

THE THIRD DIARY
OF
GEORGE McKAY

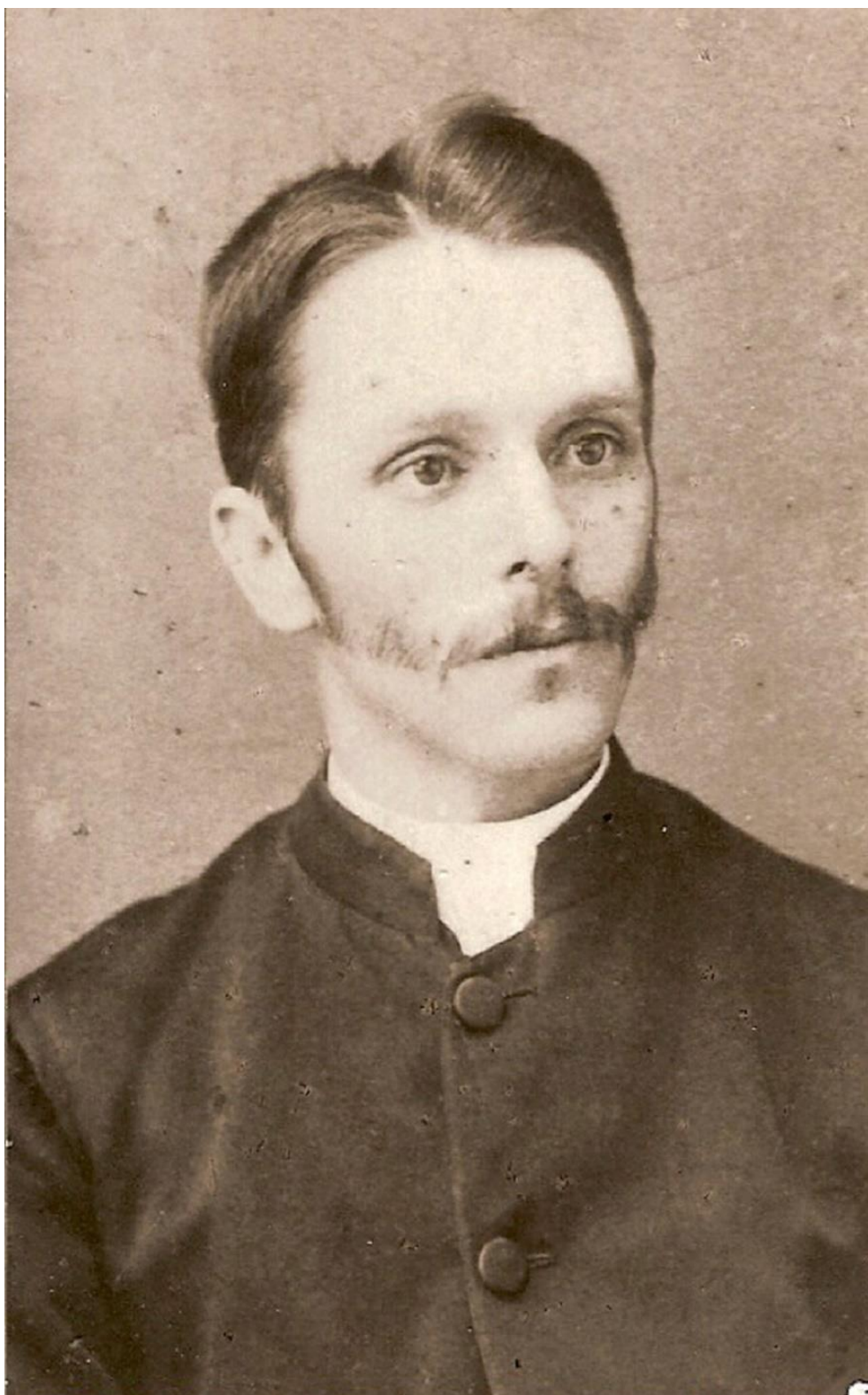
Yangery, 20 March 1861 to 7 April 1868

Edited by

Graham Burnet

2017

Corrected January 2018



George Gilbert McKay, 1828 – 1896

Perhaps aged 32, perhaps Warrnambool 1861. If so, this is probably the photo ("portrait") mentioned in the diary entry for 20/04/1861.

CONTENTS

Sources and abbreviations	4
List of illustrations	5
Maps	6
Introduction	19
1. George Gilbert McKay	19
2. Some biographical notes	22
a) Abernethy, Rev. James McLure	22
b) Anderson, William	22
c) Bruce, George	24
d) Lee, John	25
e) Leishman, Thomas John	26
f) McKay, Gilbert Sayers	26
g) Midgley, Sarah	27
h) Rutledge, William	28
i) Skilbeck, Richard	29
j) Urquhart, Roderick	30
k) Venables, Henry Pares	30
3. Tower Hill and Koroit	31
4. From National School to State School	35
5. Yangery School	37
6. Chronological table	40
7. This edition	41
a) Method	
b) Symbols	
THE THIRD DIARY	43
Notes	117
Index of persons	139

SOURCES AND ABBREVIATIONS

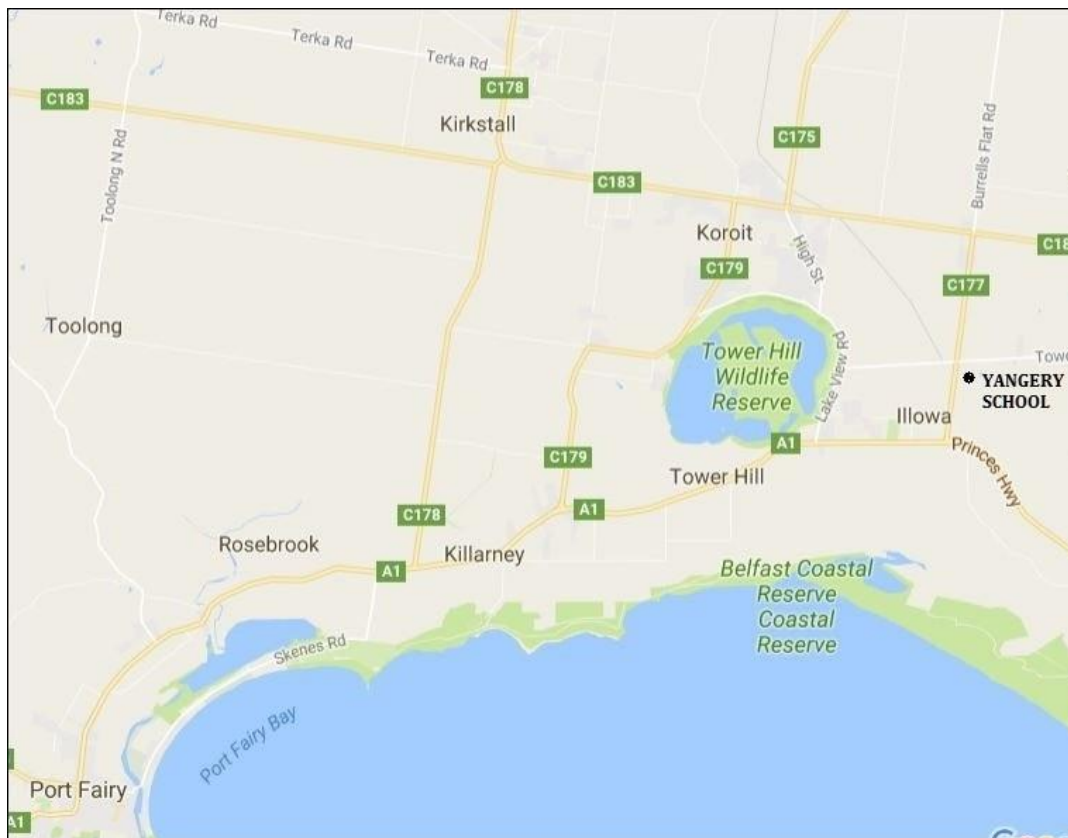
<i>ADB</i>	<i>Australian dictionary of biography</i> , www.adb.anu.edu.au
<i>BED</i>	J. Critchett, editor, <i>Richard Bennett's Early days at Port Fairy</i> , 1984
<i>Diary</i>	<i>The third diary of George McKay, Yangery, 20 March 1861 to 7 April 1868</i>
<i>Eighth report</i>	<i>Eighth report of the Commissioners of National Education, for the Colony of Victoria, for the year 1860-61, 1861-2</i> . Available online at www.parliament.vic.gov.au/papers/govpub/VPARL1861-62No81.pdf .
<i>FAR</i>	Graham Burnet, <i>Family and relatives of George Gilbert McKay</i> , 2016 (unpublished)
<i>G.</i>	George McKay
<i>GAPL</i>	H.A. McCorkell & Peter Yule, <i>A green and pleasant land, A history of Koroit</i> , edition 2, 1999
<i>History</i>	<i>A history of State education in Victoria</i> , 1922. Part 1 (1835–1872) by E. Sweetman, part 2 (1872–1901) by C.R. Long, part 3 (1901–1922) by J. Smyth. Available online at www.archive.org .
<i>KADHS</i>	Koroit and District Historical Society
<i>Koroit</i>	"Koroit", www.en.wikipedia.org
<i>KP</i>	Keith Patterson, Letter to Lorraine Burnet, 09/12/1967
<i>PROV</i>	Public record office Victoria, www.prov.vic.gov.au . Holds many archives, including those for shipping and education.
<i>RS</i>	<i>The diary of Richard Skilbeck</i> , in <i>SMRS</i>
<i>SBN</i>	"Some biographical notes", section 2 of the Introduction, pp. 22–31
<i>SLV</i>	State Library of Victoria, www.search.slv.vic.gov.au
<i>SM</i>	<i>The diary of Sarah Midgley</i> , in <i>SMRS</i>
<i>SMRS</i>	H.A. McCorkell, editor, <i>The diaries of Sarah Midgley and Richard Skilbeck, A story of Australian settlers 1851-1864</i> , 1967
<i>SP</i>	Scotland's people, www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk . Records of Scottish births, deaths and marriages.
<i>SPCK</i>	Rev. R.F. Peirce, <i>Scots Presbyterian Church Koroit, The history of a century</i> , 1959
<i>SSTS</i>	Jean Uhl, <i>Still stands the schoolhouse by the road, The old National School at Koroit and early education in the Western District</i> , 1987
<i>Synopsis</i>	Maxwell Burnet, "Synopsis", in his edition of the diaries of George McKay, 1993 (unpublished)
<i>VBDM</i>	Victorian births, deaths, marriages, www.bdm.vic.gov.au
<i>W.A.</i>	William Anderson

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

George Gilbert McKay, 1828 – 1896. Perhaps aged 32, perhaps Warrnambool 1861. Sent to Lorraine Burnet about 1967 by Harry McCorkell, Town Clerk of Koroit.	2
View from the air of Tower Hill Lake and Island, with Southern Ocean beyond.	17
Tower Hill, 1855, detail (Eugene von Guérard, oil on canvas).	17
Warrnambool in the 1860s. From <i>SMRS</i> .	18
Woodford, no date, perhaps 1860s. From <i>SMRS</i> .	18
George McKay, about 49, c.1877. From Frances Jenkinson.	20
Hadassah (aka Essie) McKay, about 40 (?), perhaps 1870s. From Virginia Kennedy, from Eleanor Pollock's album.	20
Isabella McKay, about 13, c.1877. From Frances Jenkinson.	20
John McKay, about 10, c.1877. From Frances Jenkinson.	20
Presbyterian church, Koroit. Photo J. Soden, 1866. From SLV.	22
William Anderson. From SLV.	23
Ann Anderson. From SLV.	23
The house at "Rosemount". Photo J. Collins. From SLV.	24
Tower Hill Lake Common School in 1866, from the back. Detail from J. Soden, "Distant view of the township of Koroit". From SLV.	25
Perhaps Gilbert McKay, perhaps on his wedding day. From Frances Jenkinson.	26
Sarah Midgley in 1851, aged 20. From <i>SMRS</i> .	27
"Yangery Grange" in 1857. From <i>SMRS</i> .	27
William Rutledge in 1872. Photo T.F. Chuck. From SLV.	28
Richard Skilbeck in 1861, aged 23. From <i>SMRS</i> .	29
Richard Skilbeck's house in the High Street, about 1870. From <i>SMRS</i> .	29
Henry Venables. From <i>History</i> .	31
Tower Hill, 1855 (Eugene von Guérard, oil on canvas). Warrnambool Art Gallery.	31
Distant view of the township of Koroit. Koroit in 1866. Photo J. Soden. From SLV.	33
Christopher Norman's store and P.O. agency, on the corner of High Street and Mill Street. From <i>SMRS</i> .	34
Photo by J. Soden, 1866. At the back is David McLaws' Koroit Hotel, facing north on to Boundary Road. In the foreground men are playing quoits in Spring Creek Road. From SLV.	34
Yangery School, c.1905. From Margaret Trotter, of the KADHS.	38
G.'s house, on the east side of the school. Photo taken in 1980 by Max Burnet.	38
Tower Hill, 1855, detail (Eugene von Guérard, oil on canvas).	42

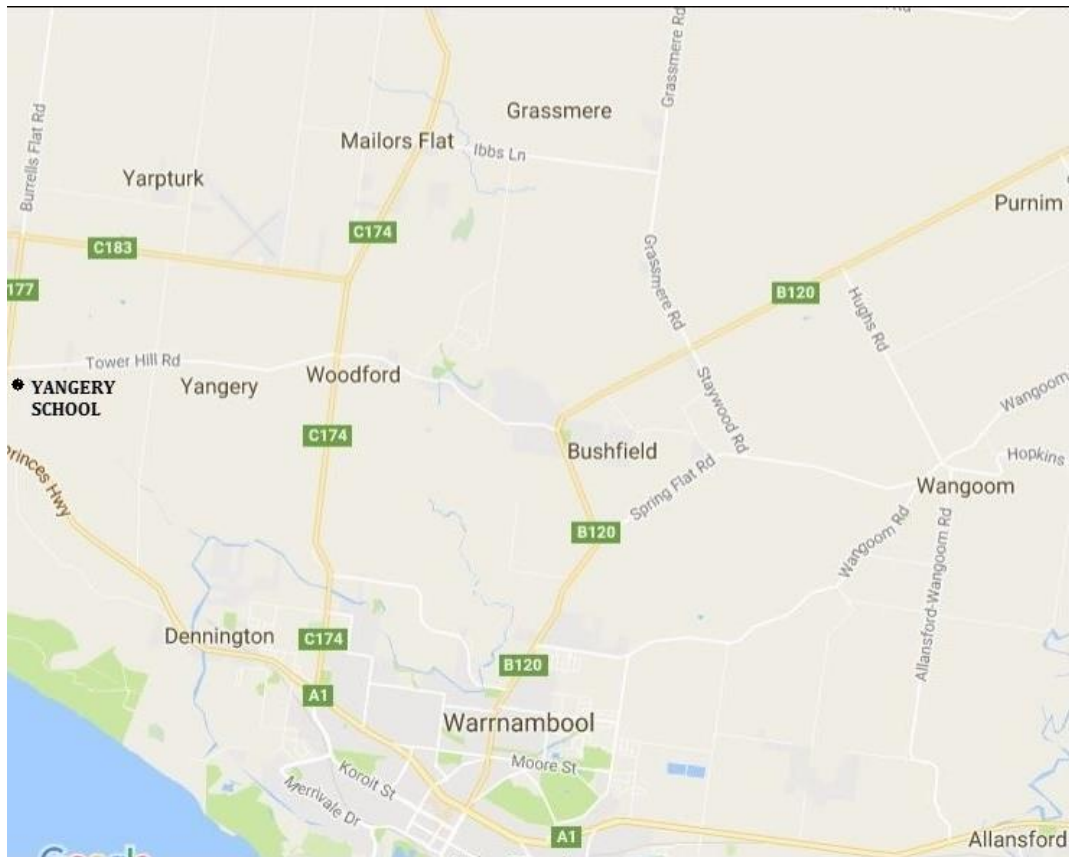
MAPS

Surveyors and map-makers were in short supply in the early days, and it was common practice to reprint earlier maps with some new features and text superimposed. That has happened with maps 2, 4 and 5.



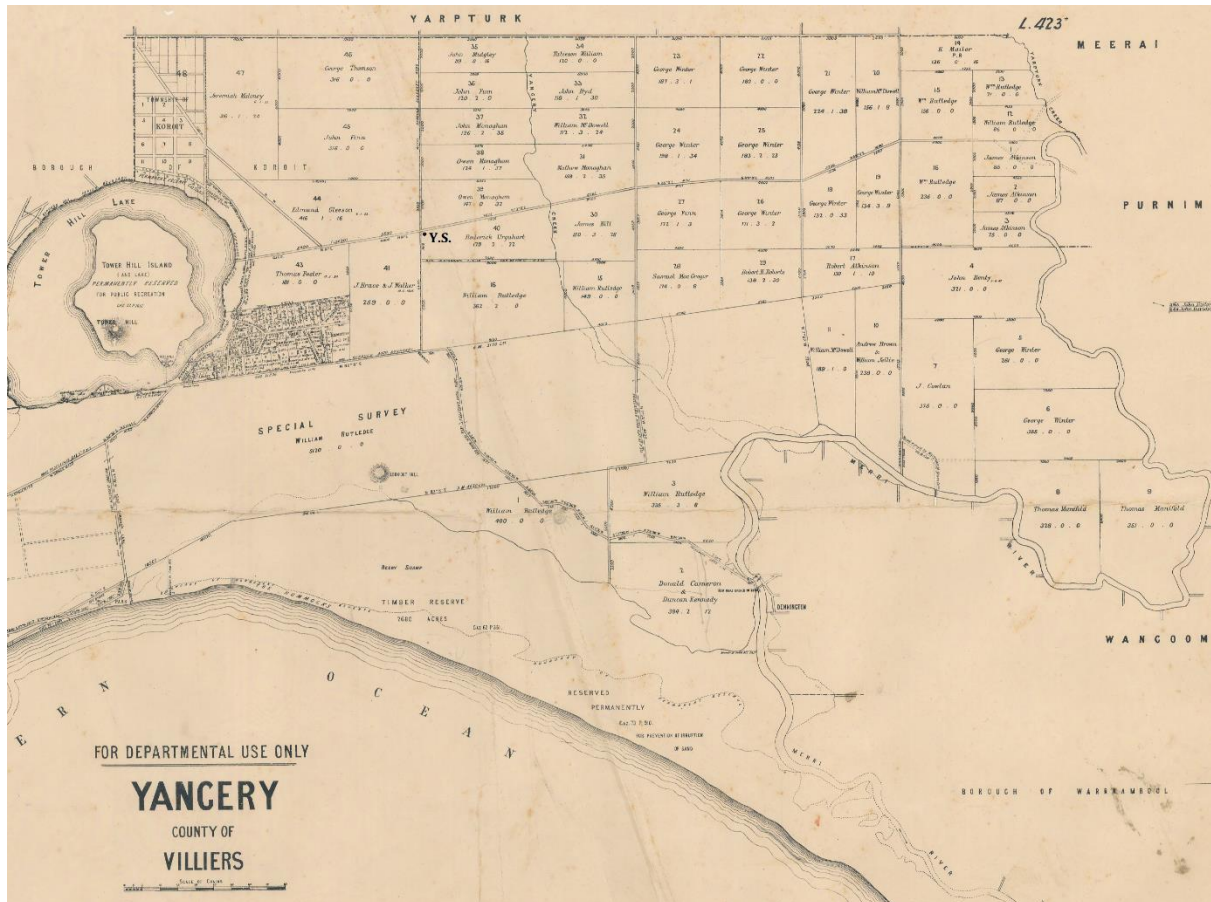
MAP 1a. Modern map of Koroit and district, from Port Fairy in the west to Yangery School in the east. The northern limit of the old township of Koroit was Boundary Road (now the C183). Yangery School, which I have added to the map, was 1.4 miles east of Tower Hill Lake, on Woodford Road (now Tower Hill Road).

