

In the first weeks of January 2010 I started to scan the photos in an album of photos taken by my maternal Grandmother Elsie Hardie nee Keiller. The photos are dated from 1905 to 1914.

At first the job seemed huge and I thought to only scan a small number of the photographs. After a couple of days of overcoming the frustrations of the photos being securely glued and masked I developed the awareness that what the album comprised was socially significant.

In a period when snapshots were rare my Grandmother had recorded her son's birthday party (Harold born August 23, 1907- his twin brother Kenneth died at 3 days old) at least from 1910 to 1912, Christmas gatherings from 1910 to 1913. Holiday excursions to the newly built Mundaring Weir, Pinjarra, Mandurah, Katanning and Busselton.

Nana recorded photos of the houses of brothers-in-law being built in the country "Wallinar" and "Rosedale" and her own home "Coorinya", Servetus Street, Swanbourne

There are photos of swimming, fishing, playing tennis and croquet. I always knew that tennis at "Coorinya" was a significant social event but from the photos croquet looks as though it was equally pursued. I can remember my Mother sort of knowing about croquet and we had some old hoops and mallets but she never showed us the rules of the game.

There are gatherings of friends and the celebratory photos of new born babies. I imagine her photography skills were in demand by others.

There is a photo of an Aboriginal couple and one has to wonder how much they were co-opted to travel from the North-West. When I was a child there were woomeras, spears and coolamans under the house at Servetus Street. We used to play with the cowrie shells in the woven grass basket which I think was only thrown out recently. It was in the lounge room by the fireplace and it was a treat to listen to the sea inside these shells. In the photos the lounge room was the dining room.

I can remember the gas hot water system in the bathroom and the gas stove in the kitchen. The gas came from The Fremantle Gas and Coke Co where they made the gas from coal. I am sure they were later additions. There was the hugest mulberry tree down by the back fence. What a treat. The outside toilet had cans which were removed by the nightcart man. I understand this would happen twice a week. By the time of the Second World War there was a septic tank system. The kitchen door was at the side of the house and one walked down two steps and there was a pergola of grape vines. Well maybe, that is a vague memory. Creeper of some sort. We sometimes slept on a wooden day

bed which had dowling rods on three sides and one end dropped down. This was in Pop's Office and is now on the verandah at Cottesloe. In the photos the newly built house sits with some flower beds but the ground around looks pretty unkempt. I remember rolling lawns with Pop moving sprinklers and we weren't allow to run around on the rolling banks of lawn going down to the driveway.

I also remember Pop rolling the tennis court and cleaning the car but the only person who drove the car was Nana.

I scanned all the photos in black and white although most were sepia toned. The sepia toning has probably given them their longevity. Some photos particularly two small round photos were virtually blank but when I worked them up in Photoshop out of the blur came lovely photos of a baby. Quite amazing that the technology can do this. I worked some of the photos up usually doing a copy so the original scan is preserved. They are only scanned at 400 dpi so large images can't be shown. This would be difficult in any case because the originals are not sharp. I will do CD Roms for the Sharps, Hearmans, Mary Nicholls and Jim Hardie and Carol Hardie of Wallinar. I think Sue Field may want one as I think there are photos of her Father at Wallinar. Sue's Father died during World War II. I have not printed any of them so it maybe I have not worked them up for printing but for viewing on a screen.

I may also forward a CD ROM to the Battye Library as I feel they are significant records of a family.

My Father said when travelling to Busselton the train was taken to Picton and sometimes one had to change trains but sometimes the train would go straight through to Busselton which was the end of the line. The railway line also ran from the railway station to the end of the 1 ¼ mile long Busselton Jetty. My Father said when he was down there on holidays he was the only one who used to walk to the end of the jetty and fish. There were only two boats which called regularly. One was the "Woolgar" and the other was the tender which serviced the lighthouses. The jetty is unusual in that it runs north because Busselton is situated in Geographe Bay. The Esplanade Hotel had the cemetery to one side and bush on the other and faced the beach and was about ¼ mile from the Station.

There was a small shop on the road leading to the jetty which sold sweets and soft drinks. It was run by a Mr. and Mrs. Cross. Mrs Cross was a Wheatley (maybe a Forrest) and was related to Mrs Midge Solomon.

When you faced the Esplande Hotel the bar was on the left and the dining room was on the right with the reception area in between. The residential accommodation was on the first floor. The men went to the outside pan toilets

down the stairs on the bar side of the hotel. The ladies toilets were on the right side of the hotel behind the kitchen. Ladies and children had chambers (pots) but had to go to the toilet in the night if the matter was more substantial.

The photo of a chara banc was probably one used to visit Yallingup where Caves House was and The Grotto Cave.

There are two folders in the Hardie folder. One is of photos of a Mrs Ostlund taken in South Africa showing the graves of soldiers who died in the Boer War and the others are of Auntie Jessie, a sister of WHJ Hardie, who married a Mr Jackson and lived in Ireland. They were well off but didn't have children. The photos are of poor children who Auntie Jessie supported at a school in Dublin. This was told to me by my Father Jim MacKenzie who was married to the youngest child of Elsie Hardie nee Keiller. She was Nancy Keiller Hardie.  
I am Janice Keiller Mackenzie  
January 19, 2010

In Hardie 2 folder there are other Hardie photos I have scanned over the years.