

The Western Port Times

Grantville & Districts



Volume 3 Number 8

FREE

December 2020

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This magazine is a continuation of the original *Western Port Times*, which was published in Grantville from 1898 until 1908 by T. C. Monger, and from 1908 to August 1910 by Harold B. and J. A. Sullivan, at which date the premise is said to have been destroyed in a fire and everything lost. Publication never resumed.

At its peak, the paper was distributed from Flinders and Hastings on the Mornington Peninsula, to San Remo and Phillip Island, Inverloch and the Powlett region, through to Jumbunna and Loch, and as far north as Lang Lang.

This version of *The Western Port Times* is produced for the U3A Local History Group, based in Grantville.



WONTHAGGI THEATRE.

Pictures Every Wednesday,
Saturday, and Sunday.

Saturday, April 13.

—o—

GEO. M. COHAN

—IN—

The Great Aircraft Film :

BROADWAY
JONES.

For New York Scenery
and Good Sparkling
Comedy this Film can't
be beaten.

Sunday, April 14.

—o—

THE
Calendar
Girl.

FEATURING

Miss Juliette Day.

—o—

Also another Episode of
The Lass of the
Lumberlands.

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The Bass Valley U3A Local History Group is looking for photos and information on places of significance to our local history.

If you have anything you would like to share with us, we have the facilities to scan or photograph your items so they do not have to leave your possession.

Links to other historical groups

- Bass Valley Historical Society: <https://bassvalleyhistoricalsociety.com.au>
- Friends of Churchill Island Society: <https://focis.org.au/about-churchill-island/>
- Grantville History: grantvillehistory.com.au
- Hastings–Western Port Historical Society: <https://www.hwphs.org.au/>
- Inverloch Historical Society: cv.vic.gov.au/organisations/inverloch-historical-society/ Also: <http://inverlochhistory.com/>
- Koo-Wee-Rup Swamp Historical Society: kooweerupswamphistory.blogspot.com.au/
- Korumburra & District Historical Society: Janet Wilson 5657 2267 or PO Bo 293, Korumburra 3950
- Lang Lang & District Historical Society: langlang.net/historical.html
- Leongatha and District Historical society: leongathahistory.org.au
- Phillip Island & District Historical Society: <http://pidhs.org.au/>
- Phillip Island Nature Parks, Churchill Island Heritage Farm Collection <https://victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/churchill-island-heritage-farm#collection-records>
- South Eastern Historical Association: seha.org.au
- Western Port Historical Society Inc.: hwphs.org.au/
- Wonthaggi Historical Society: wonthagghihistoricalociety.org.au/



From the Original

From *The Western Port Times*, Friday 9 December 1901

Local and General News

The Rev. Chas. Oelrich the newly appointed Church of England Minister for this district, will preach on Sunday next as follows:—Grantville 11 a.m.; Bass 3 p.m., and San Remo 7.10 p.m.

The Ladies Annual Ball will take place at Glen Alvie, in the Blackwood Hall on Boxing night, the 26th inst.

The Police Department are advertising for Tenders for a supply of horse forage for the next year.

Excursion tickets will be issued to and from all country stations, from December 14th 1901 to January 3rd 1902.

V. Sonnenberg will from this week leave Kilcunda every Thursday morning, only running once a week instead of twice as before.

Court of Petty Sessions will be held on Monday next, December 9th, at the San Remo Courthouse, also the licensing Court on the same day.

The crops are looking well in this district, Mr G. Hutchinson is now cutting a crop of hay, on Mr Paul's farm, Grantville, 6 ft. high and almost too thick for the scythe to go through.

In our advertising column it will be seen that the residents of the district are going to give the Rev. Oelrich a welcome, in the form of a Social in the Bass Hall, on Wednesday the 18th December.

The year has been a remarkably good one for mutton-bird-egging, hundreds of dozens have been got by the residents of this district, several have collected over fifty dozen and could have got more if so desired.

The Bass Annual Sports will be held as usual on Boxing day, a good programme of sports has been arranged for fifteen events, consisting of horse and foot racing, Valting *[sic]* with pole, High jumping for horses and ponies, and catching the greasy pig. A Ball will be held in the evening in the Bass Hall.

There will be four applications for Victuallers Licenses at the Licensing Court on Monday. Thomas Keating for a house at Powlett River; P. J. Daly for a site at Prices Corner; M. A. Dixon for a site at Archies' Creek; and James Daly for a site at the corner of Loch and Glen Alvie Roads Almurta.



EDUCATION ACT 1890 PRIVATE SCHOOLS

PROPRIETORS and Principals are reminded that by Section 28 of the Education Act 1890 they are required to furnish to the Education Department each year in the month of January a return showing the name and surname, sex, age last birthday, residence, and the number of school-days attendance of each child who attended their respective schools during the preceding year.

Forms for the purpose may be obtained from this Office upon personal or written application.

N.B.—Before transmitting the returns to the Department, Principals and others should be careful to see that the forms are properly filled up and signed.

JAMES BAGGE,
Secretary.

Education Department,
Melbourne, 28th November, 1901.

Gazette Notices

Schedule of applicants for the issue of crown grants:—George Casey 193 acres 2 rd 4 pchs, Lang Lang, Eugene O'Connell 293 acres 0 rd 8p Kongwak. Antonio Radovick 320 acres, Tarwin.

Leases—Transfers Registered at the office of titles:—William H Eden to Albert Edward Eden, Grantville, 99 acres Woolamai. Sarah A. Nelson to George Casey, 193 acres 2 rd 4 per. Lang Lang. Sophia E. Beard to Thomas Piper, Outtrim 181 acres Kongwak.

Cricket

Bass Valley Association

The next round will be played to-morrow, but as Glen Alvie have left the Association, Grantville will have a bye, and Loch will meet Bass Valley at Loch. Glen Alvie withdrawing alters the fixtures somewhat and causes the competition to have fewer matches in it.

(continues on Page 4)

From the Original (continued from Page 3)

Curious Find On The Sea Beach

Dr. B. Thompson, from Dandenong, when walking along the beach on the south side of Swan Island, on Tuesday evening found the right leg of a man, from the knee downwards, lying on the shore. The foot was encased in an ordinary blutcher boot, about size 9. From the indications it had been a long time in water, as there was no flesh on the white bleached bones. The doctor reported the incident to Senior Constable Brady, and the limb was removed to the police station.

Christmas Holiday

In connection with the forthcoming Christmas holidays, the banking institutions have made representation to the Government that, in addition to Christmas day and Boxing day, which are statutory holidays, the Friday and Saturday following should be declared as public holidays. The Cabinet last night gave the matter consideration, and concluded that it would be of the utmost inconvenience to business people if public offices, bank and similar institutions were to close from the Tuesday afternoon until the following Monday morning. It was therefore determined to follow the course adopted in 1895, when Christmas day also fell in the middle of the week, and to fix New Year's day and the day following as public holidays.

IN MEMORIAL.

BROWN.—In loving memory of my dear son and brother, Thomas, who died at Cue, Western Australia, on the 12th September 1899.
"Thy Will be Done."

Also, Thomas, husband and father of his beloved wife and children, who died at Glen Alvie, Blackwood, on December 6th 1899.
"For ever with the Lord."

Far far away from all your race
And those who loved you best ;
We would have liked to see your face
E're you were laid to rest.

But pitying eyes may sometimes gaze
Upon that sad and lonely spot ;
God marketh where we all are laid
And Thomas dear you're not forgot.

—Inserted by Mrs Brown and family.

Shipping

The Little Angelina arrived at Grantville on Friday morning from Bass River, left the same day for Queensferry and sailed again next day for Bass.

The Lizzy arrived at Grantville on Friday morning from French Island, left again for French Island on Monday afternoon.

The Trucanini arrived at Queensferry on Monday afternoon from Melbourne, took in a cargo of tram rails and left on Wednesday evening for the channel, the Lizzy taking the remainder of the rails to her next day [sic].

Stony Point

An effort is being made to obtain a train running from Stony Point, on Monday mornings during the holidays in time to reach Melbourne at about 10 a.m. The usual concession is to the train, which is stabled at Frankston, down to Stony Point at an unearthly hour in the morning and the result is that it is too early for the Flinders traffic, whereas an hour later would make all the difference. It is to be hoped the railway authorities will be able to recognise the importance of this matter and endeavor to meet the requirements of the travelling public.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS AND CONTRIBUTORS.

—:o:—

Contributions and Communications must be directed to the Editor.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. Every letter must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

We would respectfully solicit from Secretaries and Managers of Concerts, Entertainment^s also Football and Cricket Clubs, their printing and advertising connected with the same, and feel certain that we can give satisfaction, both as regards price and work.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 7 August 1878

Proposed Railway From Griffiths' Point

(Re-paragraphed for the sake of clarity.)

A deputation, representing the Shire Council of Phillip Island and Woolamai and a public meeting of the residents of the Shire, is at present in Melbourne, their object being to wait as a deputation on the minister of Railways, to point out to him the desirability, especially from a national point of view, of constructing a railway from Griffiths' Point to Kilcunda and thence inland, for the purpose of encouraging the development of the coal mines, and also providing facilities for traffic for settlers, and enabling them to forward their productions to Melbourne. The following extracts we take from the petition:—

We the undersigned, being a joint deputation emanating from the Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai and a public meeting of the inhabitants held at Griffiths' Point on the 20th July, for the purpose of bringing before the Government the importance and necessity that exists for the construction of a short line of railway from Griffiths' Point to the Coal Mines. We have, therefore, the honor to submit the following reasons in support of our request:

1st. That the present and future prosperity of this country greatly depends on its coal resources. 2nd. That these resources are in abundance within our territory. 3. That to develop them a short line of railway is necessary. And we further submit that no more prospecting or boring is required, the discoveries already made being sufficient to satisfy the most sceptical.

