

DESTRUCTIVE CYCLONE IN BAIRNSDALE

... The air in an instant became clouded, ... with whirling masses of galvanised iron and timber, while in the same space of time the streets were heaped in every direction ... with brick and mortar, and strewn with limbs and leaves, splintered wood and iron, which the wind kept constantly lifting and clattering down again. ...

Bairnsdale Advertiser 9 April 1907



no: 116

Celebrating Fifty Years
PROV and the Public Records Act

Early memories of
Calulu

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We acknowledge the traditional land on which the East Gippsland Family History Group stands and offer our respect to the elders past and present. We recognise and respect the cultural heritage of this land.

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Cover:

Norton's stables after the cyclone, photo by A.W. Burman This building is now occupied by Cinnamon restaurant in Wood Street, Bairnsdale. See page 4.

EGHS collection

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In April 1907 destructive cyclonic winds struck the eastern section of Main Street lifting roofs and collapsing buildings. We reported this in *black sheep* years ago, however we now have access to a full report of the incident.

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Within four years of the 1907 "cyclone" another equally destructive storm hit north of Bairnsdale on the Bullumwaal Road levelling a strip of forest and shifting hay stacks unfathomable distances.

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PROV celebrates fifty years of existence this year and Tara Oldfield (of PROV) has provided a history of one of our most valuable archives in Melbourne.

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The illustration in this article refers to settlement at Omeo in 1808—there is a problem with that and this illustrates why local history goes hand in hand with family history.

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We inherit from our *ancestors* gifts so often taken for granted.
Each of us contains within this *inheritance* of soul.
We are links between the *ages*, containing past and present expectations,
sacred memories and future promise.
Edward Sellner

Philanthropy and Trove

It is old news now but after pushing the issue with EGFHG and EGHS members I feel that I still need to mention how all historians, researchers and students Australia wide (and probably world wide) took a collective sigh of relief when it was announced by the Federal Government that funds would be found for maintenance work needed at the National Library of Australia and for the ongoing funding for Trove.

In the May budget \$33M was promised over the next four years for the building - particularly those ongoing roof repairs as a result of the 2020 storm - and necessary upgrades.

Additional funding was also announced of more than \$9M a year to run the digital database that we all love - Trove - for years to come.

I have said in discussion on this subject previously that it was really this commitment to ongoing funding that was critical for Trove. It shouldn't matter which party is in government and holding the purse strings; the funding for the NLA, the organisation that houses a substantial amount of the cultural heritage of the nation, should not be in question. The security of the collection should be a given. With newspapers, diaries, magazines, photos, engravings, gazettes, newsletters, reports, maps, plans, artefacts, books, letters, music, audio and video, and so much more - Trove really is a window into our collective history.

A huge thankyou to everyone who signed any of the petitions that were circulated and a special thanks to those who made the effort to make representations to any of the ministers

concerned. In the words of young Mr Grace "you've all done very well" (*Are you being served?* c1972).

With this funding the collection should continue to grow we all have a favourite newspaper we would like to see online!

We are lucky, however, as at the moment many years worth of additional *Bairnsdale Advertiser*, *Omeo Standard* and *Bairnsdale Liberal News* are coming online. You probably don't realise but we are all the beneficiaries of one person's generous philanthropy.

I doubt that any readers of *black sheep* would know the name Jane Hemstritch (AO) but you should - and you owe her a huge thank you.

It is thanks to her philanthropic attitude that these papers are being digitised for us (and others) to use. In the business sector she has held many directorships in her corporate career and the arts and culture sector are also recipients of her support. She was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia for outstanding contributions to Australian business, medical research, public resources and culture through professional service and philanthropy in 2023.

I don't know how, or if, Jane Hemstritch is connected to our region, but I am very thankful for her generous support of Trove which in turn has given us over 65 years of additional newspapers.

My sincere thanks Jane.

debbie

Editor/President



The building that houses the national collection was completed in 1968 costing \$8M plus \$600,000 for furnishing and equipment. It covers 47,000 square metres over eight levels but this is not enough. There are two supplementary storage facilities at Hume (above) supporting the library and they need every inch of that space. On average the NLA acquires up to 2.5 kilometres of records per annum.

Destructive Cyclone in Bairnsdale

Cover Story

Fifteen years ago, in 2008, there was an article in *black sheep* no. 75 about the cyclone that struck the Wood Street / Main Street area of Bairnsdale. While the photographs featured were included then we now have access to a much greater detailed report that was published in the *Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle* on 9 April 1907.

TERRIFIC WINDSTORM IN BAIRNSDALE REMARKABLE EFFECT ON THE MITCHELL RIVER ROOFING IRON BLOWN INTO JONES' BAY NORTON'S HOTEL SERIOUSLY DAMAGED BUSINESS PLACES UNROOFED - NO LOSS OF LIFE

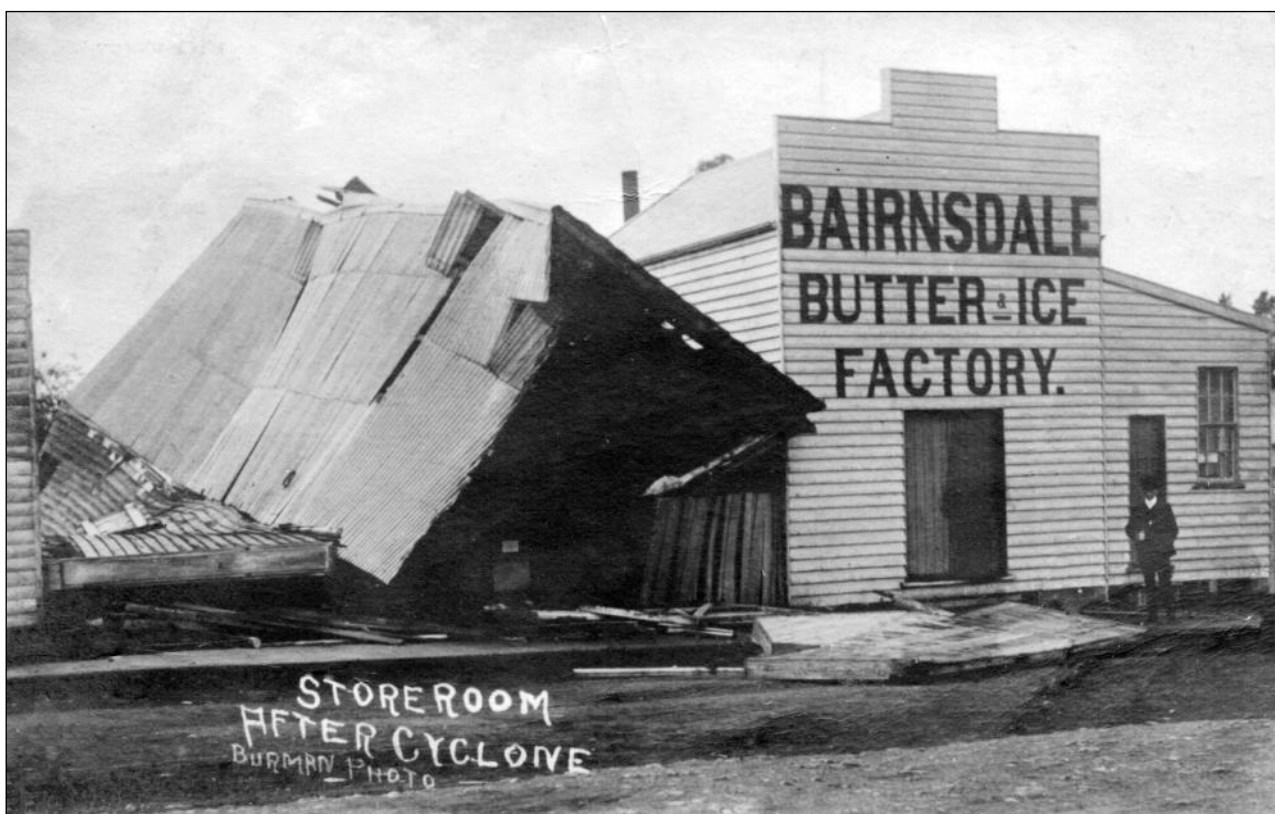
During all Sunday morning the electrically-charged atmosphere appeared to be brewing trouble. The sky was gloomy and threatening, and the air heavy and oppressive. This unsettled state of affairs did not show any improvement after noon, when a thunderstorm appeared imminent. No one was prepared, however, for the terrible cyclonic disturbance which swept over a portion of the town with such devastating force and effect. Shortly after one o'clock, when the town was at its quietest, most people being engaged partaking of the midday meal, the sullen roar of a storm could be heard in the trees in the direction of Wy Yung. Overhead, a most remarkable performance was being enacted. The low, black rain-laden clouds were being concentrated into a vast, seething mass by some tremendous

twirling aerial commotion. They gyrated and scurried hither and thither like a harassed multitude of black sheep; and all around in the sky was the serenest blue. This storm "passed over," however. But the din of the other storm grew momentarily as it raced along the flats under the backwater hill. Here it appeared to go off in a tangent, and swept across the river at the bottom end of the town. Then presently, mingling with the roar of the angry elements, came an unnerving rumble and crash of wrecked buildings, and sheets of roofing and odds and ends of timber ascended into the air, encompassed in mighty currents, to be whirled in many instances beyond sight, and sometimes scattered into shreds like the veriest wisps of paper.



Norton's stables after the cyclone, photo by A.W. Burman This building is now occupied by Cinnamon restaurant in Wood Street. *EGHS collection*

The reverse reads: "The stable on the other side had about a dozen horses in it at the time and beyond fright none were the least bit injured. One of the proprietors cabs was standing in front of the stable, which when caught by the wind took the form of a horseless carriage after crossing and recrossing the road a few times it smashed one of the wheels against a verandah post."



Collapsed storeroom of Butter Factory, photo by A.W. Burman. *EGHS collection*

This is as it appeared from a distance however. How utterly terrifying and demoralising it seemed to be in the very centre of it can only be known by those who underwent the awful experience. It was a scene which made the stoutest-hearted sick with fear. As it pursued its relentless, wrecking course there were some who saw in it the last dread day, and nearly everyone was possessed with a feeling of impending doom.

The cyclone gathered in the Struan paddock, on the backwater. Right along the river bank, from the Wy Yung bridge, a storm was previously raging, and on Poverty Point, it was said, a whirlwind had formed and circled away to meet it. The edding mass of air - a couple of chains wide - raged across the flat diagonally, gathering velocity as it raced, uprooting tussocks and thistles, stripping clouds of bark, twigs and limbs from the trees, and, in one case amongst the terrified and stampeding stock, overturning a cow. It whirled its way across the river a few yards below the boatshed, lifting in its mighty embrace a huge volume of water, which it sprinkled over a space of at least a quarter of a mile. The stream was lapped into a mass of foam. The cyclone had attained its fullest pitch by the time it had reached the opposite bank, and the buildings, and in a tithe of the time it takes to describe there was an indescribable state of chaos. The crash of falling buildings, the rending of roofs and the roar of the wind combined to make an ear-splitting pandemonium of dreadful noise. The air in an instant became clouded, as from awful and rapidly recurring explosions, with whirling masses of galvanised iron and timber, while in the same space of time the streets were heaped in every direction in the area of the visitation with brick and mortar, and strewn with limbs and leaves, splintered wood and iron, which the wind kept constantly lifting and clattering down again. The ornamental trees on the road and in the end of the reserve presented a most dilapidated appearance, being stripped till they were almost as bare as poles in some instances. Amongst the remnants of foliage of one tree in the reserve there hang a crumpled

sheet of galvanised iron. One sheet of this material in descending pierced the roof and landed on the floor of Mr Tipping's balcony. The iron was carried astounding distances. Some of it was borne on the wings of the cyclone and deposited on shore of Jones' Bay, and other pieces, becoming released in mid air from the grip of the current, floated away into the morass.

The first building in the course of the disturbance was Norton's brick stable, in which were fourteen horses. The torrent of air got into the loft of this building, and whisked the roof into the air as if it had been loose cardboard, besides damaging part of the walls and entirely wrecking the front portion. Incredible as it may appear, not a horse was injured, although one was closely imprisoned in the debris. A buggy and cab were standing in front of the stable. The buggy was hurled against the cab, and together they were lifted bodily against a verandah post, where they stopped, the cab with a broken wheel and shaft. Mr Eccleston, of Monaro, who was approaching the stable on horseback from the direction of the wharf, noticed the cyclone advancing in time to wheel his horse round and gallop out of its range. When he reached the gardens, apparently having no desire to take a literally flying gallop on a kind of extemporised Pegasus, he abandoned his steed to its own devices and took to the enclosure. Mr Jimmy Ryan, Mr Norton's groom, was less fortunate. He was on the street near the stable when the wind caught him fairly, and he was half raced, half carried a distance of 70yds in what seemed a second, and finally deposited unceremoniously, though unhurt, near the water trough. The brick front of J. Taylors shop was blown out completely, and two doors away a big wooden shop used as a storeroom by Messrs Dooley and Birrell was utterly ruined. Here the wind's capriciousness is curiously evident, for the intervening shop, a frail-looking wooden structure occupied by Mr Gus Keck, stands out amidst the ruins untouched. The wind could hardly have "skipped" the place. It appears to have circled and "waltzed" in a spiral-shaped course. Messrs Dooley and Birrell's



Hayward's Butchers shop wrecked; also Marriot's roof carried away during cyclone. These buildings were on the south west corner of Main/Wood Street. *EGHS collection*

factory itself was left unshaken practically, but a cart in the yard on the other side of it was knocked about. One of the most sensational performances by the cyclone was the denuding of Mr J. Norton's Club Hotel of its entire balcony roof. The iron was wrenched away with a rattle like the discharge of heavy artillery, and the sheets were twisted in all manner of strange and fantastic shapes and hurled into the air until distance reduced them to mere specks. From end to end of the balcony not a vestige of the roof remains. Miss Norton, who was engaged in putting down a window opening onto the balcony when the building was struck, received such a shock by the awful clamour that she fainted. Other damages to the hotel were a broken door and several shattered top-story windows. The cyclone appeared to increase its dimensions, though in nowise diminishing in power, and from Norton's it eddied across to the opposite side of the street, where it played sad havoc with Mr Geo. Dean's cab office, Mr C. Marriott's cycle establishment and Mr H. Hayward's butcher's shop. It ripped away the verandah of the building occupied by the two first-named, and created fractures in the edifice itself which, it was feared, would make it liable to collapse. The plate glass window in Mr Marriott's section was smashed, as were all the small top-storyed ones. Mr Hayward suffered the most severely, however. Nearly all the bricks in the front part above the windows (which were not broken) were dislodged and portion of the roof blown off, leaving the sign portion standing out nakedly and gauntly. This building was shook to its foundations, and the attached residence was much damaged inwardly as well as outwardly. Mr J. Norris' Club Hotel miraculously escaped nearly everything but the noise, although (as at Norton's) the linoleum was lifted and chairs and tables rocked, while a small corner of a far room was smashed in by a falling piece of timber shorn from some other place less fortunate. A back door was the only other damage. The wind appeared to play strange pranks in this portion of its operation. Next door to Mr Norris's, Messrs O'Connor and Co.'s signboard has been tilted, their verandah

roof twisted and torn and the window blown in. The windows of the next two shops have been similarly treated, and Mr Bruckner's residence, next to the last of the line of shops, was shorn bare of its verandah, leaving the rest of the place uninjured. Then it appeared to whisk round to the back yard, in which it romped till it had demolished all its contents. It missed the next two houses, after snapping a wire clothes-line in the back yard of one of them, and finally found its way into Mr Digby Smith's yard. This gentleman it found there, and bowled him over with scant ceremony and less respect. A pet lamb in the same yard was killed, as was also a rooster, which had its head lopped off by a falling sheet of iron. How the cyclone circled into these backyards without doing any harm to the buildings is one of the extraordinary and inexplicable things connected with a very remarkable occurrence. Messrs W. S. Winson's and H. G. Salters residences came next in the line of assault, after a corner of the cyclone had traversed along Wood street straight on to Smith street. where it bowed the ancient pine trees beside Mr Ralston's residence as if they were saplings. This corner seemed to deflect it in its course with great suddenness and join the main "body." Mr Winson's residence was let off with a liberal bedaubing of mud, but Mr Salter got the mud as well as numerous other discomforts. A shed was broken up, a chimney dismantled, a large quantity of roofing removed, and more loosened, and his orchard considerably rooted up and smashed about.

