

Geelong & District Insolvency Competition

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Insolvent: Ward NICHOLSON

Submitted by

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LIFE OF WARD NICHOLSON

Robert NICHOLSON and Margery WARD were married on the 17 June 1821 in Saint Nicholas, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland England.

On the 1841 census recorded were 5 children at that time. Robert 13, Jane 11, Mary 9, Esther 6 and Ward 4.

Ward's father Robert's occupation was listed as oil maker. They were residing in Longbenton.

Ward was born to Robert & Mary Ann (also known as Margery) in 1837 Longbenton Northumberland .

From his death and other records Ward is supposed to have arrived in the colony around 1857 although no shipping records have been found.

William Humble, John Simmons & Ward Nicholson in 1861 bought the Western Foundry. Simmons died in 1863 & Humble & Nicholson decided to control the business themselves. They were partners until Nicholson retired in 1900.

In 1866 they bought the Vulcan factory in Geelong. They had great success with many Government contracts. They built the bridge at Cressy, hydraulic crane at Echuca, boilers, tanks & pumps for several public authorities.

Insolvency Records 17 Nov. 1862

Having financial problems Ward Nicholson sold all his premises & stock to James Tannock on condition that James accepted to pay all that Ward owed. He didn't honour this & as all were in Ward's name he was declared insolvent. No debt was proven.

Tuesday 4 Nov. 1879 William Humble & Ward Nicholson both of the Vulcan foundry applied in writing their application for letters patent for an invention for an improved contrivance to be used in washing clothes. This was granted.

Ward's brother Robert Nicholson died 7.1.1881 age 54. He was still living Jarrow-on-Tyne England.

Ward's cottage in Yarra St. was named after his village in England "Tyne Cottage" He was living there in 1883.

With his son Robert he left for a holiday in England on the "Shannon" 23. April 1883.

In 1885 he was elected Vice President of Temperance CC.

On 11 Mar. 1885 Ward Nicholson forwarded to the Mayor of South Shields a draft for sixty two pounds being balance of one hundred & twenty eight pounds collected at Geelong, Port Melbourne & Williamstown for the Tyneside Relief fund.

He erected a double story brick residence at corner of Victoria Pde. & Swanston St. in 1896.

In 1893 Tyne Cottage corner Yarra & Little Myers St. was for auction. He may not have sold it as it was mentioned in his will as still being part of his estate.

In 1895 his home at the corner Victoria & Swanston St nearly destroyed by fire. This was suspected to have been started by his Everett grandchildren.

Ward retired from Vulcan factory at the end of 1900.

He died 11 March 1908 & is buried in the Meth. Section of Geelong's Eastern Cemetery.

Probate of Ward Nicholson

His wife Jane 50 pounds & sole right & use of house Yarra St. "Hexham" & furniture & an annuity of 150 pounds per annum. After her death, Cath Ann

Everett (daughter) annuity 78 pounds per annum & 80 feet of land in Yarra St. & cottage on it "Tyne". After Jane's death Robert (son) "Bella Vista" also "Jesmond" & "Benton" & farm at WAurn Ponds.

Ice making factory & cool stores at Richmond to sons Robert Ward & William Alfred. Shares to Cath & nephew Robert Foster.

"ARISTON" & "JESMOND" House. Formerly "BENTON"

32 & 34 Eastern Beach Geelong two 2 storey houses were erected in 1880 for Ward Nicholson part proprietor of the Vulcan factory. Finely detailed cast iron balcony were a feature.

Each contained 8 rooms plus kitchen & bathroom. Nicholson lived in number 32 until c1900 leasing out number 34. He then moved to Yarra St. and leased the pair to James Ferrier & James Gardiner.

VULCAN FACTORY

In its peak times more than 400 men were employed. It manufactured ice, horse works, boilers, wool presses, winnowers, refrigerators, butter making, pumps, & general agricultural machinery.

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