MAPS



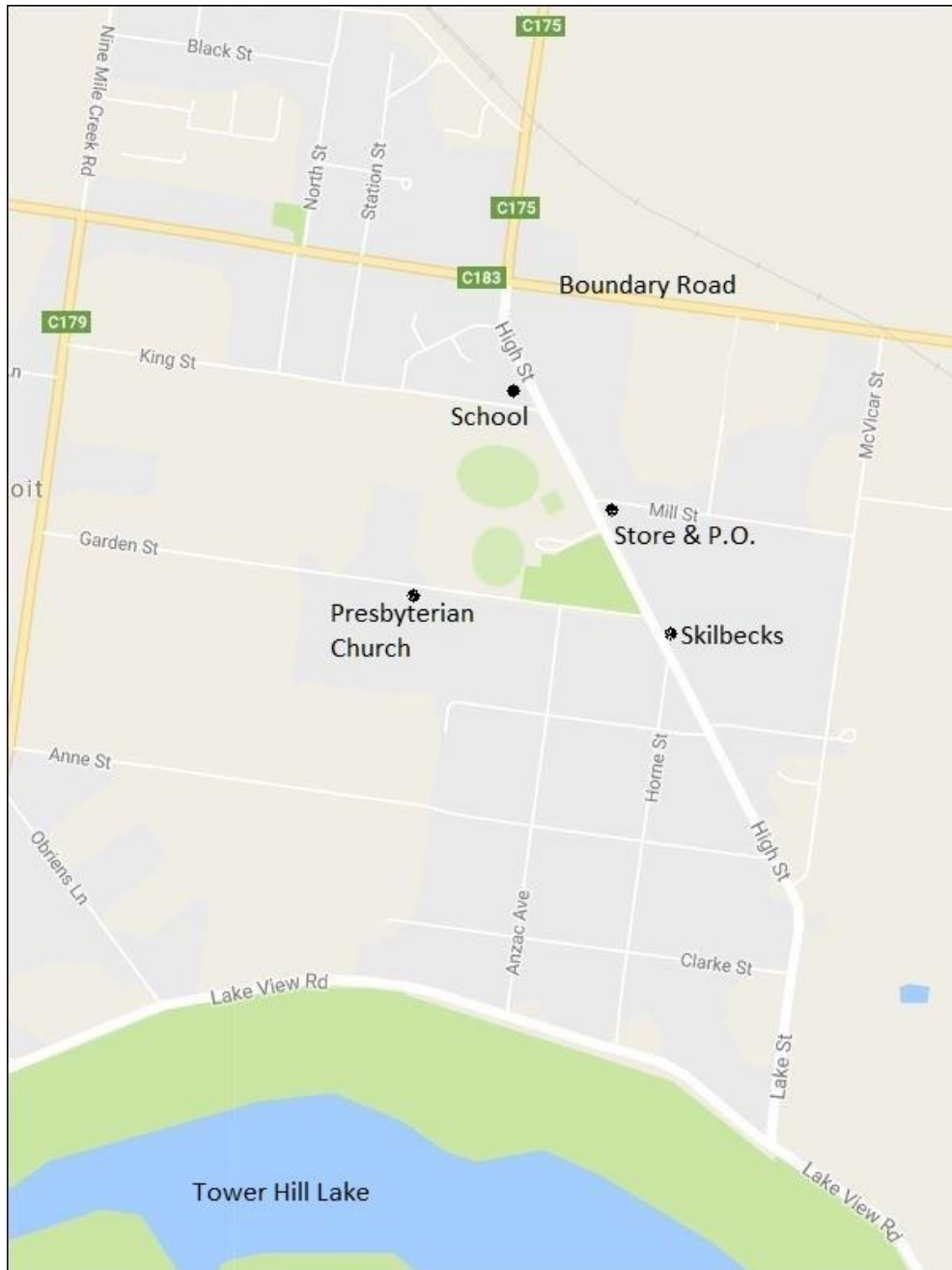
MAP 1b. Modern map of Koroit and district, from Yangery School in the west to Wangoom and Allansford in the east. In the 1860s, the best road in the region was that between Belfast (now Port Fairy) and Warrnambool; it is now the Princes Highway. As the crow flies, the distance between the 2 towns is about 15 miles.

MAPS



MAP 2. T. McGauran, 1894, SLV. From Tower Hill Lake in the west to the Merri river in the east. An updated reprint of an earlier map, showing landowners of the early 1850s. Top left is Koroit, with High Street running diagonally through it. The extension of the High Street SE to Woodford Road was planned but never built. Yangery School ("Y.S.") is on Woodford Road, on the SE corner of the crossing with Burrell's Flat Road. Top middle (under "YARPTURK") is John Midgley's farm "Yangery Grange", bounded on the east by Yangery Creek. The creek flows south to the very large property ("SPECIAL SURVEY") owned by William Rutledge, then SE into the Merri. The Merri (top right) snakes its way south towards Wangoom, then flows NW towards Koroit, then south again past Dennington into the sea.

MAPS



MAP 3. Modern map of Koroit, to which I have added some sites. The school is Tower Hill Lake School, which survives and has been restored. The church also survives.

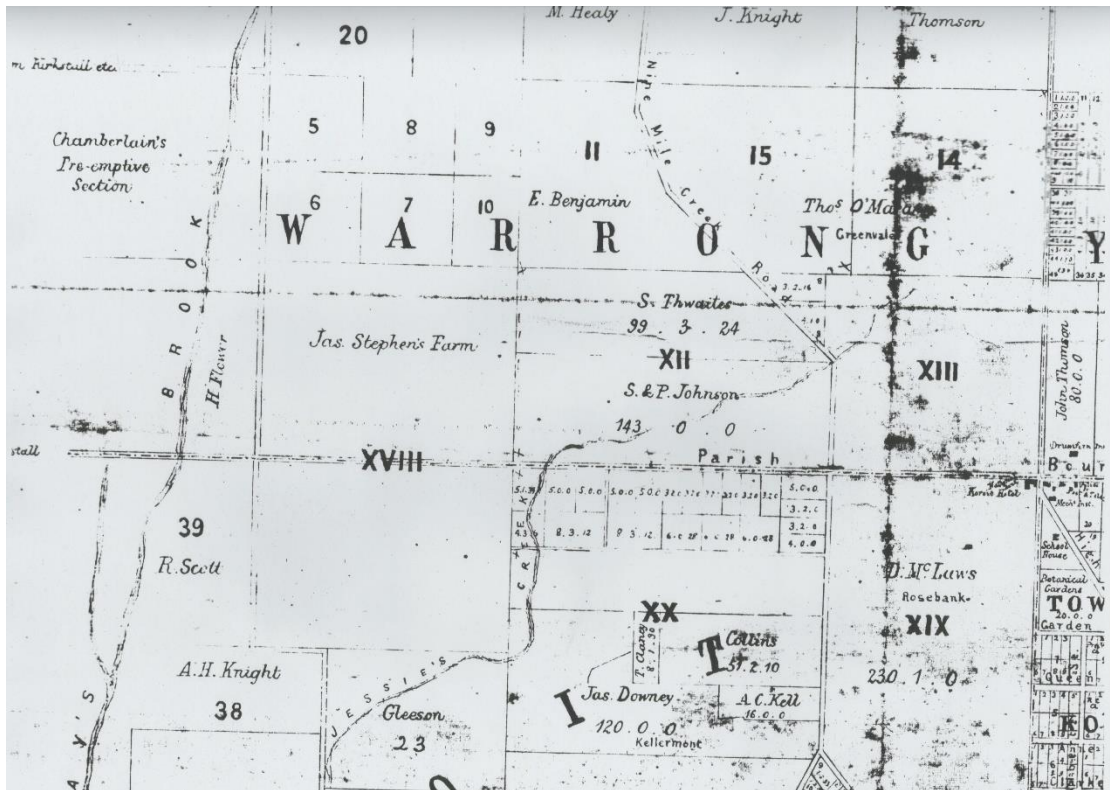
MAPS



MAP 4. An updated reprint of the survey by Thomas Watson, 1857, for the new town of Koroit (map kindly provided by Margaret Trotter, of the KADHS). The town is half a mile wide. Commercial Road is the later name of Boundary Road. Ignore “HOSPITAL RESERVE”, not part of the original survey. On the south side of Garden Street, a little west of the High Street, is the site set aside by Watson for a Presbyterian church. This site was later swapped for one further west (see map 3).

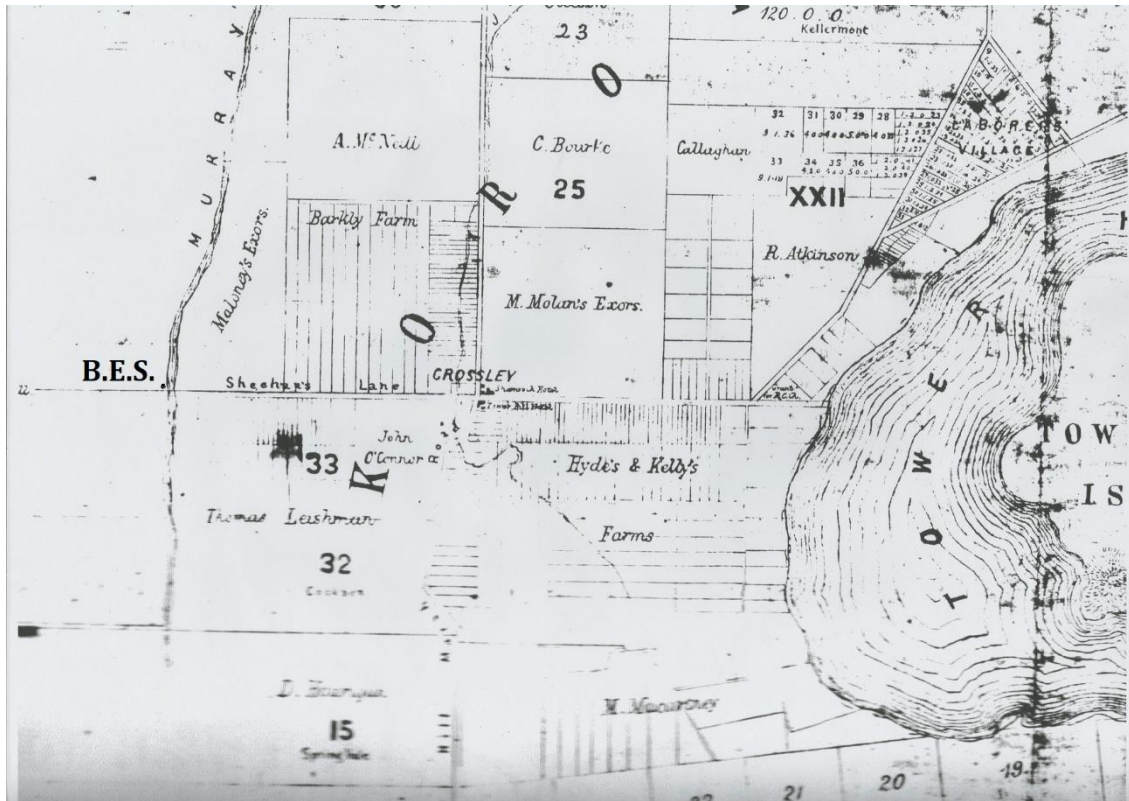
MAPS

The next 6 maps were kindly provided by Margaret Trotter, of the KADHS. They are sections of a map of the Borough of Koroit by D.J. Howes, 1871. The map is an updated reprint of an older map, and shows landowners of the late 1850s.



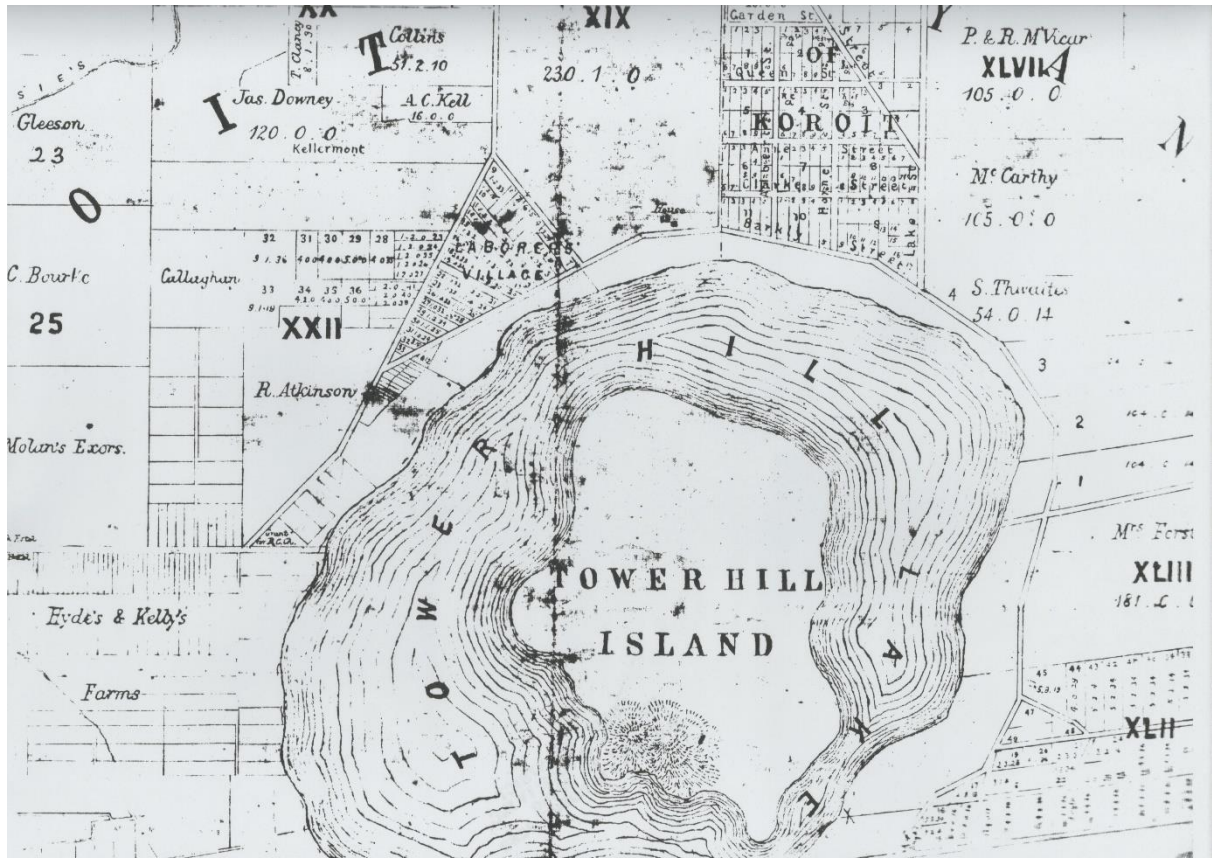
MAP 5a. West of Koroit township. The west edge of the town can be seen bottom right; note "School house" (Tower Hill Lake School), and south of it the Botanical Gardens. West of the township is David McLaws' property "Rosebank", with the Koroit Hotel in its NE corner. The property is 0.56 miles wide. On the left edge of the map is Murray's Brook.

MAPS



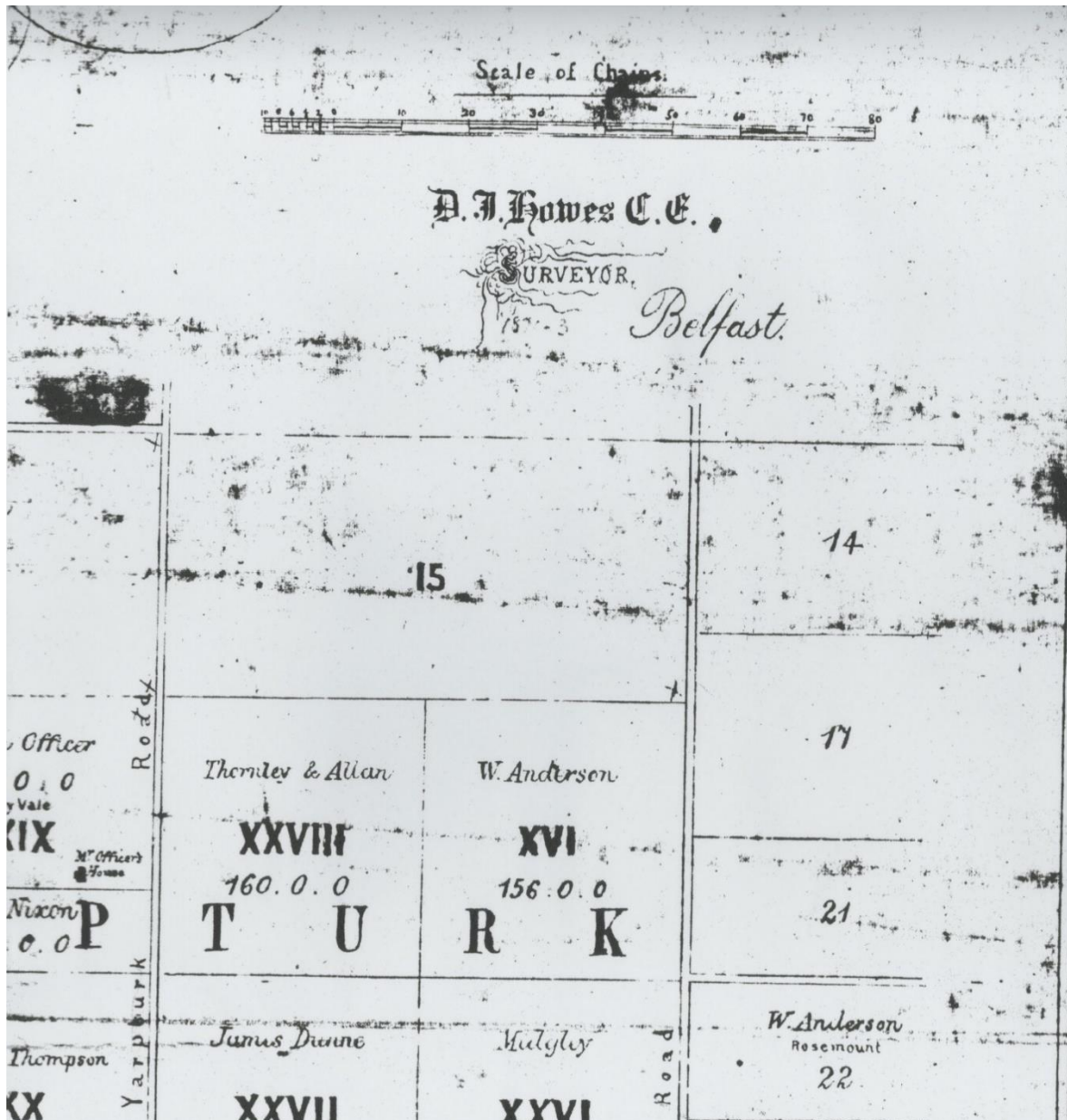
MAP 5b. West of Tower Hill Lake. I have added Bridge End School (“B.E.S.”) to the map. It is on the north side of Sheehan’s Lane, at the west end of the bridge over Murray’s Brook, and is 1.8 miles west of Tower Hill Lake. East of Murray’s Brook and south of Sheehan’s Lane is Thomas Leishman’s farm “Cockpen”.

MAPS



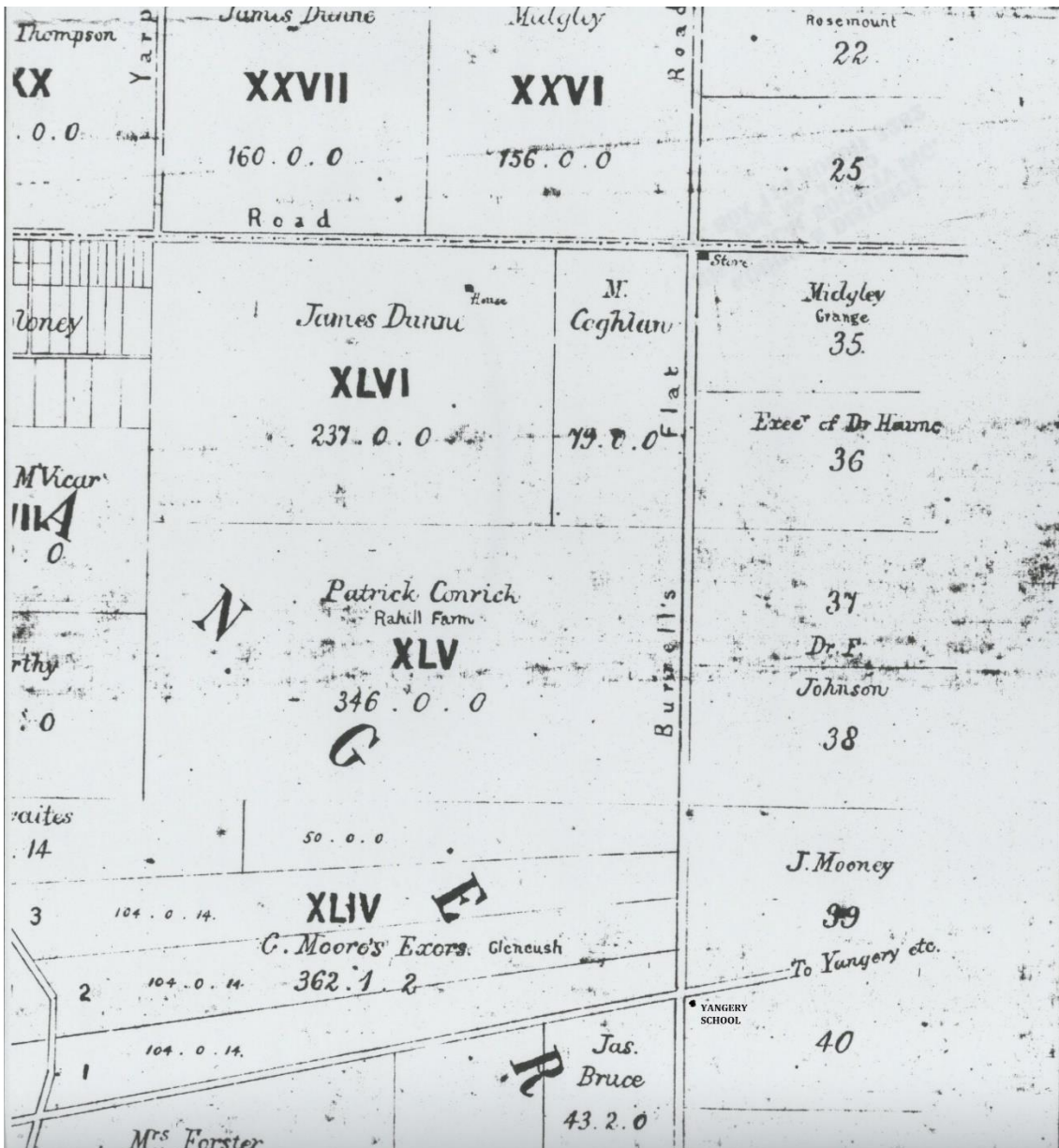
MAP 5c. Tower Hill Lake and Island, Koroit township to the north. At the widest point, the combined width of lake and island is about 1.7 miles. Just east of Koroit is a farm owned by Peter and Robert McVicar.

