

Householder, of Templeton Street among citizens entitled to vote for the Legislative Assembly. It is likely that they were boarding there as the following evidence suggests. Recently a local resident, helping to clear rubbish from a cottage owned by a relative of his wife, noticed a drawing among the debris. He thought of keeping it, decided against it, and then later changed his mind and went back to the local tip to rescue it. This was 'The Great Fire in Mostyn Street' done in chalk on brown paper, now owned by the Castlemaine Pioneers' Association and on loan to the Castlemaine Art Gallery. The owner of the cottage was a descendant of a child reared by Mrs Formby who lived in Templeton Street and the family understood that the drawing had been done for Mrs Formby by Cuthbert Clarke as payment for money owing.

The *Mt Alexander Mail* of April 1858 published an apology as follows:

To Dr Homagee Bormagee, Photographic Artist, Barker Street. Sir, I beg most sincerely to apologise for the insulting expressions made use of by me towards you on Friday last, which were made under the influence of very great excitement, and for which I am heartily sorry, and trusting you will accept this as sufficient apology, I remain Sir, Yours obediently, Cuthbert Clarke.

In November 1858, the *Mt Alexander Mail* commented in an editorial that Cuthbert was opening a dancing class at the Mechanics Institution and wisely intended to keep the fee small. In 1859 an assessment for rates was ordered to be made by the Castlemaine Council. A search of the rate collector's book shows Cuthbert Clarke's accommodation 'one frame tent and chimney' as being two chains and a half south of the town boundary. By March of 1859 Cuthbert was seeking additional ways of supporting his family and applied for the position of Collector of the Electoral Rolls for the district. The successful candidates were three, but Cuthbert was not among them. Letters to the editor of the local newspaper followed the announcement: 'We do not feel inclined to enquire too curiously into the fitness of the persons thus appointed; but we are certain that in two cases at least patronage rather than judgement must have been exercised.'⁷

Twelve months later, in March 1860, the Town Council appointed Cuthbert as caretaker of the Wattle Flat Reserve and in the same month received a request from Cuthbert asking permission to erect a dwelling on Wattle Flat with the undertaking to 'remove it when required'. The request was granted. The house at Wattle Flat was erected and in July of the same year Cuthbert inserted in the *Mt Alexander Mail* the following death notice: 'On Sunday, at her residence at Wattle Flat. Margarethe the beloved wife of Mr C. Clarke, artist, aged 27.' Her death certificate gives cause of death as pneumonia with abortion, and her illness as being of seven days duration. Cuthbert resigned from the position as caretaker in February 1861, after disagreements with the Council.

Thereafter there are few local references to Cuthbert. The *Castlemaine*