

Elizabeth Harris (Clark) 1824-1888 Obituary

- **Posted 08 Jan 2010 by Tony_Metcalf**

Elizabeth arrived with her mother on the `Kains`. She was just 16 when she married.

Elizabeth and husband William Henry Clarke had the first Inn at OvensRiver - now Wangaratta Vic.

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OBITUARY OF ELIZABETH CLARK, nee HARRIS. Born Uckfield, Sussex, England 1823.

Arrived Australia 1831, aboard the `Cains` Died October 1888.

.....little one so suddenly called to a better land:.....of Wangaratta, joined the majority. Mrs. Clarke was widow of the late Mr Clarke, one of the first settlers in the district. He came to Wangaratta in 1839 and built the second hut that was then in existence, somewhere in the vicinity of where Painters Hotel now stands. He built and worked the old punt, which was for many years the only means of crossing the Ovens river, and during the rush of people and teams to and from the Ovens Gold fields in the balmy days of the diggings the old ferry was to the pioneer a perfect golconda. He owned a large amount of property in this town and was considered wealthy, although he had let much of it slip through his fingers previous to his death. He died while a visit to Corowa in 1871, and his estate was not to be so substantial as some imagined, yet there was considerable property, the realisation of which, from time to time, kept the widow from want until the time of her death.

The deceased lady came with her husband from Albury to Wangaratta in 1839 and remained here ever since. She was a native of Uckford, Sussex, England and came to Australia when a mere child. Having been married when not more than 15, she lived to bring up a large family, and could count up 54 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren in addition to her sons and daughters.

The deceased lady, who at the time of her death was sixty four years of age, had always enjoyed good health until about a year ago, when she began to fail. She was in her usual way, however, up to the last, and attended the Church Of England Tea Meeting a few days before her death, which came unexpectedly through the bursting of a blood vessel.

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