



Diggings



THE JOURNAL OF THE MARYBOROUGH MIDLANDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 33 NO 4

NOVEMBER 2021

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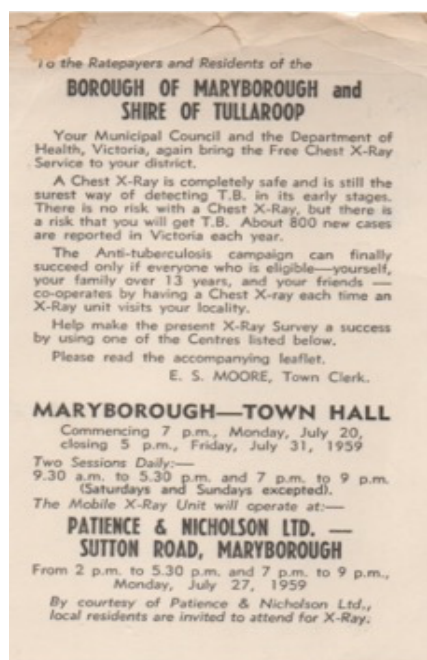
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THE “GREAT WHITE PLAGUE”

Local resident and friend of our Society Dorothy Whitmore was sorting through some personal documents recently when she came across a small card dating from 1959 (pictured below) which notifies Maryborough residents about the Chest X-Ray program.

Australia now has one of the lowest tuberculosis infection rates in the world as a result of extensive health campaigns during the first half of the 20th Century. At the beginning of that century TB, earlier known as Phthisis, The White Plague, Consumption or more alarmingly, Galloping Consumption, was a major cause of death.



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The Maryborough Midlands Historical Society acknowledges the ancestors and descendants of the Dja Dja Wurrung, traditional owners and carers for many thousands of years of the land on which we live and work.

Warmth, rest, fresh air and good food were all seen as desirable treatments. Australia's climate attracted many sufferers. Unfortunately they often infected others. Some of the more unconventional treatments advertised in Victoria in the 1800s included fermented mare's milk, carbolic acid vapour, or pills containing creosote, belladonna, opium, rhubarb or aluminium. Some doctors advocated bleeding and purging, cod liver oil, vinegar massages and inhaling hemlock or turpentine.

The X-Ray program described on the card would have taken place in one of the mobile vans, which began operation in the 1940s. Permanent units were set up in Melbourne.

Although TB is now curable for those who have access to antimicrobial drugs, World Health Organisation figures indicate that in 2020 1.5 million people worldwide died from TB. It's currently the 13th leading cause of death and the second leading infectious killer after Covid-19.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE Local History Grants

We were delighted to receive notification in August that the Society had been awarded a Local History Grant through the Public Record Office Victoria.

The project involves photographing, digitising and restoring Rosa Outtrim's photograph album, which is in very poor condition.



At first glance the front of the album looks presentable, but the clasps on the back cover have been lost, and the pages have fallen apart (see below)



The images were taken by local photographer James Weller, who operated a studio in Maryborough from the late 1860s until the 1890s. They depict buildings, work scenes, mines, homes, businesses and groups in Maryborough and surrounding towns. The album was donated by an Outtrim descendant.

ELIZABETH ROSA OUTTRIM née STEPHENSON



Rosa Outtrim sailed to Melbourne in the early 1850s (dates of her arrival vary) with five of her sons and two daughters. Her husband James was already in Victoria to organise for their arrival. Family plans were thrown into chaos when shortly afterwards James and the youngest boy died of "colonial fever". Another older son in England died before he could travel to Victoria to assist his mother and siblings. In 1854 the family was advised to relocate to Maryborough, where for a time they lived in a tent on Market Square (later the High School site, now Havilah Retirement Village).

Rosa understood the importance of education, with the result that three of her sons, Alfred in particular, enjoyed distinguished careers in Victorian public life.

DEATH OF MRS OUTTRIM.

