

William Francis Gardner

North Maleny, Farmer

Born England 1871

W Gardner bought land from Albert & Ernest Pattemore sons of J R Pattemore. This land was known as "Ellerslie Estate".

He spent 16 years clearing the land and made 3 farms, one of which he worked himself with family, the other two he employed share farmers.

W J Gardner died in Dec 1936.

Family kept the estate until 1962 when it was sold.

Another brother came out from England with W F Gardner but never came to Maleny. He stayed in Sydney.

William Francis Gardner married Gertrude Barnes who was born in Australia. They had 6 children.

Leslie, May, Olive, Ivy, Eddie, Vera. All deceased.

The girls lived in Maleny for 21 years.

Les was killed in WW1.

May married Alex Fleming, who was Chairman of the Landsborough Shire Council from 1945 - 1955.

In 1936 Eddie Gardner bought a farm in Conondale, also Harry Lyons cream runs from Conondale to Maleny Butter Factory.

"Ellerslie Estate" had an ant bed tennis court at the main house which the family & friends had a great time on.

The big highlight was a trip to Brisbane. This involved rising early, doing the morning milking, riding through the scrub, now known as "Gardeners Lane down to Gardeners Falls" then on to Landsborough.

It was an all day trip, staying the night at Mrs Trail's Guest House, catching the train next morning.

Neighbours looked after the milking until they came back.

William Francis Gardener built a cheese factory on the property "Ellerslie" & brought out a cheese maker from England. It is not known if any cheese was made. The building stood for many years and was still there when the farms were sold.

Gardeners Falls. Named after W F Gardner.

The farms from Reynolds Crossing down to Beacom's farm Balmoral had the Obi Obi Creek as the boundary from farms on the opposite side of the creek.

Story told by Jim Gardner (of Toorbul)
75 years old grandson of William Francis Gardner



Gardeners Falls, March 1929. Ned Lamb fishing.
Gardeners Falls on the Obi Obi Creek is a popular swimming spot and named after the Gardner family who lived nearby. A photo in 'By Obi Obi Waters' - S. Tutt, page 11 shows the Simpson girls at the same spot. The Lamb family lived near Balmoral Road, north of Maleny.

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