MAPS



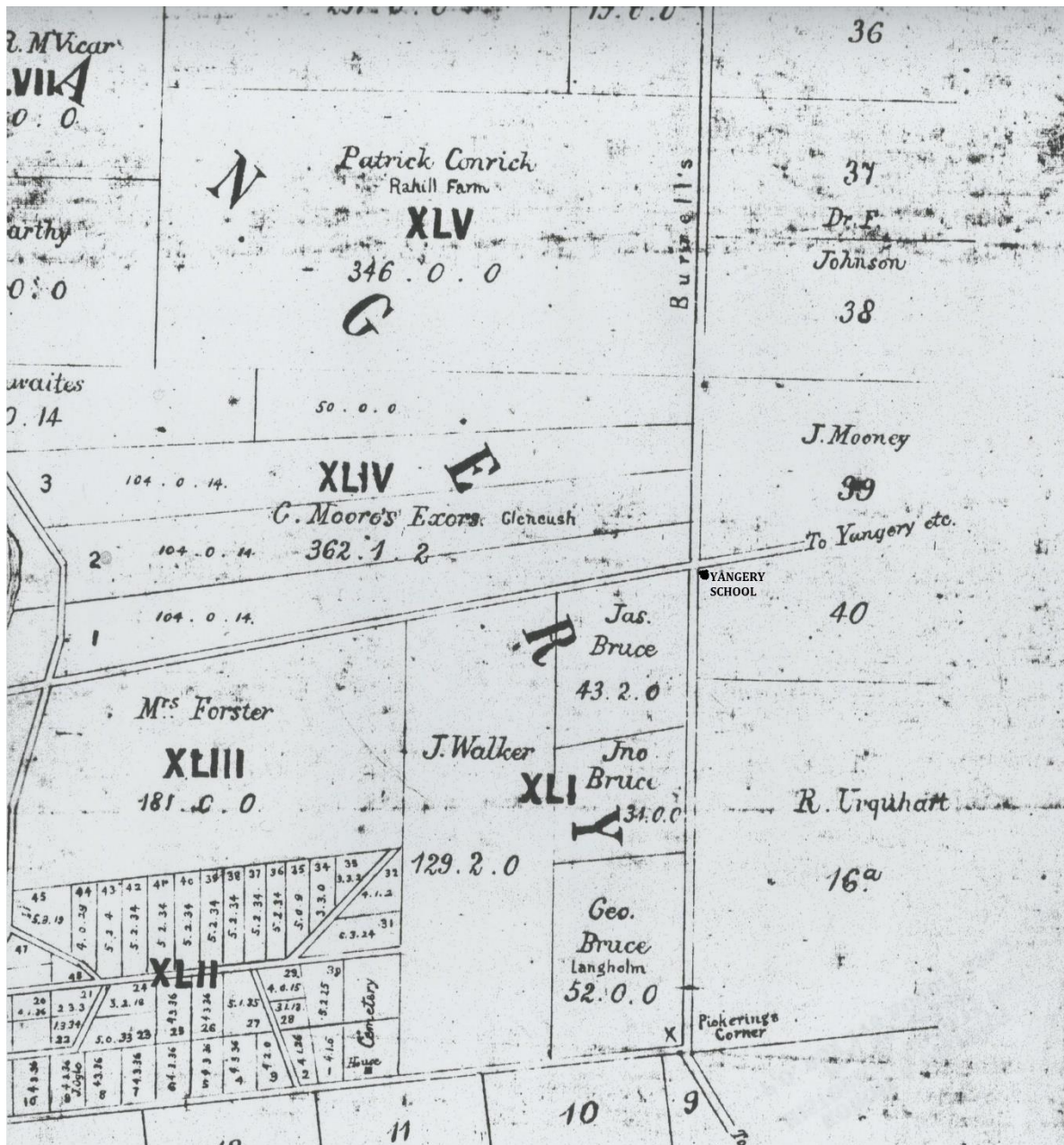
MAP 5d. North-east from Koroit. Bottom right is William Anderson's property "Rosemount", east of Burrell's Flat Road. On the other side of the road, NW from "Rosemount", is another farm he owned, of 156 acres (block XVI, half a mile wide).

MAPS



MAP 5e. East from Koroit and Tower Hill Lake. Top right is the southern part of William Anderson's "Rosemount" (blocks 22 and 25). South of Boundary Road is John Midgley's property "Yangery Grange", of 119 acres (block 35). Top middle is a second farm owned by John Midgley, of 156 acres (block XXVI). Where Burrell's Flat Road and Boundary Road cross, there is a corner store. The locality was known as Southern Cross, and the store was the "Southern Cross general store" (see photo GAPL 144). The Andersons and Midgleys no doubt found it convenient. The distance from Yangery School north along Burrell's Flat Road to Boundary Road (and the store) is 1.4 miles. NW of the school is Patrick Conrick's farm "Rahill".

MAPS



MAP 5f. East of Tower Hill Lake. Yangery School is in the NW corner of Roderick Urquhart's property "Yangery Grange". A house was built for G. just east of the school in 1864; like the school, it faced north on to Woodford Road. On the other side of Burrell's Flat Road is a farm owned by James Bruce, and south of that are farms owned by his brothers John and George. George's farm "Langholm" is bounded on the south by the road from Belfast to Warrnambool. The junction of this road with Burrell's Flat Road was known as "Pickering's Corner" or "Bruce's Corner" (SM 62, 65). The distance from Yangery School to the junction is 0.9 miles.



View from the air of Tower Hill Lake and Island, with Southern Ocean beyond



Tower Hill, 1855, detail (Eugene von Guérard, oil on canvas)



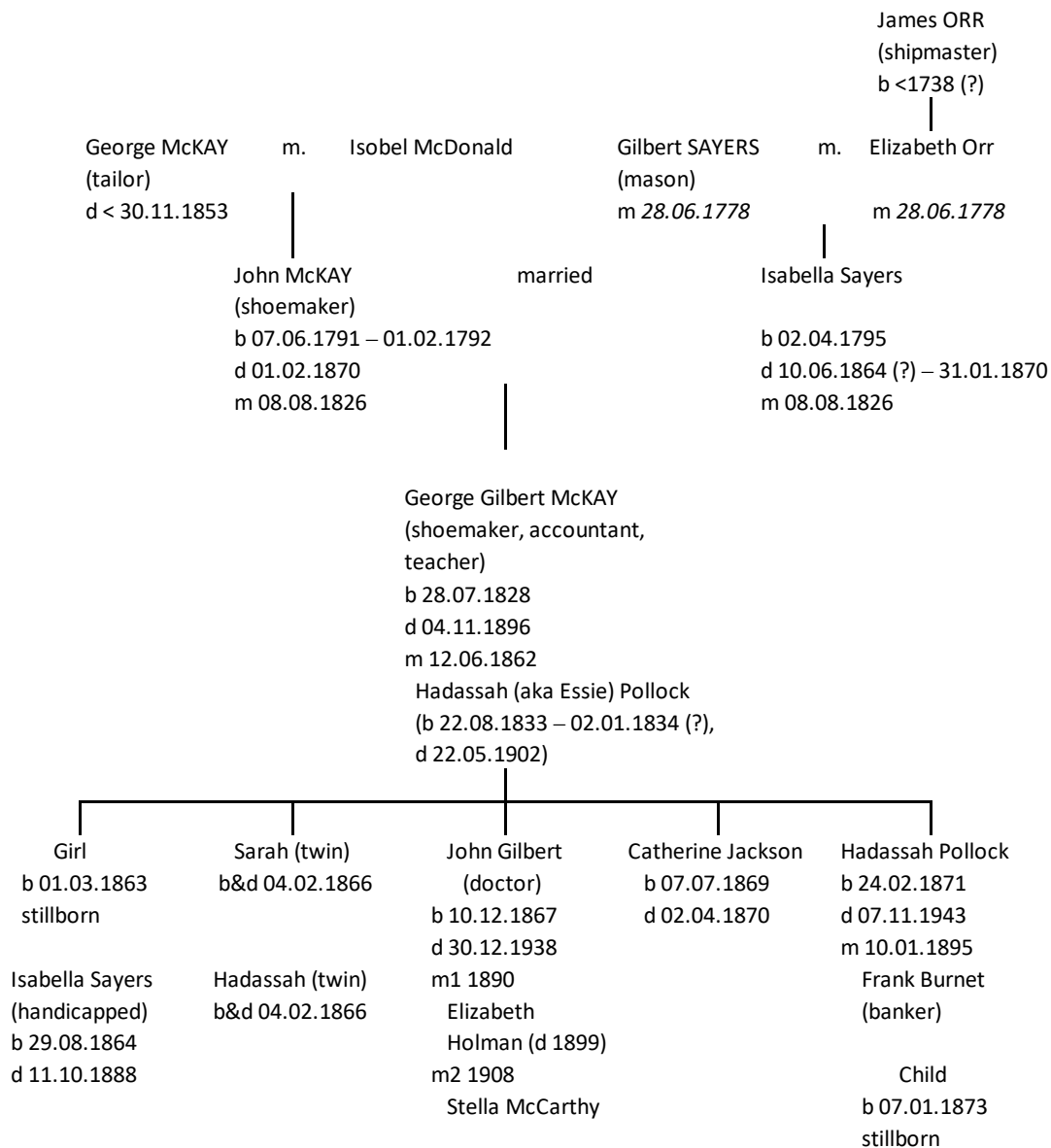
Warrnambool in the 1860s



Woodford, no date, perhaps 1860s

INTRODUCTION

1. George Gilbert McKay



George Gilbert McKay (henceforth “G.”) was born in 1828, the eldest of 4 sons of a Glasgow shoemaker. The family was staunchly Presbyterian, and G. was a regular churchgoer. He was convinced of the importance of the Christian promise of eternal salvation, but fearful about his own unworthiness.

G. wrote 3 diaries which have survived, and at least one which has not. The first of the extant diaries goes from December 1850 to September 1851, when G. was 22 and 23. He was living with his parents and brothers in central Glasgow, and working in his father’s shoe shop. In May 1851 his father was declared bankrupt.

INTRODUCTION



George McKay, about 49, c.1877



Hadassah (aka Essie) McKay, about 40 (?),
perhaps 1870s



Isabella McKay, about 13, c.1877



John McKay, about 10, c.1877

1. George Gilbert McKay

The second diary goes from November 1853 to October 1854, and starts with the death of G.'s youngest brother John at the age of 17, from inflammation of the lungs. G. had been living in lodgings and working at a mill, but soon after John's death he returned to the parental home, and began working as accountant in the bookshop of his uncle Robert Jackson.

He sailed to Australia on the clipper *White Eagle* in December 1856, arriving in Melbourne in March 1857. He decided to teach, registered with the National Schools Board, and was graded "class 2 division 2". In December 1858 he began teaching at a new National School in Yangery, about 150 miles WSW of Melbourne.

Religion had played a large part in G.'s life in Glasgow, and continued to do so in Australia. He became a member of Session (Elder) of the Presbyterian church in Koroit in November 1860, was Session Clerk from April 1862 to October 1890, and Secretary from February 1860 to November 1863, April 1865 to March 1866, and January 1870 to March 1883. In 1885 he was briefly Treasurer.

In Glasgow, G. had been made acutely aware of the dangers of alcoholic drink by his father's addiction, and he played a prominent role in the formation of the Teetotal Society at Koroit. He was elected Secretary in September 1860, and we know that he spoke at meetings on 24/09/1860 (*SM* 103, *RS* 184) and 28/10/1860 (*RS* 186).

He was also prominent in Yangery's Mutual Improvement Society, set up in December 1858 (see *RS* 142f.). On 24/03/1859 he spoke on "Man" (*SM* 75, *RS* 153 (dated 22nd, praising the speech highly)), on 29/11/1859 on "Air" (*SM* 87, *RS* 164 (dated 30th)), on 07/12/1859 on "Benevolence" (*SM* 88, *RS* 165), on 30/05/1860 on "Astronomy" (*SM* 97), on 28/11/1860 on "Heat" (*SM* 106).

The third diary goes from March 1861 to April 1868. After unsuccessfully courting Margaret ("Maggie") Davidson, G. married Hadassah (aka Essie) Pollock in June 1862. She was working as a maid, and was the daughter of Robert Pollock, an Irish farmer. He, his wife Jane (née Huston), and 8 of their children emigrated from Londonderry in 1854, arriving in Melbourne on 09/04/1854. The children, with ages at date of departure, were Hadassah 20, Eleanor (aka Ellen) 17, Sarah 15, Rebecca 10 or 11, Huston 7 or 8, William 4 or 5, Jethro 2 or 3, Josiah 1. The two oldest children, Robert and Anthony, went out to Australia separately later.

A number of people, including G.'s parents, disapproved of Hadassah, and thought that G. was marrying beneath himself. The Midgleys and Skilbecks broke off all social contact. (The Midgleys had perhaps been hoping G. would propose to Eliza; if so, disappointment and indignation will have reinforced disapproval.)

The McKays' first child, a girl, was stillborn on 01/03/1863. Isabella, their second child, was born on 29/08/1864. G. had high hopes for her, but she turned out to be severely handicapped, both physically and mentally. Twins were born on 04/02/1866, but died the same day. The first child to enjoy a normal healthy life was the fifth, John, born on 10/12/1867.

When G. learnt that Essie was pregnant with their first child, he drew a simple diagram, with 3 dots representing spermatozoon in vagina, embryo in womb, and child after birth. See entry for 04/08/1862 (about 7 months before the birth). When he learnt that Essie was pregnant with Isabella, he drew 3 slightly more complex diagrams. Like the first one, they illustrate insemination, gestation and birth, and reflect G.'s excitement at the prospect of becoming a father, and his fascination with the process of procreation. See entries for 21/12/1863, 31/12/1863, 03/01/1864 (about 8 months before the birth).

G. retired from teaching in 1890. He moved to Melbourne with Essie and his daughter Hadassah, then aged 19, and bought a house in Malvern. He died on 04/11/1896.

INTRODUCTION

2. Some biographical notes

a) **ABERNETHY, Rev. James McLure (1830/1–1904).** Abernethy came from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland. He arrived in Victoria shortly before 09/10/1859 (*SM* 85), and was Minister of Tower Hill Presbyterian church from November 1859 until 11/04/1862. On 26/05/1861 a new church was opened in the township of Koroit, replacing the old one south of Tower Hill Lake. G. got on very well with “Mr A.”, admired his sermons, and was a frequent visitor at his house. Abernethy suggested to G. that he study for the Ministry (*Diary* 30/05/1861, 12/06/1861); and when Abernethy left Koroit and moved to Eaglehawk, G. wrote in his diary (11/04/1862): “felt like parting from a brother, our intimacy has been so frank and cordial and brotherly.” Abernethy died at Port Melbourne in 1904, aged 73.

His wife was Sarah L., née McMorris (“Mrs A.”). G. lent her £5, which she repaid on 16/07/1861. She remained in Koroit until 14/06/1862, and on 06/05/1862 gave birth to a son called William.

Sources: *SPCK*, *SM* 85, 95, 107, *RS* 170, 184, 186f, *VBDM*.



Photo J. Soden, 1866

b) **ANDERSON, William (1828–1909).** “W.A.” (as G. usually referred to him) emigrated from Scotland with his parents in 1842, aged 13 or 14. The family settled at Launceston in Tasmania, then moved to Belfast in 1844. There W.A.’s father set up as a builder, and W.A. worked for him until the early 1850s, when he decided to try his luck on the goldfields.

In 1854 W.A.’s father bought a farm of about 240 acres at Southern Cross, and called it “Rosemount”. See maps 5d and 5e. W.A. took over the running of the farm in 1857. (On 02/04/1857 Sarah Midgley wrote in her diary: “His [W.A.’s] father is going to give up the place,

2. Some biographical notes



William Anderson



Ann Anderson

to him I suppose, and build a house for himself somewhere on the farm.”) The farm was well run and prosperous (see *GAPL* 92f.), and in 1887 won a Government prize for the best managed farm in southern Victoria.

W.A. played a leading role in local affairs. He was a J.P., and was elected to the Road Board on 17/10/1861 (*Diary*). He served on the Belfast Shire Council for many years, and was President in 1864. He was also influential in establishing the independent Koroit Borough Council in 1870, serving on it from 1871 to 1874 and from 1879 to 1881. From the first roll of ratepayers we learn that in 1871 W.A. owned a store and 2 houses in the High Street, in partnership with W. Jamieson (*GAPL* 59). In 1880 W.A. successfully stood for election to the Victorian Legislative Assembly. He sat as Member for Villiers and Heytesbury from 1880 to 1892, and in 1892 was briefly Minister of public works.

W.A. was a devout Presbyterian, and became a member of Session (Elder) of Tower Hill church on 04/08/1860. Regular prayer meetings were held at his house (see *Diary* 04/11/1861), and for 53 years he conducted a weekly Sunday School in his kitchen.

Education was a particular interest. He was the “communicating member” of the Patrons (local advisory committee) of Yangery School, and was also a Patron of Tower Hill Lake School (*SSTS* 49). On 14/12/1858 he spoke at a meeting of the Yangery Mutual Improvement Society on “The advantages of education” (*SM* 70).

Other interests were the temperance movement (he was elected President of the local Teetotal Society on 24/09/1860, *RS* 184), horticulture (he became President of the Royal Horticultural Society), the welfare of Aborigines, and bringing a railway line to Koroit. He was also a director of the Mercantile Bank, which collapsed. In 1893 he and fellow-directors were charged with fraud, but acquitted after a trial which aroused much public interest (*GAPL* 107f.).

INTRODUCTION



The house at "Rosemount"

W.A. was thoughtful, astute, hard-working and ambitious. He was probably G.'s closest friend, and G. was a frequent visitor at his house (often in connection with school or church affairs). The two men were about the same age (both were born in 1828).

W.A.'s wife was Ann, née Broadbent ("Mrs A."). The couple did not have any children, although on 24/04/1866 G. records that Mrs Anderson was pregnant ("in a great way"). Presumably there was a miscarriage or early death. G. mentions W.A.'s mother at 25/12/1863.

Sources: *ADB*, *GAPL*, *SSTS* 49, *SPCK*, *SMRS* 200, *SM* 17, 37, 70, 86, 105, *RS* 184.

c) **BRUCE, George (1829–1878).** George Bruce and his 3 older brothers, James, John and Robert, were Scottish Presbyterians who arrived in the Tower Hill district in the early 1850s. James was born 30/03/1824, John 13/12/1825, Robert 24/01/1827, George 16/04/1829. In the late 1850s James had a 43-acre farm on the other (west) side of Burrell's Flat Road from Yangery School, John had a 34-acre farm south of James, and George had a 52-acre farm south of John. See map 5f. Together the 3 farms covered 129 acres. In 1871 all 4 brothers had between them 286 acres, and each had his own house (*GAPL* 59).

George Bruce married Mary Robertson in 1855, and I know of 7 children: Mary born 1855, Sophia born 1858, George born 1859, William born 28/02/1862 (*Diary*), Isabella born 1864, Ann born 1866, and Veronica born 1868.

Bruce was a Councillor of the Borough of Koroit from 1870 to 1878, and Mayor 1873–4.

Sources: *GAPL*, *SM* 62, 65, *SP*, *VBDM*.

2. Some biographical notes

d) **LEE, John.** Lee became teacher at Tower Hill Lake National School in the latter part of 1858, shortly before G. opened Yangery School. Tower Hill Lake School was a handsome sandstone building, built in the shape of an “H”, with a schoolroom on each side, and rather cramped living quarters for the teacher in the middle (see plan at *SSTS* 33, and maps 3, 4, and 5a).



Tower Hill Lake Common School in 1866, from the back

The school had opened in December 1857, and the first teacher had lasted less than a year. Lee stayed until 1870. The *Koroit Herald* wrote of him that he was “the best teacher possible to have – a man who can perfect his scholars with very little cane.” When the Western District Teachers’ Association was formed, in 1858, Lee was elected to the committee.

Lee was a Roman Catholic, and was well liked and respected. G. was a good friend, and on one occasion lent him money (*Diary* 27/12/1861). Lee was involved with the Yangery Mutual Improvement Society (on 03/05/1859 he was due to give a talk, but did not turn up, *SM* 78), and with the Koroit Teetotal Society (at the meeting held on 24/09/1860 he became a committee member, *RS* 184). He must have taken the pledge, but a short time later alcohol got him into trouble. Sailing from Warrnambool, he fell overboard, having “had some grog”, but fortunately he was rescued (*Diary* 03/01/1861, 12/01/1861, 25/01/1861).

In 1863 he married Elizabeth Conn, an Episcopalian (Anglican). G. strongly disapproved of the “mixed” marriage (*Diary* 26/12/1863). Children were born in 1864 (David), 1866 (William), 1867 (Mary), and 1868 (John). After the marriage Elizabeth became an assistant teacher at Tower Hill Lake School. The couple left Koroit in 1870, John to teach at Mepunga. Elizabeth to teach at Nirranda (*GAPL* 71).

Sources: *GAPL*, *SSTS*, *SM* 75, 78, *RS* 153, 184, *VBDM*.