Mr. Reginald Murray, the geological surveyor, has visited the mines for the purpose of reporting carefully thereon. As regards the seam at Kilcunda Mr. Murray says that, "Of a number of measurements taken the lowest was 1ft. 9in. in a place where the seam appeared slightly pinched; the highest was 2ft. 2in."

The works and openings made since previous reports gave Mr. Murray an opportunity of speaking with more certainty and distinctness than the gentlemen who preceded him. Doubts were expressed by one as to the coal keeping free of bands or impurities as it was followed, and by another as regards the roof. Of these points Mr. Murray reports that, "In the present heading the coal seam is of fine quality, and good from roof to floor, without any band or impurity," and, "the roof is good and solid, with clean parting." He also states,

"the water is light, and easily kept down."

When Mr. Murray visited the mine the appliances were so imperfect and primitive and the works carried on under such difficulties, as to astonish him how it could pay. He says that, "The wages men now employed could do the work of three times the number of miners now at work, thus reducing the cost of raising the coal to the surface; and, were the tramway made available for the use of locomotives, the carriage from the mine to the jetty would be reduced to one-third of the present cost. A large and more regular output of coal would bring vessels of larger tonnage, which would carry the coal to Melbourne at a cheaper rate."

Mr. Murray then gives an estimate of the profit that would result from the work of forty miners per day (if the line was available for locomotives), which, he says, would be £12 12s., or 6s. 3d. per ton, and a profit of £12 12s. on 40 tons, after delivering in Melbourne and payment of all expenses.

Mr. Murray estimates the yield of the present seam at 2420 tons per acre, so that the ground leased to the Western Port Company alone would yield 2,500,000 tons. The seam has been proved by Mr. McKenzie to be continuous, even to the Blue Mountains and Stretletzki [*sic*] Ranges, a distance of about forty miles, and Mr Murray says, "there is also good evidence that other seams outcropping underlie the present one," and concludes by recommending the principal requirement, "That the present tramway be converted into a railway," and estimates the cost as follows:—"Sleepers, 86x8x4 at 11s. per 100ft. super, £1160; 35lbs. rails, fastenings, with carriage and cost of laying, £4840; earthworks, straightening curves, and fencing, £2000; outlay for rolling stock £1000. Total, £12,000."

Mr. Cowan, who stated that the pick and shovel were the only tests, has said in reference to a small angle of ground, about 20 acres, lying between the two shafts, that, "If the seam be constant from the 61ft. shaft to the 90ft. shaft, 59,000 tons could be profitably worked from the 90ft. shaft."

That line has been driven, and found to be constant. To use Mr. Murray's words, "a heading has been put in along the strike for

(continues on Page 6)

Proposed Railway... (continued from Page 5)

a distance (at time of my visit) of 627 feet, and in the entire length no break, fault or disturbance of any description has occurred in the seam." Since Mr. Murray's visit that heading has been continued 120 feet further, and the seam has increased to 2ft. 3in. and 2ft. 4in. as it goes inland.

In conclusion, we may point out that the line sought for, although but short, would tap other important interests; among the rest it would reach the vicinity of the most extensive forests of blackwood in the colony. Already 4,000 acres in the locality have been proclaimed as a State forest, which can only be worked by this route to where the facilities for shipping are ample, and where vessels of 600 tons and upwards can enter and clear out from Griffiths' Point at all hours.

Selection is going rapidly on, and, as the land and climate are unsurpassed, the transit for produce would give an impetus to agriculture in a district which at present is almost entirely locked up. Those who have already selected have no means of transporting their produce until this line is obtained.

The coal, however, is the momentous interest. The great weekly drain which presses on this country at present for imported coal must by degree seriously affect our financial position, and that difficulty will only increase as time rolls on. Situated as we are just now, if a dispute arose the Government of New South Wales are in a position to put out all our lights, stop our steam engines, close up our manufacturing establishments, and throw the country into such poverty as would result in depopulation. We have the remedy, fortunately, in our hands. The opening of our coal mines would put a stop to the flow of capital from the country. It would open up a field of employment and profit equal, if not superior, to our resources in gold.

In bringing the matter fairly before the Government and the country we feel that we are only discharging a duty imposed on us by our knowledge of the facts.

We have no personal interest in any Coal Mine or Company in that behalf, now in existence. It is a matter of indifference to us whether the Government convert the present tramway into a railway or construct a new line on their own account; but the national economy and necessity for preserving our title of premier position amongst the Australian colonies, rests entirely in the consideration of the coal question.

From the *Age*, 28 January 1926, page 14: Wonthaggi.

Quarantined!

An outbreak of pleuro-pneumonia has occurred on the properties of Messrs. J. J. Charlton and W. Stewart, Almurta; and Shackleford Bros., Glen Forbes, and these have been quarantined. In connection with the outbreak a deputation waited on the Phillip Island and Woolamai shire council on Wednesday, and stressed the dangerousness of the outbreak, and added that their places were also now under quarantine. It was stated that forty-seven farms were isolated, and it was hoped to obviate this by the council keeping all roads clear of wandering stock. The council agreed to suspend in the Bass Valley riding all tag registrations for stock to graze on the roads, and also within a mile and a half of the Glen Forbes post office. They further agreed to refuse tag registration for horses to graze on the roads for all time.

From the *Wonthaggi Sentinel and State Town Miner*, Friday 23 September 1910: Correspondence

Williamson Benefit Ball

To The Editor.

Sir.—May I ask through the columns of your paper what became of the proceeds of the benefit ball that was held in Mr. Rawson's Austral Store building over two months ago in aid of Mr. J. Williamson, who had the misfortune to break his leg. The ball was to raise a few pounds to help the injured man over his trouble. A generous number responded to the call of charity, and small expense was incurred in connection with the affair. The use of the building was granted by Mr. Rawson, the printing was done at an extremely low cost by the "Sentinel," the catering cut down to almost cost, and one or two other items were small. I do not know the exact balance, but it was a fair amount considering so little time had elapsed between the accident and the ball. I am informed that the money raised has not yet reached the injured man. The person responsible is a man in full health and strength. No name need be mentioned. A satisfactory explanation should be at once demanded by those who so generously paid for admission and tickets. Thanking you for bringing this before the public on behalf of the injured man and a number of generous donors who would like to know the result as soon as possible.—Yours etc.,

G. Thompson.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 27 August 1879

Phillip Island And Woolamai Shire Council

Saturday, August 18th 1879

Annual Meeting for Election of President. Present: Councillors M. Turnbull, Duffus, Norton, West, Kidd, and Aldridge.

Councillor West presented Councillor Norton's nomination paper, as did also Councillor Kidd that of Councillor Aldridge, and the two newly elected Councillors made the usual declaration and took their seats at the Council table.

The sum of £30 was voted to the incoming President as allowance for ensuing year. On the motion of Councillor Turnbull, seconded by Councillor Kidd, Councillor West was unanimously elected president for the next twelve months.

Councillor West took the chair, and returned thanks for the honor, and commented upon the able manner in which Councillor Turnbull had carried out the duties of president and moved a vote of thanks to him, which was seconded by Councillor Duffus, and carried.

Ordinary Meeting

Present: Councillors West (president), Turnbull, Duffus, Norton, Kidd, and Aldridge.

The minutes of ordinary meeting and Revision Court were confirmed.

A protest was lodged by Mr. J. Monk, against Mr. J. W. Delany [*sic*] taking his seat for the Corinella Riding, on account of informal nomination.

Correspondence

From Mr. Keys, submitting proposed subdivision of Melbourne group of municipalities for approval, and on motion of Councillors Turnbull and Duffus, the subdivision to be approved of but do not consider a delegate necessary at the Conference.

From C. Rowland, Engineer, Buln Buln Shire, re Shire Boundary; also from Mr. Muntz with report thereon, to the effect that he did not agree with Mr. Rowland as to the line of boundary assumed by him, but that having compared the map furnished to this Council with the originals in Crown Lands Department he had found the map substantially correct. It was moved by the President, seconded by Councillor Turnbull, that the Secretary take what steps he thinks fit to procure the back rates from the ratepayers on the boundary who had refused to pay on account of valuation by Buln Buln Shire

and to notify the Buln Buln Shire of action taken.—Carried.

Plans and specifications for baths at Cowes to be held over for a future period.

Mr. Harbison's request to plough along some roads on Phillip Island was referred to him for a definition of the roads to be ploughed by him.

Circulars from Secretary to Municipal Association, forwarding rules and suggestions for approval.—It was moved by Councillor Norton, seconded by Councillor Turnbull, that the subscription of £2 2s. be sent, and the necessary authority to receive balance in hands of Treasurer to Endowment Conference.—Carried.

Mr. Unthank's request to use Shire Hall for musical entertainment on Friday evening, 29th inst., was granted on payment of 10s. under supervision of Secretary.

The Clerk of Works reported works necessary on Eastern Passage road, Newhaven.—Moved by Councillor Norton, seconded by Councillor Duffus and carried, that tenders be called in September next.

Payment to the amount of £87 14s. 2d. were passed.

Moved by Councillor Turnbull, seconded, by Councillor Kidd, and carried that the Secretary procure a press for use of the Councillors.—Carried.

Moved by Councillor Kidd, and seconded that fresh tenders be called for the adjourned contracts on Cape Patterson road.—Carried.

The Council then adjourned.

From the *Geelong Advertiser*, 16 January 1912, page 4

Bush Fires Outtrim Way

Wonthaggi, Monday.—Extensive bush fires were raging on Sunday between Cape Patterson and Inverloch, extending towards Outtrim. At night the sky was aglow with the reflection of the flames.

Those who went from Wonthaggi to Inverloch had thrilling experiences on the return journey as the fire extended across the roads, and some of the horses would not face the flames and smoke. Others, however, drove through. In places, burning trees had to be shifted off the roads to get through.