The whirlwind continued its way with unabated fury across the flat towards the lower wharf, rooting up wide beds of thistles and chasing them across the paddock at a tremendous pace, until the whole surface of the land was converted into an animated mass of what looked like scurrying rabbits. It left a beaten track through the corner of the maize field at the rear of the G.S.N. Company's office, which building it splashed generously with mud, but left intact. Coming to the wharf it turned the little box office round, and lifted a big 4cwt. package some distance, nearly precipitating it into the stream. Crossing the river, it again

created a big water column. The corner of the tumult shook Mr Geo. Carpenters residence severely, but that of Mr Geo. Bull was in the very heart of it. Mr Bull, fearing that his house was about to be demolished, got his family to lie flat out in the open. As they were thus engaged the heavy limb of a tree fell alarmingly close to one of them, Miss Annie Bull. Mr Bulls orchard was badly handled, four trees being uprooted, besides other damages. The fence was razed, the house loudly rattled and sheets of roofing torn away. A solitary angler, who discontinued the practice of his art and raced up the bank at the approach of the storm, was fairly enveloped in it, and for a few exhilarating seconds experienced the sensation of performing rapid revolutions on the bank like a ball. He was not injured, however. The disturbance whirled itself off over Jones' Bay, where its fury must have become some spent, for beyond there no report of its mischief-making has been received.

The most marvellous feature about the whole dread visitation is that no lives were lost. There was not one serious mishap, even, and the chances of such, amidst the collapse of building and the hail of falling beams and iron, were constant and appalling. The most seriously injured person was an employee of Mr Dean's - Mr George Gordon - who was blown along a passage-way for a distance of four

or five yards, sustaining slight cuts and abrasions. A cyclist was caught in a gale of wind in Main street, and after being propelled for a distance at a furious rate was thrown against a wall. He was not hurt. Mr Harry Hayward was having a nap, and woke up to find his room in a whirl and things dropping round thickly and promiscuously. He did not have time to don his boots, but he emerged from the ruins safe and sound. It really seemed as if human life was not a sacrifice demanded by the visitation, for in view of the awful picture of devastation left in its train only a miracle could have spared human life or grave injury.

The damage done is difficult to compute, for so many buildings have been damaged more or less extensively. The generally accepted estimate is £1000. Mr Norton is, of course, by far the heaviest loser; between £350 or £400 will be necessary to put matters right with him again. The disturbance was followed shortly after with light thunder and rain. But this was of short duration. Then the sun shone out brightly, and the atmosphere wore every semblance of placidity for the rest of the afternoon.

[Burman's photographs were published in *Punch* on 11 April 1907 but there was no accompanying story of the cyclone.]

The cyclone in 1907 was not the only one to hit the district. Just four years later in March 1911 another storm described as producing "cyclonic rain" in Bairnsdale was reported and north toward Bullumwaal a forest was levelled from the wild winds that accompanied the storm. It was reported in the *Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle* on 9 March 1911 and images were produced in *The Leader* on 18 March.

CYCLONIC RAIN STORM - DAMAGED STOCK AND BUILDINGS EFFECTS OF THE STORM IN THE BUSH - COUNTRY ROADS BLOCKED

Shortly after half-past 5 o'clock on Tuesday evening ominous signs of an approaching storm appeared in the western sky. At 6 o'clock precisely the storm broke in all its fury on the town, a torrential rain falling, accompanied by an unusually strong, driving wind. The rain was so thick as to obscure objects two chains distant, and it came along with a force that was somewhat startling. Everyone sought shelter from its effects where it was at all possible to do so. Persons riding or driving had to pull up. They experienced the greatest difficulty in controlling their horses, which resolutely refused to face the storm and became highly nervous at the succession of loud peals of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning. Mr G. C. Page, who was on his way home, had to sit out in his buggy, near M'Ghee's gully. He lost his hat and the rain pelted down so hard on his bare head that he felt as if he was being stupefied. When he reached his home he presented all the appearance of a half drowned man. He returned on foot to recover his hat, but near the spot where he expected to find it he was confronted with a snake, 3 feet long, which he killed by dropping a stone on its head. A young girl slipped near the water channel in Service street, but made a quick recovery after her involuntary bath. A similar mishap befell a much older resident in another part of the town. In his case but for assistance being at hand, he would probably have been drowned. A well-known lady, who left a friend's house just before the storm broke, was caught in the very thick of it, and had a most trying experience. For safety sake she had to lay hold of a fence, which she could not leave for fully a quarter of an hour, during which time she was mercilessly pelted by the heavy rain, after having lost her hat and umbrella.

For fully 15 minutes the storm raged in all its fury, snapping limbs of great trees, making others bend to and fro like waving corn, bringing down telegraph poles by the run, stripping roofs of their iron, and, in some cases, carrying people off their feet and throwing them to the ground. Business people, who had been on the point of closing their establishments for the day, had a task set them of keeping the storm water out of their premises. Their efforts were for the most part futile, while householders were similarly unsuccessful, the rain finding openings where it had never been known to penetrate before. At twenty minutes past six there was a lull - an inch and 17 points had fallen up to this time and soon afterwards people were enabled to venture out of doors and take stock of the damage that had been done.

In the town the heaviest loser was Mr J. O. Rigby, at whose establishment the driving rain came in under the eaves and through the skylights in alarming quantities, damaging a considerable quantity of ladies' underwear, lace, hats, sheeting, blankets, towels, etc.

At the Victoria Hotel the rain beat into the upper story rooms under the iron roof and destroyed the wall paperings. The wind carried away the iron frieze work on the back verandah, smashing it into atoms. Mr Newcomen estimates his loss at not less than £15.

Similar damage was done at the Albion Hotel, water coming through the windows and a door which had been left open upstairs. The plaster of the ceiling of the upstairs parlour, as a result, came crashing down yesterday morning, injuring the piano, which was open, and some furniture.

A FOREST LEVELLED.

ASTOUNDING effects were produced by a storm in the vicinity of Bairnsdale. The fury of the wind, combined with the great weight of water from the clouds, caused the destruction of an immense area of timber near Mount Taylor. A great gap, ten miles by three miles has been made in the dense forest, practically every tree being brought to the ground. Fortunately there were no homesteads in the midst of this great mass of fallen timber, and as far as can be learnt no loss of life has resulted. The few settlers, who witnessed the whole side destruction of the forest, were appalled by the awfulness of the scene.

A party of townspeople left Bairnsdale on 9th March for Mount Taylor, the scene of the storm centre. On arrival the immense area of forest which had been razed of its timber on Tuesday night in the space of a few minutes. After proceeding along the highway for a few miles the progress of the party, both by vehicle and on horseback, was blocked, immense trees stretching full length across the road. The cables on either side were regularly strewn with obstructions. For the remainder of the distance the party proceeded on foot.

The spectacle they witnessed around and beyond Mount Taylor was most remarkable. An area fully five miles in width in most places, and not less than three miles at its narrowest, extending as far as the eye could reach, presented the appearance of having been operated upon by forest devils. Every tree of any size was lying flat on the ground, with all the roots upturned. A peculiarity noticed was that the dead trees—those that had been rim-barked—and the saplings had been left standing.

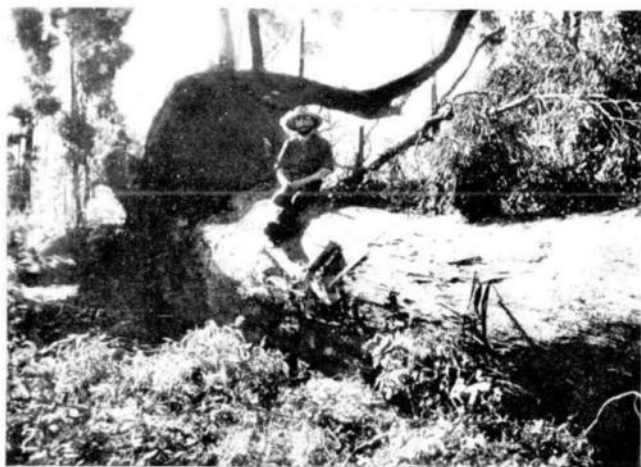


One settler had the whole of a 40-acre paddock cleared by the storm. He states that it would have cost him not less than £2 per acre to have felled the trees that the wind levelled for him. Miles upon miles of fencing have been broken and buried beneath the timber. A settler who was out in the thick of the storm near his bush home states that the roaring of the wind and the pelting of the rain were so deafening that the trees fell apparently without adding to the noise. The immense trees came down as easily as saplings and as suddenly as a card house.

RIVER YARRA IN FLOOD.

Owing to the heavy rain last week, the rise of the Yarra was very rapid, and the stream was many feet above the ordinary level. It flowed over the banks at various points, and from Ivanhoe downward contained many magnificent stretches. As might be expected a good deal of damage was done to property. "Hudders Grange" tea gardens, Fairfield Park, occupied by Mrs. E. Cooke, were flooded out.

At the junction of Merri Creek and the Yarra the latter assumed wide proportions, and along its course the willows and trees which usually fringe the banks were many yards within the water line. A little below the Johnston-street bridge the water lapped over the walls in the lowermost parts of the gardens attached to the Abbotsford Convent, and encroached some 20 or 30 yards. Near the Hawthorn-bridge the stream broadened out very much, and several Chinese gardens were flooded. The Hawthorn Rowing Club's boat house, as well as that of Messrs. Lawrence Bros. close by, were completely surrounded by water, and their floors submerged to a depth of 2 feet.



1. Fallen Timber on the Bulbinnowa road. 2. A Giant Box Uprooted. 3. An Uprooted Gum Tree. 4. Bullock Team at Work Clearing Off Fallen Timber. 5. Buggies Blocked. 6. Getting Cattle Through the Fallen Timber. 7. Water Hole Creek, on the Outskirts of the Cyclone Track. (H. D. Bulmer, photos.)

THE CYCLONE AT BAIRNSDALE.

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newsletter of the East Gippsland Family History Group Inc. and East Gippsland Historical Society Inc.

The upper part of the western wall of Messrs S. A. Bush and Co.'s premises was subjected to a great battering, and the rain came in under the eaves, but comparatively little damage was done to the stock. The cellar became half filled with the overflow from the street channel. Mr. Bush and his hands, being on the premises at the time, set to work to make the loss as light as possible.

At Lloyd and Co.'s the water found its way into the back part of the premises and damaged some tinware. Messrs G. H. Cole and Co. escaped lightly. They had two fanlights broken, but very little water found its way into their premises.

In the greater number of the business premises on the north side of Main street, between Service and Wood streets, the storm water came coursing down the back yards and forced itself through to the front doors, some of the floors being covered to a depth of several inches. In their anxiety to keep the rush of water out of their own premises two or three people diverted it towards their neighbours, not thinking of the injury their action was likely to cause, and on this being discovered some counter moves were secretly made, the result being that when the fury of the storm had abated, and an inspection made of the damage done by the flooding, honours were declared to be easy between the opposing parties.

Mr W. R. M'Briar, finding all attempts ineffectual to keep back the inrush of water, resorted to the expedient of cutting holes in the floor in the back portion of his shop. He disclaimed being actuated by a neighbourly feeling in doing this, but his neighbours afterwards said it had the effect of relieving the pressure at their back doors.

Along the river bank, down from the Wy Yung bridge, several large gum trees were blown down, while numerous willow trees were splintered. Some of the trees in Riverine street and in other parts of the town were also damaged.

Fully 40 per cent of the private houses in the town and its environs suffered some damage either from the wind or the rain. The wind got under the verandah of Mr R. G. Greene's house at East Bairnsdale and carried away a large portion of the roof.

A small house at the corner of Nicholson and Dawson streets lost its roof, which was lifted bodily and deposited in a yard two and a half chains away. Roder's blacksmith shop at Wy Yung was practically swept away, only portions of two walls remaining. The roof was blown off Mr G. Vincent's kitchen at Clifton, also a portion of the roof of Mr Hamilton's residence in the same locality.

THE MAIZE CROPS.

The maize crops in all parts of the district suffered more or less. In many instances they are laid low. While some are regarded as having been entirely ruined, it is thought others may still be saved; provided; of course, there is not a continuance of wet weather.

THE SARSFIELD ROAD.

On the Sarsfield road strips of "country" appeared to have been struck heavier than others by the storm, for extending over some miles there are separate belts of trees flattened to the ground. The road itself yesterday was strewn with trees and in three or four places so much so as almost to block traffic, large trees having fallen across the roadway. The Bruthen coach experienced great difficulty in coming through on Tuesday night. In fact, it did not arrive until one o'clock yesterday morning. The telegraph lines for miles are flat on the ground, while numbers of posts were also levelled. Practically all of the roads leading to the south of Sarsfield are blocked.

OTHER ROADS.

The Deptford and Waterholes roads are altogether impassable and are described by the shire engineer as like a haystack for miles. The Bullumwaal road is also closed to traffic. The coach left Bairnsdale yesterday morning, as usual, but had to return, owing to the number of trees, said to be almost countless, that had fallen down. The mails were sent on horseback. There is also a large tree across the Wy Yung road. The Clifton road is strewn with fallen timber. Mr Wilson, Bairnsdale shire engineer was out all yesterday making an inspection of the roads, and arranged for gangs of men to start work at once clearing them for traffic purposes.

THE TELEGRAPH LINES.

The Bullumwaal and Bruthen telegraph lines came down in different places, and communication with Omeo and Orbost was also interrupted. The Melbourne lines were also unusable until about 8 o'clock in the evening, when one line was made workable. At Lindenow and Lucknow a number of poles are down, and near the Bairnsdale wharf the line was down. All the repairers were out yesterday working hard to get the lines into a usable condition.

MILES OF TREES UPROOTED.

