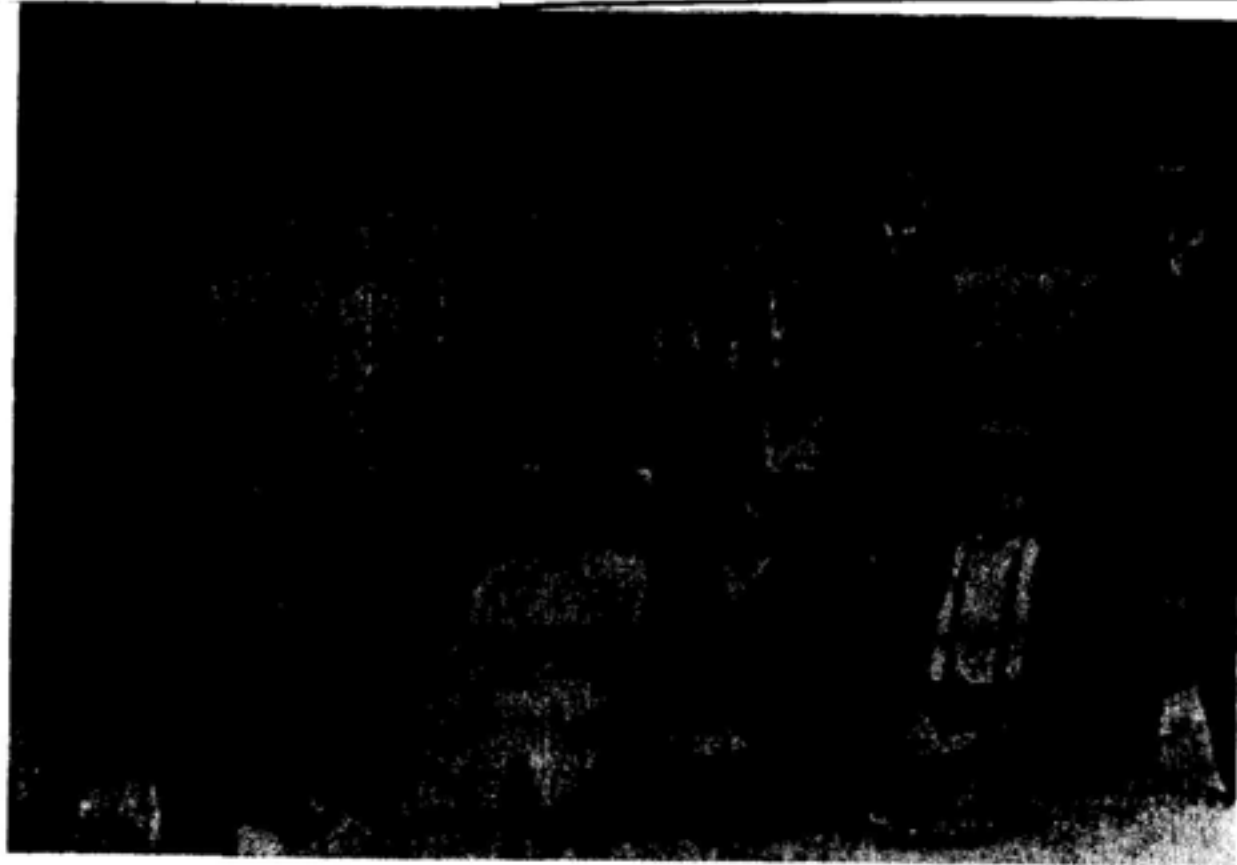


## Gartside

**James Elias Gartside** born 1834 in U.K. Came to Australia 1858 to prospect for gold. Died at Dingley 1916. Married Georgina Elizabeth Edgley, approximately 1870. Georgina b.1847 d.1920 Gave birth to 12 children – 9 survived, 5 sons: Alfred James 1874, Gerald Spencer 1877, Henry Jonathon 1884, William Albert 1885, Charles Percival 1887. Alma Florence 1875, Elsie Melita 1879, Georgina Isobel 1881, Hilda May 1891. All five boys worked with market gardeners to earn money to buy seed to start their own. Henry & Gerald Gartside came to Dingley and started gardening in about 1902.

