about the often emotive events of their lifetimes, then such writings had yet to surface.

Their stories, consequently, have been told from brief mentions of them in mainly Government records - the registration of a birth here, an application for land there - brief moments in history when their names were brought to the attention of a Clerk, before another line in his ledger and another name to write caused his mind to move on. While we can read in contemporary documents of the events and people in power who shaped the circumstances of their lives, the Baskerville family has remained largely a part of "The Masses", "The Proletariat", "The Common People", or whatever term you choose for the great majority of people who where, until this century, largely faceless and unrecorded, mentioned only when Armies and Taxes needed to be raised, and not always then by name.

Of their time, we know a lot; Of their lives we know a little; Of their thoughts we know nothing. Inferring possible thoughts from recorded actions is more a case of believing a good possibility than of trusting one scanty statistic that raises as many questions as it answers.

## SCOURCES

- 1 RGO Index Birth reg. 15157/1873 Vasse
- 2 Baptism Register, St. Mary's Busselton, extracts in a  
letter from Busselton Historical Society 16.2.1975
- 3 Beryl Morris (nee Baskerville), 55 Hayes St., Bunbury, 6230
- 4 Electoral Roll - Sussex ED 1904
- 5 Electoral Roll - Sussex ED 3.8.1917, 30.6.1920, and  
Post Office Directories 1914 and 1918 on microfilm  
at Battye Library 1893 - 1949
- 6 as for 3
- 7 Electoral Roll - Collie ED 21.2.1927
- 8 as for 3
- 9 WAGS - Card Index of headstones in WA cemeteries
- 10 Electoral Roll - Wembley Beaches ED 14.5.1949
- 11 as for 3
- 12 WAGS - microfische of Karrakatta Burials, Card U006
- 13 RGO Index Birth reg. 20315/1879 Vasse
- 14 Electoral Roll - Claremont ED 19.2.1921, 12.6.1923,  
17.3.1925, 21.12.1927, RR 1929
- 15 Electoral Roll - Mt Hawthorn ED 7.1.1930
- 16 not on Electoral Rolls by issue of 3.2.1947
- 17 last entry in Electoral Rolls 21.2.1968, gone by  
next issue dated 25.5.1970
- 18 RGO Index Birth reg. 22415/1881 Vasse
- 19 as for 2
- 20 "Mills of Jarrahdale" V.G. Fall, Perth 1972, p53
- 21 Family Bible in possession of Mrs Olive Byrne (nee  
Baskerville) 5 Miller Ave., Redcliffe 6104
- 22 Jean Harman, 49 Queens Ave., St Arnaud, 3478
- 23 as for 20
- 24 as for 12
- 25 ibid
- 26 RGO Index Birth reg. 25399/1884 Vasse
- 27 Victor Baskerville, 8 Abrolhos St., Geraldton 6530
- 28 as for 12, grave for Dorothy Grace Baskerville
- 29 Electoral Roll - Forrest ED 31.3.1911, 1.9.1911
- 30 Electoral Roll - Nelson ED 8.9.1914
- 31 Iris Morris (nee Baskerville) 24 Athel Rd., Woodlands 6018
- 32 Electoral Roll - Nelson ED 30.6.1920, RR 1929,  
7.1.1930, 2.8.1943, 3.2.1947 not on Rolls by next  
issue dated 21.12.1948