MARYBOROUGH. Saturday.

One of the oldest residents in the person of Mrs Outtrim, died this morning. The deceased lady, who had reached the age of 93 years, retained all her faculties, and displayed remarkable vitality up to a few weeks ago. She came to the colonies in the early fifties, and was the mother of Mr A. R. Outtrim, ex-M.L.A., Mr F. L. Outtrim, Deputy-Postmaster-General of Victoria, and Mr Fred. T. Outtrim, secretary and engineer of the Tullaroop Shire.

The Herald, Saturday December 26, 1903



The Digger's Hut c. 1860s

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

REFRESHMENT ROOM STATION

The 1891 *Railway Guide Book and Timetable for Melbourne, Ballarat, Adelaide* lists Maryborough as a Refreshment Room Station. This required that set-table meals were to be available for the arrival and departure of all passenger trains (night or day), plus a choice of Counter Refreshments and Refreshment Baskets (baskets to be returned via any porter or guard).

CONTENTS OF REFRESHMENT BASKET

Charge 3s 6d

Contents-

Half a chicken

Two slices of Ham or Ox Tongue

Two Breakfast Rolls, of Fresh White or Brown Bread

Butter and Cheese, 1 ½ ounces of each

Pint bottle of English Ale or Porter, Victorian Ale or Lager Beer; Victorian Hock or other Native Wine; bottle of Lemonade, Tonic Water or Soda Water; or fresh milk, at choice of purchaser.

A small quantity of Celery, Lettuce or Tomatoes.

Pepper, Salt, Mustard and Vinegar.

Two Paper Table Napkins.

The lessee being responsible for keeping the basket and its fittings wholesome and bright.

COUNTER REFRESHMENTS

Charge 1s

Soup, or Irish Stew; or Grilled Chop or Steak; or Grilled Pork Chop; or Ham or Bacon and Eggs; or Sausages; with the above, Potatoes, baked and boiled; fresh white and brown bread; Butter and Cheese, half a pint Imperial Measure of Best Victorian Ale; or full half pint wine measure of Victorian Claret, Hock, or other light Native Wine; or half pint of fresh milk; or large cup of Tea or Coffee.

Passenger services were excellent during the 1890s and early 1900s. It was possible to travel to Melbourne via Castlemaine three times daily and to Melbourne via Ballarat by three different trains. There were also twice daily services to Donald, Inglewood and Ararat. In all, thirteen passenger trains left Maryborough each week day and a similar number deposited passengers at the station.

Maryborough A Social History 1854-1904 Osborn and DuBourg

The 21st Century has seen the Maryborough Railway Refreshment Rooms transformed into Tracks Café and the local Visitor Information Centre.

A VICE REGAL INVITATION 1890 - STYLE

In 1889 [Lord] Hopetoun was appointed governor of Victoria and G.C.M.G., arriving in Melbourne in sumptuous style in November. During a time of depression and ministerial instability, Hopetoun entertained extravagantly and handled the political situation ably. Notwithstanding poor health and colonial astonishment at his habit of wearing hair-powder, his youthful enthusiasm for routine duties and his fondness for informal horseback tours won him many friends, even in Sydney. But Lady Hopetoun was criticized for her haughty manner. His governorship coincided with important years of the Federation movement of which he was a fervent supporter. After an extension of his term he left Melbourne in March 1895.

Australian Dictionary of Biography

In 1890 Lord Hopetoun was welcomed and photographed at a reception in Ballarat. In the same year he opened the Bendigo Art Gallery. He's also listed on a memorial board as one of the earliest VIP visitors to the Mount Buffalo area. The town of Hopetoun (formerly Corrong Station) was named after him. Despite the extravagantly written (in beautiful copperplate) invitation, Lord Hopetoun never visited Maryborough. He later returned to Australia as its first Governor-General.

