

Historical Happenings



Casterton Community Museum



NEXT MEETING:
Wed. 18TH March at the RSL at 2.30pm.

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FUND RAISING

Our raffle held in the month before Christmas was a great success for the Society, raising the funds needed to complete the digitization of the Glenelg Shire rate books which is presently being done by SouthWest Imaging.



Selling at the Show

Thoughts on Mr Hall's Diary by Jim Kent

What a fascinating story has been printed recently in Historical Happenings, taken from the Williamstown Chronicle, of a diary written by a fellow named William Hall. These records have great stories to tell and I get immense joy from reading them. Others are by J C Hamilton whose family established the property we know as Bringalbert which is situated north northwest of Apsley in Victoria.

Another wonderful example of settlement in our district not quite 200 years ago is the trip made by Norris and Bilston from the then Port Phillip, now Melbourne, to the country north east of Casterton to take up 100,000 acres of virgin land we now know as Koolamurt. A young English immigrant had just landed in Port Phillip when Norris and Bilston's party were about to head inland. He got a job with them and that is how he came into our district. He was John Thomas Richardson, better known as Jack the Shingler in later years.

Can you imagine the trials and tribulations these people contended with in the early days when you compare it to the settled civilized state it is now. The writer in the Historical Happenings article mentioned that the party he came with settled to the west of Casterton on the property called Kaladbro. It had land on both sides of the Victorian and South Australian border and the old shearing shed was on the SA side just west of Lindsay on the border. The original property had 45,000 acres, considerably reduced in my time. I used to spread two hundred tons of superphosphate on it from an aeroplane, as it is "low country", having a considerable amount of swamp land. The writer mentions it joining a property taken up by Mr Beilby, known now as Ardno. It has an interesting history regarding a shooting death.

It came about over the non payment for the services of a stallion owned by Mr Beilby to a mare owned by a Branxholme resident. The Branxholme man was on his way back there when Mr Beilby caught up with him, firearms were produced and the mare's owner died. This was in a low lying area in west Strathdownie and he was buried where he died. Mr Beilby was later fined ten cents in the Petty Sessions Magistrates Court at Dartmoor for his actions.

The writer, Mr Hall, was an employee of Mr Bates who took up the huge area of land known as Kaladbro. Looking at Mr Bates past we find a small town called Batesford down near Geelong. This name came about because of a ford over a river on his property. Around Casterton we have Warrock



Noel demonstrates the art of salesmanship

Clean-up at the Old Cemetery

Ongoing, for the morning tea and unveiling of the board of names of the unmarked graves.

KENT'S CORNER:

Copies available at the VIC of Volume 2: **Roamin' Round the Town** the Visitor Information Centre: cost is \$25.

Henty Street /Tyers Street corner /McKinlays
Glenelg Inn 1873



Henty Street - 1890s



Ford to the north, on the Glenelg River and Stewarts Ford to the south on the Glenelg, just off the Bahgallah Road.

A question is raised in reading these articles by Mr Hall about his time with Mr Bates. There was, in my juvenile days, a Mr David Bates who had a shop in Henty Street and lived up past the Church of England and had two daughters. Blanche married Jim O'Connell, son of Pat O'Connell an original Bahgallah settler. There was also a son named Jim who had the awful nickname of Worms. The other daughter, Vera, married Russell Cox, only son of Jim Cox, an original settler in Sandford. They had no children. Perhaps David Bates was a descendant of Mr Bates from Bastesford. It would be interesting to know.

Another interesting aspect of Mr Hall's diary is his description of crossing the Glenelg River by the use of a boat borrowed from Mr Henty of Sandford House. Today you could walk across the cumbunge and log-infested drain with no trouble. Man's interference with this once majestic stream is shameful and a great pity. The explorer Thomas Mitchell describes the river as many metres wide when he travelled along it near Casterton's present position.

I wanted to find out more about Mr David Bates who died at 67 years in 1938 and is buried in the C of E section of the Casterton New Cemetery, to trace if there is a connection to the Bates of the 1840s. I thought I might try a letter to Mr W H Hall who has his father's diary recording the journey up to Strathdownie with Mr Bates. One of my books states that David E Bates had a shop, being a draper and outfitter, next to the Union Bank. Prior to the bank the old log jail was on this site. However, finally, thanks to Daryl Povey, it has been established that there was not, in all probability, a family connection between the original Mr Bates of Kaladbro and David E Bates of the drapery establishment next to the Union/ANZ bank pre 1930s. Daryl advised me that the second Mr Bates' parents had a school in the early days of Portland, so I can now let this niggling query in my mind rest.

