

PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM



HARDEGEN



ARTIST
SERIES

PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM HARDEGEN

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HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

Name: Carl William Hardegen
Born: 1832, Germany
Died: 1900, Talbot
Known for: Travelling photographer who once visited Alexandra 1871.

William was a travelling photographer in the early 1870s and in mid 1871 he visited Alexandra and stayed for around six weeks. He advertised six times in the local paper.



Carl William Hardegen (sometimes misspelt Hardegan) was born 1832 in Germany to parents Charles Hardegen and Augusta Crome and later migrated to Australia. In 1864 he married August Amelia Gunther (born c1844, died 1921 at Donald) at Majorca, Victoria. They had two children: Amelia Agnes Othilie (b 1864 Majorca) and Charles (born 1876).

William operated the Majorca Tobacconist & Photographer Store where he sold fancy goods and stationery (pictured above). Majorca was established in 1863 after gold was discovered by prospectors near McCallum's Creek. Today the township (located in the Shire of Central Goldfields) is a ghost town.

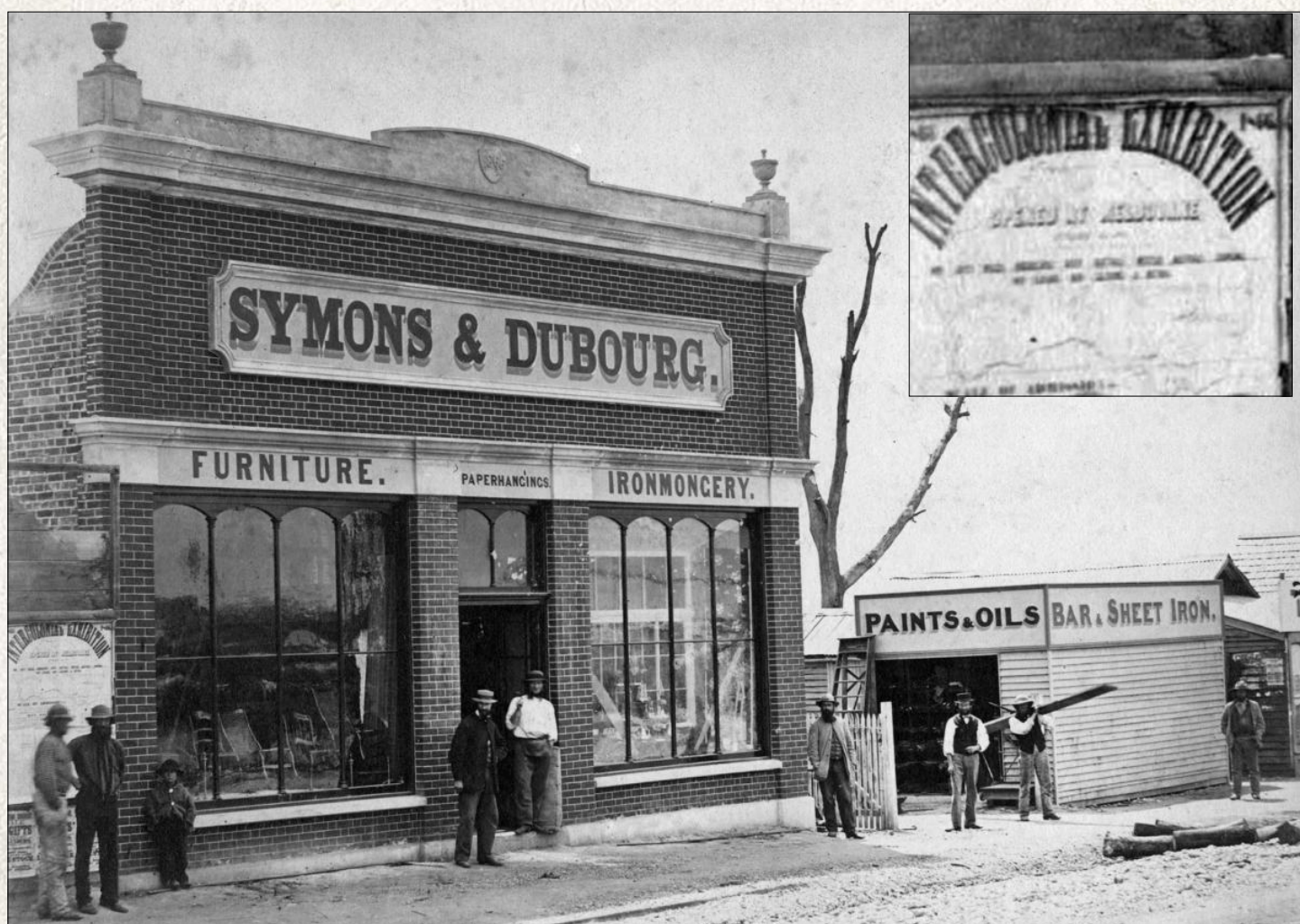


HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

There were numerous photographs taken by William at or near Majorca available on the State Library site and they all reflect his photographic maturity. Yet his talent was not enough to meet all his financial needs and in 1865 William was declared insolvent. He later declared his intension to apply for a discharge from the insolvency, but we found no record of him doing so.

