

CARGO

This story has been written by Amy Harrison, (nee Gersbach), for the event of the CABONNE SHIRE, ARTS AND TOURISM COUNCIL, CARGO ARTS FAIR and 120 YEARS OF EDUCATION CELEBRATIONS.

Sat. September 14, 1991

Though I grew up only five or six miles from Cargo, I did not attend school there. Except for short periods of time at the Convent, for preparation for Holy Communion and Confirmation, by Bishop Norton.

My younger sister, two older brothers and I, had Correspondence schooling.

As the second youngest child, in a family of nine children, of Charles and Mary Josephine, (Polly), Gersbach, I have many happy memories indeed.

My father farmed wheat, sheep and cattle and we grew just about everything. Wonderful neighbours we had and the doors of our house were always open, to the many many friends, my parents seemed to have.

I remember Cargo, mostly for sport, tennis cricket and mostly football.

Cargo was a small Town, with a very fine district.

I remember there, heaps of Fishers, tons of Middletons. The Middletons all the same clan, but the Fishers were different. There was Joe Fisher, (shop Joe), Joe Fisher, Cargo Joe. There was Cargo Mick Fisher and Warrie Creek Mick Fisher. Shop Joe Fisher and his wife Nell, (who was a very distant relation of ours, I think on my mother's side), well they ran the shop, sold petrol and just about everything else in the World, in that little shop, if you could find it.

Nell was quite a character, sporting a double barrel shot gun, and was known to come out, with them both blazing, if she thought there was something shifty going on. The young gossoons of that time, would cook up something to annoy her, at night. Like perhaps throwing stones on the roof, then duck behind the outhouse,

(which to my memory, was made of thick slab), and sit in wait, for the show to begin.

To the best of my knowledge, my father Charles Gersbach, bought the property 'Bowan View', from Bodens, in 1923. And my memories stem from about 1926, when we got our first car, a dodge.

Football was very important in Cargo, more like a religion. The meetings were held on 'shop Joe's verandah, on Sunday morning, that was where the teams were picked, and the post mortems were held. Everyone sat around there, on stools, or on their haunches or on the floor. And chewed the football fat.

Cargo had a Police Station in those days and the first Policeman I remember, was Mr Dowd, next Vince Hardy, then Mr Williams.

My Grandparents, James and Ellen Gough, moved from 'Bowan Downs' to Cave Creek. A property left to my grandmother, Ellen Gough, by her parents, Ellen and Martin O'Neil. Part of the home still stands.

As well as farming, my grandfather, James Gough, was a wheelright maker of wheels for horsedrawn vehicles and the repair of same. My grandmother Ellen Gough, was a midwife, delivering babies for miles around, often walking miles across country. Being sent for when time was near, sometimes driven or on horseback.

My mother, Mary Josephine, (Polly), Gersbach, nee Gough, was born at 'Bowan Downs', Coffee Hill, in 1883. Eldest of eight children of James and Ellen Gough, nee O'Neil, and attended Coffee Hill school. Two of the children died in infancy and were buried at 'Bowan Downs'.

My mother told me how she often walked from 'Bowan Downs' to Cargo, for Mass. Fasting on Sunday morning. This would be about eight miles. After Church, she would have a cup of tea and such with Viney Cane, or Ellen Livermore, her cousin.

In later years, her parents had the buggy and pair of course and

rode in style.

In the late 1890's my mother worked at Collins Hotel Cargo, as this was in the midst of the goldrush days, there was lots of gaiety and life. The Township was full of people and money flowing free. Though her wage was four shillings a week and keep, happy times were had for all.

In 1904 my mother married my father Charles Gersbach, at Cudal. My mother's brother James Gough, drove the horsedrawn Royal Mail coach, from orange to Cargo and Canowindra. Changing to fresh horses at Cargo, stables rear of Collins Hotel. Also the Gough boys were the first to put Motor Coach on the road in 1920. James from Orange to Cargo to Canowindra. Thomas to Cudal and Eugowra.

My Grandfather Joseph Gersbach was an early Pioneer. He was one of the sons of Valentine Margareth, nee Bounkauf Gersbach, at Winkel Nassau, Germany. He was born in 1822, and at the age of 32 years married Margariha Jacoby at Eibergen, Germany in 1854. The following year he left Germany, bringing with him his new wife and two of his brothers.

They sailed from Hamburg aboard the ship 'William Hemsby' and arrived in N.S.W. in 1855.

His brothers were Anton and Valentine.

Joseph was a cabinet maker and builder, having taken part in many of the buildings of Orange.

He has been credited with carving the spectacular door knob for the Dalton family at Duntryleague, and for the first spiral staircase built in Australia.

He later settled at Canobolas, planting one of the first orchards around. He was an Alderman for years on the Orange Council.

At the age of 39 years he took the oath of naturalization and became an Australian Citizen at Orange on 19-3-1861.

Joseph and Margaretha had ten children, the youngest being my father Charles, born at Canobolas in 1880.

Joseph died in his 83rd year, Feb.2nd. 1905.

Margaretha died on Nov. 5th. 1913.

My father Charles Gersbach, attended school at Lidster Convent and later from his sister's home at 'Warrie Range' near Cargo, he walked to Paling yard school, near Black Mount. He told of the days at age 13, whilst living with his sister Elizabeth Scott, missing one day a week at school, to mind her youngest children, whilst she rode to Orange, taking butter, eggs and cream to sell.

He married in 1904 and travelled with his thrashing machine, all through the Central West.

He worked for Wesley Glasson, before buying the property 'Bowen View', (now Morella) in 1923, near Cargo.

He died in 1958, aged 78 years.

Margaretha Gersbach, nee Jacoby, had become a fully qualified Doctor of Medicine, back in Germany. But was not allowed to practice in Australia. Never the less, Orange doctors often consulted with her when they had a difficult case. So too neighbours, who often came to her door, for help.