INTRODUCTION

e) **LEISHMAN, Thomas John (1801–1891).** Leishman was born on 12/04/1801, at Cockpen, Midlothian, in Scotland. He married Ann Sibald in 1826. The family emigrated to Australia as assisted migrants on the ship *Argyle*, arriving in Melbourne in March 1841. The passenger list records ages at departure as follows: Thomas 39, Anne 35, Richard 13, Margaret 11, Robert 9, Marian 5, Alison 2. A son William was born in 1846, a daughter Ann in 1848, both in Belfast. In the 1850s, Leishman bought a farm at Crossley, and called it “Cockpen” after his birthplace (see map 5b).

Leishman was a Presbyterian, and a member of Session (Elder) of the Tower Hill church from 04/08/1860 until his death in 1891. G. accompanied him to a Presbyterian soirée at Hawkesdale on 02/04/1866. In November 1867 G. and others were at last successful in getting the Minister Mr Robertson to resign. Leishman was one of Mr Robertson’s supporters, and resented what G. had done (*Diary* 05/11/1867, 18/01/1868). He died at Killarney on 07/07/1891, aged 90.

G. records about a dozen visits to the Leishmans’ house, about half of them to see Mrs Leishman. Daughter Alison, whose married name was Mrs Sprod, died on 12/07/1863, aged 25 (*Diary* 21/06/1863, 12/07/1863).

Sources: *GAPL, SSTS, SPCK, SP, PROV, VBDM.*

f) **McKAY, Gilbert Sayers (1833–1879).**

Gilbert McKay, G.’s younger brother, was born in Glasgow on 03/09/1833, the third of 4 boys. He emigrated to Australia a year or so after G., probably in 1858. When G.’s diary begins, in March 1861, Gilbert was living in Melbourne. His health was poor, his business unsuccessful, and eventually he decided to join G. in Koroit. He probably arrived in September 1863, and probably began teaching at Bridge End School in October.

Bridge End School was a Presbyterian school founded in 1857, which began receiving Government aid in 1863, thereby becoming Bridge End Common School no. 69. It was 1.8 miles west of Tower Hill Lake (see map 5b). The distance between it and Yangery School was a good 5 miles, making a round trip of over 10 miles. Unsurprisingly, the brothers seem not to have seen a lot of each other. By September 1864 Gilbert had decided to resign and return to Melbourne (*Diary* 27/09/1864); exactly when he left is unclear.

After the entry for 08/10/1864 there is a long gap in G.’s diary. It resumes in February 1866, by which time Gilbert was back in Melbourne, and planning to set up business as a pawnbroker. To do so, he borrowed £100 from G. (see entries for 10/02/1866, 21/03/1866, 31/03/1866). G. went to Melbourne at Christmas in 1867, and stayed with Gilbert for a few days (entry for January 1868).

On Christmas Day in 1871 Gilbert married Jane Smith, a widow with 4 children. He died in Melbourne on 23/03/1879, of cirrhosis of the liver. He was probably a heavy drinker.

Sources: *FAR, SSTS.*



Perhaps Gilbert McKay, perhaps on his wedding day

2. Some biographical notes

g) MIDGLEY, Sarah (1831–1893).

Sarah was born on 22/10/1831, the daughter of John Midgley, a tenant farmer in Yorkshire, and Mary, née Skilbeck. The family emigrated to Australia in 1851, leaving in June and arriving in Melbourne in September. Ages on departure were as follows: John 51, Mary 43, John 22 (?), William 21 (?), Sarah 19, Richard 15, David 13, Eliza 12, Martha 7 (?), Alfred 6 (?), Edwin 4 (?).

Early in 1852, Sarah's father bought "Yangery Grange", a farm of 119 acres a short distance east of Koroit (see maps 2 and 5e). The family arrived at the farm on 14/05/1852. Sarah's diary survives, and goes from June 1851 to September 1861. In it she describes what the farm was like when they arrived: "This [14/05/1859] is the anniversary of our arrival at Yangery Grange, seven years have transpired since we came to what was then a desolate spot surrounded with dense scrub, stringy bark and gum trees with an occasional Blackwood interspersed and not a single house within a mile, where all was solitary and still except the singing or screeching of the different birds." (SM 79.)



Sarah Midgley in 1851, aged 20

The diary gives a vivid and valuable account of life in the early days. Soon more people arrived, and there was a lot of visiting and being visited. G. is mentioned in the diary quite often: SM 70, 75f, 80f, 85, 87f, 97f, 103, 106–8, 110–13. His surname is often spelt *McCoy*, no doubt reflecting his Scottish pronunciation.



"Yangery Grange" in 1857. Sarah's mother Mary (49 or 50) is at the tank, Alfred (11–13) is sitting near her, Sarah (25 or 26) is cutting flowers, David (19 or 20) is standing on the right, with hand on hip.

INTRODUCTION

The Midgleys were Wesleyans (Methodists), and fairly regular churchgoers. Until April 1859 the nearest Wesleyan church was in Warrnambool, by road about 11 miles away, so the family often went instead to the Anglican church at Tower Hill, or the Presbyterian church in Woodford. In April 1859 a Wesleyan chapel was opened in Koroit.

Sarah's cousin Richard Skilbeck arrived from England in August 1858. The cousins married on 18/09/1861, G. acting as Richard's best man. The couple had 8 children, many of whom died young. Sarah herself died in 1893, aged 61.

Sarah's father John prospered at "Yangery Grange", and acquired more land. He leased a farm of 300 acres, and bought another farm, of 156 acres (*SM* 37, 66, *SMRS* 137, and see map 5e). He died on 06/09/1864, aged 64. G. attended his funeral.

Sarah's older brother William worked for a time as a "mailman" (*SM* 17). In October 1857, soon after the survey for the new township of Koroit had been completed, he bought a block of land at the west end of Queen Street (see map 4). In 1864 he and his cousin Richard Skilbeck bought the steam-powered flour mill in Mill Street (*RS* 198). He served on the Koroit Borough Council from 1884 to 1890, and was Mayor in 1885 and 1888. He helped bring the railway to Koroit, and helped to establish a reliable water supply. He died in 1910, aged about 80.

Sources: *SMRS*, *GAPL*, *VBDM*.

h) RUTLEDGE, William (1806–1876).

Rutledge, known as Billy, was a merchant, banker, farmer, and politician. He was probably the most influential person in the early history of the Tower Hill district. He emigrated from Ireland in 1829, and in 1843 moved to Belfast, where with 2 partners he founded William Rutledge and Co. The firm imported and exported goods, and flourished for almost 2 decades. In the same year, 1843, he bought a huge "special survey" of 5120 acres, south of Tower Hill Lake, stretching from Killarney in the west to the Merri river in the east (see map 2). He paid £1 an acre, and called the property "Farnham".

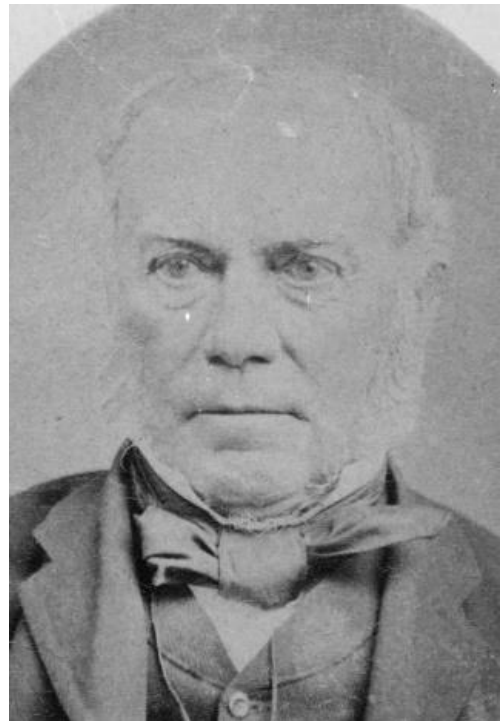
To get the land cleared, he offered it to tenant farmers on generous 14-year leases. Many of the tenants were Irish, some specially brought out to Australia by Rutledge. The leases began to expire in 1857, and many were not renewed. A lot of the tenants moved north of Tower Hill Lake, where they were a contributing factor to the creation of the township of Koroit.

Rutledge was a Member of the Legislative Council in 1851–4, and of the Legislative Assembly in 1856–9.

He stood again for the Assembly in 1861, but after successfully defeating his opponent Richard Ireland he was disqualified as a Government contractor. In 1862 William Rutledge and Co. became insolvent, with debts of £117,000.

Rutledge had a fiery temper, but could also be kind and generous. He helped his tenants with rations, seeds and implements. Although he was an Anglican, in 1850 he gave land to the Presbyterians, on which they built a wooden church.

He married Eliza Kirk in 1840, and they had a large family. For many years the couple were at the heart of social life in Port Fairy. Rutledge died there in June 1876.



William Rutledge in 1872

2. Some biographical notes

Sources: *ADB*, *GAPL*, *RS* 170, 189.

i) SKILBECK, Richard (1837–1924).

Skilbeck was born in England on 18/09/1837. He arrived in Melbourne in August 1858, joined his relatives at “Yangery Grange”, and decided to work for his uncle John Midgley for a year.

He wrote a diary which survives. It goes from February 1858 to October 1864, and includes a number of references to G.: *RS* 153, 158, 164f, 184, 186f, 191.

In December 1858 he helped to set up the Yangery Mutual Improvement Society (*RS* 142). He gave several talks, on “Beauties of creation” (08/02/1859), “John Howard” (14/06/1859), “Sheep” (19/10/1859), and “The cultivation of reason” (07/12/1859).

Among his diary entries for February 1859 there is “A review of Australia, its physical features and resources”. The review is thoughtful and vividly descriptive: “Here and there like an oasis in the wilderness a solitary patch of cleared land with a hut constructed of slabs and bark. In the rear a tribe of naked blacks carrying their weapons of war, roaming across the distant plains. Large tracts of open forest land resembling a gentleman’s domain in England, but occupied only by the kangaroo and emu which seem to claim and enjoy hereditary possession. Lofty ranges covered with the most beautiful verdure to their very summits, extensive lakes and lagoons darkened with legions of wild ducks, swans, pelicans, geese and teal, the prey of any man who may choose to shoot them. Innumerable birds of the most beautiful plumage screeching on every branch around you, flowers of every shade and colour bestrewing your path wherever you go. Above you an Italian sky without a cloud or speck, and the air you inhale pure and balmy.” (*RS* 146f.) Skilbeck’s attitude to the Aborigines was that of most white settlers: “. . . the aborigines of this country must give way to a better and more useful race.” (*RS* 150.)



Richard Skilbeck in 1861, aged 23



Richard Skilbeck’s house in the High Street, about 1870

INTRODUCTION

In May 1860, in partnership with Mr Holden and William Midgley, Skilbeck bought a steam-powered threshing machine. This proved a highly profitable investment, and in September 1862 he and Mr Holden bought another machine.

On 11/10/1860, he bought a 3-acre block on the High Street in Koroit, opposite the Wesleyan chapel (see map 3, and for the chapel map 4). He spent several weeks clearing the land, then began building a small house. In September 1861 he married his cousin Sarah Midgley (with G. his best man), and the couple occupied the now completed house.

In October 1864 he and his cousin and brother-in-law William Midgley bought the steam-powered flour mill in Mill Street, Koroit. Skilbeck sold out to William 2 years later.

In 1870 he campaigned vigorously for the creation of a separate Borough of Koroit, and he served on the new Council from 1871–2. He was active in the temperance movement, and played an important part in getting the “Mechanics’ Institute and Temperance Hall” built. The building opened at the north end of the High Street in October 1871. In 1888 he and some partners set up the Koroit butter factory.

Skilbeck was a consummate businessman, and became a wealthy landowner (see *SMRS* 202f). John Midgley had died in September 1864, and in 1866 Skilbeck took over the running of “Yangery Grange”. Religion was important to him, and he was an active and influential figure in the Methodist Church of Victoria.

He and his wife Sarah had 8 children, of whom 5 died in infancy. When Sarah died, in 1893, he visited England, and married another cousin, Charlotte Stables, whom he brought back to Australia with him. He died in May 1924, aged 86.

Sources: *SMRS*, *GAPL*.

j) URQUHART, Roderick (1808–1875). On 11/07/1808 Urquhart was baptised into the Presbyterian Church, in Ross-shire in Scotland. He emigrated to Australia, arriving in Sydney in September 1837, and moving to Belfast in March 1842. He became a tenant farmer on Rutledge’s “Farnham”, and stayed there for 3 or 4 years.

He bought part of his property “Yangery Park” in 1847, the rest in 1852 (see maps 2 and 5f). Richard Bennett described “Yangery Park” in the 1840s as “covered with forest, which, in some places, was very dense with a tangled mass of undergrowth, through which it was scarcely possible to force a passage. The size of the trees that grew in this rich deep soil is shown by the massive trunks that still form a portion of the fencing of the estate.” (*BED* 79.) Urquhart is said to have given tenant farmers 7-year leases rent-free, on condition that they cleared the land, and ploughed it at least once. He went back to Scotland in 1857, and did not return to Yangery until November 1861.

Described as a Highlander of the old school, Urquhart was well known for his hospitality and kindness. The establishment of a National School at Yangery was only made possible because of his generosity in giving land for the school in the NW corner of “Yangery Park”. He married twice, and had 2 sons and 4 daughters. He died on 02/02/1875, aged 66.

Sources: *GAPL*, *BED*, obituary in *Argus* of 06/02/1875, *SP*.

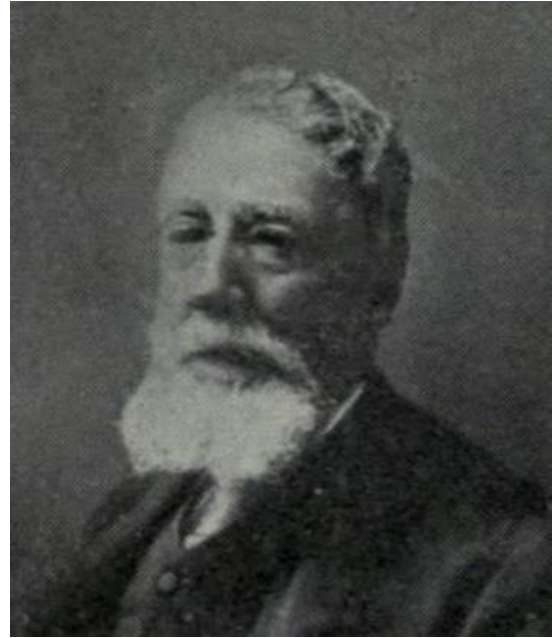
k) VENABLES, Henry Pares (1830–1890). Venables was educated in England at Eton and Oxford. He decided to try his luck on the Australian goldfields, arriving in Melbourne in December 1853. He was appointed sub-inspector of schools in March 1858, inspector in October 1860, and first-class inspector for the Western District in September 1862, a post he took up in April 1863, basing himself in Warrnambool.

2. Some biographical notes

In 1861 Venables bought some land beside Tower Hill Lake from Walter Stephens, and planted it with potatoes and madder. He employed G. to look after the land. (On 04/10/1861 G. received a cheque for £2 for clearing it, and on 16/06/1863 Venables paid him “balance of a/c”.)

In April 1866 Venables became an examiner, and from 1873–8 he was Secretary to the Education Department. From 1878–89 he worked at Melbourne University. He was an avid reader, especially of travel, history and poetry, and he wrote 2 textbooks: *Outline of the geography of Victoria*, 1861, and *System of parsing and analysis*, 1882. He also published several maps. His wife died in 1885, and in 1889 he returned to England with his 2 sons.

Sources: *ADB*, *SSTS*.



Henry Venables

3. Tower Hill and Koroit

About 150 miles WSW of Melbourne and about 1.6 miles inland there is a lake with 4 islands in it, one large, 3 very small. (See maps 1a, 2, 5c.) Tower Hill Lake is a caldera created by a volcanic eruption some 30,000 years ago. Artefacts buried in the volcanic ash show that Aborigines were in the area at the time (they have been in Australia for about 55,000 years). Smaller and more recent eruptions created the islands. The large island has been described as “a nest of volcanic cones” (*SMRS* 6).



Tower Hill, 1855 (Eugene von Guérard, oil on canvas)

INTRODUCTION

When the first European settlers arrived in the region in the 1830s, Tower Hill Island was green with vegetation, including trees and ferns. Animal and bird life flourished. In October 1858 Richard Skilbeck described “a beautiful lake commanding an extensive view of beautifully romantic scenery” (*SMRS* 138), and we get a good idea of what he saw from the painting done in 1855 by von Guérard (see above).

The name “Tower Hill” refers to the island’s highest hill, on the summit of which the Government placed a “landmark”, to make it more conspicuous to mariners and assist navigation (*SM* 48f, *RS* 158).

Volcanic ash was spread over a wide area, creating wonderfully fertile soil. In his 1845 survey, Robert Hoddle described “rich chocolate coloured soil” and “fine rich black soil” (see map, *GAPL* 10). Trees and undergrowth grew vigorously in it: “the whole of the district was a dense forest of timber . . . especially about Tower Hill, with a thick undergrowth of ferns” (*BED* 20, quoted *GAPL* 4).

There was a big influx of settlers in the 1840s and 1850s, many of them Irish. They were not interested in preserving the local ecology, only in clearing the land and making a living from it. Many chose to grow potatoes or wheat, which flourished in the rich soil. Hundreds of acres were cleared and thousands of trees felled.

The impact on the Aborigines and on the local flora and fauna was massive. A small incident is indicative. On a farm by the lake there were pigs with swine fever. To cool off they went into the lake, and the ensuing contamination wiped out the formerly plentiful eels (*GAPL* 162). By the end of the 19th century, Tower Hill Island was in a sorry state. The hills were bare, all the trees had gone, and the island was covered with bracken and overrun with rabbits. Since 1961 there has been a determined effort to put things right, and great progress has been made.

In 1857 it was decided to create a township on a block of land north of Tower Hill Lake, and Thomas Watson was asked to prepare a survey. A school (Tower Hill Lake National) was already planned for the NW corner of the block, and there was a track running from that corner towards the SE. Watson kept the track as the town’s High Street, but arranged the other streets on a grid pattern (*GAPL* 34, and see maps 2, 3, 4). He set aside land for a town hall, a police station, a post office, a market, churches and a public garden.

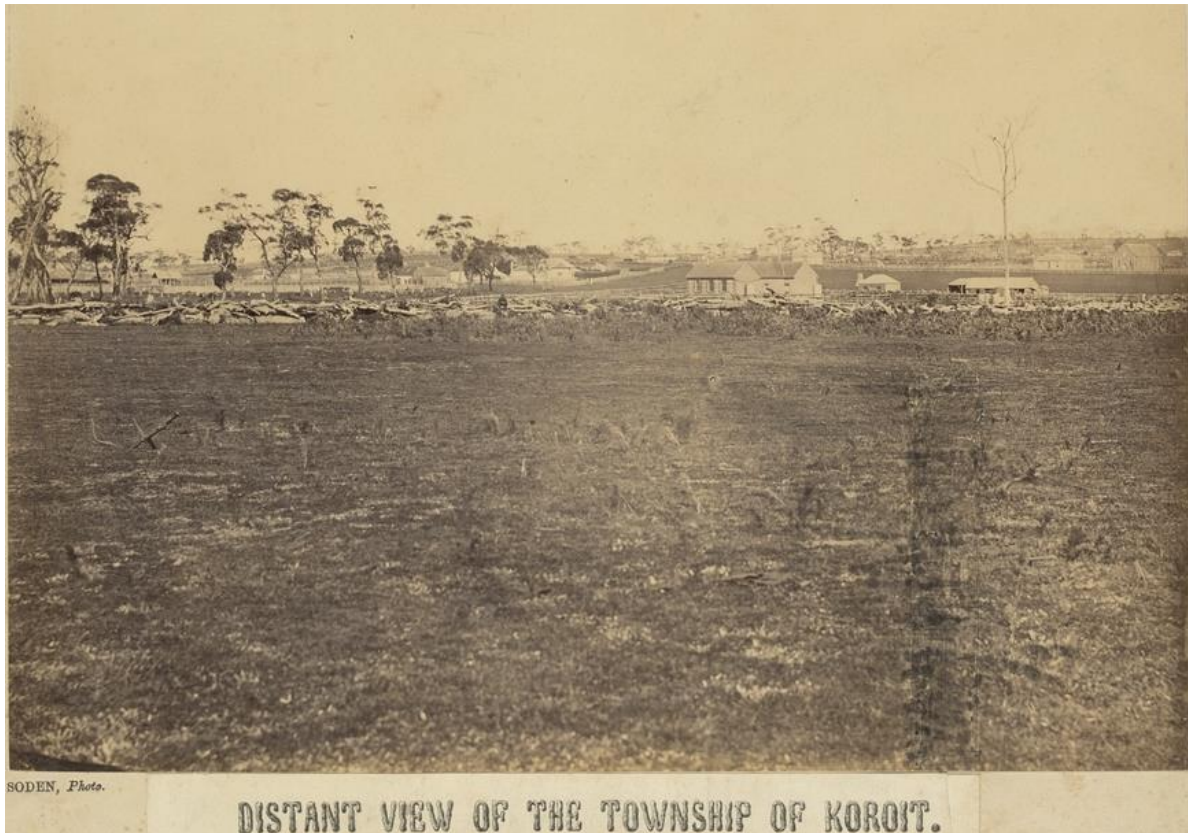
The new town was called “Koroit”. The name comes from the Koroitch Gundidj tribe of Aborigines, which occupied the locality before European settlement (*Koroit*; puzzled speculation *GAPL* 5f.).