Another large fire could be seen raging in the vicinity of Cape Woolamai.

From the *Powlett Express and Victorian State Coalfields Advertiser*, Friday 20 October 1916, page 3

Wonthaggi Exemption Court

Many Claims Heard

The first Exemption Court was held in Wonthaggi on Friday and Saturday. In all 102 claims were lodged, 34 of which, including one partial exemption, were granted, 30 refused, 10 referred to the medical board, and 23 adjourned to Nov. 16. Mr. Tanner, P.M., presided, and Lieut. Graham, who has seen considerable active service, represented the military authorities. Mr G. Campbell, Clerk of Courts, recorded the decision in the register and took the thumb prints of those who were exempted.

In all cases applicants were examined on oath. They were questioned regarding the grounds on which they applied, and decisions were promptly given.

Granted.

The following were granted exemption on the ground that they were the only sons:—

John Henry Dodgson, engineer's assistant, Hicksborough.

Robert Balderston, jun., farmer, Glen Alvie.

Albert Foote, miner, Wonthaggi.

Norman J. J. Jennings, grocer's assistant, Wonthaggi.

W. Jones, miner, Powlett River.

R. M. O'Kane, clerk, Wonthaggi.

C. W. Sinclair, electrician, Wonthaggi.

G. J. Rossiter, gardener, Wonthaggi.

Bertie D. Ware, labourer, Wonthaggi.

O. P. Norfolk, electrician, Wonthaggi.

A. J. Ruttle, farmer, Inverloch.

J. O. T. Holland, miner, Wonthaggi.

Exemptions were granted to the under-mentioned on account of having brothers on active service, in, or about to go into camp:—

Robert Ashley Heslop, grazier, Powlett River.

S. Nealey, farm laborer, Almurta.

C. H. Landells, butcher, Wonthaggi.

R. W. Oakley, farmer, Archie's Creek.

Geo. Williams, miner, Wonthaggi.

J. W. Sharpies, billiard maker, Wonthaggi.

H. J. McCrimmon, printer, Wonthaggi.

N. J. Wallace, farmer, Almurta.

C. E. Tolley, driver, Wonthaggi.

H. H. Wilson, driver, Wonthaggi.

A. Argent, farmer, Grantville.

Attric H. Potter, grazier, San Remo.

W. E. Neve, farmer, Woolamai.

J. G. G. George, farm laborer, Grantville.

Other exemptions were—

Geo. Jas. Grant, dairy farmer, Glen Alvie, only remaining son to support widowed mother.

J. F. Pickersgill, farmer, St. Clair, family partly dependent.

W. J. Pedlar, farm laborer, Wonthaggi, only son fit to help and serious hardship.

E. C. Trevena, plumber, Wonthaggi, sole support of widowed mother and sisters.

J. S. Knox, carpenter and undertaker, Wonthaggi, support of widowed mother.

H. P. Herold, wheeler, Wonthaggi, only remaining son and serious hardship.

L. W. Patten, carpenter, Wonthaggi, parents and relatives dependent and partly dependent.

Des. O'Connor, civil servant, Wonthaggi, partial exemption to Nov. 16, 1916.

Refused.

The applications of the following were refused—

Cecil Arnold Jones, dairy farmer, Glen Forbes.

Rupert H. Eden, dairy farmer, Glen Forbes.

W. J. Dowson, baker, Wonthaggi.

H. W. Berryman, farmer, Glen Forbes.

John W. D. Gunn, farmer, Bridge Creek.

S. J. Chambers, dairyman, Grantville.

H. J. Chinnock, miner, Wonthaggi.

J. S. Ellery, blacksmith, Wonthaggi.

C. Churchill, dairy farmer, Kilcunda.

E. Dwyer, driller, Wonthaggi.

R. W. Pickersgill, dairyman, St. Clair.

W. H. Milnes, farmer, Blackwood Forest.

H. E. Mapleson, farmer, Kilcunda.

P. O'Halloran, dairy farmer, Glen Alvie.

H. F. Graham, butcher, St. Clair.

E. H. Jeeves, fitter, Wonthaggi.

J. W. Montgomery, miner, Wonthaggi.

C. E. Lugg, miner, Wonthaggi.

R. G. G. Poxon, farmer, Glen Alvie.

G. C. Jacobson, miner, Wonthaggi.

Stanley B. H. Fincher, shop assistant, Wonthaggi.

Thos. Liddy, labourer, Wonthaggi.

H. Trewin, farmer, Blackwood Forest.

S. Schilling, farmer, Ryanston.

E. Stanley, farmer, Glen Forbes.

G. F. Horrocks, miner, Wonthaggi.

P. E. W. Sawyer, braceman, Wonthaggi.

T. Wyatt, shearer, Corinella.

E. W. Peters, farmer, Bass.

J. Graham, laborer, Wonthaggi.

(continues on Page 9)

Wonthaggi Exemption Court (continued from Page 8)

Adjourned.

The applications adjourned to November 16 were—

John H. Dwyer, farmer, San Remo.
 Robt. Close, farmer, Archie's Creek.
 Sydney and Hobart Bonney, farmers, Grantville.
 W. J. Boak, blacksmith, Wonthaggi.
 G. L. Devine, clerk, Wonthaggi.
 T. F. Gannon, butcher, Wonthaggi.
 R. Kerslake, miner, Wonthaggi.
 J. A. Rowler, farmer, Kongwak.
 D. K. Garrett, dairy farmer, Kongwak.
 D. J. Rooney, miner, Wonthaggi.
 S. Rattray, laborer, North Wonthaggi.
 John Campbell, miner, South Dudley.
 J. C. Morgan, contractor, Archie's Creek.
 M. W. P. Richards, blacksmith's striker,
 Wonthaggi.
 C. H. Barry, wheeler, Wonthaggi.
 P. J. Normoyje, farmer, Kernot.
 A. W. Barry, carpenter, Hicksborough.
 M. H. Page, wheeler, Wonthaggi.
 J. G. Jeeves, engine driver, Wonthaggi.
 Peter Suckling, dairy farmer, Kongwak.
 R. G. Laidlaw, blacksmith, Bass.
 G. Applin, dairy farmer, Bass.

Referred.

Applications referred to Medical Board:—

David Craig, farmer, Almurta.
 John Campbell, farmer, Kernot.
 W. J. Bailey, wheeler, Wonthaggi.
 W. H. Parry, miner, South Dudley.
 T. H. Hughes, hairdresser, Wonthaggi.
 A. T. Morton, farmer, Bass.
 A. Hartley, tailor, Wonthaggi.
 Adam Lee, musician, Wonthaggi.
 W. J. Hughes, grocer, Wonthaggi.
 R. J. Kavanagh, drill hand, Wonthaggi.

The applications of Thos. Duane, A. McCumming, J. Walsh, Geo. H. Munro, police constables, Wonthaggi, who are exempt under the Defence Act, and A. W. Eden, farmer, Glen Forbes, medical certificate, were withdrawn.

Mr. Tanner, P.M., gave his opinion that it was not necessary for members of the police force to make application for exemption. *[sic]*

John Hugh Dwyer, farmer, San Remo, said he had one brother 9 years old; he was the only help his father, who was in delicate health, had.

To Lieut. Graham: He had two sisters; he had to see things were done right; shearing would be starting next week; there were 20 cows to milk.

Mr Tanner, P.M., said that leave could be

obtained from the Camp Commandant for shearing.

This application was subsequently adjourned till Nov. 16.

W. J. Dowson, baker, Wonthaggi, applied on the ground that his employer could not do without him. His application was refused.

H. W. Berryman, farmer, Glen Forbes, said his father was in bad health.

Mr Tanner, P.M., remarked upon the frequency that excuse came up in the court. The application was refused.

Notice of appeal was given.

S. J. Chambers said he had to help milk 40 cows.

James Chambers, father of applicant, said he owned the farm; his son had to work the property; he was not in a position to employ labor.

To Lieut. Graham: He had another son who milked.

Lieut Graham: Could you not employ returned soldiers?

Witness : I would not care about taking them on, they would have to be taught to milk.

Lieut. Graham opposed the application.

Witness said he could not spare his son — what with all the taxation—

Mr. Tanner, P.M.: That will do; the application is refused.

George Bonny, Grantville, gave evidence on behalf of his sons; they were the only two he had to manage his place; there were 30 cows to milk, it was a job to get men to take on dairying; his sons were also looking after the orchard of a soldier free of cost.

Mr Tanner, P.M.: You have two sons of military age and neither volunteered?

Witness : No.

The applications were subsequently adjourned to Nov. 16.

P. O'Halloran, dairy and sheep farmer, was asked if he could not get returned soldiers to assist on the farm.

Lieut. Graham said that milkers, shearers and bushmen had been sent and were returning; it would be only fair to employ them.

Applicant said if he could get a milker he would be satisfied.

Lieut. Graham said application could be made to the State War Council for returned soldiers.

(continues on Page 10)

Wonthaggi Exemption Court (continued from Page 9)

J. F. Pickersgill was exempted; he had a family of 6 children partly dependent. He had another brother of military age, one was ready to go if the other was exempted.

Stan. B. Fincher claimed exemption on account of his having a brother at the front and sole support of his mother and father.

Cross-examined by Mr Tanner, P.M., applicant said he managed his father's ham and beef shop, acting as clerk and cook.

Mr Tanner, P.M.: You are not the sole support.

Applicant: I could not word it any other way.

Mr Tanner, P.M.: You could have said managing or assisting your father.

Applicant said it was difficult to get a man who combined the knowledge of books and cooking as required in the business.

Exemption was not granted

Sydney Schilling, farmer, Ryanston, claimed to be exempt on the ground that he was engaged in an industry of National importance, and his presence was essential; his father had a farm of 250 acres, 20 head of horses, 100 cattle, 60 sheep; cultivation was carried on.