Address to His Excellency The Earl of Hopetoun from the Mayor, Councillors & Burgesses of Maryborough

*His Excellency The Earl of Hopetoun,
Governor of Victoria.*

May it please Your Excellency,

We the Mayor, Councillors and Burgesses of the Borough of Maryborough offer you our hearty welcome on this your passing visit to our district.

We respectfully but with much cordiality beg to approach you with the assurance of our devoted loyalty to the throne and person of Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen and of our dutiful respect to your Excellency as Her Majesty's representative.

We hope that at no distant date we may be privileged to welcome you and the Countess of Hopetoun on the occasion of a more extended visit to our town and afforded a fuller opportunity of entertaining you.

Trusting that Her Gracious Majesty may be long spared to wield the sceptre of the glorious British Empire and that yourself the Countess of Hopetoun and your family, may live long amongst us to enjoy the love and affection which you have already gained by your kindness and urbanity, and sincerely hoping that the colony may continue to prosper during your term of office.

We have the honor (sic) to subscribe ourselves on behalf of the Corporation.

F.J. Field Mayor

[Eight Councillors]

H.N. Phillips Town Clerk

A LETTER FROM WILLIAM 1862

In 1852 **William Brown** and two friends sailed to Australia on the *Barrackpore*. William (1830-1891) had been previously employed as a groom, and later as a light horse drawn vehicle driver in London. It's presumed that he planned to make his fortune quickly and return home to Margate in Kent, since his wife of only three months, Anna Bradshaw, remained in Kent, where she later was employed as a seamstress at a gentleman's outfitter in Canterbury. Neither possibly realised that she was carrying their first child, Willie.

Ten years later, William was employed as a contractor at Norwood, the Alfred Joyce property in Wareek near Maryborough. He had obviously decided that he could make a better living in Australia, so encouraged Anna and Willie to join him. Two of his detailed letters survive.

Selections from one of the letters are printed below, with original spelling and punctuation.

Norwood August 23 1862

Dear Anna

I received a letter from you a few days agoe dated June 18 I was glad to hear that you and Willie were quite well I am well myself and glad to hear that you are ready to start for Australia..

[Here William includes a detailed list of financial arrangements, including how he wishes his £20 Bank Draft to be spent (living expenses until the voyage, on-board expenses, books, accommodation in Melbourne when they arrive, and transport to Maryborough. He had already purchased the tickets.)]

I shall not come to Melbourne to meet you for it will be only loss of time and money... I think it will cost yourself Willie and the luggage £5 to get from Melbourne to where I am... Melbourne is very different now than when I arrived there you will not have to stop In Melbourne more than one night after you leave the ship (you can stay on board the ship 7 days after you arrive if you like) there will be a railway open to within 30 miles where I am ...

... I would not take less than £7 on board the Ship with you if you can possibly help it: if you leave England in Novr it will be summer in Australia when you arrive ... I must tell you a few things what you must buy... I don't suppose you have a very large stock of clothes, what underclothing you want you will know best but I would not buy much any old things will do to wear on the ship I would recommend you buy two new dresses one common and one good one ... if you have one decent dress to wear when you arrive it will do. I would like you to appear a little bit respectable when you come but I will leave that to you.

I would not attempt to do any needlework aboard the ship no more than you have need to repair what you are wearing of and if you have any good things don't take them out of your box on board if you do the sea air will spoil them, I would advise you to buy two pairs of good boots. (I don't mean Knee boots) but cloth boots for yourself, and two pairs of shoes for Willie mind they are big enough for him for recollect he is growing let him wear his old ones on board the ship.

You may reckon on being 12 or 13 weeks coming out wear your old underclothing as long as you can and if they are not worth much throw them overboard, don't attempt to wash anything on board I don't know wether you are a teatotaler or not but

don't take anything to drink of ale wine porter of liquors ... do not let Willie have any if you can help it.