George Thomson owned the land north of the town, on the other side of Boundary Road, and at some time before October 1857 he opened a hotel in the SW corner of his land (for date see *SM* 46, entry for October 1, and for the site see map at *GAPL* 56f.). The hotel was called the Drumfern Inn, the name probably a corruption of *Dunfermline*. In December 1857 the Tower Hill Lake National School opened in the town, in an impressive sandstone building (see photo p.25).

C.Z. Berthean owned a block in the township, bounded on the north by Mill Street and on the west by the High Street. In the NW corner of the block he opened a store, probably before 23/04/1858, when a post office agency opened in it. The store was bought by Christopher Norman in 1860 (see photo p.34). In 1858, close by in Mill Street, Thomas Braim built a steam-powered flour mill, which was bought by Richard Skilbeck and William Midgley in 1864.

A Wesleyan chapel opened on 03/04/1859 (*SM* 76, *RS* 153). Richard Skilbeck reports on a speech made in the chapel 9 days later: “He [Mr Waterhouse] spoke of the rapid strides of progress of which the vicinity bore evident marks especially in a new steam mill which was then puffing away, together with a beautiful national school, 2 stores, a splendid Inn, together with a number of dwellings, and last but not least the neat little Chapel in which we are assembled . . .” (*RS* 156.)

3. Tower Hill and Koroit



Koroit in 1866. Right of centre is Tower Hill Lake School (see detail on p.25). To the left of the school is the High Street, with a white fence running along it. Mill Street can be seen joining the High Street from the left (east). The building on the corner is Christopher Norman's store. On the far right is the Presbyterian church, facing north on to Garden Street, with its manse just left (east) of it. Garden Street can be seen running east to somewhere behind the school. The large building behind the school may be the new Wesleyan church (built 1865–7, so perhaps nearing completion). For orientation see map 3.

On 26/05/1861 a Presbyterian church opened, on a site in Garden Street different from that allocated by Thomas Watson (see maps 3 and 4, and photo p. 22). In the same year David McLaws opened the Koroit Hotel, in the NE corner of his property "Rosebank", which bordered the township on the west (see map 5a and photo p.34).

A new Wesleyan church was built in 1865–7, a much larger and more imposing building than the small chapel it replaced. In 1868 the National Bank built impressive single-storey premises in Boundary Road, just west of the Koroit Hotel, and in November 1870 the Catholics opened the grandiose Church of the infant Jesus.

Until 1870 Koroit was run by the Belfast Shire Council, but in November of that year a separate Borough of Koroit was created. Shortly afterwards the town acquired 3 important new buildings: an Anglican church in Queen Street (March 1871), a "Mechanics' Institute and Temperance Hall" in the High Street (October 1871), and a post office in Boundary Road (1872).

In 1878 Mary Richardson arrived in Koroit as postmistress, bringing with her her 8-year-old daughter Ethel. Under the pen-name Henry Handel Richardson, Ethel later wrote the classic novel *The fortunes of Richard Mahoney*.

INTRODUCTION



Christopher Norman's store and P.O. agency, on the corner of High Street and Mill Street



Photo by J. Soden, 1866. At the back is David McLaws' Koroit Hotel, facing north on to Boundary Road. In the foreground men are playing quoits in Spring Creek Road.

4. From National School to State School

When Sir Charles FitzRoy arrived in Sydney in 1846 as Governor of the Colony of N.S.W., Church schools had for some time been receiving State aid. FitzRoy accepted proposals for Government funding of non-sectarian “National” schools as well, and in January 1848 two Boards were established in Sydney, the Denominational School Board to deal with Church schools, and the General Education Board to deal with the new National schools. In the same month a Denominational School Board was also set up in the Port Phillip District (the later Colony of Victoria).

In 1849 Mr G.W. Rusden was sent south by the General Education Board to promote National Schools, and he had some success. By the end of 1850 there were 156 schools in the Port Phillip District: 99 private, 50 denominational, and 7 National.

In July 1851 a new Colony of Victoria was created. In a report on the state of Victorian education, presented in November of that year, Mr H. Childers drew attention to poor teaching in many denominational schools, frequently unsatisfactory school buildings, and large numbers of children attending school infrequently or not at all. It was decided that more National schools were needed, and in December a National Schools Board was established in Melbourne. To help the Board run the schools, local committees of “Patrons” were formed, to act as intermediaries between Board and teacher, to keep a close eye on what was happening in the schools, and to inform the Board of any problems.

The *Eighth report* includes some suggested timetables. That for boys in third class was as follows:

9 to 9.15	Inspection as to personal cleanliness
9.15 to 9.45	Tables, definitions or rules of arithmetic
9.45 to 10.15	Reading and explanation
10.15 to 10.45	Writing
10.45 to 11	Rolls called, and recess
11 to 11.30	Arithmetic
11.30 to 12	Spelling and grammar
12 to 2	Recess
2 to 2.30	Geography
2.30 to 3	Reading
3 to 3.20	Writing from dictation
3.20 to 3.30	Rolls called, and attendance entered in daily report book
3.30 to 4	Singing

Teachers were graded by the Board and paid according to grading. Women were paid less than men. The *Eighth report* provides the following table:

Class I, division 1	£250 (men)	£180 (women)
2	£225	£165
3	£200	£150
Class II, division 1	£175	£135
2	£150	£120
Class III, division 1	£125	£100
2	£100	£80
Probationer	£80	£65
Workmistress		£30–45

If average daily attendance is under 30, salary will not exceed that of a Probationer.

George McKay was graded II.2, as was William McLeish in Warrnambool and Richard Thomas in Dennington. James Johnston in Belfast (and later Kirkstall) was graded I.3, John Lee in Koroit

INTRODUCTION

II.1, and George Owen in Wangoom III.1. The Board was short of money, and in 1860 was obliged (not for the first time) to reduce salaries and allowances by 5%.

The cost of educating pupils was shared between the Board and parents, who were required to pay fees. In 1860 the average cost of educating one pupil for a year was £4/15/3, of which the Board paid £3/3/4 in salaries and allowances, and parents £1/11/11 in fees. The Board thus met about two thirds of the total cost. Fees were normally retained by teachers, but might be used in part to meet sundry school expenses (as decided by Patrons). The cost of buildings was also shared, between the Board and local communities. In 1860 the Board spent only £1247 on buildings, while local communities provided £3022.

By 1858 there were 8,344 pupils in National schools in Victoria, compared with 30,583 pupils in denominational schools. Tower Hill Lake National School had opened in December 1857, and Yangery National School opened in December 1858. By the end of 1860 the number of National schools was 153.

The Common Schools Bill was passed in June 1862, and came into effect in September. The two existing Boards (National and Denominational) were now replaced by a single Board of Education, and it was stipulated that all schools receiving State aid should provide 4 hours of secular instruction daily. For the National schools the effect of the Bill was peripheral, but for the Denominational schools it brought fundamental change. Some of the latter were so hostile to the idea of secular education that they decided to stop receiving aid. All schools that continued to receive aid became "Common Schools", and each was given a number. Yangery National School became Yangery Common School no. 690 (a high number because numbers were assigned to schools in alphabetical order). Kirkstall National School, which had opened in January 1862, kept that name for only 8 months.

The new Board wanted to change the way teachers were paid. Instead of a fixed salary based on a teacher's professional grading, they wanted to make salaries reflect number of children taught and effectiveness of teaching. A register of teachers for 1864 shows that in that year G. was still being paid by the old method. However, his diary entry for 13/02/1866 implies that some element of payment by results was then in place.

The Education Act of 1872, which came into force in January 1873, brought important changes. An Education Department was set up, and a Minister of Public Instruction appointed. It now became compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 15 to attend school for at least 60 days in each half-year. State-funded education had been made secular by the Bill of 1862; now, for core subjects, it was also made free. Core subjects were defined as reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, drill, and where possible gymnastics; and for girls sewing and needlework as well. For other subjects fees were still charged. Fees were retained by teachers, less a percentage which they received only if results were satisfactory. The new rules meant that teachers earned less from fees, but they now became entitled to a State pension after 15 years' service.

All Common Schools became State Schools, retaining the number they had had previously. Tower Hill Lake Common School no. 618 in Koroit had a twofold change of name, becoming Koroit State School no. 618.

5. Yangery School

The planning for a National School in Yangery began in June 1856, as we learn from Sarah Midgley's diary. 05/06/1856: "Father went to Mr M. Monaghan's to attend a meeting to arrange about having a National School in this part." 23/08/1856: "Father came home from Warrnambool. He asked Mr Bateman for a subscription toward our national School and he promised the handsome sum of ten pounds. He also asked Mr Paterson who wished his name to be put down for a pound and Mr Bostock also promised his mite." On 11/11/1856 application for assistance was made to the National Schools Board. The project got a big boost when Roderick Urquhart offered to give an acre of land for the school, in the NW corner of his property "Yangery Park" (see maps 2 and 5f). Urquhart went back to Scotland in 1857 and did not return until November 1861, so he probably made his offer before he left.

Education Department records show that "on 6 December 1858 George G. McKay entered into an agreement with the National Schools Board to take charge of the new school for at least 12 months. He arrived on 10 December, found no preparations had been made, but managed to obtain temporary accommodation, and began a school with six pupils on 20 December 1858. . . . The school-house, timber, 25' x 14'6", was built at a cost of £82 by Jenkins and Patterson in January 1859." (KP.) J.B. Bluett supplied the furniture for £19/15/6. (*Synopsis* 16.)

G. married Hadassah Pollock in June 1862. She was promptly appointed work mistress, and began helping G. in the school. *Diary*, 26/06/1862: "W.A. has written to the Board as to Essie being appointed work mistress and monitress." 11/07/1862: "Board has approved of Essie as work mistress and monitress."

Roderick Urquhart handed over the deeds for the school's land on 07/07/1862 (*Diary*), and soon afterwards the school building was enlarged and the grounds fenced. The alterations had not been completed by 08/09/1862, "so have another week [of holiday] of which I am glad . . ." (*Diary*.)

In 1864 a 4-room teacher's house was built beside the school, on the east side. The work was done by carpenter Ephraim Brittain at a cost of £145, the Board paying half. (*Synopsis* 17.) G. added 2 bedrooms at his own expense in 1880 (KP).

Pupil numbers fluctuated a lot, going down when weather was bad or sickness prevalent, or when children's help was needed at home. 02/04/1861: "Small school again today. Always so after a holiday." 30/10/1861: "Have had very wet weather these last few days which has thinned my school." 27/03/1862: "School has decreased within these last 2 weeks, at potatoes [digging them up] and ailing." The *Eighth report* shows that in 1860 there were 66 on the school's rolls, with average daily attendance about half that. Average attendance for April 1861 was 36 (*Diary* 26/04/1861), and for the last quarter of 1862 it was 80 (*Diary* 03/01/1863). The average attendance for the first 6 months of 1878 was as follows: January 51, February 64, March 73, April 65, May 77, first week in June 94 (KP).

Pupils' ages ranged from 4 to 15+. In 1860 there were 66 children on the rolls. At the start of the year, 18 of these were aged 4 to 6, 23 were aged 7 to 9, 15 were aged 10 to 12, 10 were aged 13 to 15+. (*Eighth report*.)

It must have been well-nigh impossible for one man (or even one man and a work mistress) to teach effectively so many children, and such a wide range of ages. G.'s complaints are surprisingly few, but those he does make are telling. 21/06/1861: "Felt very cross and dissatisfied today in school. Can assign no reason for it, but should try and keep such a spirit under." 02/11/1861: "A pleasant day it [Saturday] has been, an oasis, in the desert wildness and wintering of the week." 24/01/1862: "Another school week closed, and I feel how little good I have done, I feel as if living objectless, passing time but doing no good." 03/03/1862: "A large school. Wish I had some assistance in it, as it is much needed." 01/12/1862: "Last month's average 84. Would like to have some more assistance [in addition to Essie]."

INTRODUCTION



Yangery School, c.1905. The new schoolhouse can be glimpsed in the top left corner, looking complete. The old wooden building was probably demolished soon after the photo was taken.



G.'s house, on the east side of the school

5. Yangery School

26/08/1864: "Have had school alone all the week and miss her [Essie's] presence very much. 'Tis a regular drag without someone with me, and the bigger ones take advantage of me having so much to do."

The Board required teachers to keep it fully informed about pupils and pupil numbers. This meant that teachers had to make frequent returns, giving names, ages and religion of all pupils, as well as daily attendance, and average daily attendance for each month and each quarter.

Teachers seem to have had a lot of freedom in deciding when to give holidays. In July 1861 G. decided not to give a holiday on the 1st, when it was due, but on the 7th, when he wanted to attend a trial in Warrnambool. He gave a holiday when Richard Skilbeck and Sarah Midgley got married, on 18/09/1861, and 2½ days' holiday in June 1862 when he got married himself.

Inspections of the school occurred at fairly regular intervals. Until 1866 the Inspector was Henry Venables (see *SBN* 30f.). 02/04/1862: "Mr Venables with me today. Inspected school, pretty fair." 23/06/1863: "Had the Inspector today, and class did not get on well at all. 'Tis most annoying, try all I can, and yet they humbug a fellow and fail." 13/02/1866: "Had the Inspector today. Had a large attendance, but they turned out very poorly, only 3½ months having elapsed since last inspection . . . It will make a good deal of difference to me besides the name of the thing." The "difference" was clearly financial, and implies that part of G.'s salary was now dependent on the good progress of his pupils.

When the school opened, in December 1858, fees were 2/- and 1/6 per week, depending on the pupil's age. (*Synopsis*.) In 1860, the cost of educating each pupil at the school was £6/19/1, of which £5/11/4 was paid by the Board in salary and allowances, and £1/7/9 was paid by parents in fees. The amount of unpaid fees was a staggering £105/17/9. (*Eighth report*.) Collecting fees was time-consuming. Accounts had to be kept, bills prepared and sent out, and if the money was not forthcoming, parents had to be visited. Many parents were farmers, and were more ready to pay when crops were good. 06/06/1863: "Have been getting in a lot of fees this month or two past as the potato crop has been very good . . ."

G. often complains about late payment of salary. Salary for month X was usually paid between one and two months after the end of month X. Government finances were tight, and salaries for 1860 were reduced by 5%. On 19/04/1861 G. writes: "See that the National Board have got £5000 more to their lot and the Denominational so much less . . . We will perhaps get our 5% now." His hope that the money deducted would be repaid was to be disappointed. In 1861 G. earned £202/5/6 (see entry for 28/02/1862), probably made up of £142/10/- salary, plus housing allowance, plus a very modest sum from fees. On 21/01/1862 ". . . W.A. brought a letter from the Board about our salaries, cancelling agreements and stating next thing to a reduction of salary." On February 1st teachers held a protest meeting in Warrnambool, and agreed to send a petition to the Government; on the 15th and 17th G. was out getting signatures. G.'s salary for January and February arrived late, on 21/04/1862. There was bad news on 02/05/1862: "See by the papers that we are to have another reduction of 5%. Now 10%."

The Common Schools Bill came into force in September 1862, and a new Board took over. In May 1863 G. was hoping that some of the money deducted from salaries would be repaid. 23/05/1863: ". . . seems to be intended to bring in the scheme of rebates." The Board wanted to make big changes to the structure of salaries (see above p.36). 07/12/1863: "Probability of changes next year in salary etc., but I suppose we must be content." The rebates G. had hoped for arrived on 24/12/1863 ("Got salary for October and 5% for 1862"), and on 31/12/1863 ("We are to get the 5% for the 9 months of this year which has been kept up").

A register of teachers shows that in 1864 G. was paid £150, plus house allowance of £30, while Essie was paid £45. (*KP*.) The figures do not include income from fees.

The first mention of the school's Patrons comes in Sarah Midgley's diary, in the entry for 13/12/1858: "A meeting of Yangery School Committee at Kendrick's . . ." (*SM* 70.) We learn from the *Eighth report* that at the end of 1860 the school's Patrons were the following:

INTRODUCTION

William Anderson, farmer, Presbyterian, corresponding member;
John Bruce, farmer, Presbyterian;
Patrick Conrick, farmer, R.C.;
John Wall, farmer, R.C.;
John Walker, farmer, Presbyterian;
John Bluet [sic], carpenter, Wesleyan.

As “corresponding member” W.A. was the man through whom G. communicated with the Board. In June 1863 some R.C. parents accused G. of making the children write out Presbyterian commandments, and when Dean Slattery visited the school on the 16th, he accused G. of burning the Catholic catechism. Patrons’ meetings were held on the 16th and 19th, and G. was exonerated.

G. retired in October 1890 and moved to Melbourne. The old wooden schoolhouse was probably demolished soon after 1905. In 1910 the school was renamed Illowa State School, and in 1970 it closed.

6. Chronological table

c. 30,000 B.P.	Volcanic eruption creates caldera, later known as Tower Hill Lake
1828 July	G. born in Glasgow
1843	William Rutledge buys huge property south of Tower Hill Lake
1851 June	Sarah Midgley’s diary begins
1851 July	Port Phillip District becomes separate Colony of Victoria
1851 Sept.	Sarah Midgley arrives in Melbourne, with parents and siblings
1851 Dec.	National Schools Board set up in Melbourne
1854 April	Hadassah (aka Essie) Pollock arrives in Melbourne, with parents and siblings
1857	Thomas Watson surveys land north of Tower Hill Lake for new township of Koroit
1857 March	G. arrives in Melbourne
1858 (?)	Gilbert McKay arrives in Melbourne
1858 Feb.	Richard Skilbeck’s diary begins
1858 August	Richard Skilbeck arrives in Melbourne
1858 Dec.	G. opens Yangery National School
1861 March	G.’s third diary begins
1861 May	Presbyterian church opens in Koroit
1861 Sept.	Sarah Midgley’s diary ends, and she marries her cousin Richard Skilbeck
1862 April	Rev. James Abernethy leaves Koroit
1862 June	G. marries Hadassah Pollock
1862 Sept.	Common Schools Bill comes into force. All State-funded education now secular.
1863 March	McKays’ first child is stillborn
1863 Oct. (?)	Gilbert McKay begins teaching in Bridge End Common School
1864 August	McKays’ daughter Isabella is born

6. Chronological table

1864 Nov.	Richard Skilbeck's diary ends
1864	Near year-end (?), Gilbert McKay resigns and goes back to Melbourne
1866 Feb.	McKays' twins die on the day they are born
1867 Dec.	McKays' son John is born
1868 April	G.'s third diary ends
1869 July	McKays' daughter Catherine is born
1870	Koroit, previously run by Belfast Shire Council, becomes a separate Borough
1871 Feb.	McKays' daughter Hadassah is born
1873 Jan.	Education Act comes into force. Education becomes compulsory for children aged 6 to 15. State-funded education is now free for core subjects.
1890 Oct.	G. retires and moves to Melbourne
1896 Nov.	G. dies in Malvern

7. This edition

a) Method

The text has been established using scans of the diary pages provided by my cousin Max Burnet. I have kept original spelling, punctuation, capital and lower-case letters, and abbreviations. Spelling and other mistakes are usually signalled with an editorial [sic], and where it seemed necessary they are commented on in the Notes. Sometimes G. wrote something, then crossed it out, altered it, or replaced it. Such first versions are recorded between brace brackets, before any second version.

If you have comments, corrections, or further information, please get in touch. My email address is igb@burnet.myzen.co.uk.

b) Symbols

{ } first version, later crossed out, altered or replaced

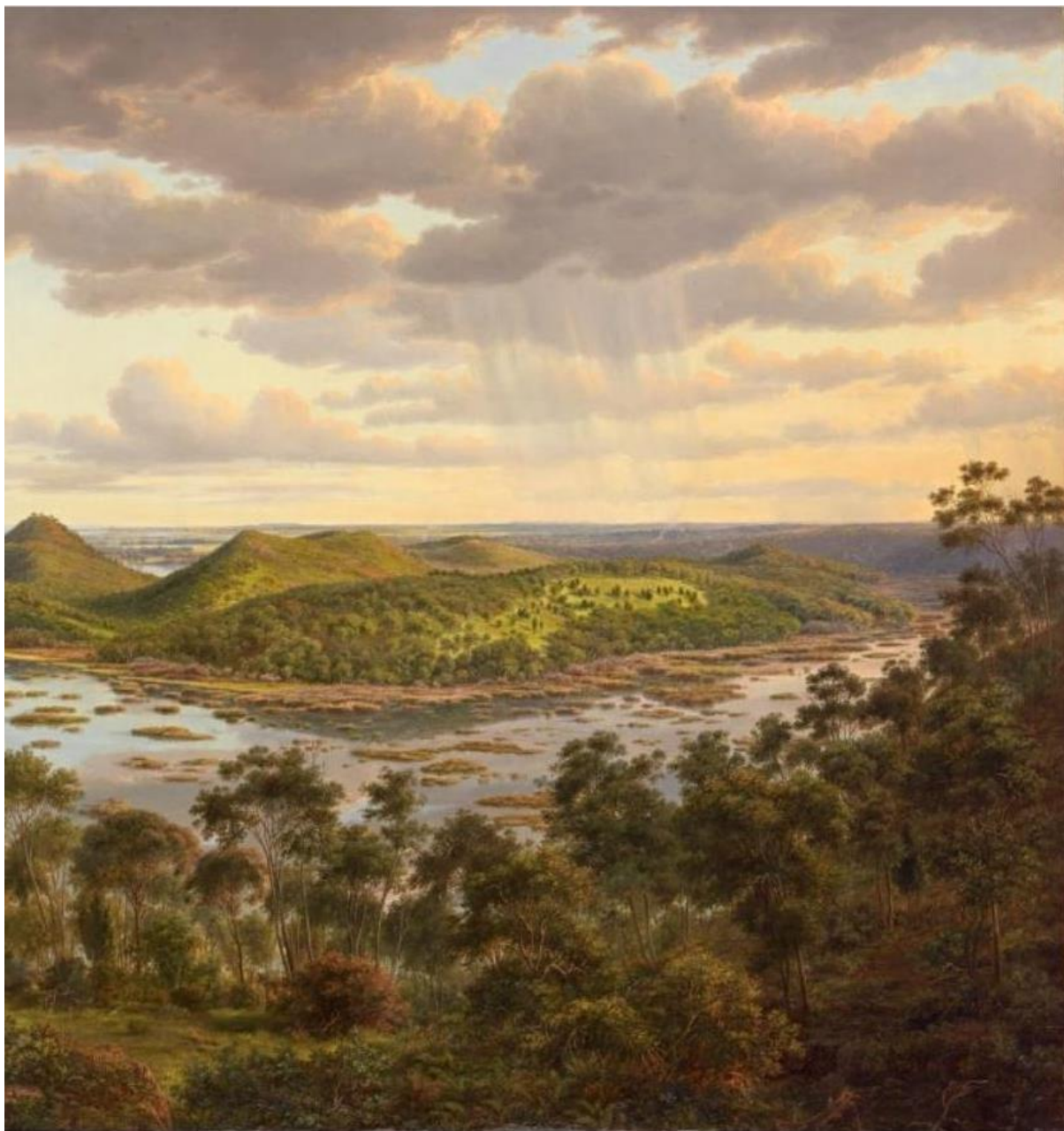
< > inadvertently omitted by G., added by editor

[] editorial comment

[sic] follows a mis-spelling or other mistake

[?] follows an uncertain reading

I.G.B.
Aldeburgh
October 2017



Tower Hill, 1855, detail (Eugene von Guérard, oil on canvas)

THE THIRD DIARY

Geo. G. McKay

Yangery March/61

Wednesday 20th March 1861

Today I got the Box which has been sent out to me, and tis most amusing to see the immense variety of its contents, and pleasant to me to see so many old familiar faces of Books, and such lots of odds & ends. got their Portraits. Mother looking better. Father rather older like, Wm. more manly like. up this Eveng. to Township to a baptism.

