

# The Edward Piper Family

## THE PIPER FAMILY FROM CERES

James Piper was an early colonist, having arrived in Melbourne on July 30, 1841. He is said to have worked for a time as a produce merchant's assistant in the village.

James was a native of Devonshire, a county which was subsequently to provide many settlers for the Barrabool Hills area, notably the Walters, Chings and some of the Heards. There is some evidence to suggest that the Pipers, Walters and Chings had already intermarried in earlier generations, and it may well be that the success of James in the colony overseas influenced some members to try their luck in the Geelong area.

John Piper, born in 1785, died at Bradworthy, Devon in 1865, and James, his son, was born there in 1819. So, it is likely that James was about 20 when he set sail for Melbourne.

No details have been obtained regarding the ship that brought him to the colony, but there is a family legend that he and his wife Elizabeth Greenaway had possibly come in the boat which brought Governor Latrobe. In any case it appears that 16-year old Elizabeth was in the service of the Governor's wife.

James and Elizabeth probably married shortly after their arrival and the two eldest sons were born in Melbourne.

The Barrabool Hills had been surveyed and sold in 1840, and most of it was held by Charles McLachlan (*Barrabool area*) Swanston and Willis (*Merrawarp Rd and Valley*) and William Robertson (*Ceres-Highton*).

In 1843 and 1844 Swanston and Willis began offering leases on reasonable terms to settlers for blocks about 100 acres more or less. The Belperrouds were already establishing their vineyard on the property.

It seems that James Piper had occasion to visit some of these settlers in the course of his duties as a produce merchant, and saw the chance of becoming established in a block himself. He and his friend William Honey, who had arrived in Melbourne with his wife (*Mary Grigg*) in early 1842, brought their belongings to Barrabool Hills. This was probably about 1845 or 1846. William Honey selected a block in the vicinity of where the Ceres school now stands, and James took the block opposite. A plan of a road had apparently been set out by then.

So 'Newlands' farm was established. Does anybody know the origin of the name? In the family possession are the original lease contracts, which show that for a short time at least Samuel Heard was in partnership. Samuel Heard had also come from Devon about 1844 and we can safely assume that he was well known to James, either overseas or in Melbourne.

In a year or two Samuel Heard had established his own block 'Westcott' further along the Barrabool Road. William Honey had moved to the present site of their farm.

In 1850 most of the Merrawarp blocks leased by tenants were offered by public auction, but there is evidence that Piper, Honey and Grigg had contracted to buy their blocks privately beforehand.

Just as the settlers of Merrawarp valley had become established they received a stinging setback in the devastating fire of 6 February 1851, 'Black Thursday'. James Piper lost practically all, including his house, shed and stacks. Undaunted he set about building a stone house and this is thought to have been completed by 1853. The excellence of the workmanship is reflected in its condition 130 years later.

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Despite this disaster there was a brighter outlook. Gold had been discovered in 1851 and in the years following farmers were able to make a good living by supplying produce to the swarms of diggers on the goldfields.

Farming became very prosperous in the years following the gold rush and Barrabool Hills became known as *'the granary of Victoria'*.

James became a leading citizen in the community. It is rare indeed to find an elected body in his district in which his name does not appear. He was an early member of the old Roads Board, and when it became a shire he was a councillor. It was on his motion that the name *'Barrabool'* was retained for the Shire, other suggestions being *'Moriac'* and *'Grant'*.

He was by no means quiet in his public serviced, and we find in newspaper reports of the time many stormy debates and differences of opinion in which he was a leading participant. On occasions, he vigorously defended certain municipal decisions by well written and forthright letters to the Geelong Advertiser.

James and Elizabeth Piper had four sons and it is probable that Reuben and Mary were born after their parents arrived at Ceres.

As was the case with many families, some of the sons had to launch into careers or seek land elsewhere and we find this happening in each Piper generation.

John Thomas Piper married Emma Grace Ching, a daughter of John Cotile Ching a farmer of the Barrabool Hills, and they settled at Modewarre on the property now owned by Mr Les Batson. Theirs was a large family. John died in 1889.

James became a postal officer and lived in Carlton.

Charles married Jane Grigg, daughter of another pioneer farmer, George Grigg of Ceres and they lived at Bamawm on the land.