Mr Thomas Hanrahan, who lives on his selection at Mount Taylor, came into Bairnsdale last night and described his experiences and the effects of the storm in that locality. He was in the bush when he heard the wind come howling along overhead, accompanied by heavy rain, and making a noise that was terrifying. "I had simply to stay where I was," he said, "and take my chance, expecting every moment as heavy limbs and giant trees commenced falling and crashing around me, that I could not escape being struck. Limbs of gigantic proportions were wrenched off by the wind and carried long distances as lightly as feathers are wafted along. Once or twice as I saw huge trees being uprooted near me and their branches sent in all directions, I felt very scared. But what happened near me was trifling to the havoc made further on. At my own place a haystack of 4½ tons was lifted bodily overhead and some of it carried a distance of two miles. The roof of my cowshed has been blown I don't know where. Other destruction was wrought around my place, especially to the fencing. All that you will believe. What I am going to tell you now may seem incredible but it is true all the same. A strip of country five miles wide and extending in the direction of Deptford for I don't know how many miles, has had every tree on it blown down. The whole area referred is simply covered with fallen timber. The telegraph line on the road is buried underneath uprooted trees and many places on the road blocked less your horse will jump you cannot travel."

Full page of "The Cyclone at Bairnsdale" from *The Leader* 18 March 1911

1. Fallen Timber on the Bullumwaal Road
 2. A Giant Box Uprooted
 3. An Uprooted Giant Tree
 4. Bullock Teams at Work Clearing off Fallen Timber
 5. Buggies Blocked
 6. Getting Cattle Through the Fallen Timbers
 7. Water Hole Creek on the Outskirts of the Cyclone Track.
- H.D. Bulmer, photo

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-page21513821>

Early Memories of Calulu

NOTES BY MRS HENRIETTA (ETTIE) KERTON NEE LOCKHART

Earlier this year, Neil Cox was given a copy of a set of notes which had been found among old papers. Ross Tucker (Bruce Smith's son-in-law) found them among Bruce's estate and had no idea who wrote it or when, but Neil instantly recognised the hand writing as that of Mrs Henrietta "Ettie" Kerton nee Lockhart. Neil believes that it may be c1965 when it was written as Ettie was involved in documenting Calulu School history for the official opening of the new building. Searches to date incidents listed have had limited success.

My Mother and Father Mr & Mrs Thomas Lockhart came to Gippsland in 1866 by covered wagon. Father worked for Mr Johnny Whitbourne at Lindenow & they lived on the Wuk Wuk side of the river (on the gully where years later Robert Whitbourne lived.) At that time the Blacks were very numerous & especially the Mitchell tribe, who were always around the Bluff & the few scattered homes around—where the menfolk were always away—leaving the women & children unprotected. Big Joe was the Head of the Mitchell tribes, a cunning savage & ferocious man. One day he came to my Mother & asked her for something to eat, She turned her back to get him some bread & he raised his tommyhawk to kill her, when her Newfoundland dog grabbed him by the fleshy part of the leg - & took a big piece out. This dog loved my Mother & hated the Blacks. They often told me how his bristles would rise & he'd growl as soon as one appeared. My eldest brother told me that they had to keep him - Big Joe - for awhile as he couldn't walk. Later my father selected land at Calulu (then Wy Yung West). The Indian Hawkers came round very often carrying all sorts of saleable goods on their backs - they would open out their goods on the verandah & we children would gather round in admiration at the pretty things but the women of those days never had any money to spend so I often wonder how those poor Indians lived. Sometimes they would camp for the night in the Barn & build a fire & make their Johnny Cakes. In later years China men were very numerous & built bark huts & had big vegetable gardens.

Years later when the "Alexlea Estate"¹ was cut up & farmers grew maize, the Chinese were very good at

maize picking & instead of throwing the cobs into heaps, they used kerosene tins, & one could hear them all day long chattering to each other & banging the cobs into the tins before bagging them up. They camped in the barns & lived mainly on rice. There was only the bridge at Wuk Wuk at that time & many an accident happened at Manero

Crossing. An Indian in his jinker was taken down by the swift current & when he was washed up on the same side much further down, his chief concern was "Cushions all gone, Cushions all gone" out of his jinker. A bullock team was also washed down & I think all the bullocks drowned. (Char Cox would remember that, I think) a young couple in a gig were the next ones to be swept down & as the girl was passing a little island in the river with a willow growing in it - she grabbed hold of a clump of the willow & held on till her friend, who was able to scramble out much further down, raced for the ferry boat & rowed up stream & rescued her - just as she was collapsing. Another older couple met the same fate, crossing in their buggy, but managed after a big struggle to get to the bank & their horse & buggy also struggled out. My 2 sisters were almost drowned crossing in a swift current but jumped out of the boat &

hung onto a tree that had been washed down by the flood. The boat was smashed up. I crossed in flood time when my jinker was floating on the current but I had a good horse - all that saved me from being washed down. My 2 eldest brothers renting land at Horseshoe Bend had built their hut & Barn on the Bank & had their whole harvest ready to sell when the flood took hut, barn, bales of bags & all they possessed.

My Father - in earlier days lost his whole crop of barley - on rented ground up towards the Wuk Wuk



Mrs Ettie Kerton nee Lockhart
(Geoff Kerton photo)

bridge. In later years Little's saw mill came to Wy Yung West (Calulu) & was a scene of great activity - in Keatings paddock (near where Alfred Cox's home now is) with huts for the mill men dotted around & Mr Geo. Little built his temporary home at the back of our Calulu Church. Mr & Mrs Little Senr lived where Mr John Dwyer later lived on the hill facing the river & flats. At that time there was a "village Settlement" where the Government had settled families from Bairnsdale along both sides of the road leading to Manaro Crossing. The houses were all built from timber from Little's mill - as also were the houses on the new blocks when Alexlea Estate was sold & the farmers - glad to get a piece of flat land to own & work - set to with great gusto to make their fortunes. The price then was around £20 an acre. Our Calulu Church was then a scene of great activity & all our social life centred around the Church - C.E.W., Lodge & Band meetings - Calulu then had a Brass Band - Mr McMurtrie from Bulumwaal was Band Master. Tea meetings & concerts & picnics all around the Church as a center & as well the Salvation Army from Bairnsdale & from Paynesville would travel up & hold meetings on week nights. Revival & Evangelistic perhaps lasting a

your mother & father. Mr & Mrs Thomas Lockhart came to Gippsland in 1866 - by covered waggon. Father worked for Mr. Johnny Whitbourne at Anderrow & they lived on the Muk Muk side of the river (on the gully where years later Robert Whitbourne lived & that time the Blacks were very numerous & especially the Mitchell tribe, who were always around the bluff, & the few scattered homes round - where the menfolk were

A sample of the original text by Ettie.

fortnight with a minister or lay preacher from Melbourne would draw crowds - no one stayed away. Our Church saw Weddings & christenings in plenty - but I only remember one burial service.

I forgot to mention the dress of the Chinamen - always their shirt tails hanging out over their trousers - baggy trousers & wooden clogs & straw floppy hats -



Monaro brass band, Calulu

Back row: Les Skinner, Fred Roderick, William Eccles, Ernie Glenn, Walter Lovell (?), Jack Thatcher, unknown, C. (?) Lovell.

Seated: Ted Holt, P. Davidson, Thomas Hellings (bandmaster), Fred Thatcher, H. (Ike) Lovell.

Front: ... Davidson (?) (Neil Cox photo)

real slovenly - & I never see today's youth dressed like that without, in fancy, seeing Chinamen picking maize on Lindenow Flats. Our young men were smart.

I remember a Bacon Factory on the Bank of the River on the Hillside side by the Manero Crossing - later it formed a Dairy & Cow-yard where a group of Indians milked cows for Mr Macleod. All very dirty & they used the ends of their turbans as a strainer when they wanted a drink of milk. Mr Macleod had a cheese & butter Factory on the Hill - "Rokeby."

Note from Neil Cox: Chaston Cox died in March 1969 so this was written some time before that.

1. "Alexlea" subdivision was in 1886 with several auctions of the blocks extending until 1894.

This was followed by another piece of paper dated Friday, March 1st 1974

Calulu Church

The Rev. Mr Thomas was Bairnsdale's district minister when the Calulu Church was built. Before that we held Sunday School and Church services in the State School. The name had just been changed from Wy Yung West to Calulu. It was a thickly populated place then. Little's saw Mills were quite close, in Keating's paddock and a crowded village settlement had been built on both sides of the lane leading down to the Monaro Crossing, before the bridge over the river was built. Houses built, and a small allotment of hill and flat land for each occupant, who were brought out from the poorer parts of Bairnsdale and settled

in them. They mostly grew orchards and vegetables and some vineyards.

Littles built their home, which Jack Dwyer bought later, when the sawmill moved to Perry Bridge near Stratford. Mr George Little built his home at the back of the church which the men folk of the district helped to build - from timbers from the sawmill. The first I remember about that was coming to a working bee where the women folk were serving their men with afternoon tea; Mr Thomas was among them. Houses dotted around for the mill hands and even a store down at the Village Settlement and a Band formed, which practised on weekly nights. Band leader was Mr White from Bulumwaal and there were members from miles out in the bush past Flaggy who used to play their instruments, walking home in late hours after practice. Mr Isaac Prout (who gave the land for the church building) lived just across the gully where he and his wife always offered the visiting preachers and missionaries from Melbourne accommodation and a welcoming home. We used to have Revivals and week night meetings very often in those times, and every family attended and our Church was always crowded. Mr Will Keating gave the organ and his youngest sister Lena learnt to play (in Bairnsdale) and was the organist for years. Later she formed a choir. Mr Will Skinner built the pulpit (which is still in the church at Paynesville.) When closed our church was moved to Paynesville and used as a Sunday School. Rev. Lassam was our last minister. Revivals were kept up for a fortnight at a time and many converted. Our church saw many happy evenings of concerts, meetings, and there were four weddings (one a double wedding) conducted there over the years.



The double wedding referred to by Ettie Lockhart in the text was between the two Lockhart sisters and their husbands. The bride and groom in the middle are Agnes Lockhart and Will Sutton, while the couple on the right are Alicia Lockhart and Charles Fixter surrounded by their extended family. (Neil Cox photo from Nola Hall's collection)



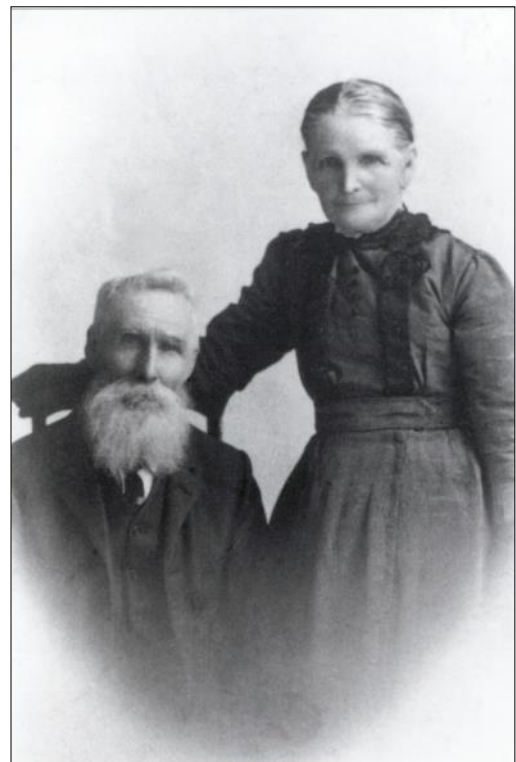
Calulu State School (Neil Cox photo)

Calulu School

I went to school when 5 years old - 1884 or '83 - Miss Lindsay was teacher - and a Mr O'Brien when I left. I remember old Mr Cox bringing Joe Cox to school on his first day. They lived just over the other side of the cutting. All the old scholars such as Emily Cox, Lizzie Keating, Dick Dooley, Boss Cox, Will Lockhart, were about to leave after I started. There was a gallery for the very young children then and a very big lot of pupils - Sam Prouts who used to live as far away as Flaggy Creek attended and all the older ones of the Reardon family who lived on Boggy Creek and all my older sisters. There were two Miss Lindsays - Big Miss Lindsay and Little Miss Lindsay who was the teacher; Big Miss Lindsay taught sewing. Jim Neville told me the other day that the school closed down - what a pity after all these years. George Tracey was Mr Dick Wakefield's step brother from Melbourne. Wakefields then lived just up on the rise past the site of the meeting house. My father built their house when they were married and came from Melbourne.

This was then followed by a third, and final, written description from Mrs Kerton. This page has some duplication however, in some instances, she has included dates and names previously omitted.

In the year 1850 my father, Thomas Lockhart, came to Australia from 'Lisnalea,' County Armagh, Northern Ireland at the age of 17. Sailing ships those days took months to come but he enjoyed the trip. I think it was the *Mont Morensey*. At that time conditions in Ireland were very bad after the Potato Famine caused by Irish Blight. His sister Margaret went to America about the same time leaving 2 sisters and 3 brothers at home: Aunt Agnes (who married William Lockhart - no relation), Aunt Eliza Jane (Mrs Moody), Uncle Archibald, Uncle James and Uncle Joe (who later went to Canada).



*Thomas Lockhart and his wife Ann Jane nee Armstrong.
(Geoff Kerton photo)*

My mother Ann Jane Armstrong came from Ireland (Northern) with her parents and sisters and brothers when very young. Grandfather Armstrong was a school teacher and taught in a school in Melbourne - later bought a farm at Scoresby - they had 6 in their family - Aunt Margaret (Mrs Pitman) had 6 in family - only one (George) still living (1967). My mother and father were married at St Kilda in 1863 and had a family of 12 - 9 girls and 3 boys - Edward George, Mary, Margaret, William, Agnes, Elizabeth, Thomas, Jean, Henrietta, Annie, Alicia, and Susan; Mary (Mrs Thomas Prout), Margaret (Mrs R. Gillespie), Agnes (Mrs W. Sutton), Elizabeth never married, Jean (Mrs W. Scott), Etta (Mrs J. Kerton), Annie (Mrs Fred Evans), Alicia (Mrs Charles Fixter), Susan (Mrs W. Fixter). Edward born 1864 married



*The violinist Thomas Lockhart with his wife Ann Jane and their daughter Elizabeth on the verandah of their house at Calulu.
(Bev Storey photo)*

Margaret Stuart, William married Emily Cox, Thomas married Rosanna Reed of Johannesburg, Sth Africa. Mother was 17 when she married and was 12 years younger than dad. They came to Gippsland in 1866 when Ned was two years old - by covered wagon or dray. At Lindenow Dad worked for Johnny Whitbourne who owned land on the flats, as well as Wuk Wuk property and the Farmers Arms Hotel on the hill at Lindenow. Later Dad used to take stores to Dargo for Mr Bustorff who owned the Walpa store. He had three horses and a dray and going over Daveys Knob, he would take the leaders out and tie them up at the top and work the shafter zig-zag down the other side with big logs chained on the back of the dray to act as brakes, then go back for the other horses. He had to cross the Crooked River twice before coming to Dargo. He was a great violin player and the few scattered families were very fond of dancing and if he was late in coming from Dargo and there was a dance in the offing a rider would be sent out to meet him and he would then ride home and the chap drive the dray home - then he'd play all night for the dancers. Tough men those times!

Later Dad and Larry Dolan grew barley on land near the river and he and mother lived in a small house down Ross's lane. Will was born there in 1870. The big flood of 1870 came and they were rescued by Mr Whitbourne, mother on a big horse called Lofty with baby Will, Uncle Will Armstrong had Mary and Dad and Mr Whitbourne with Ned and Maggie. They got up to the hotel and later lived over the river where John Whitbourne lived when he married Miss Bustorff. Lizzie, Tom and Jean were born there, then dad selected land at Wy Yung West (later Calulu) and I was the first one born there - nearly 90 years ago. The old home is still there after three generations of the family made it their home. Now Mr and Mrs Websdale live there.