T 21. nothing.

F 22. Up to Township, got Letters & papers. One announcing the death of Aunt Jackson on the 15th Jany of Typhus Fever, after 12 days ebbing. I was much struck with it, quite shocked, having had a letter from her last Mail, in which she spoke so cheerily. What a Month may do. we know not truly. for herself it has been gain, for I feel assured that thro the cleansing efficacy of Jesus blood she is now on high. I pray that it may be a Lesson to which I will listen and hear its Voice.

S. 23. in house all foren. making up Bills which I hope I will get, then up to W^m. Anderson's feel down in spirits about Aunt, not for her own sake, but for my own. Oh that I would now give myself more & more to Christ, that he might rule & reign in my heart Supreme.

S. 24. down to Church. Mr. A. Romans 13.11, a most stirring Sermon. After. Exodus 17.15. Jehovah Nissi. Another good Sermon. how many of these do we get and do not improve them, how awful our responsibility, how dreadful that for all our advantages we must give an a/c.

M. 25 up to Teetotal Meeting and spoke which I am improving at. few joined. Arch^d Blue has again joined.

T. 26. up at Singing Class tonight, should like to improve by it

W. 27. Weather changeable. feel dull indeed – School better

T. 28. nothing Particular.

F. 29. Good Friday. gave a holiday. busy making up bills all forenoon. up to W.A. & then I went over to the Wesleyan Soiree which passed of [sic] very well. had to speak which I had not bargained for. met Mr Humffray of Belfast & Owen there. Mr. Abernethy has gone to Melbourne in a hurry at which I am disappointed as I had intended to have sent Gilberts parcel with him. broke up about ½ p. 9.

S. 30. Weather very fine again. Went out [?] today to hunt after Subscription Lists & was not very succesful [sic]. at Mrs Leishmans stayed Some time. up to W.A.

Sab 31. down to Church. Dr Singleton officiated. then up to house. W.A. & I conducted Service. then to Tea at W.A. home about 9.

THE THIRD DIARY

Monday April 1. 1861.

a holiday to day and tis also election day. down to poll then up to W.A. for to get Mrs. A. & go into town. got in about 4, went to McLeishs find that he has given a week's holiday and So also has Thomas which he ought to have told me. went to Soiree very poor affair indeed, spoke at Meeting shortly. Waited until about 10. & drove out with Mrs. A. got out about 1 am. stayed at W.A.

T 2 small School again to day. always so after a holiday

W 3 busy writing out Subscriptions Sheets. Church now nearly finished. nothing of consequence

T 4 Thomas up today. nothing new his land is to be sold to satisfy parties. Packed up Gilberts parcel

F 5. nothing. sent out a lot of Bills yesterday hope I will get some of them soon. the Election has terminated in favour of Rutledge by 38. am glad of it as it will show the R.C. party that they cannot carry it all their own way at least they seem to have had great confidence as to their gaining it but they have been disappointed.

S. 6. came on an awful wet day & was obliged to stay in the house instead of going to Warrnambool as I had intended – in afternoon up to W.A., stayed until about 9.

Sab. 7. did not go to Tower hill, but up to township, Mr Burns, Phillipians [sic] 1,{20} 21 For me to live is Christ &c. up to School then down to Wesl. Mr Burns, 1 Chron 28.9. a very good Sermon Seemed to be much affected at his leaving, E.M. there. home about 8.

M 8. Paid Sloan his rent to day, wish I had some one to share my house with me am tired of single blessedness. Census taken to day.

T 9 up to township Letter from Gil. saw E.M. to day wish I could get more intimate with <her>. at Mr Abernethys. am getting some Bills at present coming in.

W 10. have a Lecture to deliver tonight. Lecture tonight very few at it. did it pretty well.

T 11. Very wet day. went up to Mr Abernethys & the night being wet [?] they induced me to stay. nothing new.

F 12. another rough day. W^m Midgley very bad said to be Colonial Fever.

S 13. up early went into Warrnambool, to the Sail [sic] of Thomas' ground. he bought it at £30 per acre, dear enough. did not stay long in town, but came out to Miss Davidson's, & spent a few hours very pleasantly there. they are both nice girls, & think one of them would suit me very well. waited pretty late & homee [sic] about 11. Mrs. Miller is about to be married again.

S 14. an awful wet day. did not go down this Mornng. but stayed at home & read. After. Went up & had a prayer meeting, about a dozen present.

M 15 a blustering day. Went up to See W^m Midgley who is ill and was better received than I expected. stayed a few hours, then went up to W.A. & stayed all Night.

T 16. a fine Mornng. but came on an awful afternoon, rain & storm most severe. 2 lives lost at Port Fairy and damage done to some buildings

W 17. School small to day roads awful bad, indeed. writing home letters tonight.

T 18. Writing do. nothing new.

F 19. See that the National Board have got £5000. more to their lot & the Denominational so much less, as it should be, tho it will affect the others. We will perhaps get our 5% now. See also that the New Zealand War has been brought to a conclusion which is a good job indeed

S 20. at home forenoon. up to Mr A's got portrait then to P.O. & got Letters. deaths as usual. Rob^t Cameron & Jas Forrester, both young Men what solemn calls to be wise nothing else particular.

Sabb. 21. down to Church. Mr Abernethy, on 2 Tim 1.9. After. John 6.24. seeking for Jesus.

M 22 up to Teetotal Meeting tonight spoke. not very many present. Mr. A made an allusion to Gow who was rolling drunk the day after the funeral of his child.

T 23 up to township, and at Mr. As nothing. Rutledge has resigned his seat. nothing.

W. 24 up to see W^m Midgley who is making a little better. stayed until about 9.

T 25 up to prayer meeting tonight, very few present at it. like all the rest of the things we have got up here it sinks. it will require a mightier power than mans to raise us out of our lethargy. Mrs Sloan is {not} thought to be in Consumption.

F 26. Thomas up tonight. nothing new Average this month 36.

S 27. "clearing up" this forenoon. Went down to Mr Sloans & got the agreement signed for the house. his wife is not in a good state, apparently in decline, how much of it there is about. up to W. Anderson stayed until about 9. then home home which I wish was shared with some one in love.

Sabb 28. a fine Mornng. Weather seems to have taken up again. down to Church, Mr A. Afternoon Mr A John 16.14. went to Tea.

M 29. a beautiful day again. nothing new. over to Geo. Bruces.

T. 30. up to Township Church nearly done nothing new

Yangery. Wednesday May 1. 1861.

have had heavy rain, Letter from Gilbert last night, his new business has not been a good spec and he fears that he will have to give it up. I hope something better may turn up.

T. 2. an awful wet night up to township

F 3. up to W.A. to see & get a horse but did not succeed.

S 4. walked down to Thomas' got a horse went into Town. only stayed a short time then came out to Mr Davidson's, did not see him, but the girls. then came to Thomas' & stayed there all night. M's Birthday

Sabb 5. walked into Town & heard Mr. Begg on 1 Cor. 1. 4. – 7. a good plain practical Sermon. avoided all abuse & personality and was pretty well pleased with it. Maggie there, walked out with her. then to Thomas' & home after dark. I do not like these Sunday absences at all. not good one way or another.

M 6. nothing fresh. Inspector [sic] down at present, so I may look for him some of these days.

T 7. up to W.A. Sloan's & Midgley's.

W. 8 W^m. Birthday. up at Finance Meeting tonight, am out almost every night now one place or other I much desire to get a wife to keep me at home. I am praying for such a one at present & hope I will get her from the Lord. our Church is to be opened on the last Sabbath of May and to have a Soiree, Communion to be on the Sabbath Previous. I hope we shall have a Time of refreshing from the presence of the most High – Blueet's [sic] Lecture tonight very few indeed there.

Thur. 9. opened wet cleared however

Fr. 10. nothing. Mr Aber. down. Dr Cairns not coming at present, so we must do without him.

Sat 11. a wet day again. up to R Millers then to W.A. R.M. seems to be failing fast. had we only thought, we would be more serious than we are, all things are serious around us but we trifle. very wet Eveng. hope for a good day Tomorrow.

Sabb. 12. down to Church. Mr A. Psalm 51.3, a good practical Sermon. walked up with Mr. A. School then Church Mr. A. Math 22.12. home about 6. a quiet evening.

M 13. an awful wet day. about 3½ started for Allansford & was so fortunate as to get there without a wetting, found a neat Church and had a capital little Soiree. gave them a short address. after it broke up, made up another little one, then had some speeches & a Prayer Meeting. then to Gregorys the Teachers & did not go to bed at all. passed a most agreeable night & mornng. was much humbled when told that in Wangoom they have a Prayer Meeting 3 times a week, some signs of life there. Oh the deadness of our own district, for the quickening power of the Holy Spirit to descend upon us to instil life & refreshing in our midst – but more earnest prayer is needed & should be used both by Minister & Elders.

T 14. Started about 7. & after 2 hours hard riding got to School, got thro the day's duties with little spirit indeed & when School was over, went to Bed at about 5

W 15. rose about 6 refreshed from sleep. Mr Begg's case on to day & he adopted still the old plan of contumacy. has hurt himself, I pity the Man tho he has brought it upon himself altogether. busy at Soiree Tickets.

F [mistake for T] 16. do not feel quite better of my Allansford trip yet, these things dont Suit me altogether.

F 17. Letter from W^m. & F to day. nothing very particular, bad trade with them at present. at Meeting (Fast Eveng) very few. with Mr A. deploring the deadness of Soul in our midst, but there is Such deadness & worldliness in my own Soul, such indifference to holiness. Oh that God would arise & quicken us into Action, impel our Lives to be like his own. Prayer meeting.

S 18. a beautiful day. at home most all day.

Sab. 19 down to Church, Mr A. Math. Math. [sic] 28.6. Come see the place where the Lord lay. a very fine sermon it was. then the Communion, about 47. not many. if we were all worthy. must judge myself not others, I trust the remembrance of it may be precious. Lord let it not tend to my own increased hardness of heart, but may Christ be more & more precious to me. came home and had a quiet Evening. quiet enough they often are but not always profitable

M 20. School better to day. up to meeting of Finance Committee, arranged distribution of Collection, then to Tem. Meeting very few present. spoke for about 10 minutes. am acquiring an ease & fluency in speaking which some time ago I had not.

T 21. up to Township, went to hear Mr. Stephenson, a plain address but not a lively reading speaker. E.M. there, home about 10.

W 22. must begin my speech for Soiree, and try & make a good one writing home Letters also. weather has cleared up again, and hope it will continue until after Soiree.

T. 23. up to W.A. to get a horse for Tomorrow Queen's Birthday, met Jas Watt there who is going home {also} as also is James Davidson. purpose to call there tomorrow

F 24 came on an awful day & contined [sic] till Eveng. high wind and rain, rendering it quite impossible for me to go waited at W.A's all day, perhaps It may be better tomorrow, felt illness coming on.

S. 25 passed a bad night, and am the worse as I always am of staying away from my own. wish most earnestly that I had Some one to be a companion in the form of a wife, if it should please God to send me such. I should be much {Comfortable} more Comfortable, did not go into Town and I had set my heart so much on it – for some wise reason doubtless. am a little Anxious about our Church opening Tomorrow and Soiree on Tuesday but this Eveng has cleared up, and I hope God will favour us with good weather.

Sab. 26. opened a pleasant day. God has granted us our desire. up to Church to our New house, which was pretty well filled and looked well considering all things. I felt pleased & if I dared Say proud I would do it – that such a place has been erected for His Worship & where He may put His Name. may He grant unto us His blessing May His Eye be continually be [sic] upon it & His Heart there perpetually. Mr A. chose for his text these words in 1 Kings 9.3. and gave us a fine Sermon on the subject Collection, then up to dinner feel their Kindness much, then down to Church. Mr A. on Rev. 3.8. Behold I set before thee an open door." a text I gave him, and he gave a good Sermon on it. the attendance was not So large as in the Morng. came home, have got Cold by waiting up at W.A. must stay more in the House these wet days

M 27. a day of storm or rather an Eveng. Mr A. called to day. Mr Lee is unwell again &

THE THIRD DIARY

he (Mr A) is afraid an attack the same as his last is coming upon him. had a large School to day. came on an awful wet night.

T 28 opened a lovely Mornng, and kept up well, and we had a most lovely eveng, up to Soiree and gave a little assistance, had a very large meeting, and abundance of every good thing, was on the look out for Miss Davidsons, but Neither of them were there, gave them 2 speeches, one on liberality, other Thanks to the Ladies, the speaking was pretty good Mr. Baker James Begg, Simpson, W. Anderson. We had Musicians out from Belfast who contributed much to our enjoyment indeed, broke up about 12 & got home about 2½ am.

W. 29. a little tired, have been praised for my speech, the best that was given they say. nothing new.

T. 30. reports about that Mr A. is going to leave us. I hope tis not true. he called to day, asked me what I thought about preparing for the Church, thought I might do good, it seems for me however too great a task. must take it into serious consideration, tis a serious thing to contemplate, tis too great an honour for me I think and also I do not think that I have energy sufficient for to carry me thro, and also I want the Holy Spirit to help and assist me in what I have to do.

Friday 31. nothing new at present. up at W.A. speaking of Mr A's going and various other things. home about 9.

Yangery.

Saturday June 1. 1861

Went into Warrnambool called on Mrs. Thomas, then in, bought a Coat & Some things, then out to M.D. he has gone home in the "Suffolk" Saw "Maggie". then down to Mrs T again, did not stay long. home about ½ 9.

Sab. 2. up to Church. Mr A. Rom 8.23. "The first fruits of the Spirit" & a good sermon it was – telling & urgent {up} agreed only to have one service in the day, during Winter – Afternoon Ser. Mr A., School afterwards, home about 7. looking over those threatening <words> of God's where He says he will not hear the prayers of the Wicked.

M 3. nothing particular.

T 4 up to P.O. and then to Mr A's.

W 5. am about to get my Ground fenced in, nothing

T 6. burning off stubble tonight

F 7. School pretty good during Week. hear & that Miss Dyer has closed, tis apity of her indeed

S 8 my 2 kittens are both dead and I am again alone with the old cat. walked over to Mrs Leishman's, and spent a few hours pleasantly with them. then to Mr. A. home about 9. Rain in Eveng.

Sab 9. up to Church. Mr A on Rom. 5.10. a magnificent Sermon, about the best I have ever heard him preach. Thomas up. had School then went over to Robt Miller's, who appears to me to be drawing near to death. stayed about an hour but did not get much familiar conversation with him owing to strangers being present, down to W^m. Andersons & stayed all night.

M. 10. a Comet in the heavens now in S.W. part. Wet Day and am as usual none the better of being out last night –

T 11. got a look at the Comet this Mornng. in the S.W. part of the sky apparanetly [sic] about Star of 2^d Magnitud<e> with a tail stretching 2° or 3°. across the sky. clearer & brighter than the one we had 3 years ago. hear rumours as to Mr Abernethys leaving hope they are unfounded, but at the same time would not be surprised

W. 12. School very good at present thanks to God for His goodness to me up at Soiree Meeting tonight about £60 has been realized, then up to Mr. A., who still presses upon me the duty of studying for the Minist<r>y but do not feel Sanguine about it, but must think seriously upon the subject. April Mails are in, News rather stirring –

T 13. down at Mrs Sloan's tonight & do not think she is any better whatever, did not get speaking to her on religious subjects. the Weather has again become very stormy indeed.

F 14 up to township, got a Letter from Father. all well no news of importance Northern & Southern States at war Europe all arming at present. no private news –

S 15 a showery day. went down to Dennington in the afternoon. did not go to M.D. home about 8. & found that Brutes had been in my garden again & only this Mornng I had been at pains with it.

S 16. went away to Church as usual & had another powerful Sermon on 1 John 5.16. If

any man &c. if the truths we hear would but produce the effect they should, how much better it would be, taught at School, then went over to R. Miller's, and had Some very interesting conversation with him. he appears to have his Faith & Hope fixed on Jesus felt humbled again, at my own want of Love Faith & Experience of & in things divine. went to W.A. stopped there to Tea and came home & found that my house had been entered & my purse with 35/ in it a Gold Ring my Dear Mother's parting gift had been stolen. at first thought that other £3 had been taken away, but and [sic] went to Bed with this thought, that God had sent it to me on account of my getting to love money too much, was a little vexed about it but resolved to bear it patiently.

M 17 on re examining my Box found the £3 rolled up, in Several pieces of paper which the thief had in his hand, and partially opened, so kindly has God dealt with me in this matter, I do not think it will do him much good. I would have given Something to have relieved him had he been in necessity, but tis unpleasant, such a feeling of insecurity and mistrust is engendered thereby they never seem to have touched any of my clothes tho they were lying about

T 18. sent notice into Warrnambool about theft, & sent also <to> the Examiner – got a draft for £5. for W^m.

W 19 had a Trooper out to day, but have no hopes of the recovery of the stolen property. Thomas up tonight & waited until about 12. a blowy stormy night

T 20. posted Letters to day, up to prayer meeting about 40 present, what a deadness of Soul pervades me. how cold & insensible to heavenly things am I. Lord visit me with Thy Salvation, awaken quicken revive us. home about 9.

F 21. felt very cross & dissatisfied to day in School. can assign no reason for it, but should try & keep such a spirit under. down to Mrs Sloanes [sic] she is not much better and I am afraid never will. got a slight clue to the thief tonight, hope I may succeed in finding him out. {but}

S 22 up to Gillies and got a description of the thief. to W.A & got the Copper Coins. found it was a man who was working there. went into Town & got the man apprehended Searched at police office & found my purse on him, & I think he swallowe<d> the Ring, am glad indeed that he has been found out & traced so consecutively [sic], and that tis no no one [sic] belonging to the district that has done it. have to go in again on Monday. came out early intended to have called at Davidsons but did not. Rev Mr Begg has resigned his charge of Warrnambool and I trust harmony will be restored to that unfortunate church

Sab. 23. up to Church Mr A. on Acts 16.14 last clause. had School then up to M<r> A. & stayed till Eveng down to Service Mr A. Deut. 32 31. a fine Eveng. the attendance pretty good.

M 24. away into Warrnambool to day about this case of theft. Man was committed for trial, went to McLeish visited his School and after staying a short time went out to Maggies stayed there about 2 hours, then came out & went to Temp Meeting. very few there came over with W.A.

T 25 stormy day. had Mr Venables to day for a short time I went to Mr Walkers about Church statement and got it made up

W. 26. had Mr Venables today, who inspected the School. gave one or two suggestions. went up with him to W.A. I stayed until 9.

June 1861

T 27. nothing – have had very stormy Weather this Some time, in Eveng went down to Mr Sloans. read & prayed with them tho I have more need to pray for myself. my state seems to be getting worse & worse, day by day {des} dying to all that is good and no struggling within to overcome it, no earnest seeking for strength from on high to resist it

F 28. nowhere

S 29. went to meet Mr Venables & went over some ground with him that he has bought by the Lake. then got Mr A's horse & went over to Mr Leishmans.

S. 30. a beautiful day. to Church Mr. A. Romans 10.4, a good Sermon we are indeed getting many such just now, came home & spent the afternoon quietly.

Monday July 1, 1861

busy at Rolls. ought to have had a holiday to day, but on a/c of Trial did not give it

T 2 a rough day. up to W.A. with returns, home about 9.