Application was refused, and applicant was informed that camp leave would be granted for men to put in crops.

Cecil Arnold Jones, dairy farmer, Glen Forbes, said he and his brother worked the farm as there were 40 cows to milk, his father was not able to milk.—Application refused.

J. D. W. Gunn, farmer, Bridge Creek, said he managed his widowed mother's farm of 320 acres. He had two brothers, 12 and 17 years of age, the latter one worked on his widowed aunt's farm.—Exemption refused.

C. K. Barry, instead of taking the oath, made an affirmation. He was warned as to his behaviour in the witness box. In reply to questions he said he was medically unfit; he did not get a certificate; he earned a pound or "thirty bob" a week as wheeler.

Mr Tanner, P.M.: Thirty shillings I presume, you mean.

The application was held over till Saturday morning, and he said in answer to the P.M. that he had nothing to add to his application form.

Mr Tanner, P.M.: I understand you were passed as medically fit.

Applicant : Yes.

Mr Tanner. P.M.: The application will be

refused.

Applicant asked for an adjournment, as he had his books in connection with the Miners' Accident and Relief Fund to balance.

The request was granted, and the application adjourned to Nov. 16.

The grounds for exemption were that he was suffering from neurasthenia of the ganglionic system.

One applicant was exempted on the ground that his father was 60 years of age, in declining health, victimised and deprived of his employment on account of his German nationality; it had also involved him in financial difficulties; he depended on his support as his sole remaining son.

An applicant who got exempted on the ground that he was an only son, said in support that he suffered from colic and bad feet.

In one case an applicant who said he had a number of sisters was asked if they milked. He said No, and Mr Tanner, P.M., observed that they were more fortunate than most women on a farm anywhere else.

* * *

From the *Herald*, Saturday 5 December 1925, page 32

Queenie

Still doing her "bit": Queenie, the popular elephant at the Melbourne Zoo, had a busy time yesterday, when the State School children from Wonthaggi paid their annual visit to the zoo.



Wonthaggi children taking an unusual form of public transport.

The Hotels at Grantville

Part One

by

Geoffrey Guilfoyle

This piece replaces the Grantville Hotel Timeline which appeared in *The Western Port Times*, Vol.1 No.7 November 2018. That was a rough sketch of events based on preliminary research requested by then editor, Roger Clark, that I neglected to mention was not for publication. This time I only have myself to blame.

A Hotel in Grantville in 1872?

In the 1875 Brandrick-Johnson libel trial, covered by the *Argus*, *Herald* and other newspapers, Elizabeth Brandrick, the wife of the plaintiff, made the following statement in court regarding her time in Grantville: *...From June, 1872, I assisted in the management of the school. The schoolhouse was not far from the creek bridge. It was originally built for an hotel...* (*Argus*, 25-11-1875, page 6).

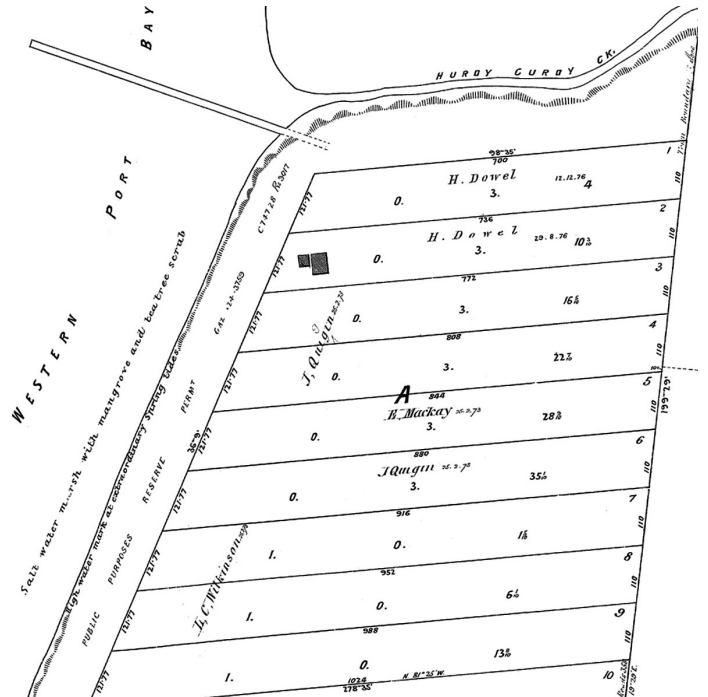
From the same source, this time a statement by William Brandrick: *...I rented the school, Albert-building, from Mr. Baldwin.*

From this it appears the building, owned by Mr. Baldwin and used as a school by the Brandricks, was previously an annex or store-room for a nearby hotel.

Was there in these early days of Grantville a previously unrecorded hotel? If so, where was it? Across the road from the school on Lot 2 in Section A, perhaps.

In his 1876 survey of Grantville, Edmund Colbert, who clearly thought it notable, added a sketch of what looks to be a large building to the rear of the block then owned by Henry Dowel. It is actually two buildings almost touching each other, and likely with some common point of access between them. Although no longer operating as a hotel, its location with a view of the bay and close to a pier, makes it a good candidate for being one before reverting to a private residence.

The land the building is sitting on is just 30 perches short of one acre. Allowing that Colbert's sketch is unlikely drawn to scale and



The large building shaped blob on Lot 2. Likely a house in 1876, but was it something more a few years previously? Source: Town of Grantville, Parish of Corinella. Put-away Plan G/198 L.4469, Landata, Victoria.

doesn't show any subsidiary structures, this still makes the combined buildings about the same size as a three or four bedroom weather board house (possibly with some manner of attic). That's a sizeable structure for the early 1870s, especially in a rural area.

The *Victorian Government Gazette No.6* (24 January 1873) which lists the sale of the land, unfortunately doesn't provide the improved value (which would give a hint as to its use) just the per acre minimum acceptable amount; nor does it mention the current lessee, which was, perhaps, the previously mentioned Albert Baldwin on whose land the annex stood.

Is there any other evidence beyond Elizabeth Brandrick's remark and the building shown on Lot 2? Yes, if the name of this hostelry was the Grantville Junction Hotel.

Seeing Double, September 1874.

An unknown individual visited Grantville in 1874, riding in from Dandenong. An account of his impressions of the growing town was printed in the *Leader* (19 Sept. 1874, page 20) under the heading Western Port. It says

(continues on Page 12)



The remnant of the Deep Creek pier. Lot 2 is on the right. In the early 1870s it would have been clear of trees and any hotel there would have been a welcome sight for those arriving from Stony Point, Griffith's Point or Cowes.

The Hotels at Grantville (continued from Page 11)

in part: *Grantville has as yet no clergyman of any denomination, no doctor, and no magistrate nearer than Cranbourne, so that if any one wanted to sue another here for eighteenpence he would have to go to Cranbourne, some thirty-three miles, to carry out his intent, and lose a week or a fortnight over the job...*

A Grantville Junction Hotel sits on the line of the train, which forms the nucleus of a rising little town, and other buildings are located on regularly pegged-out roads about it. A branch butcher's shop, if not two, will shortly be erected. One enterprising individual has run up a rival hotel, and another enterprising individual from your metropolis, or rather a suburb of it, is erecting a boot and shoe establishment. Ere long we shall have sign-boards...

On first read this appears to be a reference to the Grantville Hotel. It, however, did not exist at the time and, in any case, John Dickins, the putative builder, owner and licensee, was on Phillip Island. There is no evidence placing him in Grantville in 1874. Nor was the Grantville Junction Hotel an earlier incarnation of the Grantville Hotel under a different owner at the same location.

The *Leader* article doesn't mention on which side of the main road the hotel sat. Could the Grantville Junction Hotel have been on the previously discussed Lot 2, in what in the early 1870s was expected to be the centre of Grantville around which the town grew?

But what about the "sits on the line of the train" part?

Jan Harper in *Three Stops on the Line* (Kernot Hall & Reserve Committee, 2003) has the Deep Creek jetty built in the early 1870s as a shipping point for timber from a sawmill in the interior. While it was probably not built for this specific purpose, timber was almost certainly carted there by bullock train from Quiggin's mill, at least initially, and this is likely what the *Leader* writer is referring to.

If Lot 2 was the site of the Grantville Junction Hotel, then given the state of the Western Port Road (little more than a cleared dirt track in the early 1870s), the Deep Creek jetty would have been the main entry and exit point for timber workers, their families and others in the vicinity, making Lot 2 an advantageous site for a hostelry, at least initially. Less so as the town coalesced around its present site after 1873.

Problems.

One, very minor, and it comes compliments of Joseph White's 1974 book, *100 Years of*

History. From page 31 and 32:

The Lands Department decided to sell lots 1 to 10 and the sale was placed in the hands of Messrs Gemmel and Tucket, auctioneers who auctioned the lots on 25th February 1873. Lots 3, 4, 5 6, 7 and 8 were sold that day. John Quiggan the sawmiller bought No.3, 4 and 6, E. McKay, school teacher, No.5, L.C. Wilkinson No.7 and 8. H. Dowell became the owner of 1 and 2.

Note: Nine blocks were put up for sale, not 10 as White states. The advertisement in the *Victorian Government Gazette* No.6 (24 Jan. 1873) announcing the sale, has Allotment 1 to 9 numbered as Lot 2-10 for sale purposes. Lot 1 was a block in Sunbury!

Henry Dowel* obtained his blocks in late 1876, likely from a previous owner or owners, rather than they being unsold for nearly four years.