Reuben Philip Piper married Penelope Broderick and took over the family property at *'Newlands'*, and it is for this reason that he is the best leading part in public affairs, serving on the Barrabool Shire Council and acting as President. He was a lover of sport and for many years was a prominent cricket umpire for local teams. On retirement to Geelong he acted as Justice of the Peace on Court benches. He died in 1935 at the ripe old age of 83, but this fell short of his father's 92 years.

Children of Reuben Piper were Arthur 1882-1959, Dr. J Ernest, a well-known Geelong medico and also President of the Geelong Football Club, born in 1884 and dying in 1948, Reuben Jnr. 1887-1952, who farmed in the Mallee and later at *'Moridale'*, Mt Moriac, and Gladys who married a Mallee farmer in Howard Marshman and it is to Mrs Marshman that we are indebted for many of the details in this story.

Arthur Piper and his wife, Sarah Browne, became the proprietors of *'Newlands'* and they remained there with their family for many years. Sarah Piper died in 1933 a comparatively young woman. "Newlands" passed out of the family, after a century of occupancy, in the early 1950's.

Four generations of Pipers farmed these rich banks for a century and since the Piper family handed over to the:

1. ***Stableford Family***
2. ***Fox Family***
3. ***Loughnan Family***
4. ***New unknown Family owner since 2011***

The present owners have maintained the historic old home in excellent order and have only made minor inclusions to the original design.

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## “NEWLANDS”

In 1841 James Piper, a young man of 22 set sail from his native Devon for a new life in Australia. He was accompanied by his bride Elizabeth. James had been a maltster by trade and on arrival in Melbourne had found employment in the corn trade.

A few years later Messrs Swanston and Willis, owners of the 4000-acre Merrawarp Estate in the Barrabool Hills, were offering small blocks for leasing for agricultural purposes. Young Piper is believed to have visited the area in the course of his work and decided to take up one of the leases in partnership with a fellow Devonian, Samuel Heard. The lease document dated 1847 provides for a rental of seven shillings and sixpence per acre, with eight main clauses, one of which forbade the erection of a hotel on the land.

Merrawarp Estate blocks were sold some three years later and both Heard and Piper purchased blocks, the latter retaining his 109-acre holding ‘*Newlands*’, named after a Devon locality.

Evidence that James Piper played his part in this production is found in his award in 1860 for “the best managed farm in the area”.

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## BROWNE AND LINN FAMILIES

As this record concerns, mainly the various occupants of 'Newlands' it would be incomplete without some reference to the grandparents on the mother's side.

Mrs Arthur Piper, 1882-1933, was the daughter of Edward Browne and Rebecca Linn. Records of these are meagre, but something has been discovered and these clues help us to build some kind of picture.

An old notebook possessed by Edward Browne has only a few entries. On its cover appears 'Edward Browne, Paraparap, Australia'. Two dates are shown, 1862 and 1866, but also 1879 is shown as date of writing out a prescription for the treatment of "sand" in horses, with a notation 'Mirnee, 20 July' (Mirnee is near Winchelsea). This prescription is written in a different hand and would indicate that the writer was probably a son who used the empty pages of the notebook. Childish scribbling on other pages show that the notebook may have been fortunate to survive for a century as it has.

The entries under 1862 and 1866 Paraparap show bank deposits and some outgoing cheques. Interesting entries in this cheque lists are:

*'Mr H. Linn, for clover and grass seed' (note that the word "clover" was in use a century ago) 'Gift Rebecca Linn £6.18.5'. This was then a substantial sum of money and would seem to indicate that Rebecca was probably at that date committed to marrying the donor. 'Mr Piper, £30 for mare'. Interesting in that the Pipers and Brownes were acquaintances at that stage.*

Pasted in the note book is an obituary notice from an Irish newspaper which records the death of James Browne, 86, at Relessy, Clogher, County Tyrone. Unfortunately, no date is shown and it is not clear whether this James Browne was the father or grandfather of Edward. However, it indicates that the family probably had its origins in Northern Ireland.

The notebook contains an 'Almanack for 1875' and on outside in the same handwriting is a partly decipherable address which includes Relessy and Tyrone. Possibly 1857 was the date of Edward's departure from his native Ireland.

Edward Browne bought 'Stanbury' Ceres in 1875. His name does not appear among the ratepayers of the Barrabool Shire in 1870/1875 and it seems that he must have lived elsewhere before buying "Stanbury".