W. 3 a fierce night the last was – rain & Storm, ever since the Comet came on we have had much storm

T 4 nothing – Fridy 5 noth.

S 6. up to Mr Aber. to get the loan of his horse to go into Warrnambool

Sab 7 rode into Warrnambool. roads fearfully bad. was late heard Mr Begg on the 137 Psalm and a fine Sermon he had. {ca} felt very sad & vexed for him, tho he has really brought a good deal of it on himself, out to Thomas' dined & came out about dark to Mr A down to Church Acts 13.46. Ye judge yourselves &c.

M {7} 8. School small to day

T 9 have had most inclement weather these last 2 or 3 weeks

W. 10. into Warrnambool to the trial & the Man was found guilty on the clearest evidence & sentenced to 2 Years on the Roads. the Lawyer himself said twas so clear that it would be impugning their judgement if he were to try to prove him innocent, Sarah gave her evidence very well. left town about 6½ rode out, lost my Silver chain & gold Key at which I am sorry. had called on Mr Begg – did not see "Maggie" as I had not time to call out all right

T. 11. thin School owing to its being Wet, up to Township, at Finance Committees Meeting, shamefully small the Amount {has} is that has been collected. up with him & I presume that unless Something is done speedily, he will leave, and really I could not blame him for it, as he has not been well treated.

F. 12. nothing, at home. down at Sloans.

S 13. had {over} [?] few hours, racing after the horse went into Town offered 10/ as Reward for chain, did not stay long. then went out to "M." and stayed about 2 hours, but did not get any opportunity of speaking to her in private which I should have liked I do indeed like her, and hope yet to get her if {Gods} God so wills it. home about 8.

S 14 up to Church Mr A gone to Warrnambool & Woodford – had only a prayer meeting. up to Mr A. & then stayed all afternoon. came home about 9.

M 15 have had an awful rough night, Wind and rain, and stormy day. School small.

T 16 a pleasant day. up to Township no home Letters. have resolved to set before me, as one object to be earnestly sought for a sense of the pardon of Sin. I feel that matters in this way are not as they should be that to me Christ is not all in all. Lord God Turn me to thyself, grant unto me pardon & a Sense of it, grant unto me sanctification & holiness. up at Mr A. got £5 from Mrs A., which I gave her long ago.

W. 17. a fine day. have got the wood for fencing today and hope to get it finished soon garden made &c. am reading the Still hour a book Aunt Jackson sent me, and am much pleased with it, plain earnest practical and the theory of prayer treated in a regular common sense manner May God the Inspirer of prayer bless it to my Soul.

T 18. how times [sic] flies, week again nearly done, am much concerned about the results of our hon. Stipend getting I fear the worse, and Some take the matter so very

coolly, I hope God may put it into their hearts to be more willing of their means to contribute to our Ministers support I cannot calculate the result, but I must leave it with God after having done our best. down at Prayer Meeting this Eveng. at Mr Bakers very few there how much need of a spirit of life is there to be infused amongst us, how dead we are on way home, Mr. A. spoke to me about accepting office as a Catechist at Wangoom but do not see how I can do it, I cant thats clear – my wants are too many the Spirit of God especially, is wanting and at present I do not see that it would be advisable, others much better qualified both by education, experience & holiness than myself are to be found in the District I wish that I had paid more attention to Education in Youth. it Seems as if I could yet master it now, but the decision is an important one, & I must consider what I ought to do for the future. for the present I must decline this offer,

F 19. up to P.O. & got Letters from Merry Burt F. M. W. all well. W^m blows me up for having promised to Send Money & not doing it, I know that I did not Send it when I should but that I was to get Such a blowing up I did not expect.

S 20. in house all forenoon then went down to Mrs Sloans & stayed a short time with them. then up to W.A. and waited until near 11. arranging about Tomorrows proceedings, I have prayed that these may turn out well.

Sab. 21. up to Ch. Mr A. on Romans, 9.33 had a splendid Sermon, on Christ being such & how. Tis terrible the thought that He who is our Safety & our Surety may become our Destruction – Solemn thought. after Service had a Meeting about Stipend, when twas resolved that all the Lists should be given in next week to See how things would go. went over to R. Millers & found him much worse, and apparently fast wearing away to the Eternal World. Oh that we werer [sic] wise redeeming the Time as the days are evil. how needful to prepare for death. went to W.A. stayed Some time agreed with him to make our present financial difficulty a subject of prayer home about 9.

M 22 have had much wet to day posted home Letters tonight up to Temp Meeting, but none. had a long chat with Skilbeck, who I think is a nice person a religious man. home about 10.

T 23. over at Mr Kells about a boy of theirs who they wanted to place with me, but wanted him to board with me, which of course under present Circumstances is not practicable called at Mrs Shearers & Mrs Abernethys home about 10½.

W 24 have got the fencing of ground finished, which will cost about £9. a nice addition to already large enough rent, at home & must keep more at home than I have done in the past. would like to get a wife – a good one above much else

T 25. Robt Miller died last night I trust he has gone to the Saviour in whom I believe he trusted, May his death to myself prove a blessing in leading me more & more to consider my End, and lead me to redeem the Time as the days are indeed evil. feel rather unwell to night owing to being out in the rain these last few nights, I hope it will prove but transitory, as what should I do if I were ill, and yet I do not feel very anxious about it, God I doubt not would in his Mercy grant some one a spirit to care for me, and yet to be alone is sad & lonely & wearisome, I think I must try & get M – have had no Letters from Gilbert this Some Time and feel a little anxious about him, dreamt the other night that he was dead but hope tis not true. did not go to prayer meeting tonight, not feeling well

F 26. buried poor Robt Miller to day but why poor? I really think tis well with his Spirit, thro our dear Redeemer Oh that I would learn & be wise, redeeming the Time

spending it in Christs Service to His glory & the welfare of Souls. but I have to mourn my deadness of heart indifference if not hatred to God untouched, unsoftened, by the love & feeling {our} of our Lord. Revive thy Work in my heart {o} Lord, grant me thy grace to glorify Thee, grant me full Purpose of heart to return and to honour Thee

S 27. Purposed to have gone into Town to day, but it came on very wet, so that I could not go. spent part of the day gardening, & part making up returns then went down to Mrs Sloan & stayed a short Time with her. felt really very sad & vexed about <her>, evidently drawing near to death. spoke as I could to her about it, that my own Soul found rest & peace with God, thro my Saviour – Times are Serious, much is there to think about, much to cause one to go Mourning all the day. Lord God of Hosts mighty in Strength and in Power Come Visit us with thy Grace & Spirit turn many hearts unto thyself and work thine own Work in many Souls. Thou alone can do it

Sab. 28. my 33^o Birthday, Birthdays are to me usual seasons of regrets & this one is no exception, and has been more than usually so. the Past is any thing but pleasant to survey, with all its Sins & Iniquities, I prayed that to me it might be a birthday indeed, a day in which I might be born again to newness of life, a day that it might be long to be remembered, up to Church Mr. A. Isaiah 57.1, 2. an excellent Sermon, 1st. the fact, the righteous perisheth 2^o. the effect "no man layeth it to heart" 3^o. then benefit, they shall enter into rest on the 2^o head, he was eminently practical & to ourselves, we laid it not to heart, if we repented not, turned from Sin, live a new life. came home after School, & read & thought, how great a change a week brings about, how wise we would be to redeem the time.

M 29. Weather cleared up to day. a good school. feel sad & lonely, a want in Soul which need<s> something to satisfy it, am far from being satisfied with myself.

T 30. came on a wet day, up to P.O. got some Letters, am wondering what has come over Gilbert no word from him these last 2 Months nearly. I hope there is nothing wrong with him,

W 31. another Month done, & still unwise, still dead. went down to Mrs Sloan's, what a mockery it seems to go to others & recommend Jesus when I know Him not myself. how can I wonder at others not receiving Him when I refuse Him, my own condemnation will be deeper, His wrath stronger than against many others. Lord come & visit me with thy quickening & reviving Work.

Thursday August 1. 1861

Weather very changeable & wet. this the Wettest Season that has been known for Years. School very fluctuating but must expect it. am keeping at home at night now & feel indeed that I must do it. have begun Livingstones Travels in Africa.

F 2. Wet Weather, still continues. Should like to go to see M. tomorrow but do not feel quite well, I wish the weather was over else it will do harm to our Farmers generally, as much has still to be done in the matter. have been busy with my Garden this last few days.

S. 3. opened a fine day. stopt at home & sorted garden in forenoon. not feeling quite well. up to W.A. afternoon & got a lot of cuttings, wet in Eveng. did not stay long at W.A. now for about 5 weeks we have had continuous rain & the roads are now fearful, such constant early rain has not been these many Years, and will prove injurious to the Crops & keep things behind very much, which with the low price of Produce, tries this District very much and the doctrine of Protection is being advocated pretty freely, our Country seems to be in a transition state at present. things are very bad just now in all branches of Trade & Industry and many causes of complaint have to be removed. If we would seek more that all our Laws might be founded on Truth & Righteousness in conformity with Gods Commandments, more than with individual interests or human expediency, our Country would be in a happier state. got Mr. Venables agreements signed to day by Walter Stephens.

S 4. up about 6 & have been all mornng thinking, but not on God. how dead am I, how awful my state & condition, so hard hearted & cold, no love to Jesus, hatred of God, no real heartfelt Sorrow for Sin. What is to be done? Return to my Father is my duty, but I want the willingness, though I know the present awful state that I am in. though I have proved the miserableness of my condition, the unsatisfactory nature of all things below, the malevolence of Sin, Yet I want heart & mind to turn from it. to Church. Mr A Job 21.7. Wherefore do the wicked live" an eminently practical Sermon, up to Mr. A.

M 5 nothing, a fine day

T 6 over to Mrs Geo Bruce

W. 7.

T 8

F 9. down at Mrs Sloan.

S 10. went into Warrnambool, did not see Thomas, at McLeish. out to D. and stayed some time. M. not in, but came before I left. I like her much and hope that God will in answer to my prayers grant her to me. this last illness has made me desire to have her strongly. out about 9. Mr. Begg has now left Warrnambool

S 11. up to Church. Mr. A. Psalm 89.15. on Missions. at Mr A. then home. am now feeling better in health than within these last 2 weeks.

M 12. Election Day. went down & voted, hope Ireland will be kept out of this District, weather very changeable again.

T. 13. had a large School to day wish that I could get some assistance. must try & get 'M'. I desire her more & more in many ways. Weather still continues broken with occasional gleams of sunshine

THE THIRD DIARY

W 14. a Letter from John Baker he has got a daughter. John Lee down to night the first time these last 4 or 5 Mo^s.

T 15. up to Mr A. & then to Prayer Meeting only about 11 there. how much need is there of an awakening amongst us. how dead how indifferent we are to all that is good. Archie Blue on Spree again old Fool. Poor Miss McVicar very bad at present with her leg. home about 10.

F 16. up to P.O. got a lot of Letters, F. M. W. Cozs Mag & Bella, Merry Burt. Coz M. to be married on 5 July. not much else new.

S 17. busy writing Letters then went down to Mrs Sloan & up to W. A. did not stay late.

S 18. at Church Mr A. Luke 17.11. the Propriety of joining Woodford has been mooted among some of our folks & really if it could be carried I think would prove advantageous to both Churches, as I do not See how we are to get on alone at Present. home about 3. and spent the evening not well

M 19 a beautiful day, a good School up to Temperance Meeting, a pretty fair attendance at it – home about 11.

T 20. got a lot of papers to day home news rather interesting. up late rea<d>ing them.

W 21. came on a wet day. have had no word from Gilbert nearly 3 Mo^{ss} [sic] now & I feel anxious about him indeed as I cannot account for such conduct. am wishing much that I had a wife.

F [mistake for T] 22. down to Mrs Sloan & stayed some time with her. read & prayed with them, but oh how sadly am I deficient in every Christian Grace myself –

F 23. up tonight to W.A. he is unwell. purposing to go tomorrow to Woodford about our Church affairs

S 24 did not go to Woodford W.A. being unwell. went over to Mrs Leishmans then came to Mr Abernethy's, & stayed there too long. have hardly been out at night this month past.

S 25. up to Church, Mr A. on Zech. 4. 6.7. an excellent discourse. not by might, one thing why with all the Machinery the Church has now adays is it that there is so little being actually accomplished, why that Christs Kingdom is so long of coming. because tho there be might & Power, the Spirit is wanting. & why comes He not. We ask not for Him nor His influence in faith & by Prayer as we ought. how much need have I to ask him for myself. Constrain me o Lord. cause me to feel my Necessity more & more & lead me to ask more in truth & Sincerity & earnestness than I have ever done, how much need to be Wise, how ma<n>y Lessons are being taught us would we only learn. Margt McVicar thought to be dying. Mrs Sloan ill & so also Mrs Chalmers, & old Archie Blue on the fuddle. Sickness prevailing very much around us. might lead us to think, and what deadness pervades my whole being, what indifference what hatred, truly the Carnal mind is more than indifference tis entire Enmity against God & his holy will.

M 26. a very fine day. had a good School to day. wish that the good weather was come in, have not felt well these last few weeks, so much wet weather has prevailed with us.

T 27. up to Township. no news from Gib. called on Mrs Chambers [sic] stayed a short time with her.

W 28. 35 Years today since F & M were married

T 29. down to Mrs Sloans when it came on rain & had to stay all night she does not seem any better.

F 30 an awful wet day. Extensive Gold Fields have been discovered in New Zealand. Great numbers going.

S 31. Went away down to Thomas & stayed there some time. nothing new. into Town only stayed a short time then went up to see M. stayed about 3 hours. did not get an opportunity to Speak privately to her tho I much desired it, but am more & more pleased with her & think she would make a good wife & hope I will still get her. got home about 9½.

Sabbath Sept^r. 1. 1861.

from some cause lay very long in Bed this Morn^g. & hurried of [sic] unprepared to Church. Mr A on Isaiah 55.6–7., the offers & encouragements & the rod, implied of Salvation after School went to Mrs Chalmers who is no better, but rather worse, then went to W.A. who was not at Church had been rather unwell. home about ½ p 9.

M 2. a fine day, up to W.A. with Returns.

T 3. Blueet away into Town to a Sale bought me a Bed & Bedding, & I presume they will be having me married Soon I wish twas So, for I am very dull just now. if tis Gods will that it should be so, I think I would be more cheerful. at Mrs Chalmers. no word from Gilbert now 3 Mo^s. most.

W 4. a beautiful day, nothing new

T 5. down to Mrs Sloans tonight I do not think she is better, am afraid rather worse. home about 8.

F 6 am glad this School Week is over tho if asked why, I should be ill able to give a reason. have felt dull & sad on account of many things, personal & otherwise. my own condition is any thing but satisfactory, and the amount of illness around is quite sufficient, to make one sad. much distress on account of want of work as farmers on a/c of low prices will not employ labour if they can help it many going idle.

S 7. at home to day sorting up house got Bed put up. Gold Discoveries in New Zealand are setting the hearts of many astir, and numbers are leaving this District more especially the Young Men. McAulay over to day & talks of going, tryed to advise him other wise. heard that Mrs Sloan was worse had I heard Sooner I would have gone down. tis sad & painful, to think on one so Young with her course nearly run, her journey nearly done, taken away so soon from Time – Though I have visited her Yet I have been sadly deficient in my duty towards her but how can I speak of things I do not know experimentally, do not feel O Lord make me to desire to know Thee more fully, & Thee my Saviour more lovingly than I have hitherto done

Sab 9. [mistake for 8.] another Sabbath has passed away with its records. up to Church, & the talk is of a union with Woodford. Kirkstall folk ill pleased with it. had an excellent Sermon on philipians [sic] 1.29. after service had a meeting of Session when Mr A. told us of the probability of his leaving in Oct^r a new trial to us, and one which I fear will try us sadly. utter loss it will not bring but calamitous [sic] it must be I do not see how it can be averted I do not see how I could do more than I have done towards supporting the Church but I will much regret his departure from amongst us, as to me he has been kind as a brother, and I pray God to bless him wherever he goes, and guide his steps aright. for ourselves we must just trust Him in whose hands are all our ways to open up some means by which we may be served, tis darkness itself to me. visited Mrs Chalmers, then went to Mr A. to dinner & on coming home went to Mrs Sloans who is no better whatever. as [sic] so ended outdoor excitement and now for the quietness of ones own [?] house & spirit at present there is much to trouble me. Gilbert – sickness around deadness of Soul, & now this

M. 10. [mistake for 9.] to nothing very worthy of notice

S. 14. in fact did not write

Sab. 15. up to Church Mr A Col. 1.22. then School. up to Mr A & dined then home? what a name to no home

M 16. am invited to Skilbecks & Miss Midgleys Marriage on Wednesday & purpose going. up to Temperance Meeting.

T 17. went down to Mrs Sloan's who is no better.

W. 18 gave a holiday to day. went up to Midgleys about 11. and found myself soon. about 12 got the job done. only a small Company, W. & Mrs. Anderson, Holden, Watson, Misses Barrett & Norman, & self being the only ones not of the family. I officiated as Best Man & had charge of Eliza. dined in a Tent & had some toasts & speaking. then went & had some fun on the green with Ladies, & Cricket afterwards, then into house until Tea. Tea in Tent, Young folks had gone before this. afterwards we had some fine fun in house with different games, and spent the Eveng. very pleasantly until about 12 when we broke up. highly delighted home about 1. asked Holden to come & stay with me which he did

T 19. asked Mr Holden over to breakfast & when I went over & told Mrs Blueett, what a storm of bitterness, such as scarcely I would have used to my greatest enemy I have suffered a good deal by her in variing [sic] ways & times thro her disagreeable temper but never so much as now and I am fairly sick tired of her & wish sincerely I was rid of her and had a wife of my own. I never was more thoroughly cut than at the Time. I would not bear her any malice or illwill, but on the contrary wish her well, but at the same Time I feel these things deeply.

F 20. up to Township tonight, into R Skilbecks and had Tea with them & talk for some Time. No one would need to think to keep things quiet here Mrs S. told me of my visits to Ma D., at least of my going somewhere once a fortnight to See a Young Lady. then went to Mr Abernethys & staid about an hour. home about 12.

S 21. went down to Warrnambool. called at Mrs T. then into W. did not stay long. out to D. & spent a few hours most pleasantly there with them, waited until about 9. home about 10½

Sabb 22. up to Township & went to Church with R Skilbeck, escorted Miss Midgley got a short Sermon from Mr Love then dined at S. & waited until about 5. then came home with them.

M 23. nothing particular

T 24 up to P.O. got home Letters. called on Mrs Chalmers who is no better then to Skilbecks & waited until about 9. am tired of this night knocking about. wish that I had some one to make home pleasant or to make a home for me.

W. 25. went over to Geo Bruces.

T 26 down to Mrs Sloanes did not see her as she was unwell. very hot day to day.

F 27. End of Month again. cold to day very. Mr Abernethy gone to Melbourne.

S. 28. busy at Returns. Lee here about July Salary which has gone astray. Thomas up to day went to Mrs Andersons but they not at home. a fine day.

Sab. 29. poor Mrs Chalmers died last night. I did not think it would have been so soon, another call to prepare at Church Mr Stevenson Wesleyan preached on Isaiah 42.3. a good plain Sermon. came home & had a fearful storm of Thunder & hail.

M 30 nothing new. Meeting of patrons tonight about Grant from Board. W.A to write accepting it up to W.A. & had Tea Mr Abernethys going away seems to have set Mrs

THE THIRD DIARY

Anderson against him & W.A. himself is not so warm in his favour as formerly, but I think they are wrong.

Tuesday October 1. 1861.

Went to Mrs Chalmers funeral the last of her. then went up to Church to Finance Com. Meeting. no business of importance done. then to Mrs Abernethys, when it came on very wet & I stayed all night

W 2. have got Cold again. Weather extremely changeable now.

T 3. nothing.

F 4 bad with Cold. am thinking of buying a horse, and am also thinking of getting a wife & all sorts of things. Lee down tonight, asked him how much his boarding cost him & he thinks about 10/- per week & I have this some time been thinking that I have been paying too much, and yet I dont like to ask them to reduce it. must try & hard to get M. soon (DV). am thoroughly miserable now. had a Letter from Mr Venables enclosing £2 Cheque for clearing his ground.

S 5 went into Warrnambool & then came out to see Dear M. & stayed until about 8. spent the time pleasantly, tho not alone, she has been rather unwell but is now better. out about ½ p 9.

Sab. 6. up to Chapel, Mr Witten, preached from a text he did not know where from. then went down to Mr Abernethys, then to Church, when Mr Simpson preached on John 3.3. a very fine Sermon. no word as to Mr A's intentions as yet. I should like much he would stay. in the Eveng. went down to Mrs Sloans, who is no better.

M. 7. nothing at home this Eveng and am purposing to be more so than I have been. have been thinking this some time that Mrs Blueett has been charging me too much money for board, and have been thinking of asking a reduction.

T 8 up to P.O. & at Skilbecks, who knows all about M.D. & my going there. how People do talk.

W. 9. am awful dull in spirits, just now several things combine to produce this. I wish I had a companion indeed most earnestly I do.

T 10. nothing. down to Mrs Sloanes, she is no better, tho not apparently much worse.

F 11. a very rough day, like Mid Winter. Severe Storm. no word from Gilbert yet & I am vexed about it as I do not know what to think of him.

S 12. have not yet summ<oned> courage to ask Mrs B. to reduce board, and think I will wait until next Saturday, when I hope to see "M." up to W. A. who has heard of her also. in Warrnambool home about 9.