Without saying what year and in what capacity, Joseph White unconvincingly places Alexander Stewart on Lot 2 a paragraph later: *On lot 2 Section A a man named Alexander Stewart lived with his wife and family.*

White, as usual, provides no source. Stewart and his family arrived in the district sometime between 1865 to 1869, but there doesn't seem to be any record of where they resided. In any case, the more relevant point is did Stewart lease (pre-Feb. 1873) or own (post-Feb. 1873) the land? The answer is almost certainly no. There was, however, a *James Stewart* who *was* involved with Lot 2. He will be looked at in a future article. Joseph White may be confusing his Stewarts, an understandable error given both the paucity and brevity of the primary sources.

The simple fact is that neither Joseph White nor anyone else seems to know who purchased Lot 2 on 23 February 1873, assuming it sold at that time. It was a minor mystery in the early 1970s and remains one today.

If it wasn't on Lot 2 in Section A, then where was the Grantville Junction Hotel to be found? The number of suitable blocks is limited with Lot 2 being by far the best (and possibly only) prospect.

And that, until fresh information arises, is all that can be said about Grantville's first hotel.

Fortunately the "rival hotel" mentioned in the *Leader* article is easy to name. It can be none other than Henry Schuler's Prince Alfred.

But is that actually the case?

* This Henry Dowel (misspelt Dowell by White) is not Henry Dowel, the son of Frederick and Johanna Dowel, that Henry being 12 years-old in 1873.¹

(continues on Page 13)

The Hotels at Grantville (continued from Page 12)

The Prince Alfred, 1874?

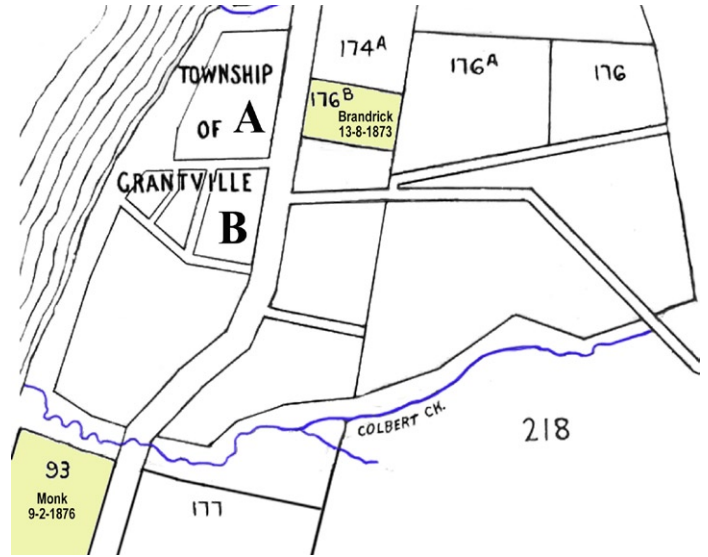
In the 1875 Brandrick vs. Johnson libel trial, Henry Schuler is mentioned as a hawker, in the sense of being a travelling seller of goods or services. He also seems to have worked on occasion for Alexander Stewart and is noted as looking for land to buy.²

William Brandrick, the teacher at the Deep Creek Non Vested Rural School No.120, was accused of being overfamiliar with some of his female students, as career destroying an allegation back then as it is now. Alexander Stewart was the aggrieved father – at first. Ever the opportunist, he seems to have turned this into a land grab at Brandrick’s expense, to the extent that an unkind person might accuse him of being a heartless extortionist.

Schuler, it seems, was one of Stewart’s messengers, and likely not the deliver-a-letter-and-politely-wait-for-a-reply type; more in the manner of “Nice house you have here. Pity if something were to happen to it.”

The Brandricks left the district in 1873, selling some of their land before departing. It would be convenient if Schuler purchased this land, made it the site of the Prince Alfred, and was open for business by September 1874, thus becoming the “one enterprising individual has run up a rival hotel.” Unfortunately, it isn’t clear what land is meant by Allotment B in the advertisement. (See below).

It can’t mean Section B, part of Colbert’s original 1870 survey of Grantville. Brandrick did own Allotment 176B opposite Section A, though this probably isn’t the land advertised for sale given that Brandrick’s purchase of 176B didn’t take place until 19 August



Sections A and B of the original surveyed Grantville. Section A blocks were sold in February 1873. Allotment 93 is the traditional site of the Prince Alfred (and later the Primary School and today’s Transaction Centre).

1873.³ Secondly, wherever it was, Schuler isn’t known to have been the purchaser.

This brings us to Crown Allotment 93, on the south side of Colbert Creek, the traditional site of the Prince Alfred Hotel.

Is it possible that Henry Schuler leased this piece of land in 1873 or 1874, built the Prince Alfred there, then converted the leasehold into ownership when the land was put on the market by the Government in 1876, despite the traditional account having John Monk purchasing it?

No, and the evidence for this comes from none other than the man who surveyed the site of Grantville in 1870, Edmund Colbert, and who returned in mid-1873. Although the exact location of the surveyed block from his field book (see below) isn’t mentioned, the presence of the bay and main road makes it Allotment 93. Monk, not Schuler, had control of the land.

(continues on Page 14)

SPECIAL LOT.

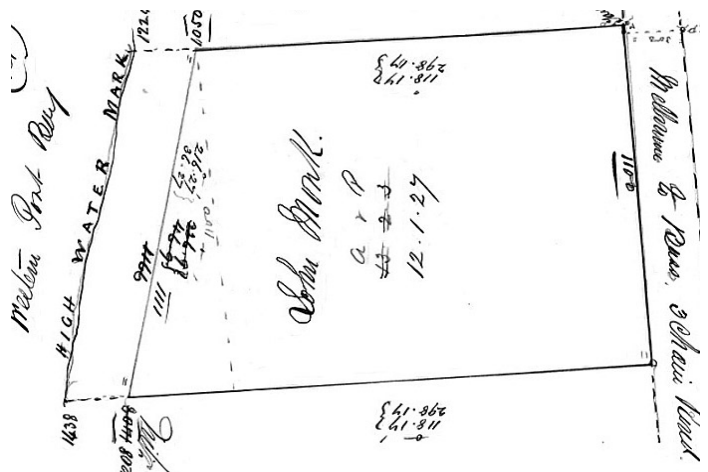
County of Mornington, parish of Corinella, at the site of Mr. W. B. Brandrick’s improvements, Grantville. Upset price, £2 per acre. Allotment B. 6 acres. Valuation £70.

Plans and information can be obtained at the Crown Lands Office, Melbourne.

J. J. CASEY,

Minister of Lands and Agriculture, and President of the Board of Lands and Works.

From the Record and Emerald Hill and Sandridge Advertiser, Thursday 7 August 1873, page 2. A less descriptive version also appeared in the Victorian Government Gazette No. 53, July 18 1873, page 1270. The term ‘upset price’ merely means the minimum amount the seller will accept, and does not necessarily indicate a ‘fire sale’. The valuation is the base price of the land plus whatever ‘improvements’ have been made such as clearing.



From Edmund Colbert’s 1873 Field Book, Red Series, Bundle 9, Number 433 via Landata.

The Hotels at Grantville (continued from Page 13)

Looking South

So where in Grantville is the “rival hotel” mentioned in the 19 September 1874 *Leader* article. The answer is obvious if you – literally – widen your view. It doesn’t need to be in Grantville to be a rival, not when Queensferry is just a few miles away.

This brings us to L. Howell Williams⁴ and the Victoria Hotel, in the traditional account built by him in 1876 or 1877, but which is not believed to have existed as early as 1874.

But is this correct?

The 1875 Phillip Island rate book (page 12, entry 419), compiled in April of that year – just seven months after the *Leader* article – lists L. H. Williams as a “Hotelkeeper” owning a “house & land.” It doesn’t mention the location beyond “Deep Creek, Hurdy Gurdy, &c” but, as will be shown, it is almost certainly 92c, on the corner of today’s Bass Highway and Queensferry Jetty Road, the traditional site of the Victoria Hotel.

Given the loose terminology employed in the rate books, the use of the word “house” does not necessarily preclude it being a hotel, especially given the listed occupation of the owner/licensee.

So, problem solved. The “rival hotel” is the Victoria Hotel of L. Howell Williams.

Um, yes...and no.

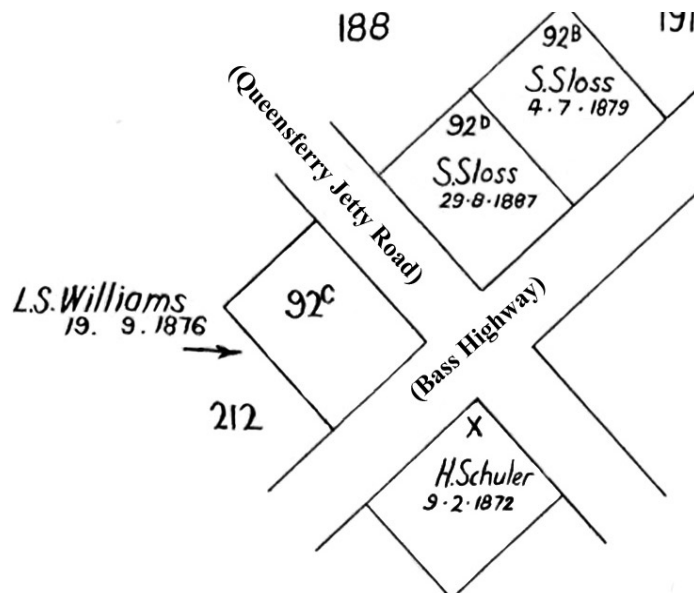
The 1875 rate book mention of Williams as a “hotelkeeper” is contradicted by a more specific and reliable entry, this one on page 435 of the *Victorian Government Gazette No.18* (3 March 1876) approving his license for a rural store with the rider that it covered 1875 as well.

Secondly, the £30 net annual value listed against Williams in the April 1875 rate book entry is much too low for a hotel. Given the size of the land it is more in line with a business such as a general store.