Just to digress a little, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Historical Society in considering me worthy of nomination for a volunteer's award. I received the award from the Glenelg Shire at a ceremony in Portland and I can assure you my children are mighty proud of the framed certificate which now hangs in my home. I have been a worker all my life and although it is now coming up to thirty eight years since I retired from business, I still have the work ethic strong within me. I can think of nothing worse than getting up in the morning and having nothing to do. I get great satisfaction out of doing voluntary work within our community.

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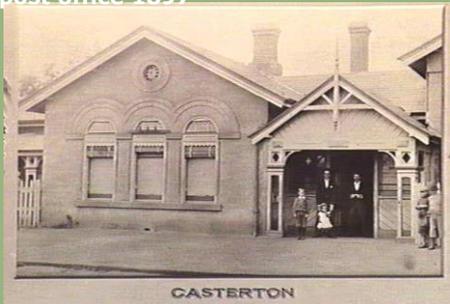
Regarding the Minutes of January 1968: Jim Kent

A comment rather a criticism, but being curious I can't let it go without checking what appears to be a mistake in the minutes of the Historical Society from 19th January 1968. The guest speakers were Mrs Bert Newton and Mrs Bert Livock (nee Connie Rowe). Connie Rowe's mother was a Richardson and her father was Thomas Rowe, an original soldier settler on Nangeela estate after WW1.



Casterton Community Museum

post office 1897



**Casterton Historical Society
50th Anniversary, 2014**

In 2014 CDHS celebrated fifty years of existence.

CDHS is located at the
**Casterton Visitor
Information Centre**
e-mail: castertonhistorical@hotmail.com

PO Box 48, Casterton 3311
Phone: 5580 2070



A Bills water trough – note the little trough on the right.

To visit the Casterton Community Museum:
call **David Coventry** on **5581 2475** or email at davidccoventry@yahoo.com.au

To contribute to this newsletter, please contact Ros at the Visitor Information Centre on 5581 2070
e-mail: roscov48@bigpond.com
H tel 5581 2875

According to my records the famous pioneer of Casterton, Jack “The Shingler” Richardson married Ellen Curran in the parlour of the Glenelg Inn on 2nd October 1851, the marriage conducted by a travelling priest, the Reverend Father Roe of Portland who travelled the western district on horseback. The Father Rowham mentioned in the minutes became parish priest of Casterton in 1912 and departed in 1927.

The Richardson marriage was the second in Casterton. In 1950 Father Roe married a John Daly to a woman whose name I can’t recall, when the town was known as the Crossing Place on the Adelaide Road, to any western destination.

The other doubt in my mind is the veracity that the Richardson baby was the first white child born in Casterton. According to my records Alexander and Mary McKinlay were the first settlers of the town, arriving as a family in 1846 and after settling a male infant was born to Mary but did not survive, and being first white child born. Not to be outdone, John and Ellen Richardson at a later date were the parents of the infant who was to be the first *female* white child born in Casterton.

I query the statement that 1848 was the year Casterton town was so named. According to my records it was named in 1852 when Darbyshire and Clarke made the survey setting out the streets of the town.

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Archival Access Victoria
Bringing the Victorian Archives to you...
New year, new records

As the clocks tick over from the 31st of December to the 1st of January each year, we don't just have the New Year to look forward to but also a whole heap of newly opened PROV records .

Records of a private nature are closed to public access under Section 9 of the Public Records Act 1973. These records are generally closed for the approximated life expectancy of the person to which they relate. The general approach to closure periods is as follows:

- 75 year for adults
- 99 years for children
- between 30 to 50 years for staff records

Some of the newly opened records include criminal trial briefs, divorce files, prison records and asylum records relating to the 1938-1939 period, as well as a number of children’s court registers from various locations around the state up to 1914-1915.

To see the full list of what has been opened this January, see the [PROV's blog post](#) on the subject.

CDHS WEBSITE: we are the Web, visit us at
<http://www.swvic.org/castertonhistoricalsociety.htm>