In 1871 William was taken to court over two debts he owed. He did not attend the hearing and the Judge was informed on the day that William had settled one debt to one man. In relation to the second debt, William was ordered to pay all costs, as well as an ongoing payment of one pound per month.



Symons & Debourg, Majorca c1866. (Inset) 'Intercolonial Exhibition' poster on wall at left of image. The Colonial Exhibition was held at Melbourne 24 October 1866 - 23 February 1867.

Photographer William Hardegen. Courtesy State Library Victoria.



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

HISTORY

William travelled to Alexandra in early May 1871 and advertised his photographic services in six issues of the *Alexandra Times* newspaper (Friday 12 May 1871 - 16 June 1871). The advertisements tell us that he was a photographer, that he would be remaining in Alexandra for a few more days and that he was prepared to take 'Photographic Portraits and Views' in any size and shape.



It is plausible that William received little local work from his advertisements, forcing him to move on. After the final advertisement, there is no further record of him locally and we have not been able to find any of his local photographic works.

In 1877 William Hardegen was naturalised and mentioned as being a member of the Bowman's Talbot Committee. In 1878 his daughter Amelia was saved from drowning by a Mr. Richard Watson of Talbot 1878.

William passed in his sleep 21 November 1900. His obituary (*Melbourne Argus*, 26 November 1900, page 9) informs us that William was in this colony for 43 years and 30 of them had been at Talbot (near Majorca). William's wife died on 22 November 1921 aged 77 (*Melbourne Argus*, Monday 22 August 1921, page 1).

This factsheet highlights the photographic works of this talented travelling photographer, even though he offered no tangible contribution to the ongoing growth and development of our District. His story does show us how a talented young photographer with proven photographic abilities, was once drawn to our District and attempted to work here.

TIMELINE

BASIC TIMELINE OF EVENTS



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

- 1832** William Hardegen was born in Germany.
- C1864** William operated a photographic and stationery store at Majorca, Victoria.
- 1864** German immigrant Carl William Hardegen (believed to be W. Hardegen) married August Amelia Gunther in Victoria.
- 1865** William Hardegen, photographic artist of Majorca was declared insolvent. Later in the year he declared his intentions to apply for a discharge from the insolvency.
- 1871** Hardegen was taken to the Avoca County Court by two men owed monies by him. One debt was paid before the hearing and a one pound down payment to the other man was made the morning of the hearing. Hardegen was ordered (in his absence) to pay costs and a monthly payment of one pound to the claimant. It is believed (though not confirmed) this is the W. Hardegen who visited Alexandra.
- 12 May 1871** The Alexandra and Yea Standard ran the first of six weekly advertisements for the photographer who stated he would be staying in the area a few more days. (12 May - 16 June).
- 16 June 1871** The last advertisement for William Hardegen appeared in the *Alexandra Times* Newspaper.
- 1876** Son Charles William Hardegen was born at Amherst, Victoria.
- 1877** William Hardegen was naturalised (Talbot Leader, 1877) and mentioned as a member of Bowman's Talbot Committee.
- 1878** The eleven year old daughter of a 'Mr Hardegen' (livery-stable keeper) was saved from drowning by Richard Watson



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

TIMELINE

of Talbot. This may have been the child of Carl and Augusta, born three years after their 1864 marriage.

1900

William Died at Talbot.

21 May 2016

Artworkz commenced work on this factsheet.

GALLERY

RELATED IMAGERY



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Buildings near Majorca circa 1866

Photographer William Hardegen
Courtesy State Library Victoria



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



McCallums Creek bridge near Majorca circa 1866

Photographer William Hardegen
Courtesy State Library Victoria

HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Majorca circa 1866

Photographer William Hardegen
Courtesy State Library Victoria



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

GALLERY



Scene along a creek near Majorca, Victoria, taken by William Hardegen circa 1866

Click on the Gallery Link for more examples of his works on the National Library Australia

Photographer William Hardegen
Courtesy State Library Victoria

NEWSPAPERS

RELATED NEWSPAPER ARTICLES



HISTORIC FACTSHEET

NEWSPAPERS

Portraits ! Portraits ! !