Dad's mother's name was Mary Todd and mother's mother was Mary Banks. Before dad came to Gippsland he was a market gardener and also he and Uncle John Armstrong used to cart wood from outlying places to Melbourne city. He went back for a trip to Ireland in 1902. His sister and two brothers still lived at the old home 'Lisnalea' and it is still there. My father was born on April 9th 1833, and was 88 when he died in June 1921. Mother died on May 1st 1925. There are five Mrs Lockharts of the 3rd generation and one (Mrs Graeme Lockhart) of the 4th generation.

To show the hardiwood (sic) of men of those days, my father and Mr Jack Reside were building stock yards at Cobbanah Creek the other side of Davey's nob (sic) for Angus Shaw (an old pioneer from the Isle of Skye). Near the finish of the job they ran out of tucker so one held a candle while the other mortised the last of the posts. When they had finished the job, they packed up and set out for Lindenow which would be a day's journey in those days. When they got to Lindenow a dance was just about to start. Dad being a violin player, they were in demand for the night's entertainment. They said 'But you've got to get us a feed first.' They ate it up and played all night after working all the previous night. They were tough those days. Old Mr Murphy used to whistle for hours at a time when there was no other music. A happy crowd with their simple pleasures!

Henrietta Kerton nee Lockhart was born at Wuk Wuk (Calulu) on 25 September 1878 and died aged 99 years on 2 December 1977.

All punctuation and spelling is true to the original document. Some of the comments include terms and views that are not appropriate today. They reflect the period in which they were created and are not the views of the East Gippsland Family History Group Inc. or East Gippsland Historical Society Inc.

Celebrating Fifty Years : PROV and the Public Records Act

TARA OLDFIELD

Tara Oldfield is a Senior Communications Advisor with the Public Record Office Victoria and regularly authors articles on PROV's blog. Readers have seen these previously in *black sheep* where she has advised about new records at PROV. This year marks the 50th anniversary of PROV and as it is a most important aspect of researching Victoria our readers should understand PROV's history. Happy birthday PROV.

The 17 April 2023 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of the *Public Records Act 1973*. The Act:

established Public Record Office Victoria, the Keeper of Public Records, and the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC)

defined a public record, and the government entities to which the Act applied, including a definition of what constituted a public office

granted the Keeper powers to establish recordkeeping standards and provide advice to agencies

assigned heads of agencies the responsibility for records management in accordance with these standards as well as ensuring full and accurate records are made and kept

and established provisions for the Minister to appoint places of deposit (PODs) which has allowed records of local significance to be housed in regional centres.

Fifty years later Public Record Office Victoria holds more than 100km of public records at the Victorian Archives Centre in North Melbourne under the leadership of the Keeper of Public Records and advice of PRAC; has a regional centre in Ballarat, and more than 100 appointed PODs across the State including at Bendigo and Geelong.

The archives pre-1973



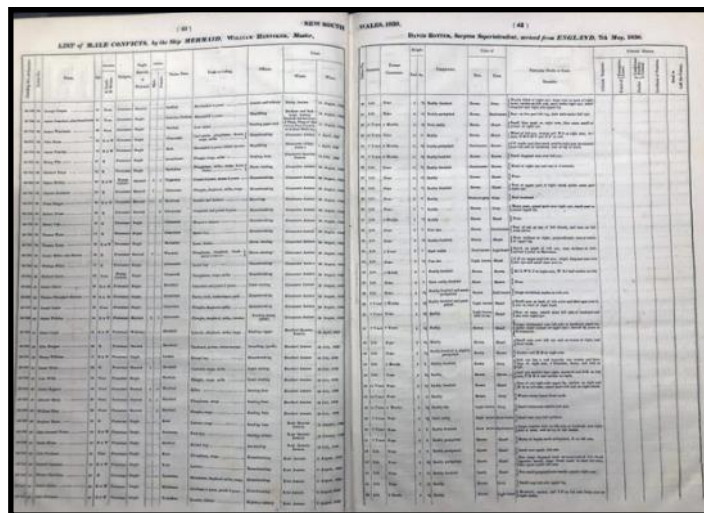
Ernest La Touche Armstrong
by Hall c.1925,
State Library Victoria

The collection of what we now call Public Record Office Victoria began 120 years ago with ten battered, leather-bound copies of Convict Indents. The large books contained printed identities of the convicts who arrived in Sydney in the 1830s. The books were given to Melbourne Library Chief Librarian Ernest La Touche Armstrong by Mathew Byrne, Secretary to the Law Department of the Victorian Government.

In the book *A Matter of Public Record*, Professor Russell says:

“As Armstrong jotted down a note on the provenance of these books, so began the process of selecting and preserving the public records of Victoria.”

Prior to this 1903 handover, colonial record-keepers put in place comprehensive record systems beginning with the instructions to William Lonsdale to proceed to Port Phillip to establish government. The instructions were registered as inwards correspondence in Melbourne. Lonsdale's record system evolved into the correspondence system of La Trobe. As other functions of government emerged, records were also kept by those relevant departments. In the meantime, the Public Library of Victoria began to house some public records of the State.



First public record, Indents 1830 VPRS 107 P0 Volume 1

The Public Library and Royal Historical Society of Victoria

The first transfer of public records to the Public Library from a public office in Victoria occurred in 1903 with the ten volumes of the previously mentioned Convict Indents. Further volumes of the Indents followed as did various other public records. Armstrong in 1945 reflected:

“The Library has (now) obtained the custody of many state documents or public records, but no real attempt to establish a record office has yet been made.”



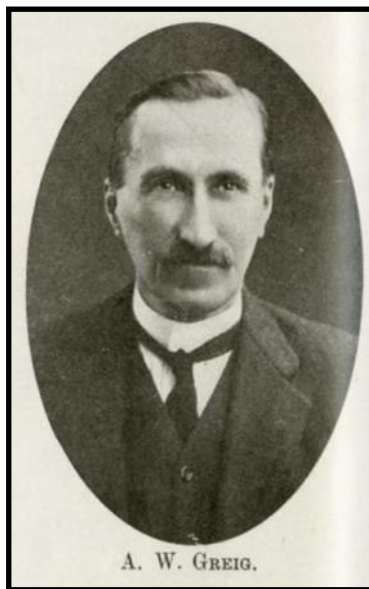
The Public Library Melbourne, VPRS 12800 P1

In 1909 the Royal Historical Society of Victoria was founded to collect and preserve reminiscences of old Colonists. One of the first issues pursued by the Society was the preservation of public records. *The Age* reported on an April 1910 meeting of the Society:

“The correspondence, he (Professor Ernest Scott) said, which passed during administration of the Port Phillip District

by Latrobe from 1839 to 1854, between the Superintendent, as he was until 1848, and the ruling authorities, must have been considerable. It would deal with public administration, disposal of land, the gold discoveries, the attempted introduction of convicts and much else of value to the student of Colonial history. These documents were stored in the Lands Office, and a systematic study would reveal much interesting material. They should be sifted, arranged, and bound up in volumes and preserved after the manner adopted in the London Records Office. A resolution embodying Mr Scott's suggestion was carried."

In a meeting with the Premier, the Society's Secretary Alfred Greig shared concerns of the destruction of public records and stated that "modern governments everywhere ... are arranging for the preservation and collation of their official documents."



Alfred Woolley Greig, photo from the Victorian Historical Magazine Vol X, No 2, November 1924, Royal Historical Society of Victoria

Public Library, as had begun in 1903. In 1922 the Library inspected records held at government offices and in 1923 the first transfer of local government records, those of the Melbourne City Council, took place. This was followed by transfers from the Chief Secretary's and Public Works Departments.

After another inquiry into public service methods in 1927, the Society asked the Premier to advise that historical records no longer required by Departments should be offered to the Library first, rather than destroyed. The Premier agreed.

"No single administrative action was more significant than this for the future of Victorian archives during this period. As a result, the previous trickle of records towards the Library became a flood." Twenty-five years later... "The Library found itself so inundated with records-in every spare corner-that the case for an archival solution had become irresistible." *A Matter of Public Record*.

The Library's first archivist, Donald William Archdall Baker, was soon appointed followed by Rosemary McGowan, then Patricia Ingham. In 1955, The Archives Division of the State Library was created with the appointment of a new Senior Archivist and two archivists. A reflection of the times, recruitment sought men, even though the previous two archivists had been women:

"As the work is both dirty and at times heavy, the appointment of qualified men is to be preferred to female officers," the Under-Secretary wrote to the Chairman of the Public Service, 5 November 1954.

While the Society was concerned with preserving historic records, a 1916-17 Royal Commission report into the public service recommended immediate destruction of 'obsolete' records. In *A Matter of Record*, Professor Russell states:

"The Royal Commissioners showed no awareness of the role of archives, and were focused on the issue of destroying obsolete records...During this period, some irreplaceable major record series were lost."

But the Society was not deterred and continued discussions around safe preservation, ultimately advocating for continued transfer of records to the

The Archives Division of the State Library of Victoria ultimately ran from 1955 to 1973 under the leadership of Senior Archivist Harry Wilfred Nunn. It was Nunn, in 1961, who proposed the *Public Records Act*.

The role of archives and libraries

On 23 March 1961, Nunn wrote to the Under-Secretary asking that:

"consideration be given to the development of a central archives establishment which would provide adequate facilities...and that legislation should be enacted along the lines of the 1958 Public Records Act of Great Britain with suitable adaptations to suit Victorian conditions."

The Jungwirth Inquiry of 1963-65 into library services in Victoria set the scene for debate about whether the archives should be separated from the Library as Nunn advocated. Historians petitioned for the separation, stating "contemporary thought is more and more in favour of the complete separation of archives from libraries, as their functions and methods differ radically." Many other professionals and academics agreed. However, the campaign to retain the archives within the library was equally passionate, spearheaded by John Metcalfe (Librarian at the University of NSW), Sir Irving Benson (President of the Library Trustees and Minister of Wesley Church) and John Feely (Principal Librarian).

Ultimately the Inquiry Board fell on the side of separation. The Board also recommended that the head of archives should be called the Keeper of Public Records, and that matters pertaining to public records should be dealt with by legislation. The establishment of a Public Records Advisory Committee was also suggested. However, Benson was quick to campaign against these recommendations. Yet in 1967, Nunn forged ahead with the establishment of the Public Records Advisory Committee.

Public Records Advisory Committee

The Public Records Advisory Committee's first meeting was held on the 21st of February 1969 at the Latrobe Library. Harry Nunn prepared the first agenda which included surveying legislation in other jurisdictions, suggested headings for Victorian legislation, and the issue of defining public records. By the end of that year, the Committee put forward a report reiterating the Jungwirth Inquiry's recommendations including that a Public Record Office be established. They also advocated that definitions of public record, public offices and public officers should be adopted, that agencies should be responsible for ensuring complete and accurate records of their activities, and that public access should be allowed, among other recommendations.

Drafting the Bill

By 1970 a draft bill was in progress. The first draft was rejected by Nunn who spent Easter of 1972 rewriting. A third draft followed in May of that year. Of this version Nunn wrote to the State Librarian:



Lobby floor Parliament House, VPRS 12903/P0001/2553, 213/08

"As instructed by you I have not discussed this with members of the Archives staff, but make the following comment-the draft Bill is an excellent one carrying out the basic concepts and principles set out in the report of the Public Records Advisory

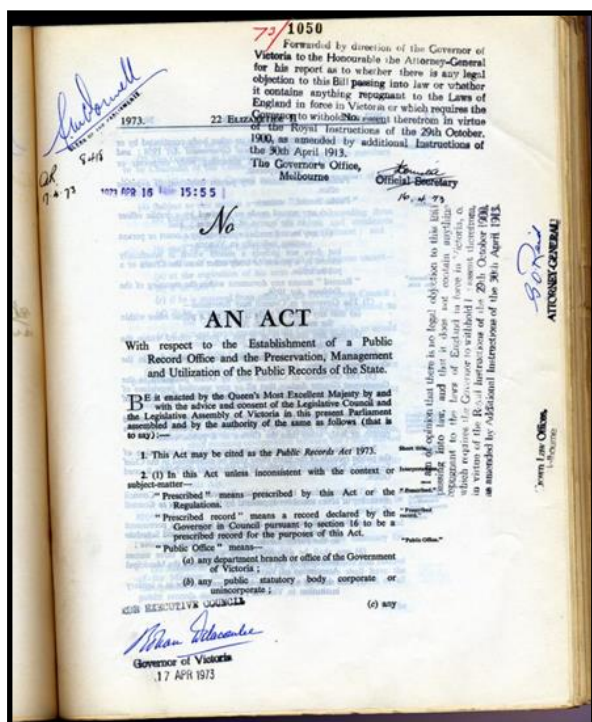
Committee ... It represents a first class restructuring of the previous draft bill (22/3/72) by creating a Public Record Office...while the draft Bill does not go as far as the Committee recommended in requiring record producing agencies to appoint an officer...whose purpose will be to facilitate the disposal of public records, it recognises the concept that records management is not an autonomous discipline." He concluded the Bill was "sound, realistic, workable and flexible."

The Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly by the Chief Secretary, ER Meagher, on 15 November, with the adjourned second reading debate resuming on the 30th. The Labor opposition was critical of the Bill and said they would not support it unless changes were made. Debate was adjourned



Library News, VPRS 5716 P1 Box 11

Victoria and the Hon Ian McLaren suggested changes to the clause booksellers were concerned with. Once amendments were made, the Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 5 April 1973, and by the Legislative Council on 11 April with a further minor amendment. The Act was assented to and came



Public Records Act 1973, given Royal Assent by Governor of Victoria

into operation on 17 April 1973 and the Archives Division of the State Library became the Public Record Office.

Definitions of 'public records' and 'public offices'

In the Act, a public record is defined as (i) any record made or received by a public officer in the course of his duties and (ii) any record made or received by a court or a person acting judicially in Victoria. The term was further defined as any document within the meaning of the Evidence Act 1958. Unlike the Commonwealth Archives Act, a public record under the Victorian Act does not include objects of archival significance.

The Act covers all Victorian public offices, defined as (i) any department, office or branch of the Government of Victoria; (ii) any public statutory body corporate or incorporated; (iii) any municipality or other body constituted by or under the Local Government Act 1958; or (iv) any other local governing body corporate or unincorporated.

Public Record Office Victoria and the Keeper

The key features of the *Public Records Act* were the establishment of Public Record Office Victoria, the Keeper of Public Records, and the Public Records Advisory Council (PRAC).

The Keeper of Public Records holds responsibility for the preservation, security and authentication of records under their control, the classification and accessibility of those records, and reproduction. The Keeper establishes standards for the management of public records, provides for the transfer of records to appointed Places of Deposit (PODs), and reports to the Minister responsible.

The first Keeper of Public Records was Harry Nunn. Since then, four more have followed.

Harry Wilfred Nunn, 17 April 1973 to 15 May 1981
Christopher Hurley, 15 May 1981 to 5 October 1990
Loretta Hambly, 5 October 1990 to 7 June 1991
Clement Ross Gibbs, 10 June 1991 to 4 April 2003
Justine Heazlewood, 7 April 2003 to present day.