I need not tell you to be civil and obliging to everyone on board the ship as far as lies in your power, but you will have to keep your eyes open and look after your own or perhaps you will sometimes to go hungry don't make to (sic) intimate with anyone or tell them to much of your affairs and be carefull of your money or you will lose it for there are most times thieves on board every ship I would advise you to sew 6 sovereigns up in your stays until you get on shore at Melbourne don't go to the forepart of the ship no more than you are obliged to go to the cookhouse and keep Willie away from there if you can you will have to keep a good look out for him or you may lose him overboard if you have the money to spare buy a good large strong box and put all the things you do not want on the passage especially the books you get for me, wrap them in flannell to keep the damp away from them you will be allowed to have one or two small boxes in your cabin have lock on one of them and keep it locked when you are away from them...

with respect to the things that you will want on the passage in the eating way a few apples and oranges are good in case of sea sickness. I would advise you to get a few pounds of soft Biscuits and get some thin slices of bread and toast them well and they will keep for a few weeks and get about twenty pounds of flour in a calico bag and take on board with you for puddings are about the best thing you can get cooked on board when you make a pudding make it early in the morning and take it to the cook soon after breakfast or you will not get it boiled enough. When I came out we used to make pudding every day. We used to break some biscuit into small pieces and soak them in fresh water all night with about as much flour as biscuit mixed well up together with suet ...

[At this point William gives detailed instructions about contacting him when she ship arrives, suggesting that if all else fails she should go to the Wesleyan Home, 40 Drummond Street Melbourne. William explains that he's working for Alfred Joyce Esq. at Norwood near Maryborough. If Anna hadn't heard from him within six days she was to set out for Maryborough]

...You will leave Melbourne by the first train in the morning book yourself and luggage for Maryborough it is seven miles from where I am living I wish you would bring all the books you can for me as I am fond of reading and if you can get a few pictures of the Exhibition [presumably the 1861 Victorian Exhibition] bring them ...

Anna and Willie were to make their way to London, present the voucher to the shipping company, then wait to be notified when a berth was available. William had obviously planned to return to England, but changed his mind.

... I told [the family] that circumstances had occurred to cause me to alter my mind and that I was able to get a good living in Australia and to save money and that I thought it was folly for me to return home ... I have told you all I can this time I will commit you to Him who is both able and willing to guide guard and direct you do not forget to ask constantly for that assistance that you stand in need of. I feel assured that all things are working together for our good and it is my daily prayer that God will guide us with his counsel and afterwards receive us to glory. Give my love to Willie.

Remaining Yours W.R. Brown

A LETTER FROM WILLIAM 1862 (continued)

Anna and Willie arrived in Melbourne in February 1863. The family lived at the Joyce property *Norwood* for a time (around 70 workers were employed in that era) then William took up a small selection of his own – Greenhill Creek Farm.

William began clearing the land in preparation for sheep and cropping. Within three years, when he applied for a lease, he had built fencing and cultivated 40 acres. He built rudimentary stables and troughs, a kitchen garden and orchard.

In 1873 the family moved into Green Hill Creek Cottage, a four roomed weatherboard house. William appears to have developed excellent farming skills during his time at *Norwood*, because in 1879 he paid the balance of the purchase money, became eligible for a Crown grant and became owner of the farm. He was also lucky to experience a series of good seasons.

Another son (Frank) and a daughter (Mary Jane) were born to the family in the 1860s. Anna died in 1887 in Timor West and is buried in the Maryborough Cemetery. William died unexpectedly in 1891 while visiting his family in Kent.

Thanks to Con McKinley of Timor West , who brought this story to our attention, and to his cousin Mary, a direct descendant of William and Anna, who compiled their family history.