Finally, L. Howell Williams doesn’t seem to have been in the area in 1872-1874, or at least he doesn’t appear in any extant source.

The answer is on the opposite block: Lot X, leased by Henry Schuler. He also appears as a ‘hotelkeeper’ in the 1875 rate book in the entry above Williams. This property is rated at £50, which is the standard for a hotel. So here we have a strong hint that Schuler has a hotel on Lot X while Williams owns and runs a store, probably a general store, over the road on 92c.

But the decisive evidence is found in the *Victorian Government Gazette No.3* (14 Jan.



Lot X and Lot 92c. Source: Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material] / drawn and reproduced at the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Victoria, 1973. Map modified by the author.

1876) which lists the sale of three blocks of land in the Parish of Corinella, County of Mornington. Only the second and third are of interest (sorry Mr. Thornton).

In regard to Allotment 93, Monk, who had improved the block considerably – the usual clearing and draining with, given his stated trade and possession of a slaughtering license, likely a butcher shop⁵ (probably the one referred to in the September 1874 *Leader* article) – purchased this now prime commercial real estate in February 1876.⁶

However, one entry down is a figure that demands attention: the valuation of Schuler’s previously mentioned Lot X at Queensferry over the road from 92c.

PARISH OF CORINELLA, COUNTY OF MORNINGTON.

49th section block of T. D. Thornton.

Upset price 2l. per acre.—Charge for survey 1l.
Lot 16. Area 12a., allotment 90 a. Valuation 69l. 14s.

49th section block of John Monk.

Upset price 2l. per acre.—Charge for survey 1l.
Lot 17. Area 13a. 2r. 3p., allotment 93. Valuation 349l. 16s.

47th section block of Henry Schuler.

Upset price 4l. per acre.—Charge for survey 1l.
Lot 18. Area 3a., allotment X. Valuation 1,200l.

From the *Victorian Government Gazette No.3*, 14 January 1876, page 62: Country Lots.

This is a phenomenal amount for three acres, even if cleared, drained, levelled and fenced – unless it had something extra on offer, like a fully functioning hotel sitting on it, for instance.

Here, at last, is the “rival hotel,” which turns

(continues on Page 15)

The Hotels at Grantville (continued from Page 14)

out to be Henry Schuler's Prince Alfred after all, albeit in an unexpected location.

By 1876, with the Grantville Junction Hotel now defunct, there was no hostelry at Grantville, a larger town than Queensferry with a growing commercial centre. Seeing greater opportunity there, Henry Schuler buys Allotment 93 from John Monk, dismantles the Prince Alfred and has it carted by bullock train the short distance to Grantville and is soon back in business.

There now being no hotel at Queensferry, L. Howell Williams on 92c, likely inspired by what John Dickins was doing at Grantville, moves to fill the gap by converting his own store into the Victoria Hotel.

And there you have it. All three hotels are now in place in their correct location.

Except...

It didn't happen this way. Not even close.

Schuler's Queensferry hotel was not as might be assumed the Prince Alfred – it was the Victoria Hotel, an establishment which he sold to Williams who became a hotelier instead of, or in addition to, being storekeeper.

Thus the Victoria Hotel stood not on 92c as tradition holds but Lot X – Schuler's block – and Williams had nothing to do with its construction.

Further evidence for this is found in the *Victorian Government Gazette No.58* (August 1876) announcing the sale of the "rural store site of Mr. L. H. Williams" on allotment 92c with an improved value of £507, the price of a functioning store, not a hotel. The Department of Lands and Survey's 1973 map [Corinella, County of Mornington, Sheet 1] has Williams purchasing 92c on 19 September 1876, as does the 1948 map from the same source. This is Williams doing what John Monk did earlier that year and converting his leasehold into ownership.

Whether Williams kept the store going on 92c is unknown, but if he did so, it isn't reflected in the 1877 Phillip Island rate book, and the *Victorian Government Gazette No.51* (17 May, 1878, page 1107) listing the sale of the land declared the license abandoned under Section 47 and therefore cancelled.

Having sold the Victoria Hotel to Williams, Schuler built the Prince Alfred on Allotment 93 at Grantville.

The 1876 Phillip Island rate book (page 29, entries 457, 458 and 460), compiled in October of that year, lists Dickins, Schuler and Williams as a "Hotelkeeper" whose property has a net annual value of, respectively, £75, £60 and

£50 (Schuler's old rate).

This raises the minor question of which Grantville hotelier (John Dickins or Henry Schuler) built their establishment first. The answer is probably Schuler, who is unlikely to have sold the Victoria to Williams if he had known of the plan by Dickins to convert the Grantville general store to a hotel. On the other hand, you could say the same with Dickins in regard to Schuler's plans for Allotment 93. Maybe both men believed Grantville big enough for two hotels, and it was – for a time.

And there you have it. All three hotels are now in place in their correct location...

Almost. There is still a bit of work to do.

The Traditional View/s

Joseph White in *100 Years of History* also deals with the Prince Alfred...sort of.

From Page 34:

About the same time Henry Schuler, hotel proprietor of Queensferry purchased 5 acres of land from John Monk. On this land Schuler immediately built a hotel that was known as the Prince Alfred Hotel. A hotel licence was obtained and the hotel continued until 1884 when due to police objection by Inspector Carrol the license was cancelled. The inspector submitted evidence to prove that the building was very dilapidated, dirty and unfit to be lived in. Later the building was demolished.

From Page 96:

The site of the present Grantville State School was originally the site of the Prince of Wales hotel. Henry Schuler, a hotel owner, had bought the block of 5 acres from John Monk in August 1877. The local residents objected to the sale claiming it was for hotel purposes. A petition was drawn up and sent to the Lands Department, but without any success.

Schuler built his hotel, obtained a licence and named the building the "Prince of Wales Hotel". Whether the building was poorly built or badly managed is not known; but before many years the hotel had acquired such a bad name, that, when the licensee Adolph Janssen applied to have the licence renewed in 1884 the application was refused and the hotel was delicensed.

The mortgagee foreclosed on the property and later sold to Frederick Dowell.

Joseph White, researching and writing his book in the early 1970s, had few primary sources available to work with and tying what little he did have together usually meant making an educated guess, which he did often,

(continues on Page 16)

The Hotels at Grantville (continued from Page 15)

and usually wrongly, as the above extracts show. The two accounts are also contradictory. White, it seems, was his own proof-reader and editor, and not very adept at either.

That said, he is stumbling at the edges of what is going on.

He correctly identifies Schuler as a hotel proprietor of Queensferry, not understanding that Schuler was actually running a hotel there at that time. He confuses the Prince Alfred with a hotel he calls the Prince of Wales. And here we have a hint of what this Queensferry hotel might have been called if it wasn't the Victoria. On the other hand, given the value of "brand recognition" then and now, Williams had no reason to change the name.

Most interesting is the petition. That White doesn't date it and lists none of the objectors probably means he never saw the document, assuming it existed in a form more concrete than just "local knowledge."

That no similar petition was presented against Dickins in regard to the Grantville Hotel must raise doubts as to the stated reason for its existence. A more likely explanation, which will be looked at later, is that any petition was directed less at the hotel and more at its proprietor. Henry Schuler may not have been a popular man.

Here? There? Somewhere?

To complicate matters further...

It is another number in the advertisement in the *Victorian Government Gazette No.3* that proves the real problem. Allotment 93, from today's Pier Road to Colbert Creek, is listed as being 13 acres. The Phillip Island rate books for 1878 and 1879 have the Prince Alfred on 5 acres; the rate books for 1880-1884 list 3 acres, as does the 1887 book, and the two 1884 notices for the sale of the hotel place it on 5 acres.⁷ For what it is worth, so does Joseph White. Given that the compilers of the rate books were more interested in collecting money than detailed and accurate property details, it is safe to assume the Prince Alfred sat on approximately five acres of land.

By tradition, business logic, and process of elimination the site of the hotel must be Allotment 93, yet no primary source places it there. The previously mentioned anti-hotel petition, however, if it existed, does confirm Allotment 93 as the location.

If the Prince Alfred wasn't on Allotment 93, given the lack of suitable and/or available 3-5 acre blocks elsewhere in Grantville, then where was it?

Location! Location! Location!

The answer is found in the unlikely of places, namely, in the Supreme Court notices in the *Victorian Government Gazette No.67*, (5 July 1878), on page 1649. John Monk, it seems fell into financial trouble in the late 1870s and, in lieu of payment, the Sheriff threatened to sell his property to meet the debt. Whether Monk managed to pay the money before the sale is not as important as one piece of land under threat of sale.

From page 1649: *...also all that piece of land, being part of allotment 93, parish and county aforesaid, containing 7 acres 1 rood and 27 perches, or thereabouts...*

In other words, about eight acres of the 13 acres, leaving 5 acres, that portion now owned by Henry Schuler and containing the Prince Alfred. Monk seems to have subdivided it into Allotments 93a and 93b sometime after his purchase of the block in February 1876.

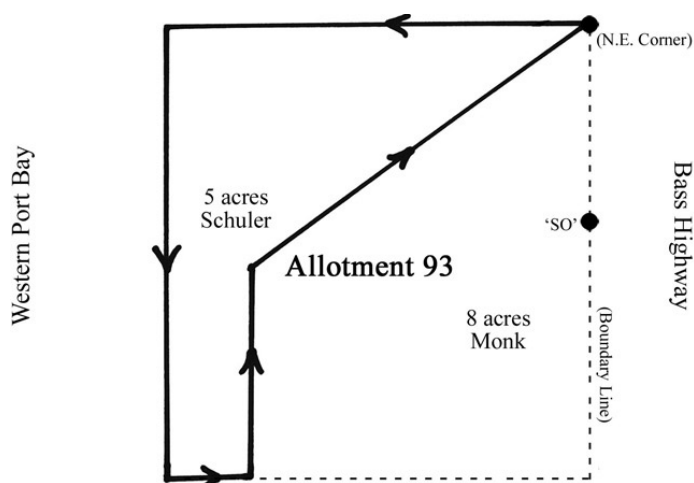
Those of you with a decent working knowledge of old measurements will note this is much closer to seven acres than eight, which would make Schuler's portion about six acres, though it was advertised in 1881 as five. This could hint at a more complicated subdivision, with one acre or thereabouts going to a third party.

