

NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)

RESEARCH INTO 30 DARLING STREET, SOUTH YARRA.

REF. NO. 1263

John Smith, seven times Mayor of Melbourne, and Rev. Henry Plow Kane, clergyman-schoolteacher, are associated with the early history in the 1850s and 1870s of 30 Darling Street, South Yarra. During the 1860s and 1870s the building was owned/occupied by schoolteacher John Stevens Miller and clergymen-schoolteachers Richard Ewing and H. P. Kane. Current owners from the 1960s are Lilian G. Rae, nurse, and Lois Winifred Westbrook, civil servant. (1)

LIST OF OWNERS OF 30 DARLING STREET, 1857-1977.

1857 John Smith  
1860 Mrs. Tripp  
1862 John Stevens Miller, schoolteacher.  
1869 Richard Ewing, clergyman, schoolteacher  
1874 Rev. H. P. Kane, schoolteacher  
1878 Margaret Brown  
1880 Hodgson, St. Kilda  
1881 Lyell Christie, gentleman  
1960s L. G. Rae, nurse ) (2)  
L. W. Westbrook, C. S)

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING 1857-1861

John Smith is shown as owner/occupier in 1857 of an 8-roomed "house in progress" valued at £30 in Prahran Street, the former name for Darling Street.<sup>(3)</sup> By 1859 it is described as a brick and slate house still owned by J. Smith and valued at £150.<sup>(4)</sup>

---

(1) See below

(2) Prahran rate books

(3) Prahran Municipality RB 1857, RB 158

(4) Ibid 1859, RB 191

30 Darling Street

ADB vol.6 describes John Thomas Smith (1816-1879) as a publican and landowner born in Sydney and arriving in Melbourne 1837. Smith became a storekeeper for J. Hodgson and Son, his father-in-law's firm, and later a publican. In 1841 Smith took over the Adelphi Hotel in Flinders Lane and in 1844 was licensee of St. John's Tavern in Queen Street. He won the Bourke Ward in the first Melbourne Town Council in December 1842 and was a Councillor for the rest of his life and seven times Mayor between 1851 and 1864. In 1854 he built Queen's Theatre Royal, Melbourne's first theatre.

Smith was MLA for Melbourne 1856-1859, Creswick 1859-1861 and W. Bourke 1861-1879. He was Minister for Mines September 1869-Apr.1870. He owned town property and stations on Darling River, N.S.W. and in Warrego District, Queensland. He died 1879 at Flemington.

Mrs. Tripp is shown as owner in 1860 of an 11-roomed brick and slate house with stone coachhouse and stables in Prahran Street valued at £100 (6) and of a 10-roomed brick and slate house with stone coachhouse and stables in Prahran Street valued at £100 in 1861. (7)

---

(6) Prahran Municipality RB 1860, RB 192

(7) Ibid 1861, RB 194

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING DURING 1860s/1870s.

In 1862 John Stevens Miller, schoolteacher, is owner/occupier of a 10-roomed brick and slate house, coach house and stable in Prahran Street valued at £95.<sup>(8)</sup> He is still there in 1866 when the street is re-named Darling Street.<sup>(9)</sup>

Another schoolteacher, Richard K. Ewing, clergyman, is owner/occupier in 1869.<sup>(10)</sup> The building is described as a 13-roomed brick house in 1870,<sup>(11)</sup> and a 12-roomed brick house in 1873.<sup>(12)</sup>

Rev. Henry Plow Kane, schoolteacher, becomes owner/occupier in 1874 of 10-roomed brick house at 28 Darling Street.<sup>(13)</sup>

Kane (1825?-1893) emigrated to Van Diemen's Land in his early twenties and become tutor to the sons of William Barnes, a Launceston merchant and later, headmaster of Launceston Grammar School. Kane was ordained a deacon and licensed as a minister and chaplain and in May 1857 ordained priest at Holy Trinity, Launceston. He resigned as headmaster Jan 1860. In the 1870s Kane accepted the invitation of the Bishop of Melbourne and took charge of several small parishes at Cheltenham, Dingley East, S. Brighton and Gipsy Village (Sandringham). In 1874 Kane retired from the Church and in 1880s married Lily Bradish of Dingley and entered on a business career "for which he was unfitted", according to ADB article. His company went bankrupt. He died at "Rhyll" Brighton.<sup>(14)</sup>

---

(8) Ibid 1862, RB 194

(9) Borough of Prahran RB 1866 vol.1, RB 199

(10) Ibid 1869, vol.1, RB 195

(11) Ibid 1870, vol.1, RB 197,

(12) Town of Prahran RB 1873, vol.1, RB 225

(13) Ibid 1874, vol.1, RB 214

(14) ADB vol.2, p.32

30 Darling Street

A new owner/occupier of 28 Darling Street, Margaret Brown, is recorded in 1878. (15)

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING 1880s-1977

Hodgson, St. Kilda is listed as owner in 1880 of 28 Darling Street, a brick house of ten rooms valued at £90. (16) The following year it becomes the property of Lyell S. Christie, gentleman. (17) Numbering changes to 30 Darling Street in 1888/89 when Christie is still owner/occupier. (18) By the turn of the century Christie is shown as owner and John Rae, draper, is occupier. (19)

By the 1960s current owners/occupiers Lois Winifred Westbrook, civil servant, and Lilian G.-Rae, nurse, are owners/occupiers of 11-roomed brick house at 30 Darling Street. (20)

---

(15) Town of Prahran RB 1878, vol.1, RB 214

(16) City of Prahran RB 1880 vol.1, RB 215, Was it still the property of Smith's father-in-law's firm at this time? A title search would show if the property was mortgaged during the 1860s/1870s

(19) Ibid 1906/1907, Toorak Ward, RB 264.

(17) Ibid 1881, vol.1, RB 215

(18) Ibid 1888/89 Toorak Ward, RB 264

(20) Ibid 1961-1965, Toorak Ward, Book 3.

---

LIST OF SOURCES

ADB vols.2, 6.

Melbourne/Vic. directories

Prahran Rate Books, Toorak Ward.

---

C. KELLAWAY.

17/3/1977