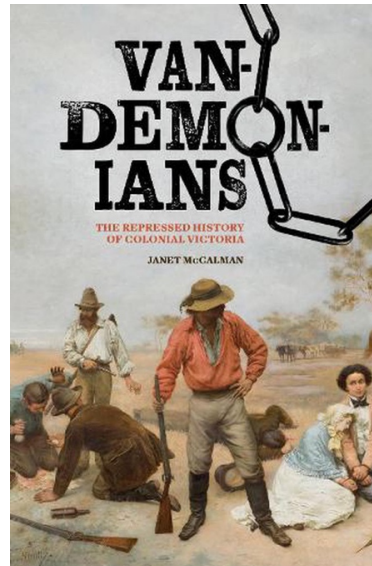
BACK TO MARYBOROUGH 1921

The 1921 “Back To” proved such a success that the May 6 edition of the Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser included a whole page of comments from the Visitors’ Book. On the same page a Letter to the Editor proposed a novel project:

*Sir
The Visitors having returned and the flags and street decorations dismantled, the pleasures and joys of last week will soon be nothing but a happy memory. To perpetuate the memory of the glorious “Back to Maryborough” week should be the aim of the committee and seeing that the visitors contributed so handsomely towards the expenses, and also bearing in mind that without the visitors there would be no funds to dispense, the distribution of the credit balance should not be entertained until some such scheme as suggested by the Melbourne chairman of the “Back to Maryborough” Committee (Mr W. Smith) is considered. The erection of a lookout and other improvements on Bristol Hill would be a fitting memorial of an historical function and further source of pleasure to our friends when they next visit the old home town.
Yours etc J.W.*

The Pioneers’ Memorial Tower on Bristol Hill, built as a Depression project, was officially opened by George Frost M.L.A. on April 16th 1933.

VANDEMONIANS: The Maryborough Connection



Vandemonians: The Repressed History of Colonial Victoria
Janet McCalman
Miegunyah Press

Why the “repressed history”? In her recently published book historian Janet McCalman explores the myth that Victoria was a convict free colony. Records reveal that of the 76,000 convicts transported to Tasmania, roughly half of them moved later to Victoria to begin a new life.

The book has resulted from a long term study known as the “Ships Project”. Over a twenty year period and in association with genealogists and researchers, the author has followed the histories of around 25,000 convicts sent to Van Diemen’s Land in the first half of the 19th Century.

Two of those volunteer researchers involved in the community genealogy project were Margaret and Barry Parsons, Maryborough residents. To his surprise, Barry discovered that his great great grandmother had been transported to Van Diemen’s Land on the ship *Tasmania*, arriving in Hobart in December 1844. Her sister was on the same ship. Both Barry and Margaret have spent more than ten years researching not only Barry’s ancestor Ann Stone but many of the convicts transported on the same ship.

While beginning his research in the late 1990s Barry asked a genealogist what “TL” on a Tasmanian marriage record signified, and was amazed to discover that the initials stood for “Ticket of Leave”. After publishing his family story in a genealogical magazine, he was able to make contact with other researchers, and ultimately the “Ships Project.”

Barry has discovered that his great great grandmother set up a shop in Melbourne, had some further brushes with the law in both Victoria and New South Wales and changed her name several times. *continued next page*

From Page 5

A daughter was born to her in Darlinghurst Gaol in 1868. She died in Melbourne in 1908 at the age of 83.

Barry is impressed with the way that Ann Stone overcame the difficulties that she and other women of the time faced.

The second Maryborough connection with Janet McCalman's book and the Ships Project is the Backway Family. Daniel Backway, with a co-accused, was found guilty in London in 1840 of the theft of a pair of trousers, and sentenced to seven years' transportation to Van Diemen's Land.

By 1856 he was listed on the Victorian electoral roll as a miner in the Carisbrook division of the electoral division of Talbot. His miner's licence had been converted to a miner's right, which meant that he could vote, carry out mining on his claim, build a town residence, keep animals and develop a garden. Backway died in 1882 and is buried in Maryborough.

For many years the Backway family ran a dairy herd on the northern edge of Maryborough, supplying milk and milk deliveries until the early 1950s. They also continued their mining ventures. A Maryborough street (Backway Court) is named in their memory.



*If undeliverable please return to
P.O. Box 265
Maryborough 3465*