To complicate matters further...

Here is the land division as listed:

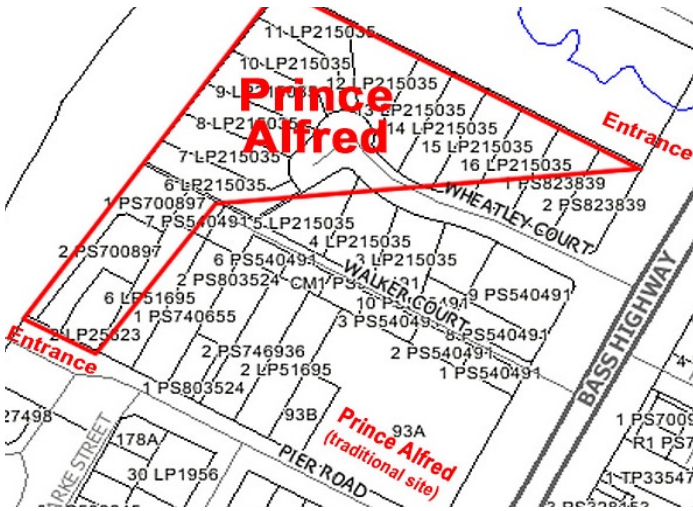
Commencing at a point on the eastern boundary line distant 5 chains north from the so [sic] last corner of the allotment; thence north to the N.E. corner; thence west 10 50 links; thence 11 11 links south; thence east 2 chains 8 links; thence north 5 chains; thence further east 10 chains to the point of commencement.

And here, via Robert Glover of the Grantville History Group, is a heroic attempt to decipher these directions and distances...



(continues on Page 17)

The Hotels at Grantville (continued from Page 16)



Allotment 93 in 2020 with the 1876 subdivision overlaid. If the translation of the directions and distances in the *Victorian Government Gazette* are correct, then the Prince Alfred had to have been located approximately at the end of today's Wheatley Court.

This looks the wrong way round. Schuler's hotel should have the Pier Road and Bass Highway frontage, with Monk's butcher shop in the southern rectangle with the livestock for slaughter in the paddock behind.

That said, in 1876 there was no pier at the end of the road and the location towards the north-west corner of the block did offer a good view of the bay and French Island. The gap between Colbert Creek and the north boundary being undeveloped reserved land would have provided a handy entrance and exit onto the main road.

The Prince Alfred Hotel

With 1877 dates start to solidify. The hotel is first recorded as trading at Grantville in February 1877 when David B. Kennedy, on winning a seat on the Council, gave a victory speech there.⁸

Of the four known publicans (and one potential licensee), Schuler is the only one who is more than just a name, partly because of the 1875 Brandrick vs Johnson libel trial but more personally because of *Schuler v. Carson*, heard in the Griffith's Point Police Court in 1877. As reported in the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal* (25 July 1877, page 3):

Plaintiff is a publican at Grantville. Defendant on the evening [sic] of 8th June last; imbibed sufficiently to prevent him finding his way home, applied for admission after 12 o'clock for a bed, which, being declined, he obtained the first by breaking open the door with a ladder and the last by consent of the counter for which he had to pay damages 25s., and assets, 23s. On the 28th of the same month he tried the effect of leather by hitting

the landlord on the cheek with a boot, and exercised the strength of his teeth by biting Schuler's fingers, which happened to get into his mouth, for which he was fined £3, and costs 23s.

Schuler, justifiably outraged with the small fine gifted Carson, felt compelled to give a fuller account of the incident in a public letter in the 1 August 1877 edition of the same newspaper. It read, in part:

Sir,—Your reporter of the Griffith's Point Police Court news has scarcely done justice to the case—Schuler v. Carson. Allow me, sir, in justice to myself and friends, to put the actual facts before your numerous readers. For many months past the man Carson has been a great annoyance to me, inasmuch as he comes into my hotel to insult and assault me, and sometimes my customers. But on the 8th June last the defendant broke into my bar at eleven p.m., kept possession till morning, using the most filthy language that could possibly be conceived, threatening what he would do if I came out of the bedroom, which I was really afraid to do. I took no step this time, thinking he would refrain for the future from molesting me or mine; but on the 28th of the same month he came into my hotel about one o'clock p.m. I would not serve him with drink, nor was he [unclear word] by anyone in my house, when he took up a heavy boot and commenced beating me with it about the head and body, I all the time striving to defend myself, which I was unable to do as one of my arms was rendered utterly useless to me through my [unclear words] to do so, my servants crying shame and the children frightened nearly out of their senses. Then he turned round and threatened to kill her if she made the least noise. I attempted to escape, but he lifted a delf jug off the counter and smashed it over my head, damaging me very severely in cuts and bruises besides using language unfit to be used in the infernal regions. The maltreatment I received this time was of such a nature that my friends could scarcely know me. I then applied to Mr. Turnbull, J.P. and Mr Norton, Clerk of the Court, for a warrant to have him arrested, but it was refused me, as also after I took out a summons I was refused [unclear words] for my principal witness, whom the defendant Carson wanted to keep out the way, and was threatened by another party that if she did not swear so and so she would rue the day she appeared in Court...

Nearly 150 years on, it is impossible to know the rationale for Carson's seeming vendetta,

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Turnbull and Norton's failure to act and the leniency shown him by the Griffith's Point Police Court, especially in light of the man who attacked hotelier John Dickins two years later (discussed in Part Two) receiving a year long prison sentence.⁹

The most likely reason is that Carson had a legitimate grievance against Schuler, one that went unaddressed, and Anderson and others sympathised with him.

Whatever the explanation, the case clearly induced an understandable desire to leave. Schuler had a wife (Alice) and three children, all under eleven¹⁰, and a likely vengeful Carson to worry about.

In January 1878, Schuler transferred the license to John Payne¹¹ and left the district, in April 1878 taking over as publican of the Warrnambool Hotel in Bourke Street from Charles Everett.¹² However, he kept control of the Prince Alfred. The 1878 Phillip Island rate book list John Payne as the licensee and Schuler as the owner.¹³

The court case and the anti-hotel petition, may offer a hint as to Henry Schuler's character. There may also have been some residual resentment towards him from Brandrick supporters. Against this, the Prince Alfred seems to have prospered during his stewardship, which is unlikely if he was an unpleasant and disliked man.

Under John Payne (or perhaps earlier by Schuler though there is no record of it) a monthly stock market was established in the grounds of the hotel until a permanent facility could be constructed. The first one seems to have been held in May 1878 with an ad appearing in the advertising section on page 2 of the 15 May edition of the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*.

GRANTVILLE MARKET.

SATURDAY, MAY 18th, at PAYNE'S HOTEL.

EGAN AND CLARKE

WILL OFFER for sale on the above date,
 Milking Cows
 Springers
 Fat and Store Cattle
 Horses, Pigs
 Farm and Dairy Produce, &c.

NOTE.—After the above sale, a meeting of persons interested will be held at Payne's Hotel to discuss and decide upon the best place to establish a Central Market for the district.

Payne did not trade for very long, for in October 1879 there was a new licensee offering upgraded facilities...

SCOTT'S

PRINCE ALFRED HOTEL,

GRANTVILLE.

MR. SCOTT having recently taken the above Hotel, and made very great alterations and improvements for the accommodation of the public, is now prepared to supply every Accommodation to Visitors and the Public.

Boating, Shooting, and the Best Liquors at Reasonable Prices, with kindness and attention.

42ced J. A. SCOTT.

From the *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 8 October 1879, page 2

This Mr. Scott was James Alison Scott, former sawmiller, though his partner in that business, Thomas Sawyer, was not part of the hotel venture.

According to the 1879 Phillip Island rate book (page 83, entry 532), Jane Scott was the licensee with Henry Schuler retaining ownership of the hotel. James Scott, it seems, acted as manager and host.

The following year, according to the 1880 Phillip Island rate book (page 103, entry 554) Schuler had sold the hotel to Jane Scott who was now owner and licensee.* The next entry (555) has James Scott listed as a butcher and, in partnership with Sawyer, owning a house and 20 acres of land elsewhere.

Schuler is not known to have ever held a slaughtering license. Given the proximity of the two businesses, John Monk would have provided the hotel with all the meat it required. This changed with the advent of Scott, who did hold (or quickly obtained) a license, and who likely purchased the now-deceased Monk's business.

Although Monk's butcher store was literally next door, Scott seems to have closed it down and moved the equipment and supplies to the hotel site. Three lines of evidence support this conclusion: the ad referred to in the footnote below, which is suggestive more than decisive; an 1881 newspaper ad which will be looked at shortly, and the *Victorian Government Gazette No. 139* (December 23, 1881) which on page 3597 lists for sale "the rural store site of the late John Monk" now reduced to 4 acres and valued at only £35. Whatever store previously existed on this land seems to have been removed or was no longer in use.

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*Within months of the purchase, in an ad in the 18 March 1880 *Argus*, she has the hotel up for sale. There is probably an interesting story here which will now never be known.

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Scott's tenure at the Prince Alfred was notable for only two things. First was his belief that the Kelly Gang had an informer at the Grantville timber mills. Just why the Kelly Gang would need an informer at Grantville and what they hoped to gain from it is unclear.