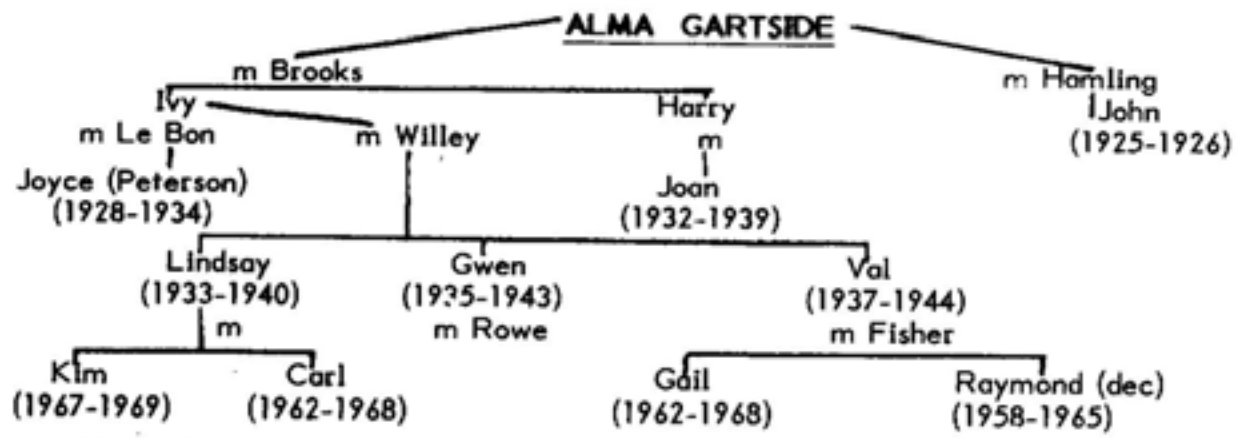
**Photo's:** D00003, 45,46, 47,50,51,52, 145, 163, 164, 165, 166, 168, 223,224,225,229,245,246,247,248,249,256,301,375,394,399,448,449,450, 451,452,453,454,455,456,461,463,495,648,1095,1100,1182,1185,1187, 1216, 1219, 1220,1225,1226,1407, 1408, 1410, 1512,1587,1621,1925, 1933, 1981, 2170, 2358, 2364, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2382, 2496, 2563

**Records:** D00332, 333,334,335,336,346,347,348,651, 665,804,816



Back Row: Charlie, Lil (Gerald's wife), friend, Bill, Elsie, Alf, Belle, friend.  
Sitting: Gerald, Hilda, friend, Jack, friend. Absent - Alma.

Family trees of the Gartside children whose descendants attended Dinalev Primary School. The years of attendance are shown in brackets. The first Gartside descendant attended in 1925, the first year of the school, and great grandchildren of Charles still attend.



Alma Gartside had one child, John from her second marriage attend the school from its opening in 1925. Her grandchildren Joyce (Le Bon) Lindsay, Gwen and Val (Willey) and Joan Brooks

and her great grandchildren Kim and Carl Willey and Gail and Raymond(dec) Fisher also attended Dingley. This branch of the Gartside family had a long association with the school - from 1925 through

R.T.O.

Early Recollections: Life during the 1920s and 1930s

Growing up in Dingley

Norm Gartside chats to Daniella Interligi (28/11/96)

QUESTION: (DANIELLA) I know you shared a great deal of information about what life was like in Dingley in the early years during the Panel of Speakers meeting in August, yet is there anything else you would like to emphasize?

RESPONSE: (NORM) Well, the village was underdeveloped during this period. There were few homes and paddocks were underdeveloped. Teatrees and rabbits just seemed to cover the area and we set traps to catch the rabbits. The rabbits were gutted and their skins were stretched on fencing wire. They were a source of food supply and their skins were sold.

In terms of activities, the Martin Dale Swamp was a real favourite, located at the bottom of Pauline Avenue. Bill Martin Dale had a market garden. The swamp was waist deep and if you looked down, deep into the swamp you could see teatrees. It was a great summer place. During the winter months we often went down to the Heatherton Recreation Reserve to play football. We would also spend time at the creek down Boundary Road. With a piece of string we would try and catch black fish. It was a healthy way of life. Unlike children today, we weren't inside watching television as we were always outdoors. We were always out in the sunshine and enjoyed plenty of exercise. The only toys we had were generally what we carved out of wood ourselves such as airplanes and little boats that we would paint our names on and let float down the creek.

During the 1920s and 1930s there were few restrictions and regulations imposed by the council. The Springvale City Council wasn't formed until the 1940s after the war. No structured roads were made, there were just lots of paddocks. Apart from the rail there was no other means of public transport. We had little money to go into the city and spend anyway. Everything we had to buy, we bought locally. We did everything as a tight knit community. The local state school was the social center. Card nights were held on Saturdays and other activities also. In the 1950s a school official stopped the school premise from being used for functions other than school activities.

The district grew gradually. We didn't have problems with traffic and road accidents like today. We enjoyed family and sporting activities. The local football team was formed in the 1970s.

(DANIELLA): Thankyou Norm

(NORM): My pleasure

## THE GARTSIDE BROTHERS

*(Ken Gartside remembers)*

This is what I've been told, somewhat different to the stories doing the rounds.