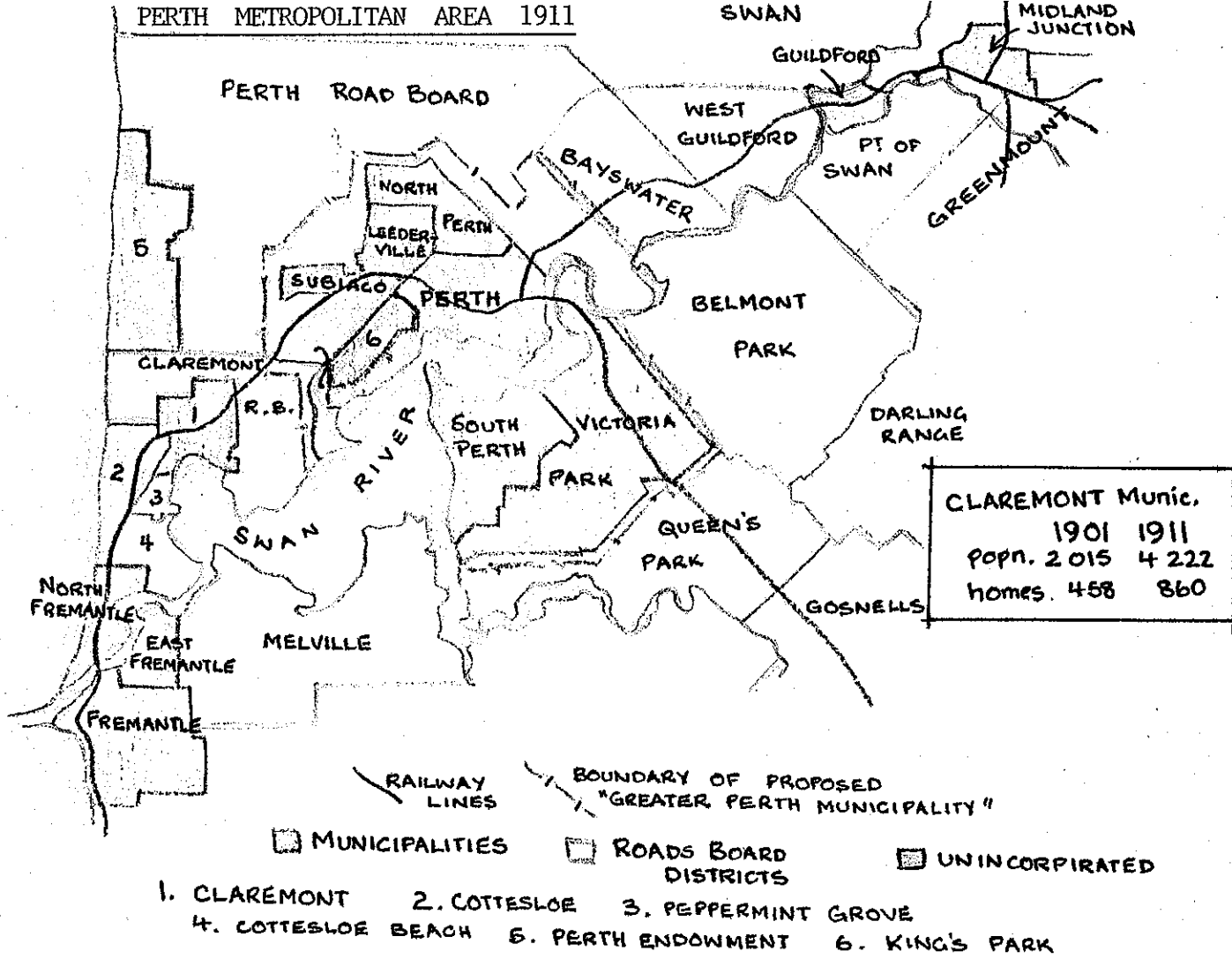
- 33 RGO Index Birth reg. 822/1888 Bunbury  
 34 as for 27  
 35 Electoral Roll - Forrest ED 8.9.1914, 31.3.1916,  
 30.6.1920, 12.12.1923, not on next issue of 1926.  
 36 as for 27  
 37 RGO Index Birth reg. 1262/91 Sussex  
 38 E. Grace Baskerville, 1/37 Hastie St., Bunbury 6230  
 39 Electoral Roll - Collie ED 8.9.1914, 31.3.1916  
 40 as for 38  
 41 RGO Index Birth reg. 13834/1872 and Death reg. 6276/1872  
 both at Bunbury  
 42 RGO Index Birth reg. 20315/1875 and Death Reg. 8616/1875  
 both at Vasse  
 43 as for 2  
 44 RGO Index Birth reg. 18893/1878 and Death reg. 10124/1879  
 both at Vasse  
 45 RGO Index Birth reg. 28396/1886 Vasse and Death  
 reg. 13477/1886 at Bunbury  
 46 RGO Index Birth reg/ 673/1887 Vasse and Death reg.  
 142/1888 Bunbury  
 47 RGO Index Birth reg. 2107/1894 and Death reg. 39/1895  
 both at Karridale

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#### ABBREVIATIONS

- RGO - Registrar-General's Office (see note under abbrevi-  
 ations for section four)  
 ED - Electoral District  
 WAGS - Western Australian Genealogical Society  
 RR 1929 - an Electoral Roll entitled the 'Redistribution  
 Roll, 1929', no exact date  
 RWAHS - Royal Western Australian Historical Society



The suburbs of Perth grew rapidly during the period 1895 to 1910 as a result of the gold rushes of the time. An idea of the new life Albert and Eliza Ann Baskerville found in Claremont can be gained from the following. Claremont was described as a 'sort of middle class-upper class' area, a 'pleasantly situated suburb... a prosperous municipality, containing a number of handsome villas and residences erected by professional and business men, whose means enable them to live in comfort in a locality possessing the charms of a rural district, which is yet within easy reach of town' was how a contemporary write described Claremont. Statistics from the Census of 1901 and 1911 illustrate the growth of the western suburbs.

Vacant land within the Claremont Municipality decreased from two-thirds to two-fifths of the land area, and housing rose from 32% to 52% of land use. Houses in claremont tended to be larger than in some neighbouring suburbs - 33% were of 3 - 4 rooms, 33% of 5 - 6 rooms and 17% of 7 - 10 rooms, while in neighbouring Subiaco 12% - 16% of homes were of only 2 rooms, and 50% - 60% were of 3 - 4 rooms. Of the 22 000 homes in the Perth Metropolitan Area in 1911, 7 500 were owner occupied. Allowing for a fifth of the population to be living in boarding houses and hotels, the rate of home ownership by occupiers would not have exceeded 45% - larger than vitually any other city in the Empire, but far less than many contemporary and later writers have imagined. For both the Claremont and Subiaco Municipalities, the rate stood at between 50% and 60%, although the differences between house sizes in these area's is further pronounced by the fact than in Claremont 80% of homes were rated above £200, while in North Perth 85% of homes were rated below £200. Subiaco and North Perth were working class suburbs, while Claremont was the home of a financially better-off group. As the suburb grew, so did the number of people needed to service it - Storekeepers, for example, rose from 1% of the Municipalities population in 1901 to 6% in 1911.