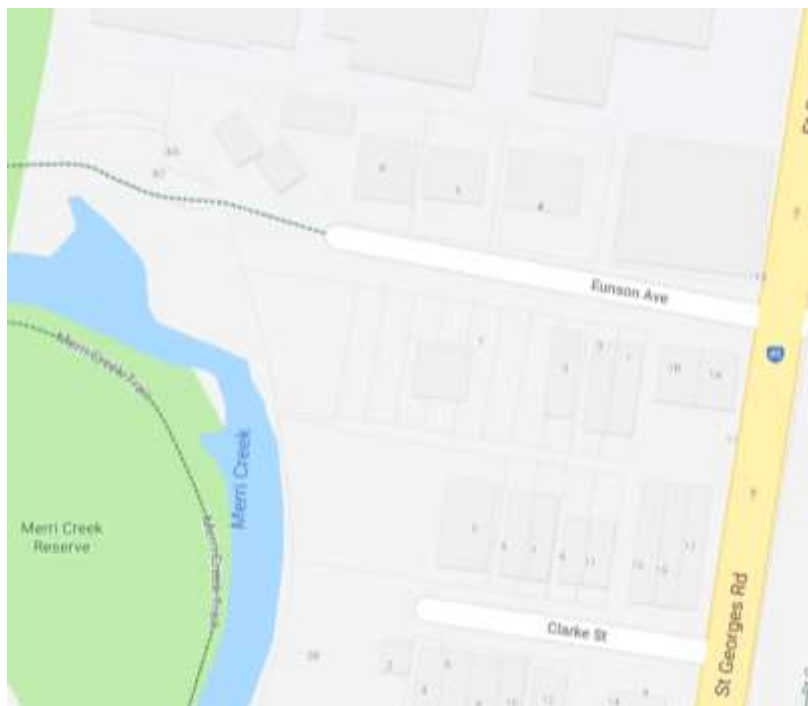


Northcote Snippets – a series of historical glimpses into Northcote's past

James Eunson (c1833 – 1914) Eureka Casualty, Glass Merchant & Child Rescue

Eunson Avenue is a small non-descript street leading from St Georges Rd to the Merri Creek, near Northcote High School. It was named after James Eunson in 1889, as he was the owner of the land when the area west of St. Georges Road, north of Clarke St and south of Eunson Ave was surveyed and subdivided by William Bage into twenty-six allotments (Northcote underwent a housing boom in the 1880s).



In 1880 James Eunson, glass merchant & manufacturer, had acquired the land west of St Georges Rd, from Clarke St to the border of the 'Northcote Inebriates Retreat' (sited where Northcote High School and Merri Park are today).

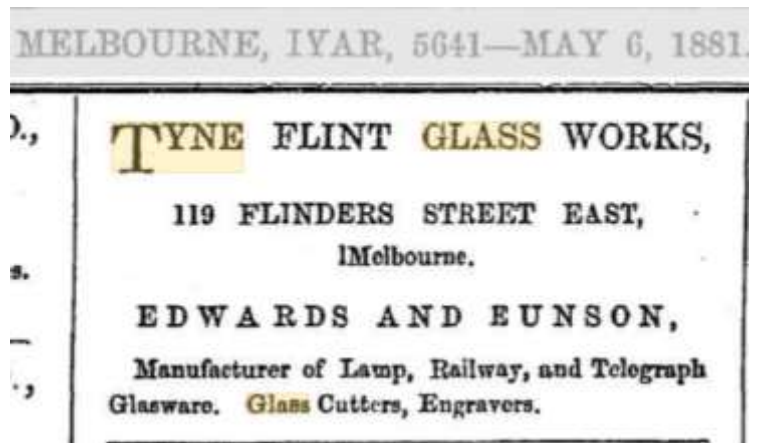
The land was originally part of Captain Andrew Clarke's very large land holding which stretched eastwards all the way to Rathmines St in Fairfield! Clarke (1824-1902) was the Surveyor General for Victoria from 1853-8, replacing Robert Hoddle, and expedited land sales in our fledgling colony. Clarke St and Clarke Quay are named after him.

Map of the sub-division today

Janes Eunson possibly lived in Sir Andrew Clarke's former residence, as the two storey stone building on Clarke Street was still standing in 1928.

In his younger days, James Eunson was mentioned as wounded during the Eureka uprising. By 1874 he had become established as an importer of glass and earthenware; later establishing the Tyne Flint Glass Works in Flinders St, Melbourne. The company was mentioned in connection with the Melbourne Exhibition of the 1880s - supplying drinking glasses for wine tastings.

Advertisement from 1881 Jewish News



In 1886 the Eunson family rescued a young boy, William Normoyle, from drowning in the Merri Creek. Two sons – John and James Junior were awarded Bronze medals of bravery from the Royal Humane Society. Honourable mentions went to their father and mother, as well as Dr Charles McCarthy - who ran the nearby Inebriates Retreat. (Normoyle would be leading a life of crime by the 1930s.)

James Eunson sold up and moved back to Brunswick in 1890, passing away in 1914. His funeral showed his many connections. Those attending included: A G Healing, the founder of Healing bicycles (later the electrical appliance company); F H Williams with connection to William Williams a Eureka veteran; and representatives from Levy Brothers and Clarke & Co (both were large mercantile stores in the late 1800s).

His son, James Jnr had a longer connection with Northcote. Building a house in Clarke Street, the second James Eunson was in business as a real estate agent for some time and lived at 3 Clarke St until 1935. A Mrs Emily E Eunson occupied the house until 1960 – an 80 year connection of the family with the area.

During his life, James Euston had fathered 20 children! Apart from James Jnr, other siblings of note were:

Rev T A Eunson, a Baptist Minister, who whilst ministering at Melbourne General Hospital in 1924, assisted a dangerous and wounded escaped prisoner to peacefully surrender. The Reverend also served at the Collingwood Baptists Tabernacle from 1908 to 1950.

J W Eunson, an Engineer, who served seven years as assistant engineer of rolling stock in the Tramway & Transport depot of Plymouth City Council in England. In Melbourne, he was chief engineer of Woods Gilbert Rail Remodelling.

James Jnr also had sons, including: **Donald (?) Wallace Eunson**, who went to South Africa in 1901 during the Boer War, and later enlisted in World War One as a Corporal. Three other sons also enlisted in that Great War - **Ernes Ellis, Elliott Maurice** and **Charles Campbell**.

Trivia: In 1882 Charles Showers, son of Cr Robert Showers of Fitzroy, purchased the Tyne glassworks. He later became a councillor (and President) of Preston.

P. Michell, 2018



Further information about Northcote History at:
northcotehistory.weebly.com

Residence of Captain James Clarke, St Georges Road near Clarke Street.