



## THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>NAME OF COLLECTION</b> | Norman William Saffin  |
| <b>ACCESSION NO</b>       | 1998.0069  |
| <b>CATEGORY</b>           | Labour, individuals  |
| <b>ACTIVITY</b>           | Teachers, historians   |
| <b>DATE RANGE</b>         | 1980s-1990s  |
| <b>SIZE OF COLLECTION</b> | 6 archive boxes  |
| <b>HISTORICAL NOTE</b>    | <p>N.W. Saffin is veteran Melbourne labour historian who taught generations of students through Croydon High School. Born in 1916, the son of a pastoral worker, he grew up in the western district. The Depression forced him to leave school after fourth form, in order to become a rabbitier. Until the age of 20 he worked as a mail contractor before becoming a student teacher. He subsequently completed Diplomas in Commerce and Public administration and an MA on French Positivism and a further MA and a doctorate at the University of London before settling to teach in Croydon. Saffin published early articles in <i>Labour History</i>, and two books, <i>Science and Religion in Britain 1804-1904</i> (1973) and <i>Left and Right in Bendigo and Shepparton 1947-51</i> (1974).</p> <p>Saffin planned five volume work <i>A History of the Victorian Working Man (VWM) 1855-1955</i> was twelve years in the making, but remains unpublished.</p> |
| <b>DATE OF TRANSFER</b>   | 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 1998.   |
| <b>ACCESS CONDITIONS</b>  | Access: Open   |
| <b>NOTE ON LISTING</b>    | Initial listing by ?   |
| <b>LISTED BY</b>          | Tarek Sharaf   |
| <b>DATE</b>               | 2 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2011   |

**N.W SAFFIN, THE VICTORIAN WORKING MAN, 1855-1955.**  
**MANUSCRIPT.**

N.W. Saffin is a veteran Melbourne labour historian who taught generations of students through Croydon High School. Born in 1916, the son of a pastoral worker, he grew up in the western district. The Depression forced him to leave school after fourth form, in order to become a rabbitier. Until the age of 20 he worked as a mail contractor before becoming a student teacher. He subsequently completed Diplomas in Commerce and Public Administration and an MA on French Positivism and a further MA and a doctorate at the University of London before settling to teach in Croydon. Saffin published early articles in 'Labour History', and two books, 'Science and Religion in Britain 1804-1904' (1973) and 'Left and Right in Bendigo and Shepparton 1947-51' (1974).

N.W. Saffin's planned five volume work, *A History of the Victorian Working Man 1855-1955*, the result of twelve years labour, was unable to find a publisher. Its structure is chronological, twenty years per Volume, reaching from Gold to the Split. A random sampling of contents indicates that it included material on migrants; tariffs; secondary industry, mining, shearing, timber, railways, unions, Trades Hall, OBU, the Great War, Catholicism, conscription, anarchism, Social Democratic League, building and friendly societies, state bank, life insurance, factory acts, wages boards, arbitration, unemployment, village and Tucker settlements and regional analysis, for example Bendigo, Ballarat, Warrnambool.

(Compiled from original description submitted with manuscript by Peter Beilharz, Sociology, La Trobe.)

The manuscript was received in two boxes, one of mainly typed drafts and one of mainly handwritten drafts. The typed drafts are from the first three volumes, the handwritten from the latter volumes.

The manuscript in its entirety seems to be less than complete and becomes less so as it proceeds. Volume 1 and 2 are the most complete of the five planned volumes with both being almost intact except for one chapter each (chapter 3 in vol. 1 and chapter 19 in vol. 2, both are missing). Volume 2 has three different manuscripts attributed as belonging to this volume, the first one which is the most intact and of most recent draft, consists of 20 chapters on various mining themes. The second consists of one chapter (chap 11), which is subdivided into four smaller chapters on religion. The third manuscript consists of 7 chapters numbered from 1 to 4 and 7 to 9; and primarily concerns itself with labour. Volume 3 consists of 4 chapters numbered from 1 to 4 and discusses a diverse range of topics. Most of the completed chapters have footnotes and sources attached.

A proportion of the manuscript is in hand written note pad form which covers a range of topics but do not appear to be grouped into volumes (although some do have volume and chapter references), however, most of these topics can be grouped by the time frame in which they fall.

| Box No | Series No | Description   | Date |
|--------|-----------|---|------|
| 1      |           | <p><i>The Most Miserable Occupation (Village Settlers in Victoria 1891-1910).</i><br/> This work consists of six chapters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Genesis of Victorian Village Settlements.</li> <li>2. The Tucker Settlements and Government Legislation.</li> <li>3. The Settlements are Formed and Face Early Problems.</li> <li>4. Anti-climax: 1896-1903.</li> <li>5. Village Settlements – the Evidence of the Archives.</li> <li>6. Conclusion.</li> </ol> <p><i>The Ships are not for Steering (a Study of the 1890 Strike in Victoria).</i><br/> This work consists of an introduction and three chapters:<br/> Introduction: The Strike begins</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Price of Law and Order.</li> <li>2. Life with a Neutral Government.</li> <li>3. Spence, Shearers and Strike.</li> </ol> <p>Handwritten notebook containing material for volume 3 of <i>VWM</i>.<br/> Chapter work for volume 3 of <i>VWM</i>.</p> |      |
| 2      |           | Volume 2 of <i>VWM</i> .  |      |
| 3      |           | <p><i>Mining in Victoria</i>, 3 handwritten notepads.<br/> <i>Union History</i>, 4 handwritten notepads regarding Volume 2 of <i>VWM</i>.<br/> <i>Institutions</i>, handwritten notes, 2 notepads.<br/> <i>The Chinese</i>, handwritten notepad.<br/> <i>Secondary Industry</i>, 2 notepads.<br/> Folder containing primary material relating to <i>The Most Miserable Occupation</i>.</p>  |      |
| 4      |           | Contains Volumes 1 and part of Volume 2 of <i>VWM</i> .   |      |
| 5      |           | Contains handwritten notepads relating to Volume 3 of <i>VWM</i> .  |      |
| 6      |           | <p>Folder containing material relating to <i>The Ships are not for Steering</i>.<br/> <i>Unionism from the War to 1925</i>. Folder containing handwritten notes.<br/> <i>Rail, 1903</i>. Clippings, photographs and handwritten notes for Volume 3.<br/> Handwritten notes and clippings regarding Australia in the First World War.</p>  |      |
| END    |           |   |      |