

RESEARCH INTO "CARMYLE", 7 CARMYLE AVENUE, TOORAK.

REF/NO. 909

Archibald Fiskien, pastoralist and stock agent, known as "a fearless whip and daring horseman"(1) is shown as first owner in 1879 of house and land, later described as mansion, on the present site of "Carmyle" at 7 Carmyle Avenue, Toorak.(2) During the 1870s Fiskien, formerly of Lal Lal, took up residence in Melbourne and in 1877 was appointed by the Berry Government as one of the Commissioners of the Land Tax.(3) Fiskien was managing director of the Australasian Mortgage and Agency Co., wool brokers, whose head office was in Edinburgh and its Melbourne offices at Australasian Wool Stores in Collins Street. (4)

By 1886, when "Carmyle's" address is given in Kooyong Road,(5) a new owner, Colin Simson, squatter, is recorded as owner/occupier. (6) By 1896 the property is described as a brick house of 20 rooms on 6½ acres of land in Kooyong Road, valuation £600.(7)

Ernest Poolman, manufacturer, and then Mrs. Belinda Poolman, are listed as owners of "Carmyle" between 1907 and 1917. During Poolman ownership the old mansion is given the name "Carmyle".(8)

(1) ADB, vol.4, p.174

(2) Shire of Malvern RB 1879, Western Riding, RB 288

(3) Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and the Riverina, p.130.

(4) Vic. and its Metropolis, vol.2, p.542

(5) MMBW plans of the 1890s show the old mansion with an entrance on the corner of Kooyong/Malvern Roads.

(6) Shire of Malvern RB 1886, W. Riding, RB 71.

(7) Ibid 1896/97, RB 10

(8) See below.

"Carmyle"

Mrs. Mary Williams becomes owner in 1918, following a subdivision, of the brick house of 20 rooms on 6 acres in lot 9 in Carmyle Street.⁽⁹⁾ Mrs. Williams also owns a ten-roomed brick house in Malvern Road, six acres of land in lot 8, Carmyle Street, and a brick house of 20 rooms in lot 10 and a brick house of 20 rooms in lot 11.⁽¹⁰⁾

Current owner/occupier of "Carmyle" is John D. Gunter.

LIST OF OWNERS OF "CARMYLE" 1879-1977. (11)

1879 Archibald Fiskien, pastoralist and stock agent.

1886 Colin Simson, squatter

1907 Ernest Poolman, manufacturer

1918 Mrs. M. Williams

Current owner (1977) John D. Gunter. (12)

FISKIEN OWNERSHIP 1879-1885.

As we have seen Fiskien is first owner of "Carmyle" in 1879.⁽¹³⁾ Fiskien (1829-1907) was born in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and arrived in Port Phillip in 1840. At 17 he was given charge of his uncle's cattle stations Lal Lal and Warranheip. During the gold rush Fiskien made a fortune by slaughtering meat for the diggings and out of the profit bought the two stations from his uncle. On Lal Lal he built a homestead and became recognized as one of Victoria's best judges of cattle.

(9) City of Malvern RB 1918/19, N. Ward, RB 471

(10) Ibid, RB 469, 471, 472, 473

(11) Malvern RB records

(12) Malvern rate books

(13) See above

"Carmyle"

In 1871 Fisken joined C.W.Gibson's stock and station agency at Ballarat, later named Fisken, Valentine & Co., In 1873 he left his son Archibald to manage Lal Lal and bought "Corrabert" in Toorak. In Melbourne he supported the Pastoralists Association and became prominent in the wool trade. He was a director of the Australasian Mortgage and Agency Co. In 1877 the Berry Government appointed him as one of the Commissioners of the Land Tax.

Fisken was a member of The Melbourne Club and a staunch Presbyterian. He died at East Melbourne leaving an estate valued at £53,000. (14)

Valuation of Fisken's mansion on part. Sec.26 in Western Riding increases in value from £140 to £500 between 1879 and 1880. (15) By 1882 Margaret Douglas is listed as occupier. (16)

SIMSON OWNERSHIP 1886-1906.

Colin Simson, squatter, becomes owner/occupier in 1886 of house and land on part Sec.26 in Kooyong Road valued at £750. (17) By 1890, when Simson is still owner/occupier and the property is valued at £800, (18) it stands between a brick house owned/occupied by Robert Sutherland, banker, (19) and a brick house owned by Henry Everist, builder. (20)

(14) ADB, vol 4, p.174; The Cyclopedia of Victoria, vol.1 pp, 473 474, Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and the Riverina, pp.129-131. Listed as The Fisken Family of Lal Lal.

(15) Shire of Malvern RB 1880, W. Riding, RB 301

(16) Ibid 1882, RB 64

(17) Ibid 1886, RB 71.

(18) Ibid 1890, RB 11

(19) Ibid, RB 10

(20) Ibid, RB 12

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING 1907-1977

"Carmyle" becomes the property between 1907⁽²¹⁾ and 1917 of the Poolman family. During Mrs. Belinda Poolman's ownership it is listed as "Carmyle", a brick house of 20 rooms on 6 acres valued at £500 on Kooyong Road, E-side.⁽²²⁾

As we have seen, following a subdivision, Mrs. Mary Williams becomes owner in 1918 of brick house of 20 rooms on lot 9 in Carmyle Street. Current owner/occupier is John D. Gunter.⁽²³⁾

(21) Town of Malvern RB 1907/8, N.Ward, RB 10.

(22) Ibid 1917/18, RB 11.

(23) See above

LIST OF SOURCES

ADB, vol. 4.

Early Pioneer Families of Victoria and the Riverina (1936)

Malvern rate books, W. Riding, N. Ward.

Melb/Vic. directories

MMBW maps

The Cyclopedia of Victoria, vol.1

Victoria and its Metropolis, vol.2. (1888)

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