The original **GARTSIDE BROS** were very good market gardeners working leased land located at Dingley and owned by the Dingley Church. The well-established partnership consisted of the 3 elder brothers - **Gerald, Alf and Jack**. On the other hand the 2 younger brothers, **Bill (Dad)** and **Charlie**, were not established and so they bought a parcel of land and started Market gardening using the business name of **W.A. and C.P. GARTSIDE**. Bill and Charlie built a shed on the block and lived in one end whilst using the other end as stables. It was later on that the cannery was to be built on this block and still later on from that we lived on the block. Charlie also built his own house on it. Ten acres of this land, located in central Dingley, was given to the Education Department to establish the Dingley School. In the local history books it is stated that the Gartside Family donated the land for the school - *this is however only partially true.*

Dad was always experimenting by cooking up the surplus tomatoes and canning them into Treacle cans. This was good as they had a constant supply of canned tomatoes all year round. Dad also tried canning peas and beans only to find the cans exploding after 48 hours. Dad got to know a gentleman that lived at "Dights place", opposite where we lived as kids. This gentleman was what was known as a "Remittance man". He was sent out from England and paid to stay in Australia. Back in England he was a University lecturer, he and Dad became very good friends. He explained to Dad that tomatoes and all fruit could be kept canned with just the one cooking, however vegetables needed to be cooked twice within 24 hours. If you refer to the "*Fowler Vacola Preserving for fun and profit*" you will find that this rule still holds true today.

Soon after learning this Dad started canning vegetables and making pickles. In **GARTSIDES** cannery we cooked vegetables at 240F for a minimum of 30 minutes and this proved to be sufficient sterilization. Charlie took on the job of managing sales. They became so busy that they had no time to grow the vegetables, so they invited the 3 elder brothers to join them to produce the vegetables for canning.

Very recently George Booker, son of Harry Booker, visited me and related a story told to him by his Grandfather. In approximately 1910 the 5 brothers were seen sitting on crates in the middle of a garden, obviously having a conference. The church paddock lease at Dingley expired in 1910 and I believe this must have been when they agreed to go into partnership.

To the best of my memory work within the partnership was divided up like this -

**JACK** was in charge of the Cooking.

**GERALD** and **ALF** either grew, had grown or purchased all the vegetables

**BILL** did all the Production

• **CHARLIE** attended to Sales.

The "*Remittance man*" informed Dad about the errors in Church teachings and fable surrounding Christmas (Christ's birth) and so introduced him to *Christadelphians*. Dad would ride his bike from home into Cheltenham and then catch a tram into Melbourne to attend a meeting.

The rest as they say is "History"

## GARTSIDE BROS. PRODUCTS PTY. LTD.

### **Introduction:**

The Gartside brothers were sons of James Gartside of Oldham who settled in Victoria in 1863. For the purposes of telling this story we will identify the five original members and give them the initials by which they were always known in the company which they formed. In due course, we will do the same for the sons of the original members who joined the company.

In order of age they were:

A.J.	Alfred James	Batchelor
G.S.	Gerald Spencer	Married, no children
H.J.	Henry Jonathon (Jack)	Married, 1 son, 2 daughters
W.A.	William Albert (Bill)	Married, 1 son, 1 daughter
C.P.	Charles Percival	Married, 2 sons

Whilst working as market gardeners in Dingley the brothers started to experiment with the preservation of the produce they were growing. This produce had a fluctuating selling price depending on availability.

If ever there was a motto for the company it would have been "We eat what we can and can what we can't".

The very first experiment was with making sauce. This was done in a large copper washing bowl. They were then renting property from Christ Church, Dingley. They individually moved from this property as land became available in Dingley and continued to garden as smaller partnerships.

In 1916 they considered they were well enough advanced to formally register the company of Gartside Brothers which operated as a partnership for many years. The venture was commenced on the property then owned by C.P., as this property had an excellent well which was capable of supplying the necessary clean water. The first buildings were erected.

(Mistake No. 1)

As a close working family they made no attempts to formalize the conditions of use of the land.

The production of sauces and pickles was followed with soups after the introduction of Gartside Bros. to Harry Chambers of Chambers-Bennett (later to become Southern Can Co.) who had started to produce tin cans for industry. Soon after they were to commence canning vegetables from their own properties which surrounded the, by then, enlarged cannery.

GARTSIDE BROS KEY PERSONEL 1916-1966

CPG GEN. MAN.  
WAR PRODUCTION  
HJG HANDYMAN  
AJG }  
CSG } AGRICULTURE

AV-COURTICE (QUEENIE) Co. Sec  
BRYL ANDERSON OFFICE  
MERLE MCKENDRY "  
JUNK SHIELDS "

DNG. PRODUCTION  
KCR ENGINEERING  
NLG PRODUCE PROCUREMENT  
N-D. WALKER HARVESTING

ALF WOODS }  
DICK NUTTALL } STORE ROOM  
FRED PETZKE }

ROY CROUCH }  
NUGGET COLE } WET PRODUCTION  
ALF ZIMMERMAN }  
JACK HALL }  
GERRY PATTERSON }  
(CHARLIE ROSSER) }  
EDGAR COURTICE FOREMAN  
FRED ROSSITER

MISIE MASON FORELADY  
JACK SOUTER ENGINEERING  
ERNIE HOWE (COOPER) CARPENTER  
BERT EARN SHAW VINEYS + MACHINERY  
GERALD BUMPSTAD TRANSPORT  
BILL COURTICE "

TED CLOVER }  
JACK MASTERS } SEALING

NEIL ST CLAIR }  
JACK FORD } RESTARTS

MS  
DINGLEY  
JULY 2005