By the time the Act was passed in 1973, there were around 24 kilometres of records, many unprocessed, across five State Library locations. There were few staff and not enough space. PROV's first Keeper had his work cut out for him. On 10 May 1973 he sent a memo to the Under-Secretary with estimates for PROV as a separate office. He wanted nineteen new positions but was given three at that time. He also sought separate accommodation from the Library, finally obtaining office space at 241 William Street in November 1974 and a storage building in Laverton in 1975.



The Laverton building

The Laverton repository and search room was officially opened on 5 September 1978 by the Hon. RJ Hamer, then the Premier of Victoria. A continued supporter of the archives until his passing, we honour Hamer's memory today through the Sir Rupert Hamer Records Management Awards.

Public Records Advisory Council

PRAC was established under the Act to provide advice to the Public Record Office and the Minister on administration of the Act and promote cooperation with other government agencies. Council members are appointed by the Minister.

The initial PRAC members consisted of government representatives, one historian and the State Librarian:

Robert L King,
Under-Secretary of the Chief Secretary's Department
Roy Glenister, Secretary to the Law Department
Gordon Serpell,
Director-General of the Public Works Department
Ron Webster, Co-ordinator of Works at the Treasury
Councillor LJ Howarth
Professor Geoffrey Blainey
Ken Horn, State Librarian



PRAC President Judy Maddigan
presenting at the 2022
Victorian Community History Awards

The inaugural meeting took place on 12 December 1973.

The Council today consists of a President, Judy Maddigan, and seven members covering a range of expertise with representatives for historical research (Prof Keir Reeves and Belinda Ensor), public administration (David Brous), finance and business administration (Deidre Missingham), Indigenous heritage (Bonnie Chew), local government (Steve Stefanopoulos OAM), and family history and genealogy (Diane Gardiner AM).

He listed the lengthy research projects that staff assisted with:

Soldier settlement after 1918
Origin of town planning legislation in Victoria
Medical practitioners on the goldfields
History of the Chinese in Victoria
History of the Victorian Police 1836-1910
Aboriginal education in Victoria
History of the Marine Board
Biography of Frank Tate
Migrant land settlement in Victoria in the 1920s
A history of land settlement in Victoria
A history of Western Wimmera
A history of Litchfield – 100 years
Poowong land settlement
Effects of pressure groups on the development of technical education in Victoria.

Two years later, the VPRS system for classifying record series was implemented further improving records control and access.

Access was also at top of mind with the development of the current volunteer program in 1989 and the digitisation program in 2001. Today we have more than 70 volunteers dedicated to indexing, transcribing, re-packing and digitising records from the collection. These activities ensure records are more readily accessible to researchers.

In the 2021-22 financial year, we issued 29,728 public records to reading room visitors with an additional 3,768 records to government agencies. Many of the topics listed above as areas of interest in 1973 have also come back around in recent years. We hosted an exhibition about technical schools in 2022-23 and published WWI soldier settlement records online in 2015, both as part of state-wide anniversary projects.

Standards and strategies

The 1970s and 80s saw the development of disposal schedules for agencies, as well as the first PROV recordkeeping standards covering storage, disposition, transfer and disposal. A complete set of recordkeeping standards, specifications and guidelines were redeveloped with public offices between 2009-11 with a recent review of these concluding in 2021-22. Disposal schedules are today known as Retention and Disposal Authorities and are available from PROV our website.

The first significant amendment of the Act was undertaken in 1986 to allow the Keeper the power to enter public offices and inspect records storage, conservation, and records management. The amendment was proclaimed on 18 October 1994.

The 1990s also saw government agencies begin the switch from paper to computers. To manage recordkeeping and transfers of the electronic records being created, in 1999 PROV produced the Victorian Electronic Records Strategy (VERS) providing agencies with a format and minimum set of metadata required for every electronic record of Government. To this day, VERS continues to ensure the creation, capture and preservation of authentic, complete and meaningful digital records by the Victorian public sector.

We launched our first digital archive in 2005, one of the first end-to-end digital archives in the world, updating it in 2021 as part of recent VERS work, replacing our entire archival management and digital preservation environment. This included transforming our online presence, ordering and warehouse management system in North Melbourne, with roll-out to Bendigo and Ballarat sites completed earlier this year.

Victorian Archives Centre

In addition to the agency records being transferred to PROV's collection, privatisation and corporatisation of the 1990s also saw PROV absorb a significant number of major accessions,

Places of Deposit

Soon after the *Public Records Act* was passed, the Curator of the Burke Memorial Museum at Beechworth wrote to Nunn to request the Museum be allowed to take custody of local mining records held at the Court House. PROV staff visited the Museum days later and recommended the location as a suitable first place of deposit. It was the first POD appointed under the Act.

The Geelong Historical Records Centre (now the Geelong Heritage Centre within the Geelong Library and Heritage Centre) was opened in 1979 and made a POD in 1988. PROV's Ballarat branch, the Ballarat Archives Centre, opened in 1982 and relocated to the Eureka Centre in 2019, and the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre arrived in 2008. Dr Michele Matthews, the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre's first Archives Officer, wrote in 2012:

"The newly established Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC) had its genesis in the 1980s, when locals, including the editor of the Bendigo Advertiser and myself, argued that Bendigo needed to have its own archives centre (and museum) to house the region's rich history dating back to the Victorian gold rush. The culmination of many local grassroots meetings was the establishment of BRAC in 2008 as a POD to care for permanent public records, as specified in the Victorian Public Records Act 1973."

There are now more than 100 appointed PODs across Victoria, housing original records from local and state government agencies of importance to the local community.

The utilisation of public records

In the first ever Annual Report of the Keeper of Public Records for the year ended 30 June 1974, Harry Nunn wrote that in PROV's first year, staff received 9841 inquiries and loaned out 1400 files to departments and public offices.

including the archives of the State Bank, Melbourne City Council, State Electricity Commission, Gas and Fuel Corporation, the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and the Rural Water Commission. More space was needed.

A 1996 inquiry into the Public Record Office recommended a new purpose-built facility to be located less than 5km from the CBD, and so in 1998 it was announced a new archives building would be built on the former Government Printer and Gas and Fuel site in North Melbourne. A major project to design and build the Victorian Archives Centre, and then relocate from Laverton began. The building itself was officially opened to staff on 9 November 2000, with the Harry Nunn reading room opening to the public a few years later.



Melbourne Women's Walking Club with their 2022 Victorian Community History Award

Harry Nunn Reading Room opens

On 29 April, the Hon. John Thwaites, Deputy Premier and Minister for Victorian Communities, officially opened the Harry Nunn Reading Room at the Victorian Archives Centre, North Melbourne.

The Reading Room is named after Mr Harry Nunn, OAM, in recognition of his many years of service to Victorian archives: as Chief Archivist of the Archives Division, State Library of Victoria; as architect of the *Public Records Act 1973*; and as the first Keeper of Public Records at PROV after its establishment in that same year.



Harry Nunn, OAM (left), and the Hon. John Thwaites, Deputy Premier and Minister for Victorian Communities (right), cut the ribbon at the new Harry Nunn Reading Room. Photograph: Norman Wodetzki

PROActive newsletter, Sept 2004

Senior Collections Advisor Charlie Farrugia remembers:

“The relocation of the collection occurred between July-October 2000 and involved moving 12.5 million files, 500,000 boxes or 1,760 truckloads of records. The meterage moved was estimated as 79,938m. The Reading Room at Casselden Place (known as the Melbourne Archives Centre) continued to operate until the Harry Nunn Reading Room at the VAC opened for the first time immediately after Easter in 2004. Prior to this, a temporary reading room was established on Level 1 at the VAC in what is now the Volunteer Room. This room opened on 10 October 2000. Both this temporary room and the Melbourne Archives Centre closed upon the opening of the VAC Reading Room.”

The Victorian Archives Centre now houses around 100kms of records dating from the start of government administration of the Port Phillip District in 1836 to the present day. The building receives visitors to the reading room, exhibitions in the VAC Gallery, and events in the conference room.

The building is also home to our friends at the National Archives of Australia with whom we have a long-standing partnership. When first opened, the Victorian Archives Centre was the only archival building in Australia where researchers could access both Commonwealth and state records in the one place.

Community

Engaging communities with the records of importance to them and assisting community groups and historians is another big part of what we do.

For more than twenty years our Local History Grants Program and Victorian Community History Awards (which we run in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria) have been funding and awarding history projects of significance by groups and individuals across Victoria. We also have a Koorie Records Unit and Reference Service run in collaboration with the National Archives of Australia to promote awareness

about Aboriginal records within the collection and improve accessibility to Aboriginal communities.

For more than ten years we have showcased records from our collection at exhibitions within the Old Treasury Building in a partnership that continues today. We also have a loan program that allows other museums the opportunity to showcase public records within their own exhibitions. And, in 2003, in time for the 30th anniversary of the Act, we launched our annual journal *Provenance* featuring peer-reviewed articles, as well as general research papers, drawing on original records from the collection. This year the journal celebrates its 20th year and 21st issue.

The final Act

The *Public Records Act 1973* has ensured that records of Victoria's past are kept, managed and preserved for generations to come. Public Record Office Victoria owes its existence to the Act and to those hard-working librarians, historians, archivists and politicians who fought for the Act's creation and a place to store the public records of Victoria now and into the future.

Read the *Public Records Act 1973* in full: <https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/public-records-act-1973/041>

A review of the *Public Records Act* is currently underway.

References/further reading:

A Matter of Record: A History of Public Record Office Victoria, by Professor EW (Bill) Russell with original archival research by Charlie Farrugia, published 2003.

A Happy Birthday from a Long-Standing Staff Member, blog by Charlie Farrugia, published 2020.

Celebrating 20 years of the Victorian Archives Centre, blog by Tara Oldfield, published 2020.

New History From Below, article by Dr Michele Matthews, published 2021.

Thank you Charlie Farrugia for assisting with this article.

And we should all remember that our own newsletter *black sheep* was highly commended in the small publication section (when it existed) and Tony's book was shortlisted in the Local History Awards.

We have also benefitted by being the receipt of two grants.

The first allowed for the digitisation of the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* and *Every Week* that we are constantly using and the second for the purchase of digitising equipment.

Thank you PROV for the support and ongoing care of the collection in your custody.

What's wrong with the caption for this picture ?

DEBRA SQUIRES

This is an exercise in “what might happen” but in real terms, if you are conducting research on this family you should be working backwards from yourself proving facts with evidence as you go — but even then, the last question remains relevant !



This well-preserved wooden headstone is in Omeo Cemetery. The inscription reads: Sacred to the memory of John Henry Weston, born in Lyndhurst, England. Died at Omeo, 23rd September 1808, aged 50 years.

Can you pick what is wrong with the caption for this picture ?

There is something very wrong with the caption.

For those who are struggling to read the original caption it reads “This well-preserved wooden / headstone is in Omeo / Cemetery. The inscription / reads: Sacred to the / memory of John Henry / Weston born in Lyndhurst, / England. Died at Omeo, / 23rd September 1808, / aged 50 years.”

This is a good example of why you cannot take things printed in the newspaper as gospel, why you still need to double check with another source and why you should know some local history as well.

Have you worked out what is wrong with it yet?

Imagine you are a beginner researcher and you have just discovered Trove. You have entered “John Henry Weston” in the search box and up has popped the above clip from “Readers Camera Studies” in the *Weekly Times* on 24 September 1938.

Eureka you have found him and it tells you where he was from and his age and when he died. Fantastic

But does it?

If you haven't worked it out by now - there was no Omeo in 1808. It was the 1830s before Port Phillip (Victoria) was “settled” and there certainly wasn't any cemetery at Omeo for John Weston to be buried in.

So how did the caption get to be so wrong?

I believe that this is possibly a case of the centre fragments of the “6” in “1868” eroding from the wooden headstone so that the date for all intents and purposes - looks like 1808. You have to know your history.

This was confirmed by checking the Omeo Cemetery register which indeed shows that John Henry Weston was buried on 29 September 1868 at Omeo. This register was recreated by the then Shire Secretary when the original was lost in the 1939 bushfires at Omeo. He was diligent in re-writing as much as was known and could be remembered so it is always a relief to find early entries in this register.

The register also states he was from Cobungra, had drowned aged 45 years and was from Liverpool. If the researcher wants to follow this lead inquest papers at PROV can be found. His death is registered in BDM with the details of his father being Henry and his mother Maria *nee* Longman and also confirms his age as 45 and Liverpool as his birthplace. But the age is still wrong.

I have no answer for that except that he appears to have "altered" his age when "convenient" all through his life.

According to what appears to be details of his arrival in Australia (the parents names are correct) he was 24 years old in 1839 when he arrived - but this would then make him about 53 years old when he died.

However, if the beginner researcher had persisted on Trove a little further down the search results they would be rewarded with a more readable account of his death on the last entry on the page from the *Gippsland Times* 3 October 1868:

A magisterial enquiry was held by Thomas Lewis, Esq., J.P., on Monday, the 28th September, at the Reunion Hotel, Livingstone Creek, Omeo, touching the death of John Henry Weston, better known as "Omeo Jack." It appeared from the evidence that the deceased left the Mount Wills Station, of which he was the overseer, on Wednesday the 23rd, to come into the Livingstone township. To do this he had to cross two rivers, the Bundara and the Cobungara, (sic) which were then in full flood. He was last seen making down the Cobungara for the crossing place. The next day a digger's wife, on the look out for her husband's horses, saw two horses loose on the banks of the Cobungara; one was a riding horse with the bridle broken and the off stirrup gone, and though his skin was dry, water was dripping from a valise which was strapped on the saddle, the other was a pack horse. On nearer view she recognised them as station horses, and being unable to catch them, hastened back to her husband. The alarm was given and the police sent for, and they searched the river for two days in vain and could see nothing of the body though they could track where the horses entered the river on the side next Mount Wills, and came out again about 50 yards lower down on the same side. On Sunday, a party of diggers, among whom were some Canadians, started for the scene of the disaster with the requisite appliances to make a raft, from which the river was carefully sounded, and after two or three hours work the body was found caught in the head of a tree which was under water, and with the arms clasped round two of the limbs of the tree. Except a slight scratch on the face, there were no marks on the body, and the few articles he had in his pocket on leaving home were found intact. Under these circumstances an opinion was recorded by the magistrate in the usual form, that the deceased was accidentally drowned, and his remains were attended to the grave the next day by the largest concourse of persons seen at a funeral in Omeo for a long time, for the deceased was an old resident in the district, and though neither great nor learned, was much respected.

Now that would be a great beginners find!! You would not expect a photograph of a headstone that was probably destroyed twelve months later in the 1939 bushfires. Some families have all the luck!!

Should the beginner researcher stop there?

Well my response would be no.

Do that all important timeline - was he married?
Yes, he was. He married nineteen year old Sarah McCoy

John Henry Weston
UNMARRIED MALE IMMIGRANT.
Arrived by the Ship *Argyle*
Brought out by *Mr Marshall*
A Native of *Hampshire, son of Henry Weston*
former of Cambridge and Maria
this wife living here
Calling *agriculturalist*
Age *24* *24 Sept 1839*
Person certifying Registry of Baptism }
Character, and Person certifying the same } *Very good by W. Marshall*
Minister Sydney
State of bodily health, strength, and probable usefulness } *Very poor*
Religion *Protestant*
Remarks *Acas and vertes*
Sydney. *26/9/39* *No Complaints*

Ancestry : New South Wales, Australia, Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1828-1896 : April 1939 "Argyle" for John Henry Weston. This record documents has age as 24, his character very good, he can read and write but his 'bodily health and probable usefulness' is regarded as very poor.