The matter was investigated by Constable Taylor who had this to say about both the claim and its creator:

I find it imagination on his part...

*...Scott is a man of very drunken Habits that very little reliance can be placed on what he says at any time.*¹⁴

Scott's other notable achievement seems to have been a decline in the maintenance of the property, its net annual value in the Phillip Island rate books falling to £55 in January 1881 and to £45 in 1882, settling at £35 in 1883 and 1884 when, presumably, some repairs were carried out.

In fairness to Scott, the "name of owner" space in the ratebook being blank, it is unclear who owned the hotel in early 1881 (page 123, entry 539). Whoever it was, whether Jane Scott or someone else, it was with a mortgage that ultimately couldn't be paid off. This also likely explains the lack of maintenance and hints at the profitability – or lack of it – of the hotel at this stage.

Adolph Janssen was the licensee at that time, holding it under a four year "repairing lease" at £60 per year.¹⁵ He remained the licensee until December 1884.¹⁶ A repairing lease is exactly as it sounds, requiring the lessee to bring the hotel up to inspection standard. Janssen seems to have done the bare minimum needed – or, maybe, could be afforded.

In April 1881 the mortgagee put the Prince Alfred up for auction without apparent success. From an advertisement in the *Argus* of 26 April 1881 (there was an identical one in the *Age* on the 22nd), we have a description of the property *...substantially built of wood, containing bar, billiardroom 16 x 20, four bedrooms, kitchen, and two rooms detached, large tank holding 3000 gallons, extensive stabling, fowlhouses, piggeries &c.*

The land "about 5 acres" which came with the hotel...*has cattle yards and slaughtering appliances attached...*¹⁷

In short, everything an 1880s country hotel needed.

The identity of the mortgagee is unknown.

Adding to the confusion are the Phillip Island rate books which for 1882 (page 17 entry 507), 1883 (page 41 entry 535) and 1884 (page 65, entry 563) show, respectively, Henry Schuler,

Adolph Janssen and the Graham Brothers & Co. as the owner.

In December 1884, Terence McMahon was refused a license on the advice of Inspector Carroll from the Excise department due to the decrepit nature of the hotel.¹⁸

After that, as far as can be determined, the hotel ceased trading. From 1885 it is no longer listed as a hotel in the Phillip Island rate books and becomes a house. This is not necessarily iron-clad proof of a change of status, especially as in the 1887 rate book (page 43, entry 549) George Dowel (misspelt as Dowell) is listed a 'Innkeeper'.

Against this: no further publican licences were ever issued for the Prince Alfred after Adolph Janssen's tenure. If it traded as a hotel under Dowel, it did so as a pub with no beer (or any other alcohol). In other words, it became a coffee palace.

The coffee palace was a curious late 19th century phenomenon: a hotel that didn't serve alcohol. In the cities they could be quite grand; in the country, usually much less so. Little is known about the Grantville coffee palace other than its location (the traditional site of the Prince Alfred and later location of the Primary School and today's Transaction Centre) and approximate duration (1888 or earlier to at least 1904).¹⁹

Is it possible it could have been a rebranded Prince Alfred?

Given that the disused hotel and the coffee palace existed at the same time, no. This is also a reason why the traditional location of the Prince Alfred can't be right. The coffee palace and the disused hotel would have seen each partially built over the other.

A visitor to Grantville and Queensferry in 1892 reported seeing a decaying building with a faded "hotel" sign on it.²⁰ However, it isn't clear whether this is Grantville (the Prince Alfred) or Queensferry (the Victoria) he is talking about. Additionally, the reference could be illustrative rather than actual, put in to show the decline of the two towns which is the major theme of the piece.

There is another line of evidence that the Prince Alfred Hotel, though rundown, was still fundamentally sound or worth repairing, and that it remained intact until the second decade of the 20th century.

The 1899 Phillip Island rate book (page 66, entry 1165 and 1166) shows the occupying tenants of a house and three acres of land at Grantville as draper, William Sinclair, and a certain Thomas Cox Monger, printer. Thus the Prince Alfred Hotel, it seems, became

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the headquarters of *The Western Port Times* and home of its proprietor. The fact that this house was large enough to accommodate two businesses and their owners also hints at it being the Prince Alfred.

By this time the land on which the now defunct hotel stood was likely closer to three acres than five (or six), the owner selling part of it (the rectangle section), for by 1888 a storage shed and one of the Ant & Bee sawmills was located in this portion.²¹ Other unneeded sections were also probably sold off. As already discussed, John Monk's portion had been further subdivided and sold.

Summary

The earliest hotel at Grantville was called the Grantville Junction Hotel, possibly owned by Albert Baldwin. It likely stood on Lot 2 in Section A near Deep Creek and did not function as a hotel for more than a few years, the dates uncertain but likely 1872 to late 1875.

In September 1874 and probably earlier the Victoria Hotel, owned and run by Henry Schuler, was operating at Queensferry a few miles away, making it something of a rival to its Grantville counterpart.

Sometime in 1876, between February and August, with no hotel now operating in Grantville, Schuler sold his hotel to L. Howell Williams and built a new one at Grantville.

Although traditionally said to have been on Allotment 93 near the south-east corner (the site of the later primary school and today's Transaction Centre), primary source evidence places it in the north-west quarter roughly at the end of today's Wheatley Court.

From 1876 to 1884 it traded as a hotel at this site under various owners and licensees, but ceased operation after that date. This left its rival, the Grantville Hotel, as the sole survivor of the three hotels.

It will be the subject of Part Two.

Footnotes:

1. Births, Death & Marriages Victoria: Event Reg. 1967/1922.
2. *Herald*, Monday 22 November 1875, page 3; *Herald*, Wednesday 24 November 1875, page 3; *Argus*, Thursday 25 November 1875, page 6; *Argus*, Friday 26 November 1875, page 6
3. Plan Record C246(4), Corinella, County of Mornington, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Victoria; Sheet 2, Corinella, County of Mornington, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Victoria, 1973.
4. There is no standard spelling of his given name. Various sources render it as Leyshorn, Leyshone, Leyson, Lyson, L. S. Williams and W. L. Williams. The only point of commonality is the surname, with the majority opting for Howell as the middle name, hence my use of L. Howell Williams.
5. Phillip Island rate books 1875, page 12, entry 422; 1876, page 29, entry 445; 1877, page 46, entry 445; 1880, page 103, entry 544; *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 2 January 1878:

Meetings of Local Bodies.

6. Plan Record C246(3), Corinella, County of Mornington, Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Victoria, 1885; Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material] / drawn and reproduced at the Department of Crown Lands and Survey, Melbourne, Victoria, 1948; Corinella, County of Mornington [cartographic material] / drawn and reproduced at the Dept. of Crown Lands and Survey, Victoria, 1973.
7. Phillip Island rate book 1878, page 66, entry 557; 1879, page 83, entry 532; 1880, page 103, entry 554; 1881, page 123, entry 539; 1882, page 17, entry 507; 1883, page 41, entry 535; 1884, page 65, entry 563; 1887, page 43, entry 549; *Argus*, 26 April 1881, page 3; *Age*, 26 April 1881, page 4.
8. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 21 February 1877: The Bass District.
9. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, Wednesday 10 September 1879, page 3: Griffiths' Point Police Court
10. Births, Deaths & Marriages Victoria: Event Reg. Marriages: 4222/1866. Deaths: 11221/1867, 4605/1869, 25573/1872 (Another child Alfred Ernest died in 1871, aged 1 day, reference: 7106/1871).
11. *South Bourke & Mornington Journal*, 2 January 1878, page 3: Griffiths' Point Police Court. [Note: name misspelt as Pain]
12. *Argus*, Wednesday 1 May 1878, page 5.
13. Phillip Island rate books, Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai, 1892, page 66, entry 557.
14. Report of Senior Constable Taylor 2873, 10th January 1880. Victorian Public Records Office: Kelly Historical Collection – Part One Police Branch. VPRS 4965.
15. *Argus*, 26 April 1881, page 3; *Age*, 26 April 1881, page 4.
16. *South Bourke & Mornington Journal*, 21 December 1881, page 2: Griffiths' Point Licensing Court; 13 September 1882, page 3, Griffiths' Point Licensing Court; 5 December 1883, page 3, Griffiths' Point Licensing Court; Phillip Island rate books, Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai, 1884, page 65, entry 563.
17. *Argus*, 26 April 1881, page 3; *Age*, 26 April 1881, page 4.
18. *South Bourke & Mornington Journal*, 17 December 1884, page 3: Griffiths Point.
19. The *Great Southern Advocate*, 29 September 1904, page 3: Shire of Phillip Island and Woolamai; Advertisement for 17 April 1888 sale by Munro & Baillieu of lots on former Allotment 178 at "Grantville on the Sea."
20. The *Australasian*, 7 May 1892, page 7: Through South Gippsland.
21. *South Bourke and Mornington Journal*, 2 November 1887: Grantville District; Advertisement for 17 April 1888 sale by Munro & Baillieu of lots on former Allotment 178 at "Grantville on the Sea."

End Note

John Monk managed to find the money to save his 8 acre portion of Lot 93 when threatened with its sale in July 1878. The 1879 Phillip Island rate book (page 83 entry 524) gives his occupation as a "butcher" and lists his holdings as "allot 8 + select 8½" for a total of 16½ acres. The net annual value is given as £20, which is not inconsistent with the presence of a store, undoubtedly a butcher shop. Entry 525 lists 7½ acres additional land. Not covered in the rate book, but found in the *Victorian Government Gazette No.132* (20 December 1878), is an additional 5 acres somewhere in the Parish of Corinella. (Given the sometimes slipshod acreage calculations in the rate books, this might actually be the 7½ acres mentioned). The resourceful Mr. Monk died at the (even by the standards of the day) relatively young age of 51 on 19 October 1880.