

CLAYTON

Wilber Rex Clayton

Market gardener

Ken Clayton

Tina Clayton

Colin Clayton

Formed Dingley Fern Market which closed in 1998 for housing

Photos

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Pioneer family to reunite

IN A manner of speaking, Ken Clayton is the meat in the sandwich.

A Dingley resident, he was roped into what has mushroomed into a major project by two relatives – a family reunion expected to attract more than 500 people next month.

The last reunion, at Frankston in 1971, was organised by Mr Clayton's now dead uncle Basil "Bob" Clayton. This time around, his kin David and Robert Clayton are at the helm.

"I got involved reluctantly, yes, because I live centrally; the other committee members live at Warragul and Geelong," Mr Clayton said.

"But I must admit, it has been an interesting challenge."

Contacting descendants of Samuel Clayton, a Moorabbin pioneer who migrated from Wakefield, England, in the mid-1850s with his eldest son Richard, was a complex task.

However, using modern technology, namely the world-wide Web, it was a walk in the park compared with methods used by



Reunion: Ken Clayton with old family photographs.

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the late Bob Clayton 30 years ago.

"I don't think we even had faxes back then," Ken Clayton said.

It took two years for Mr Clayton's ancestor Samuel to establish a market garden in Dane Rd. Only then did he send for his wife Anne and six children.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Samuel began buying properties in the Dane and Wickham Rd areas, apparently in his children's names to avoid tax bills on deceased estates.

"Oh, there is a lot of intrigue," Mr Clayton said.

"(Samuel) was obviously an educated man, but history shows

he was orphaned at the age of six and we don't know who brought him up.

"Rex was the son of William Henry, who was the son of Samuel II – I refer to Samuel I as the original guy who came out here.

"They all dabbled in land, market gardeners, you know. My father was a market gardener, too, and so was his father.

"What am I? A bit of everything really, a radiologist and I run a specialised plant nursery here at Dingley."

On D-Day – this Sunday – reunion activities start with a 9.30am service at the Uniting Church in Wickham Rd, the Clayton family's place of worship.

William, son of Samuel I, was organist and choir master there for 50 years.

Also on the itinerary is a gathering at Moorabbin Town Hall where Clayton descendants will be able to download and scan family tidbits on to computer discs.

Details: Ken Clayton on 9551 1769.

MOORABBIN
STAND 19-9-200

Clayton family set to gather

DESCENDANTS of Moorabbin pioneer Samuel Clayton will gather at Moorabbin Town Hall in October.

A Dingley man and reunion organiser Ken Clayton said he expected more than 500 people to attend.

Samuel Clayton migrated from England in the mid-1850s with his eldest son Richard, establishing a market garden in the Moorabbin area (then called East Brighton) where the Ikea store and Moorabbin Primary School stand today.

While Samuel became a part-time rate collector and nuisance inspector for the City of Brighton, son Richard turned his hand to brick-laying.

Descendant Ken Clayton said more than 1800 direct blood relatives had been traced. He said the reunion, planned for Sunday, October 2, would include short bus trips to places of family interest.

Details: 9551 1769.

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