(who had a child) at Omeo when he was 51 years old in 1863. They went on to have three children who were four, three and one year old when John died. Sarah had another child after John's death before marrying Christian Roth and having three more children. After looking at several trees on 'Ancestry' that include John Henry Weston it appears that he always hid his real age and at the time of death he was 56 years old.

But in reality the image on the previous page is not just a beginner exercise as no-one on any of the ancestry trees held a copy of this image - they did however include other grave photos including Sarah's grave. Do they know about it?

But let's think about it?

Would you search Trove in a 1938 paper for a death that happened in 1868? I would suggest that 99% of researchers would not. Yet here it is, a totally unexpected image that every family historian would value. It is even possible that somewhere someone has a clip from the *Weekly Times* but without the caption ... it is just another headstone.

So how many readers would search for an ancestor's name seventy years after their date of death?

Digital copies of support evidence held at EGFHG rooms.

Mr Cameron was a native of Sydney, and arrived at Sale from Maneroo in April last, with his uncle, a Mr Blighton, and a Mr Heagh, for the purpose of disposing of a mob of horses. Messrs Blighton and Heagh returned to Maneroo, but Mr Cameron went on a visit to Mr William Murray, on the Bald Hills, where he remained for about three weeks.

On the 14th May, Mr Cameron left Sale for the Crooked River, on a prospecting tour, in company with Mr T. H. Cooper, and after prospecting for three weeks, joined a sluicing party in Good Luck Creek, and worked with them for several weeks, with variable success.

Mr Cameron was about twenty-eight years of age and formerly a drapers assistant in Sydney. Although only a new arrival in this portion of the district, he was much respected by all who had made his acquaintance. It has been customary on the Crooked River for a jury of miners to sit on cases where fatal accidents have occurred, but as there were only three miners on the 12 Mile Creek besides Cameron's own mates, this was found impossible.

The coroner for the Crooked River resides at Bairnsdale, ninety-two miles from where the accident happened, and could not arrive here, with the roads in the present state, before a week had elapsed. There is a doctor now residing with Mr Kleimptz here, named Rodgers, a foreigner, but whether a member of the medical board or not, I cannot say. He has, however, been attending several cases of sickness, and if a legally qualified practitioner, it is regretted he did not proceed to the 12 Mile Creek when the accident was first reported to him on Saturday last.

I have omitted in several of my letters to mention that Mr Hartley, the explorer and discover of the New Zealand goldfields is a resident on the Crooked River, and also the discoverer of a rich reef in the locality of Jungle Creek.

Since Thursday last we have had beautiful weather, and numerous prospectors are preparing to scour the ranges; in fact, some of the oldest residents of Gippsland appear to have taken the reefing mania, and successfully. Another reef was discovered on Saturday, by Messrs Scott, of Delvin. Their last discovery has been registered the Eldorado. Mr Cogswell purchased a fourth share in this claim today. Scott Brothers have certainly the advantages of being excellent bushmen, and I hope their praiseworthy example may be followed by other residents with the same success.

I enclose specimens from the Britannia and Eldorado reefs, taken from prospecting claims. On Saturday last Messrs Smith and Cogswell, of

Melbourne, purchased an interest in the prospecting claim, Oriental Reef, from Daniel McLean.

The article typically displays how the correspondent jumps to include unrelated material at the end, but this unrelated material also holds interesting information. Did you know the Scotts of Delvine were associated with gold discoveries?

Of course, curiosity got the better of us and the birth, death and marriage records had to be looked at and it was here that the broad range of spelling and possible transcription "errors" came to the fore.

There were KLEMP TZ, KLEMTZ, KLENTZ, KLUNTZ, and KLUUTZ in the 1836-1888 period - everything except KLEIMPTZ but pretty clearly the same family located at Grant/Talbotville, particularly when viewed with trees on Ancestry. Who knows what the correct spelling actually is or how it is spelt when you start repeating the name to yourself with an imaginary Prussian accent!

This confusion over the spelling of the surname appears to have "stumped" family historians on Ancestry. The death of Rudolph Klemptz's wife is not evident. However, knowing she was an O'Donoghue before her marriage shows that her death was registered under the surname KLUNTZ. What was evident was that both the parents of the Klemtz children died when they were young—so who raised them—another stumble in the rabbit hole found Otto.

In the *Gippsland Times* 17 March 1904 the following article was found:

Peter Jones, a well known Dargo resident, was killed on the 9th inst, while riding home in company with Mr James Connell better known as "Eaglehawk Jimmy." He had sold a horse to Connell, who was off to take possession. Connell missed his companion, and, turning back, found him lying on the roadside. He thought he was asleep, and the went to sleep himself. When he woke he found that Jones was dead. Jones was 78 (73)? years old, and a native of County Meath, Ireland He was a widower, and left his property, by a will made a short time ago, to Otto Klemptz, an adopted son, who is now in Western Australia. His property is considerable. Mr D. Long J.P. found a verdict of accidental death.

Perhaps he is a brother, perhaps his family raised the children? Enough ! We pulled the plug of chasing "Klemptz."

Now the spelling may not be 100% accurate as other records indicate a great variance in the way this surname was spelt but that initial reaction of "is that Klienitz" was very wrong.

Sname	Gvn Nm	Evt	Sps Snm/Father	Sps Gvn/Mother	Age	Sex	Bth Plc	Dth Plc	Yr	Regno
KLUNTZ	Margaret	D	Odonoghue Patr	Margaret UNKNOWN	39		VICT		1878	5393
KLEMP TZ	Ellen Jane	D	Rudolph Albert	Margaret	5M		VICT		1864	7941
KLENTZ	Ernest Albert	B	Rudolf Albert	Margaret DONOGHUE			GRANT		1868	2925
KLEMTZ	Pauline	B	Rudolph	Margate DONOUGHOU			TALB		1865	25284
KLEMTZ	Margt	B	Rudolph	Margt DONOGHUE			GRANT		1873	24316
KLUNTZ	Rose Maria	B	Rudolph	Margaret DONOGHUE			DA RG		1876	3026
KLUNTZ	Catherine Agnes	B	Rudolph	Margaret DONOGHUE			GR AN		1878	9429
KLUNTZ	Catherine Agnes	D	Rudolph	Margaret DONOGHUE	2D		VICT		1878	5392
KLUUTZ	Rudolph August	B	Rudolph Albert	Margaret ODonoghue			GRAN		1872	2788
KLEINITZ	John Alfred Conrad	M	SCHULZ	Anna Maria Bertha		M	PRUSSIA		1871	3985
KLUNTZ	Rudolph	D	Unknown		47		GERMANY		1879	1608

The “A.V. Jennings” building model of the 1880s

A Sands and McDougall Directory is not necessarily the place that you would expect to find house plans, costs and payment schedules ... but that is exactly where you can find a collection of plans from the 1880s to supplement your research.

The *Sands and McDougall* directories are one of those “go to” resources that family historians use in their search. They are particularly good for tracking Melbourne based individuals and businesses for over one hundred years. The first was published in 1857, under the name of Sands and Kenny, then in 1860 it became Sands and McDougall with the last being published in 1974.

Many archives throughout Australia (State Library of Victoria, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Prahran Mechanics Institute) have sets (complete and incomplete) of *Sands and McDougall* in hard copy, microfiche and digital form, some of which are available online.

The Melbourne University Archives have digitised from 1857 to 1880 and can be viewed here -

<https://omeka.cloud.unimelb.edu.au/melbourne-history/exhibits/show/melbournedirectories/browsemelbournedirectories>

The State Library of Victoria has digitised every five years from 1860 to 1974 -

https://find.slv.vic.gov.au/discovery/collectionDiscovery?vid=61SLV_INST:SLV&collectionId=81213035910007636

You may also find some hard copies in smaller libraries in regional Victoria. For example, East Gippsland Family History Group has several issues on our library shelf.

There is, however, within some select issues of the *Sands and McDougall* a very informative little supplement. This supplement, *Pamphlet of useful information for persons wishing to either build, borrow, or invest*, was published by Universal Building Societies in 1883. This link will take you to the supplement in the 1886 issue of the directory

<https://viewer.slv.vic.gov.au/?entity=IE13746144&file=FL20017671&mode=browse>

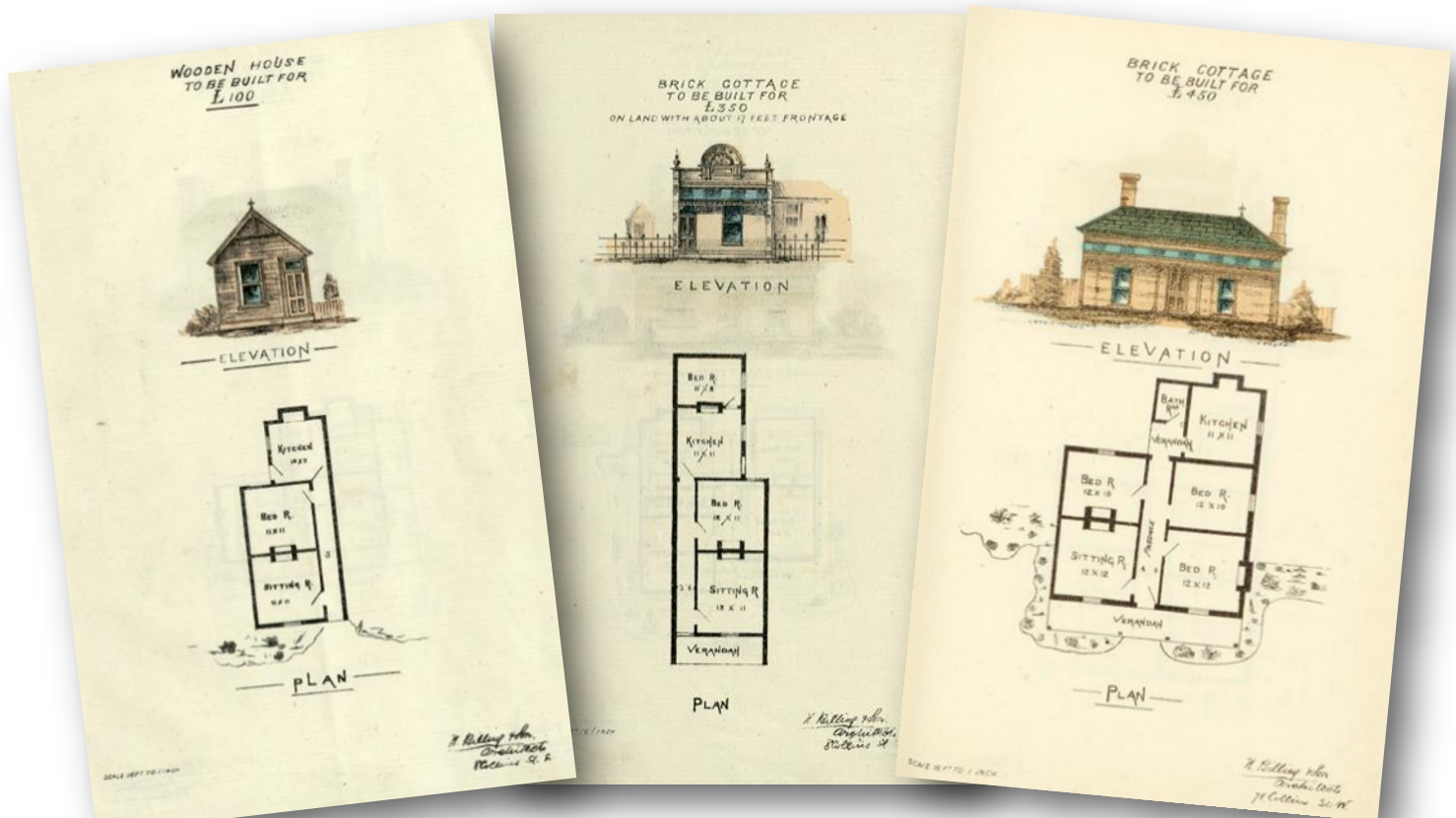
and this link <https://viewer.slv.vic.gov.au/?entity=IE5943742&mode=browse>

will take you direct to the supplement as a stand alone document.

The 34 page pamphlet gives an insight into how homes were financed, the repayments that could be expected, an architect's impression of the home and floor plan and most importantly - the cost of the building.

Interest on deposits offered by the building society in 1884 were 5½% at call and up to 7% for over twelve months. The booklet also gives full details of the cost of loans for various amounts over various time periods. The beauty of this little booklet is the sample house plans offered by the architect N. Billing and Son.

There are fifteen plans in the booklet ranging from the “budget” single fronted wooden house of a three room building consisting of a sitting room, bedroom and kitchen for £100 up to the most “expensive” which is for two semi



detached brick residences (what we would today call terraces) with each consisting of nine rooms over two stories allowing for servant quarters, three bedrooms, balconies and verandahs, kitchen and scullery, dining and drawing room and bathroom and internal staircase for £1400.

All of these are viewable online (and downloadable) and they really do add flesh to the bones of that family history you are researching. Particularly if you take it one step further.

It is fine for us to read this pamphlet from 1883 and see that a three room weatherboard would cost £100 to construct but in comparative terms to today — what is £100 worth?

We cannot simply convert £100 to \$200 and expect it to be correct. Estimating the current value of historic monetary amounts is not a straightforward process. It is harder to get an accurate and meaningful comparison the further back in time you go. There are some good websites that will give a calculation, but this is also fraught with problems as they can vary by a considerable amount.

You need to remember that in the 19th century while Australia used pound, shillings and pence there was no Australian pound value as such. The value was fixed to the British pound as there was no notional Australian currency until 1910.

Wikipedia does give a good general guide about this at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_pound

There are several websites that offer calculators where you can input the amount and designate the year for the current value calculation but there is wide variance on these and you need to find the site that works best for you.

“Measuring Worth” contains several calculators, with explanations, about how hard it is to allow for inflation and other financial pressures. The website is <https://www.measuringworth.com/calculators/australiacompare/>

“Measuring Worth” was designed to calculate historic funds for the United States, England and Australia and was developed from questions like “My grandfather sold our farm in 1927 for \$2,000, what is that worth today?” and is equally useful for inventory values included in wills and probate papers. It is administered and overseen by a board of economic professors and includes other sections like Purchasing Power, Relative Values (in various countries), Inflation Rates and more. Measuring Wealth puts the “real price” at \$12,206.00 however the “income value” is \$98,180.00!