Sarah Browne was born in 1882 so it was no doubt at Stanbury. Her marriage to Arthur Piper was in 1908. They lived for a time at Gnarwarre on a portion of land bought from the Hensley Estate (now N.S. McAdam's). Evidence of their occupancy still remains in writings on the wall of the old chaff house still standing.

On the retirement of Reuben Piper, they moved to 'Newlands' as the third generation of occupants. Arthur died in 1959 whilst living with his daughter Margaret at Wurdiboluc.

We are able to trace some of the movements of the early Linn family and it is reasonably certain that it is the one which subsequently became related to the Pipers.

In "Sutherland's, Victoria and Metropolis" appears the following:

*"Mrs Henry Linn, Terang, is the widow of the late Henry Linn and was born in Ireland, coming with her husband to Australia is 1851, landing at Melbourne and settling in Geelong District. After some years they sold their property and returned to Ireland. They stayed in Ireland for two years and then came back to Australia. They then settled near*

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*Lake Keilambeta near Terang, and were still living there in 1885 when Henry Linn died. He was buried at Terang. He was aged 82".*

The above entry would be compiled about 1888 and Mrs Linn would still be alive when Sarah Browne was born in 1882.

The Government Gazette shows that Henry Linn purchased an allotment from the Crown near Modewarre in 1852. This shows on the Parish plan near Noble's Road.

In 1858 in the Geelong Advertiser there appeared an advertisement of a sale by "Mr Henry Lynn, at Modewarre, 14-mile from Geelong".

We have the early shipping records of Geelong, and by a stroke of fortune they show the arrival of a Linn family on the 'Lady Kennaway', which arrived at the port from Plymouth 25/2/1850.

LINN	Henry	38		Disposed by private agreement to Mr Pettavel,
"	Ann	36		Barrabool Hills at £30 per annum for 12 mths with
"	Frances		13	rations for part of the family only. Mother
and				
"	Rebecca	12		children remained until a hut was erected for
them.				
"	James	10		
"	Ellen	9		
"	Margaret	6		
"	Sarah	Infant.		

They were no doubt employed on the Victoria Vineyard of David Louis Pettavel, the property later owned by Thomas McKim, at Waurin Ponds. In two years though Henry Linn had acquired the Modewarre property and to judge by the entry in Sutherland the family fortunes prospered despite this humble beginning.

There are discrepancies in the ages.

Henry Linn was said to be 82 when he died in 1885, but according to the shipping lists he would have been only 73. It may well have been that his chances of employment were better if he gave a younger age on arrival. Rebecca's tombstone shows that she was born in 1840, but the shipping list says 1838.

As the farm sale was in 1858 they probably returned to Ireland and came back about 1860. But we have the diary entries pertaining to the Linns in the period 1862/1866 about Paraparap. Did they return to that area?

Did Rebecca go back to Ireland? - She would be 20 or thereabouts then and may not have gone.

In what year did she marry Edward Browne?

This could be ascertained by writing for her Marriage and Death Certificates at Queen St Melbourne. Terang Cemetery records would probably tell us more of the older couple.

These brief outlines of the Piper family are compiled mainly from family records preserved over a century and will provide a background for any descendants who are disposed to delve further into their story. Many gaps remain and any further research would add to the story of one of the pioneer families of the Barrabool Hills (16.9.1970).

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## JAMES PIPER - THE SHIPPING LIST OF THE 'WESTMINSTER'

'Westminster' leaving from Plymouth (*no date given*), arrived in Port Phillip on July 30, 1841.

James Piper: Aged 22, labourer, Protestant, able to read and write, place of origin, Cornwall. He was engaged by Mr Graham, Melbourne for £40 per annum with rations.

Elizabeth Piper: Age 26, housemaid, Protestant, able to read and write, place of origin, Cornwall.

James and Elizabeth Piper were assisted migrants, their assistance was £19. The above details may be seen at the Archives section, if required.

During September 1839, Charles Joseph LaTrobe, with his wife and daughter, arrived at Melbourne in the barque 'Pyramid' from Sydney. LaTrobe took up his duties as Superintendent of the colony of Port Phillip on October 1<sup>st</sup> 1839. It does not appear, from archival records that Mr James Piper was of this party.

The expenditure accounts of public servants of Port Phillip 1841-1848 have been checked; there is no entry for Mr James Piper.