W. HARDEGEN,

PHOTOGRAPHIC ARTIST,
BEGS to inform the public that he will remain on Alexandra for a few days, and is prepared to take Photographic Portraits and Views in any size and shape.

All Portraits taken by W. H. will be executed in the highest style of the art.

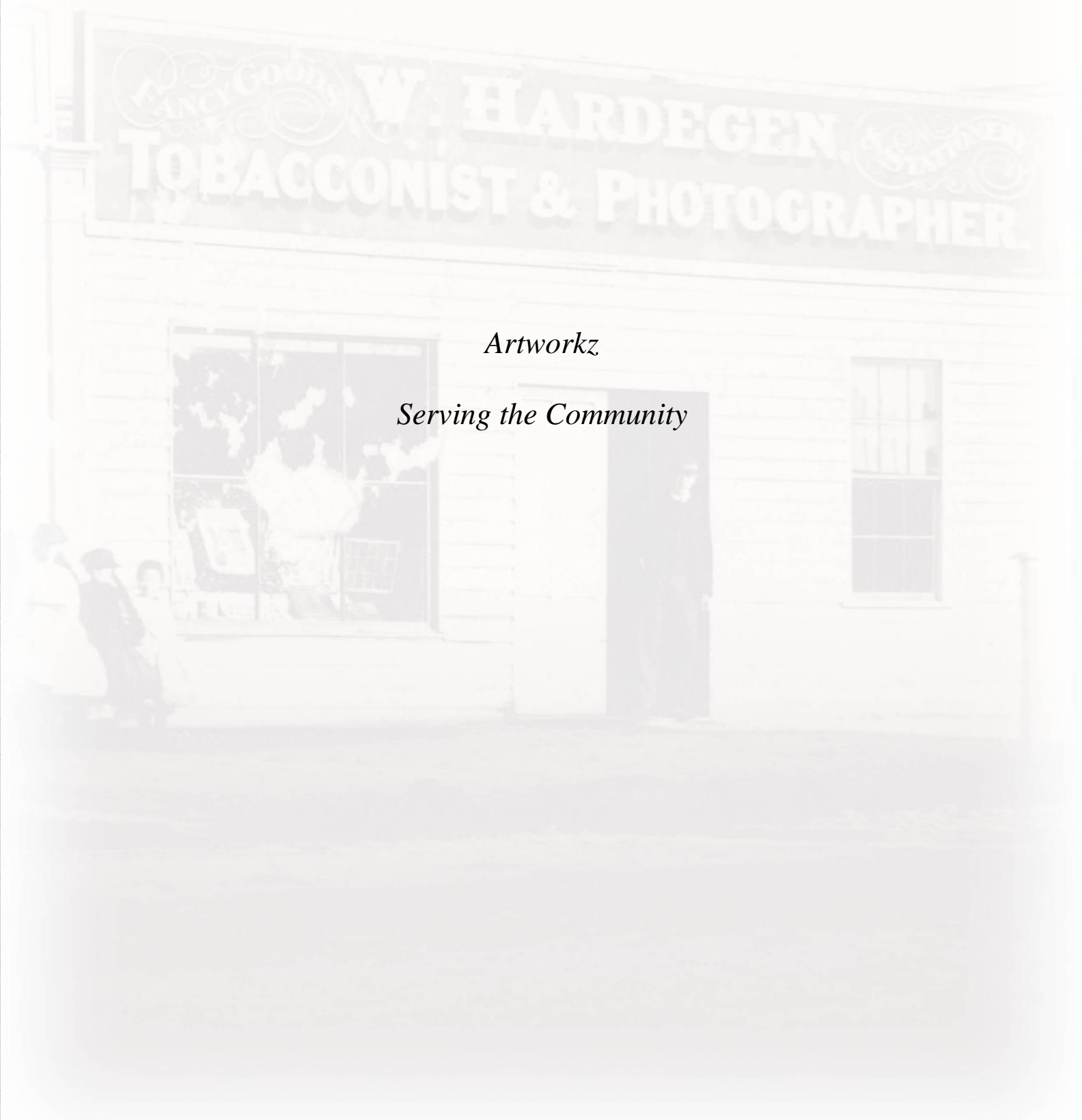
**Children Taken Instantaneously
Melbourne Prices.**

 **Operating Room—adjoining Tara's
Hall Hotel, Grant-street.**

Alexandra Times
Friday 12 May 1871
Courtesy National Library Australia

William Hardegen at Alexandra 12 May 1871.
The following five issues (19 May, 26 May, 2 June, 9 June, 16 June,
also ran the exact same article.

Alexandra & Yea Standard
Friday 12 May 1871
Courtesy National Library Australia.



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