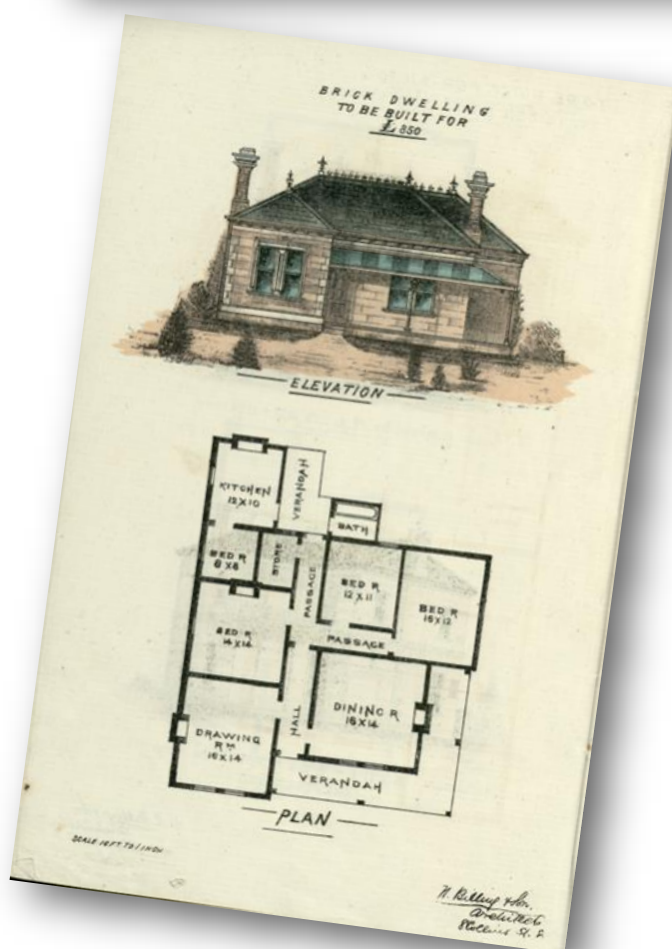
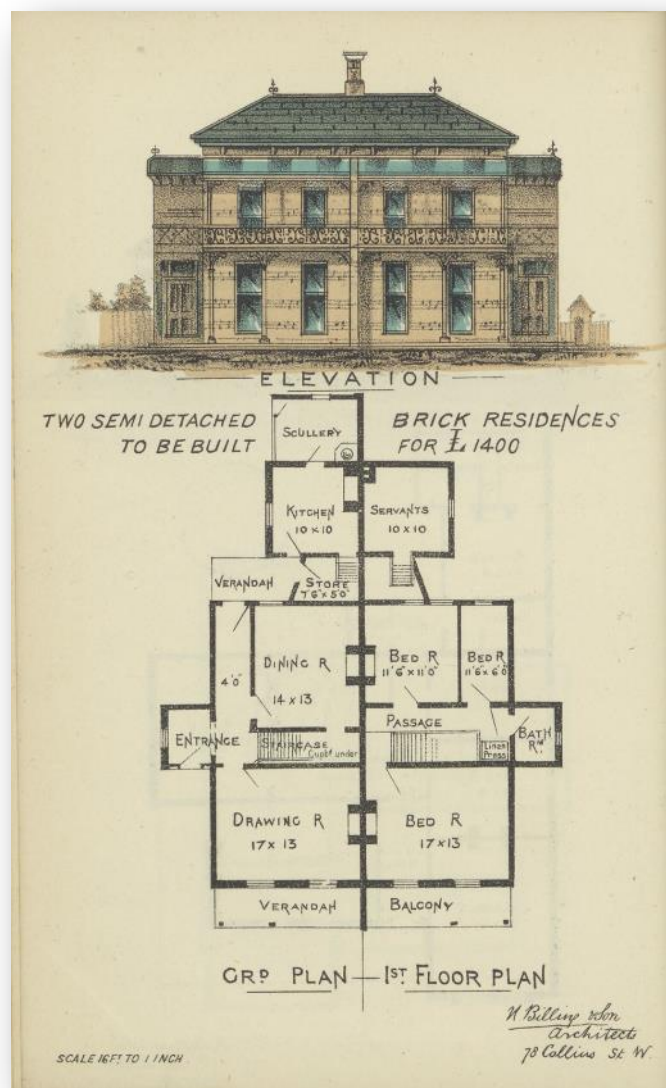
The Reserve Bank of Australia also has inflation calculators. The first calculator deals with the “Pre Decimal” economy

<https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/annualPreDecimal.html>

You need to input the £ amount in the appropriate field and seek the value up to 2020. However this only works from 1901 so the “inflation” from 1883 in this instance is not included. If your enquiry is post 1966 it is necessary to use the decimal inflation calculator at

<https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/>

Both sites are worth using to give comparison on values.



Hamilton's Yeomanry Brigade

Wayne George's book ... *they wouldn't talk about it* is due for release in September. It provides biographies of all the servicemen and women of all conflicts from the Ensay district. In his research for the book he explored Ensay's involvement in the Boer War.

This expanded extract from the book details Thomas MacKnight Hamilton's Yeomanry Brigade who were mustered for the Boer War.

The original list covers more than just Ensay district and stretches as far as Melbourne.

In the early stages of the Second Boer War (1899-1902) Lord Chesham, a member of the British Parliament, made an appeal for volunteers to act as 'scouts' to join the Yeomanry Brigade. These scouts would support the British troops in South Africa.

Thomas Hamilton received a cable at Ensay from friends in London, who endorsed the appeal. Robin Droogleever in his publication *That Ragged Mob* suggests that this friend may have been Paul Mildmay. Remember him from *bs no.110* "The mystery of Mildmays" which explained how he had been employed at Ensay Station and then returned to England. The friend endorsed Lord Chesham's appeal.

In his time at Ensay Mildmay had been impressed with the superior riding skills and abilities of the bush riders and so encouraged Hamilton to find such men to act as scouts in the Boer War. Hamilton took it upon himself to muster up volunteers who became known as "Hamilton's Men."

The corps, should do credit to Gippsland, as its members will be the best riders over rough country and the best men for bush work ever yet sent to South Africa.

Following Hamilton's appeal in the press, between January and March 1900 more than eighty men from Victoria indicated their willingness to go.

Of those men, nine were from the Ensay district, 22 from the Omeo district, 31 were from other areas in East Gippsland with the balance from suburban Melbourne.

While Hamilton encouraged men to join the Yeomanry Brigade he himself does not appear to have signed up to go with them nor did he enlist to serve in the Boer War. Of the Ensay men who responded to the appeal only one, Winnett, went on to actually enlist.

But who was Thomas MacKnight Hamilton (pictured below) and what became of the men?



The Bairnsdale Advertiser and Omeo Chronicle
Tuesday 16 January 1900

In *The Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle* on 16 January 1900 Hamilton stated

that it is intended, according to the instructions which he had received, to enrol a force of say 400 men, all of whom will be good riders, especially over rough country, used to hard living, and handy with firearms. The force will be equipped and clothed and put on board ship at Melbourne free of charge to the British Government. From the date of their embarkation they will be paid by the latter at exactly the same rate as their British comrades in the yeomanry.



Thomas was born at "Crere Farm", Kilberry, Argyllshire, Scotland in 1843 the son of Robert Hamilton and Christina Crawford MacKnight.

He came to Australia in 1860, and made his way to Dunmore Station, in the western district of Victoria, which was then owned by his uncle, Charles Hamilton MacKnight, in partnership with James Hamilton Irvine.

In 1872 he married Martha Rutledge, the daughter of William Rutledge of "Farnham Park," near

Warrnambool. He then took over as manager of the Rutledges' Drysdale and Luflope stations. After six years managing the stations he rented "Snakey Creek," near Macarthur, from a Mr Gleeson.

In 1883, in conjunction with James Irvine who had been in partnership with his uncle at Dunmore Station, Hamilton purchased Ensay Station, on the Tambo River, in East Gippsland. Hamilton and his family lived at Ensay Station until his death. He died from heart failure aboard his yacht at Paynesville in 1907, leaving behind his wife and a grown-up family of four sons and two daughters.

At the time of the Boer War Thomas became involved in recruiting bushmen to act as forward scouts for the Yeomanry Brigade being formed in England for service in South Africa. Hamilton was not alone in this mission as there were various. However, after months of indecision the government encouraged privately raised corps such as that organised by Hamilton, to directly join the Australian Imperial Force rather than a private corps.

On 30 January 1900 the *Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle* listed all the men who responded to Hamilton's appeal and volunteered for service in Lord Chesham's Brigade at the Boer War. Two months later on 6 March *The Age* stated that the corps comprised of the best volunteer bushmen to be found in the colony.

Many are individually famous for intrepid feats of horsemanship, and all are perfect riders over the roughest country, and are thorough overlanding bushmen. Most of them are kangaroo hunters and splendid shots, with unusual powers of vision and inured to extreme hardship. Their horses have been brought up to rough and dangerous work in the eastern wilds.

Two days later in the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* it was reported the brigade would *parade for the preliminary inspection at Bairnsdale, not Ensay, as previously arranged* and reports stating it was *another stupid blunder* began to appear.

On 1 December 1900 the *Bairnsdale Advertiser* called the Yeomanry Brigade a scandal, as Hamilton and his men were forced from one government hindrance to another. By this stage, the majority of Hamilton's men had given up in disgust. The Ensay men on the list proved to be some of the hardest to identify during the course of Wayne's research and few details were discovered (or not) about them. Only those who had a connection to Ensay and district were included in the book.

The following are the names and addresses of the volunteers for the corps published on 8 March 1900 in the *Bairnsdale Advertiser and Tambo and Omeo Chronicle* :-

Allen F.W., Cassilis
Allwood Wm., Maffra
Bingemann F.C., Melbourne
Cameron John, Harrietville
Carrigg F., Sarsfield
Cooper R., Ensay
Crane E., Lucknow
Davies T.M., Walhalla
Deane J., Traralgon
Dejarlais E.S., Benambra
Denholm James, Benambra

Dolan H., Cassilis
Duncan E., Bairnsdale
Edsall T.P., Lindenow
Fisher W., Lucknow
Fraser Alexander, Omeo
Fraser Samuel, Melbourne
Gabel Francis
Grace Thos., Cassilis
Graham R., Bairnsdale
Guthrie John, Omeo
Hadden A.G., Omeo
Hadden Oliver F., Omeo
Heywood F.C., Cassilis
Hitchcock H., Melbourne
Hogg Chas. G., Bairnsdale
Jackson R.B., Bairnsdale
Johnson A., Orbost
Johnson H., Lower Nicholson
Johnson H.W., Lower Nicholson
Johnson J.A., Lower Nicholson
Johnson M., Lower Nicholson
Jondson R., Bairnsdale
Joyes J., Richmond
Keyte F., Broadlands.
Kilpatrick A., Buchan
Lee H., Bairnsdale
Lowe Algernon, Doctor's Flat
Maloney J., Ensay
McColl John, Ensay
McDonald Findlay, Swift's Creek
McLennan B., Bairnsdale
McLeod J.D., Werribee
McNamara W., Traralgon
McSorley Jas., Brookville
Monaghan Wm., Ensay
Montiford H., Brunswick
Murphy D., Cassilis
Quiney H., Glen Wills
Raynor B., Bairnsdale
Reeves Frank O., Melbourne
Robertson R., Bairnsdale
Roth Chris., Ensay
Scott George, Cassilis
Simpson G., Brunswick
Sims Jerome, Tongio
Sinclair C.P.B., St Kilda
Smart A., Bairnsdale
Smith R., Bairnsdale
Smith Walter L., Benambra
Taylor Edward, Lucknow
Thorburn George, sen., Doctors Flat
Tinsley S., Ensay
Tory C.H., Omeo
Walterson H., jun., Bindi
Ward A.M., Cassilis
Warr H., Doctor's Flat
White Gabel J., Omeo Plains
Willett Wm, Reedy Flat
Wood Thos. W., Bairnsdale
Young D.J., Carlton

The Ensay and district men included in this list are part of the upcoming publication by EGFHG member Wayne George ... *they wouldn't talk about it* which details the service of every service man and woman that can be identified from the Boer War to present.

Erecting the Telegraph to the Omeo

Trove continually gives us historic articles about the region that add to the collective knowledge of our heritage. On 30 August 1879 the *Australasian Sketcher* featured the construction of the telegraph to Omeo with an engraving and description of the work.

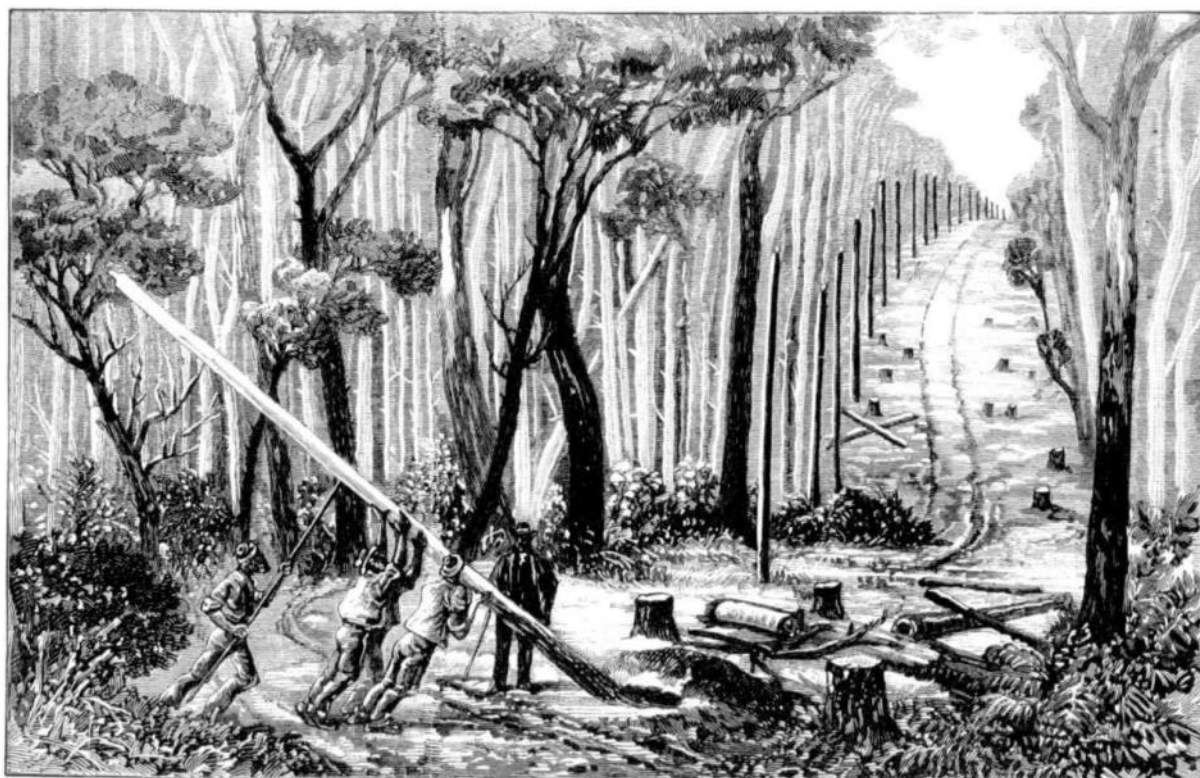
Our illustration depicts the formation of the line of telegraph, now being constructed to Omeo. To elucidate the engraving we cannot do better than quote from a recent article in *The Australasian* descriptive of the country through which the line is passing. The writer says:

“From Cunningham, at the Lakes entrance, to Bruthen is only about 18 miles, but the variety of soil is great, and the forest scenery ever changing. The old forest track winds and twists several hundreds of times one way and the other in this short distance, keeping as nearly as may be the top of the ridge, which commences to ascend at a distance of about half a mile from the entrance, finally attaining an altitude of about 1,800ft when 12 miles inland, when it becomes comparatively level, and continues so to Bruthen.

Along this track the new telegraph line is now being constructed, and as the old track on the ridge has been followed, the angles in the line are numerous, but at places there are straight runs of about half a mile or so, and to look along the 80ft opening made in the forest by the contractors’ men is to see a very pretty sight. In any such half mile the opening gradually seems to close, like two huge walls 150ft or 200ft high; and such is the care taken to have all growing timber that overhangs into the clearing cut down or lopped away, that the two sides resemble a gigantic straight hedgerow; when the timber is all removed from the 80ft now being cleared by the contractors for the electric telegraph, an excellent road formation could be made at a trifling expense. The sun will soon harden the ground sufficiently to admit of drays passing over it in safety, and as the survey has evidently been made with the view of using the clearing for road purposes, it follows the easiest route as to rise and fall, while at the same time the present track-distance is considerably reduced between Bruthen and Cunningham.

When this is done there will soon be selection, and trade will follow. The timber consists of honeysuckle on the borders of the lake, behind which is a belt of ti-tree, then another belt of stunted gums - boxwood and apple-tree box. As the land rises the timber becomes more and more dense, until the foliage almost entirely excludes the sun’s rays. The forest commences on the ridge, and its timber consists principally of blue, white, and swamp gum; box, ironbark, and mountain ash. There are many kangaroos, bears, monkey-bears, &c, to be had for the trouble of getting. Some of the kangaroos are very large, and in wet weather allow anyone to go very near to them before moving off — so near, indeed, as to make it necessary sometimes for the traveller to call out and startle them away. Numerous parrots, cockatoos, pigeons, and birds of all kinds known to the bush flit about in all directions, but while they may be heard in the forest, it is only on the outskirts or near the cutting they can be seen; their plumage is something gorgeous. When the axes of the working party are quiet there is a peculiar stillness in this dense forest, broken, at long intervals apart, by the scream of a cockatoo, or parrot, the slap of the tail of a kangaroo on the ground as he leaps along, or, in the absence of these, the hum of innumerable wild bees. Gipps Land is famed for its honey, and this part of it is said to be the very best for bee-hunters.

When the men are at work the ring of many axes makes a pleasant sound, and the falling of the great trees every now and then comes in with stunning, crashing, booming effect, saying not a little for the wonderful power of man’s efforts in the overcoming of natural difficulties. In this respect the difficulties presented to the ordinary observer are not a few, the chief one being the taking down and clearing away of many thousands of stately forest trees. The ironbark grows to perfection in these ranges, and it seems a pity to cut down this timber for no purpose beyond clearing the way for the telegraph.”



ERECTING THE TELEGRAPH TO THE OMEO.

Historic Tributes: Eulogies from the Past

Much can be gleaned from eulogies of the past. They are not only a wonderful source for family historians but local historians can also learn about key moments in the history of the region. EGFHG member Ian Forbes stumbles across some of the most amazing eulogies

BAIRNSDALE'S OLDEST RESIDENT PASSES

Mrs. Emily Elizabeth Mays

Bairnsdale's eldest resident, Mrs Emily Elizabeth Mays, died at her home, 30 Grant Street, Bairnsdale, on Sunday, after only a comparatively short illness.

Emily Elizabeth Boyce was born at Launceston, Tasmania, on February 2, 1842, and came to Victoria with her parents, John James Boyce, and his wife (formerly Eliza Robe), and a small sister who died in infancy, in 1844. For a time they resided at Port Fairy, where in 1846, her brother – the first white child – was born. Later the Boyce family went to Geelong, and when the gold rush started, to Ballarat. She was about 12 years of age at the time of the Stockade riots at Eureka.

In 1863, the deceased lady married Henry, a son of Dr William Florance, of Collins Street, Melbourne, who died at a comparatively early age. Of this marriage there were four sons and one daughter, of whom two only are living. They are Mrs Thomas McNamara of Granite Rock, and Mr Rowland Harold Florance, of Lakes Entrance.

In 1869 the family moved to Bairnsdale, and acquired some acres of magnificent land on the bank of the Mitchell River, two miles from the Bairnsdale post office.

After the death of her husband, Mrs Florance maintained herself and her family by any work which came to hand. She became very proficient in nursing, and far and near she was known as 'the friend in need.' Some years later she married Mr Robert Mays, and of that union there were two sons; the elder, Mandeville, died at the age of 16 years, the younger, Wolfenden (Tiny), still lives in Bairnsdale.

The late Mrs Mays had she lived, would have been 93 years of age on February 2 next. She had lived in Bairnsdale for over 80 years, and was loved and honoured throughout the whole countryside.

The funeral will leave 30 Grant Street to-day at 2.30 p.m. for the Bairnsdale Cemetery.

Bairnsdale Advertiser 12 June 1934

Mrs Elizabeth **Luckins**, who died at Bairnsdale, yesterday, had been a resident of the district for very many years. She was the widow of the late Mr George Luckins, who was her third husband. There was no issue of this marriage, but by her first husband, the late Mr T. Turner, she had two children, and by her second, late Mr Matt. Taylor, four, one of the latter, being Cr E. Taylor, of Lucknow. The deceased lady, who was 82 years of age, was born in England, but had lived in the Bairnsdale district for over 60 years, and is believed to have been the first nurse in this part of Gippsland. The funeral is appointed to take place this afternoon, and will move from the residence of her granddaughter, Mrs P. O'Grady, Nicholson street.

Bairnsdale Advertiser and Omeo Chronicle 7 January 1920

DEATH OF GIPPSLAND PIONEER

A very old Gippslander has passed away in **Mr J.M. Cameron**, of Elemlena, Valencia Creek, who was buried last Thursday in Maffra. Mr Cameron, who was 78 years of age, came to Victoria in the year 1840. He acted as manager for Messrs Hunter and Watson at Devil's River for years, and in 1847 came over the mountains to Gippsland in company with Mr Andrew Huon. They were the first to cross the divide into Gippsland in that direction. They came as far as Glenmaggie and christened a hill there, Blanket Hill. They went on to Sale and then down to Lake Tyers where a run was taken up, Mr Cameron acting as manager for Mr Huon. They settled there in 1848. Mr Cameron remained there for four years and then went to Macleod's at Bairnsdale, and from there to Lindenow, afterwards going to Bushy Park, and finally settling down at Valencia Creek. In those early days Mr Cameron witnessed an attack by the blacks on Mr Macleod's homestead near Orbost on the Snowy River. In the fight one of the men was killed, and the other rode to the next station 10 miles away, for assistance. Mr Cameron was on this station and in company with others galloped to the rescue, but the blacks had made off, first setting fire to the homestead.

Bairnsdale Advertiser and Omeo Chronicle 8 March 1898

Note: Where the paper refers to Huon, one should read Hutton.

OBITUARY MR. J.M. KELLY

A citizen who had made a magnificent contribution to the task of upgrading Victorian roads, and especially the highways of East Gippsland, died at Sunshine on December 2, after an illness of 18 months' duration.

He was **Mr John Michael Kelly**, for many years a resident of Nowa Nowa, and, throughout the greater part of his life, a contractor associated with major roads built by the Country Roads Board.

He was born at Diggers Rest 79 years ago, and the first contracts on which he was engaged were in the Bulla Shire. A major undertaking in this shire with which Mr Kelly was associated, was the construction of a roadway to the Memorial Cross erected on Mount Macedon after World War I.

During World War II, Mr Kelly came into Gippsland, and worked on the construction of the R.A.A.F. base at East Sale. When the war ended, he remained in East Gippsland, and worked on stone-crushing and supply for the C.R.B.

Mr W. H. Dolamore, C.R.B. divisional engineer for East Gippsland, recalled that, in 1950, Mr Kelly secured a contract to supply 3,000 cubic yards of crushed stone for sealing the Omeo Highway. "It was the first of many similar contracts,"

said Mr Dolamore, "and from then on, until ill-health forced his retirement, he was engaged in stone crushing work for the division, which made a valuable contribution to our roads."

While he was engaged on contract work on the Omeo Highway, Mr Kelly's only son, John, joined him in a working partnership which lasted for 17 years, until he retired 18 months ago. Most of the Omeo Highway was sealed with stone crushed by Mr Kelly and his son, and they also supplied much of the material used to construct the Princes Highway from a few miles beyond the State border in New South Wales, through Genoa, Cann River and Nowa Nowa to Lakes Entrance.

Mr Kelly was known far and wide by the 1938 International and, more recently, the pink International, in which he travelled regularly over district roads. His friends maintained the he had an uncanny skill with trucks and machinery.

Mr Kelly is survived by his wife, by his son, his daughter, Pat (Mrs Harvey, Sunshine), and by nine grandchildren. His funeral took place at Bulla, after a service in St. Mary's Church, Bulla.

Bairnsdale Advertiser 14 December 1972

New Tools for your Toolbox no. 11

Lonetester HQ is a blog site administered by Alona, a Gen-Xer from South Australia with a passion for family history. Alona has created an incredible list of over 2000 links to History and Genealogy Facebook pages in Australia and New Zealand and it is free to download.



Facebook for Australian & New Zealand History and Genealogy download

Since releasing her first big list of Australian history and genealogy links on Facebook in September 2016, she continued to find more, and more, and periodically did updates. What started out as a list of a few hundred links, has grown to a large list of 2085 links (as at 26 January 2023). That's 77 pages worth of Australian and New Zealand history and genealogy links ... just on Facebook.

She hasn't added any new categories with this update, but there are additions to nearly every category that's listed.

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

This is an ongoing project which will be updated periodically, so if you have any links you'd like added, please either send an email to alona@lonetester.com (without the spaces), or message her at [Lonetester Facebook page](#).

She also provides links for two other incredible lists:
– Katherine Willson's worldwide [Genealogy on Facebook](#) list is enormous, and now has over 16,700 links.
– Gail Dever's [Facebook for Canadian Genealogy](#) list of over 1000 links is a must for everyone with Canadian connections.

It is well worth your time to download the listing that Alona has created.

While you are there you should also have a look at another initiative by Alona. She has started (a probably monthly) blog on "Genealogy News" listing many items of news she has collected from big name genealogy societies, archives and other genealogical organisations from Australia and elsewhere.

Alona is listing interesting articles and providing a hot link to the article on the relevant website. Well worth a look and you can subscribe to receive notification when Alona puts up a new post. A sample of what she is listing :

Australian War Memorial

[Meet the women in construction at the Australian War Memorial](#)
[Australia's first Academy Award 80 years on](#)
[Untold stories of Australian sailors and airmen revealed](#)
[Australian War Memorial's new galleries take flight](#)

FamilySearch

[New Free Historical Records on FamilySearch 6 February 2023](#)

[The Family History Library Is Now the FamilySearch Library](#)

[New Free Historical Records on FamilySearch 30 January 2023](#)

[Updated and Redesigned FamilySearch Help](#)

National Archives of Australia

[The Captain's treasures: Flinders' letters and books join archival collection](#)

[Discovering Anzacs website decommissioned, making way for innovative new digital experiences](#)

[Frozen memories, now digital: Antarctic photographic collections preserved for future generations](#)

Scotlands People

[Scottish Handwriting 1500-1700: a self-help pack available to buy](#)

[Our Records: One-hour-old: the youngest person enumerated in the 1921 census](#)

You can see more at <https://www.lonetester.com/2023/03/genealogy-news-february-march-2023/>

Penny Harris– Jennings also suggests this website for Irish research.

ruIRISH website



ruIRISH offers a selection of click through links under religion, county records, land records, placenames and more.

The maps are particularly good and cover some very obscure and miniscule villages when you "explore" by County, Barony and townlands.

It also has links through to both free and user pays online services. Some will link you to the likes of Ancestry and FamilySearch however there are also some obscure links.

Well worth investigating for your Irish research.

CAROLE JUNE INGWERSEN

18 February 2023

Carole was born in Richmond to Allen and Winsome (nee Dungey) Ingwersen. She was the second in the family to siblings Pam, Wendy and Ken. Carole attended a Seventh Day Adventist school in Melbourne for the first years and when the family returned to Dargo she became a student at Glenaladale and later at Dargo and Bairnsdale High School where she attended until at the age of sixteen she left to work at the Gippsland University library at Churchill. It was while she was working that she continued to study to achieve her Matriculation Certificate.

Carole married and lived in Traralgon, Her husband, being involved in Scouts and Rovers, encouraged her to also take an interest which led to a long involvement with the movement. She loved being a cub leader and was always recognised by her former cubs and scouts. She was secretary of the Hazelwood Rotary club from 1997 to 2000.

Her interest in books led to further study and becoming a librarian with Latrobe Valley, a position she held for quite some time. It was during this time that she became a counsellor for Lifeline. Lifeline continued to play an important part of her life and even after moving back to Bairnsdale she continued to travel to Morwell for years fulfilling her roster obligation.

After the breakup of her marriage Carole returned to Bairnsdale and worked at the local library. She also worked for East

Gippsland Shire on outreach programs for remote areas which included running craft classes for adults and reading children's stories to small children for the library. After the bushfires Carole was asked to visit people who were affected and to help them cope with the trauma. Carole worked at Bairnsdale Regional Health Service in the medical library—and she

still studied. Her busy life included the East Gippsland Historical Society which she joined in 2013 being elected to the committee the same year. She was Vice Chairman in 2015 and took over the reins as President in 2021. She assisted in many areas at the museum from

the occasional day duty to tour groups and setting up. She also provided those missing items for the exhibitions. Her other passion was assisting Jacque Hocking in conducting the society's cemetery walks, which commenced in 2015, with names and research. She eventually, over time, became confident enough to lead some of these herself.

Presidents are hard to find in any group and when you find one like Carole who can run a good meeting you have found a treasure.

Many readers will think they don't know Carole but you might remember her from the markets. She was always working with sister Wendy selling native flowers, vegies and old back copies of the society calendars.

She was a quiet achiever who will be sadly missed.



In Memorium

MAURICE EDWARD HARPER

10 Mar 1929—15 Apr 2023



Maurice and his wife Mary joined East Gippsland Family History Group back in 2006 when Maurice was actively researching the English side of his family. He went on to complete several volumes of work including details of his war service, life in England and their new life in Australia which made up over 1,000 pages which he lodged with the National Library. He continued to be very interested in the activities of the group even when unable to come to the rooms any longer.

Residing remotely outside of Buchan he and Mary made regular trips to Bairnsdale until her death in 2013. He then started having respite sessions at Maddocks Gardens. During these times he would taxi up to the rooms for the afternoon to catch up with all and sundry.

During the recent fires the family property was burnt out and for a short time he relocated to Clifton Waters Village before becoming a full time resident at Maddocks Gardens.

After a short illness Maurice passed away at Maddocks Gardens. He was a gentle man and gentleman who will be sadly missed by those lucky enough to have known him. Our sympathies to Paul, Dave and Mick who is rebuilding the farm after the fires.



the black sheep

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TUESDAY	10am to 4pm
THURSDAY	10am to 6pm (or later)
SATURDAY	10am to 4pm (or later) (except 2nd Sat. of month 10am to 4pm)

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RESEARCH FEE (by EGFHG members)

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\$15 per day (non-members)

\$40 minimum fee

Joining Fee \$10

Ordinary Member \$45 (due 1 July each year)

Extra Family Member (same address) \$15.00

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MON, TUES and WEDNESDAY	10am to 3pm
weekly	
and additional FIRST SUNDAY	
every month	10am to 3pm

MUSEUM ADMISSION CHARGES

Adults	\$5
Concession / Student	\$4
Children	\$2

The museum houses furnishings, artefacts, machinery and memorabilia of local history, *Calejero* log cabin c1880 and Union Bank coach house.

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