Sab 13 up to Church. Mr Gregory of Allansford preached from Isaiah 55. 1. a very good Sermon it was. up to Mrs. Abernethys dined there. home about 5. spent Eveng. quietly. I wish that I had a change of many things of heart state & condition, thoughts of "M" are often present with me, indeed too often and I am afraid that I am setting too much hope of happiness on her, to the exclusion of Jesus.

M 14 nothing particular Mail in. Mr Begg of Warrnambool has left the Church & set up for himself there. no news as to Mr Abernethys intentions, tho I am afraid he will leave. at home.

T 15. up to Township got home Letters no News of much importance at this time. up to Mrs. A. she thinks Mr A will not be back to stay.

THE THIRD DIARY

W. 16. Mr Abernethy has returned and is not going to leave.

T 17. went down to Road Board Election & voted for Conrick & W. Anderson who have both got in. did not get to Prayer Meeting tonight owing to its being late of coming home.

F 18. nothing. had a visit of Mrs. Anderson at my house tonight almost the first Lady who has been at it. wish I had one of my own here tho I fear me I am putting too much hope of happiness on "M" writing home Letters.

S 19 went into Warrnambool. called first at Mrs Thomas then into town. did not wait for a long time, but came out to 'M.' she has been rather unwell with faceache, but is now better. had made up my mind to have had some private talk with her & had it not been for backwardness I might have done so. I must try & overcome this feeling next time. I mean to ask her to be my Wife, and if she consents I hope we will receive of the blessing from above, w [sic] letter has been got from her Father, home about ½ p 9. mean to get a horse next week.

S 20. up to Church Mr A on Exodus 17.6. a good sermon. to Mr A to dinner, came home & went to Mrs Sloanes who is much about her usual way, but I do not think in a way of recovery. the Communion is to be celebrated on {Sabbath} the 3^d Sabbath of November. Serious preparation there ought to be with us all, to make a worthy approach to enjoy the feast that he has provided for our delight & advantage, may it be unto us a Season of reviving & refreshing from the presence of God of quickening & reviving to our Souls. has been a very {wet d} warm day. hot wind

M 21. a very wet Mornng. had very few at School to day. came on an awful Storm in the Afternoon of Wind & Rain have not seen it so bad all Winter. got my house quite flooded & bed wet.

T 22 up to Church meeting tonight then up to Mr A. stayed until 9. at me about getting married.

W. 23. nothing.

T. 24 wish I could screw up courage to speak to Mrs Blueet about reducing price of board, but cant do it.

F 25. nothing. down at Mrs Sloans tonight feel how sadly deficient I am in all good myself.

S 26. went away down to Carls [?] to buy a horse but there was no sale put off. went away round to Thos Leishmans who has been ill, but is better. came home with William Anderson. home about 7.

S 27. up to Church Mr Abernethy 1 Corinthians 2.14 a capital Sermon how true it is. up to Mr A & dined & came home about 5. am doing very unjustly in thought to Mrs B. and feel at times a most unchristian spirit towards her about her charging so high but feel that in part tis my own fault

M 28. up to W.A tonight met Mrs Kell there. nothing particular home about 10.

T 29 up to Koroit, called a<t> McVicars, Margt no better & they have determined on amputating the leg tomorrow. got Saly. & June Return to alter, went with Lee about a horse & brought it home with me, on trial.

W 30 have had very wet weather these last few days which has thinned my School

October 1861

have taken a great dislike to be out at night now. wish I had Dear M.

T 31. nothing new. New Zealand's a duffer, no good. bought a Saddle & bridle &c & purpose to have some equestrian Exercise. down to Mrs Sloanes do not think she is getting better at all, she seems to be reconciled to God's will however, & willing to go. oh how much need have we to give heed to the things which pertain to our Eternal Peace.

Friday November 1. 1861.

opened very wet indeed

S. 2. went away into Warrnambool and called on Mrs Thomas first, then into Mrs McL. had a short talk with her about Dear M. stayed only a short time in town, then out to Mr Davidsons "M" from home feel disappointed, but as it cant be helped, no use fretting, waited until 8. met Mr Begg in town & had a long chat with him. a pleasant day it has been an oases [sic], in the desert wildness & wintering of the week. home about 10. rode the horse I got on trial & she did very well

Sab. 3. up to Church Mr A. Isaiah 57.2. after School went over to McVicar's. Margt got her leg taken off on Wednesday & since then has been improving in health, which is good indeed, straight home and spent the Eveng quietly. I think I could enjoy some social intercourse with one dear to me if I had such.

M 4. got an increase to School to day A Barber called, and tells me of an apparent awakening among dry bones in Kirkstall & that T Leishman is about to establish a Prayer Meeting at his own place. may God grant an abundant measure of His spirit to all who earnestly seek Him. up to W.A & spoke to him about it, and have agreed to try to get up one at his place on Friday, may my own Soul be led to seek for Christ & receiving Him, may I be safe.

T 5 saw in paper the death of Mrs Bonar Poor old woman. called at Skilbecks & did not wait long.

W 6. Thomas up & stayed all night, was speaking to him of Maggie & he thinks I must wait supposing she consents until her father comes home.

T 7. down to Stevens about Mr Venables ground & to Mr Abernethy's.

F 8. had a prayer Meeting up at W.A. about 15 present. hope it will continue & increase & be productive of some good to our Souls & to Gods glory.

S 9. have been getting place sorted up a little. wrote a note to Mrs Somerville today about her mothers death. went away down to Mrs Thomas & stayed there about 1½ hours, then went up to see my Dear M spent a few hours agreeably & went & had a walk in the garden with her, & asked her if she would be something dearer to me than Miss D. I took both her hands in mine almost involuntarily & asked her. she answered that Such a thing required thought & consideration which of course I agreed to . . and the matter was to be considered. she however said that she was afraid that I would be disappointed & that she had not expected such a thing

I have felt it to be a momentous question I have asked Gods blessing upon it, and think that I have acted rightly, and now having done so much, I leave the matter again in His hands. if He grants her to me, it will be well, if not twill be for some wise purpose and I must submit tho it will cost me some pain. in Thy hand I am Lord, undertake thou for me. home about 11.

S. 10 up to Church Mr Abernethy Hosea 1.1.3. [sic] a good Sermon. then walked home & went down to Woodford to hear Mr Anderson, the new Minister of this Chapel who preached from 2 Cor. 13.14 a good gospel Sermon but nothing new or bright. home about 7.

M 11. News has arrived of the melancholy end of the Explorating expedition. Burke Wills & Gray dead King only survivor, & that at the place where succour might reasonably have been expected at Coopers Creek. melancholy end to such an

enterprize. Change of ministry again, Heales having been outvoted by 6. Verily our land is the one for change. down to Mrs Sloanes who I think is wearing away, slowly but surely. I think she is more reconciled to it now than she was, & more better prepared

T. 12. went into Warrnambool this evening to Mr Andersons induction. most melancholy spectacle it was only about 50 present. Mr Simpson preached a good Sermon on Jesus conquering "& to conquer". Mr Abernethy addresse<d> the pastor & people. "Dear M." there overtook her on the road & went out with them & waited about an hour. home about 12½ quit<e> out of keeping these hours are now a days

W. 13. Dr Cairns to preach tomorrow at our place I shall be glad indeed to see the Dr. again

T 14 Dr Cairns has not come owing to some stoppage in the Yarra. Mr Anderson came out & preached & I liked him very well. then up to Mr Abernethys to Tea with him & Mr Dickson & Miss Ritchie. {came} had some fun then a portion at my expence. came home with them & had a rub about "M"

F 15. purposed going to Wangoom when a note came from W.A saying that Mrs A's sister was dangerously ill that he had to go to Belfast & that I would have to go to the prayer meeting. I had no strong desire to go, in fact I had rather a sort of repugnance & was glad to get out of it. up to Meeting. home about 10. Book Club closed got our Books as we purchased them.

S 16. at home, up to Church. Mr Abernethy preached. W. Anderson called away to Portland. Mrs Saunders dying – I went into Warrnambool to hear Dr Cairns and was well pleased with him. "M." not there. got Communion Service out with me. purposed to have had this night in quietness but disappointed

Sab. 17. up to Church. Mr Abernethy preached an excellent Sermon on John 1. 29 "Behold the Lamb of God", then had Communion about 50 partook of it. unworthy tho we are may God's blessing come upon us, & may our sins not be imputed to us, but all washed out thro Jesus. up to Mr Abernethys to Dinner & home about 6.

M 18. went into Belfast to Soiree & wish now I had not went. at least I have been humbled but twas needed much I had went in to make a speech and was not asked: served me well the Meeting passed off pretty well, but dull rode out with Mr Aber. & got home on

T {18} 19. about 2, this kind of work knocks me up. at Committee meeting this afternoon, then to Mr. A. & again down to Temp Lect. by Mr Maston, a very lively person he is. home about 11.

W. {19} 20. up to W.A. Mrs Saunders is dead died peacefully, & hopefully. they have got 2 of the Children stayed until about 10 Thomas up tonight & stayed all night Burke & Wills the Explorers have both died near Coopers Creek after having crossed the Continent, died in the hour of Victory. M. & Eliz. are to be at Thomas' on Saturday, am to go down.

T {20} 21. have only written a few lines for home. have been far too much out at night & should stay in the house. nothing

F 22 up to meeting at W.A small. spoke on prayer, then went over to Post office & got home Letters. nothing of importance in them. Mrs Logan died in New York.

THE THIRD DIARY

S 23. went away into town. did a little business, then out with Thomas & met M. there. we dined & then had a row in the boat & enjoyed it. after tea went home with M. when she told me that she could not accept my proposal – I asked no reason, but merely enquired if there were no hopes of her changing her opinion, she replied she thought she was decided & so I presume ends this affair. I do most sincerely wish her well whoever she may get, as she is deserving of a good husband all that has taken place has been candid & open, on both of our parts, & if I saw fit to offer & she to refuse – I hope twill not injuriously affect either of us. I feel however that at God's hand I have deeply merited this chastisement. I have thought to [sic] much on her & for her gave up the prosecution of a good object & now I have been tried & wounded in a most vulnerable part. I will humble myself before Him on a/c of this & other Sins. I can decide on nothing tonight I felt so sad on my return home, that again I had no prospect of aught but loneliness. may His own spirit fill up this place in my affections & fix them more strongly on Jesus.

S 24 awoke with a sense of want, so strange, but I must try & overcome it. {pray} up to Church. Mr Abernethy, Rev. 2.10. "Be thou faithful unto Death &c" an excellent Sermon it was. up to house & stayed there until Eveng. he having gone to Belfast to preach went down to Church & conducted Service, & thro help got on. home about 9

M 25 had a very large School today & it was a fine day. down at Mrs Sloanes tonight. am thinking of trying for 3 Mo^s. how I will get on with study, if succesful, prosecute it, if I fail, go on as I am. but am not decided as yet.

T 26. up to Teetotal Meeting a Lecturer from Melbourne, who gave us nearly what we got the last night. tied up my horse & the brute broke loose & had to wait at Skilbeck's all night

W. 27 up about 4 & went to look for the horse. did not find her, but the Man brought her to me tho the day had gone to Brains [sic] paddock. went & had a ride. W. Anderson has been unwell, but is a little better. I trust there will be nothing serious. have got Cold myself & pretty severe at present.

T 28. Weather very changeable indeed cold & heat alternately. School pretty good at present Mr Urquhart has come out within this short time. Crops are not looking well generally just now.

F 29 up to meeting tonight very unwell

S 30. went away down to the beach with Blueett, & spent the Afternoon Very pleasantly for a few hours gathering shellfish &c.

Sabbath December 1. 1861.

Up to Church. Mr A, 2 Thes. 2.13. was not able to appreciate it much as I felt very unwell. up to Mr Abernethys to dinner & then went to bed there for some time.

M 2 have had an awful days rain incessant.

T {4} 3. until about daybreak it has been raining & the creek has been flooded & damage has been done to a great extent. unwell

W. 4 up to township tonight, & at Mr A

T 5 very unwell.

F 6. so unwell that I had to give a half holiday came home took some medicine & went to bed & slept until

S 7. about 7. went to see Dr Boyd but did not see him. at Rev Mr A & Will Anderson feel considerable better to day –

S. 21. during this last fortnight have been so very unwell that I could not keep School. Saw Dr Boyd twice & he gave me some medicine but even now I do not feel well so weak. went over to Blueetts to stop & have been there about a week. had home Letters yesterday nothing of importance

S 22 a very wet day. did not go to Church

M 23. Mr Abernethy went away last Tuesday to Castlemaine, for a few weeks evangelical Work. busy at Returns to day. had a call from Johnston & Thomas. am keeping better

T 24 very severe weather we have just now, raining & cold. {W. 25} went down to Mrs Sloanes who is getting worse since last I saw her there is a great change. then went up to Midgleys & stayed there for a while spent the time pleasantly enough

W 25 Christmas day. am still keeping a little better tho not quite well. at home after dinner up to Mrs. Abernethys, did not stay long weather still changeable Margt. McVicar worse, palpitation of the heart.

T 26. went down to Thomas, & stayed a few hours. he is going to Melbourne

F 27. up to Koroit. no Nov^r Saly yet. Lee I lent money too [sic] & so also Thomas but neither of them seem in a hurry to pay it back, with which I am not very well satisfied indeed

S 28. up to W.A. not at home then home quiet day.

Sab 29. have had a most disagreeable affair with Mr Begg. Mr Gregory was to have preached but at Mrs. Abernethys request asked Mr Begg, which the Session did not approve of, & W.A went & told him not to come a disagreeable duty had a Meeting I opened, WA. read a Sermon & A.B. closed. did not stay to School but came home & Mrs B disagreeable went down to Mrs Sloanes.

M 30. up to P.O. then over to Mrs Leishmans, home early

T 31. home to my own house again wish humbly & sincerely I had Someone to share it, as I do pity myself in this loneliness, but what can I do up to P.O. got Saly. Lee instead of giving Saly. to me as promised has given it to Norman. so am I served, tis too bad. went down to Mrs Sloane's, no better

So the Year draws to a close & 1861. flies into {Eternal} the Eternal Past, how many

different feelings it ought to bring to our recollection

Wednesday January 1. 1862.

opened a dull morning, a New Year entered upon a new era in our existence. What am I to do in this Year if God spares me in life, what object am I to set before me, I have formed no resolutions & set before me no plans for the time to come weak & vacillating as usual. am I to be Satan's still or am I to be Christ's up to Church, and had a prayer meeting delivered a short address which indeed I should take much to myself. after meeting went over to Mr Leishman's & had dinner did not stay late.

T 2. nothing.

F 3. into Belfast & saw Dr Boyd who gave me some medicine. heard that Lee in leaving Warrnambool, had fell overboard but had been rescued.

S 4 last day of holidays set about writing up rolls &c. when Mr Humffray from Belfast called. stayed some time then I went to Mrs Sloane's & got my Trousers torn by the way.

S 5. Mr Stephenson of Belfast preached [?] on the Holy Spirit a very good Sermon. Mr Aber. not to be home for another week, tis too bad considering present circumstances & times to be away so long, & tho he does return I do not anticipate that he will be staying.

M 6. opened School to day. had looked for only a few but there were 23, gave them about 4 hours.

T 7. nothing

W 8. at Prayer Meeting tonight a very good attendance meeting dull people seem to be taking more interest in these things than previously.

T 9 nothing

F 10 up to W. Anderson to meeting had a pretty good meeting, spoke at some length on, the Son of God who loved me & gave himself for me".

S 11. went into Belfast for medicine, and am feeling better in health & spirits. I wish God would grant me a wife. I think it would so materially add to my Comfort & happiness out about 6.

Sab 12 up to Wesleyan Chapel. Mr Witten. then to Lees, who told me his misadventures. he had a narrow escape & {had some} had had some grog & which if we cannot charge it with being the cause perhaps contributed to it to Church, Mr Simpson who gave us an excellent Sermon on Math 16.3. last clause. came home

M. 13. had a few more to day. they are coming in quickly this Season am still keeping better. up to Church to Prayer Meeting, got many to take part in it from Kirkstall where there seems to be a good work going on, gave them a short address with which however I was not at all satisfied home about 11. Mrs Skilbeck has been unwell having had a miscarriage.

T 14 an awful day of heat & hot wind most trying, cooled toward evening.

W. 15. Mr Abernethy home to day had no long chat with him.

T 16 up to Koroit. got home Letters, nothing stirring particularly. at Mr A. home about 8

F 17. had a call from John Barber today wanted <me> to go to Kirkstall tomorrow to help them with School papers up at Meeting tonight about 25 present W.A led. Oh

that God would bless us with the reviving spirit of His Grace, making us more & more earnest about the things of His Kingdom & our own Souls.

S 18. went over to John Barbers, was surprised to see such a population about, stayed some time sorting & giving information. called at Alex, then at Mrs [?] Leishmans & home about 8.

S 19. up to Church attendance small. 1 Kings 18.21. how long & an excellent Sermon, if we would do something else than admire. home & up to W.A. about 30 present. spoke from Luke 15.2. This man receiveth Sinners" Lord revive thy work in my own Soul for I am dead. grant me life & peace from Thee. I do not feel that I am Christ's, I do not feel His spirit dwelling within me, but I am still an alien & a stranger to Him. Lord make me discontented with Satans Service & long to be delivered from it. on coming home heard of the death of Mrs. Aitcheson, but could not believe it.

M 20. tis true & how sudden it has been thrown from the machine, or rather jumped out the wheel ran over her breaking 2 of her ribs & injuring her internally, poor woman [sic] & she died Yesterday Morng, how is it with her Soul, where has it gone, solemn thought for all we know not the day of our death

T. 21. went down to Mrs. Atchesons [sic] funeral a very large one it was. while there W.A brought a Letter from the Board about our Salaries cancelling agreements & stating next thing to a reduction of Salary. I must submit to it if it comes down at Mrs Sloanes.

W. 22. home in the Eveng. gardening

T 23. Mrs. Thompson died last night of a fit, without warning how sudden when we think not of him the Son of Man comes. Thomas up tonight about the money he owes me, wants it another Month. granted it.

F 24. another {week} school week closed, & I feel how little good I have done, I feel as if living objectless, passing Time but doing no good. Oh that God would visit me & give me life from the dead, Power & strength to battle against indwelling Sin the flesh with its lusts for it is my besetting Sin, tis strong and powerful, too much indeed for me. up to W.A. gone into Belfast with the funeral. home about 9. am not going out much at night and would go less I think if I had anyone to keep company with at home. Lee down to day. he also has not paid me the money he owes me.

S. 25. up early, went into Warrnambool. a very warm day, indeed. strange versen [sic] of Mr Lee's mishap, coloured & exaggerated I doubt not, drink fighting &c. out about 7.

{S} Sab 26. rode up to Church. Prayer Meet^s for special blessing upon Services of day. Mr A. on 2 Cor. 5. 11. a capital Sermon on the terror of the Lord at School, then home & then up to W.A & had a large meeting. W.A did very well. waited to Tea. home about 10.

M. 27. unwell to day have got cold with new hat. home in Eveng.

T 28 not much better to day. up to Church meeting tonight, about Stipend. Mr A not going away & I trust some good will be done in our midst

W. 29. a little better to day. down to Mrs Sloanes, who is thinner & worse than before, she seems to be resting her hope on Christ as her Saviour & giving up hopes of restoration to health. it would be well for us all to be so waiting on Him. spoke to Mrs B. about reducing price of Board & she was willing to do so. I think I have much erred &

January 1862

wronged her in thought and must for the future be otherwise minded.

T {20} 30. up to Township, then to Mr Abernethys where I stopped & had Tea & a pleasant chat

F 31. nothing of note. writing up a speech for tomorrow.

Saturday February 1. 1862.

Up early & got ready to go to Town to Meeting. rode in. about 22 Present. after a Palaver, several Motions were agreed too [sic] & a Petition to the Legislature adopted about reduction of Salaries, and a public Meeting {was} is to be held in Warrnambool on Wedn^y. week. out with W.A. by Cassidys. home about 6.

Sab 2. up to Meeting this Morn^g. not very many. Church Mr. A. Eccles 5.1. a most practical Sermon on hearing Gods Word, I felt it apply strongly to myself. dined with Mr. A. then went over to service at W.A. where he Mr A. preached on "O Ye of little faith why didst thou doubt." home about 7½.

M 3. had a large School today. up to Township & at Skilbecks until about 9.

T 4 went up to W.A. & we went over to Thos Leishmans to prayer meeting which was a pleasant one so many took part in it. I trust good may be done thro there [sic] instrumentality. did not get home until about 12½ on

W. 5. at home this Eveng. Thomas up tonight he has heard about my affair with M.D. but I made him none the wiser. stayed all night

T 6. at home, studying a little on Math for Sab Eveng

F 7. weather cool just now. harvest nearly over He has crowned the Year with His goodness & all His paths have dropped fatness down upon us. Oh that Men would praise the Lord for His goodness shown unto us. Mr Aber. & self went down to Mrs Sloan's. stayed a short time, he spoke to the old Man plainly about his neglect of duty. he is a strange old Man, Sloan, knows so much & feels so little. home afterwards.

S 8. at home all forenoon, writing up for tomorrow night, on "Watch" Mat. 25.14. had a ride in afternoon. up to W.A & then over to Mr A's.

Sab. 9. up to meeting a goodly attendance feel how weak we are of ourselves to do any good. God's own Holy spirit can do it, He alone can soften & subdue, implant & increase in us every good thing. a goodly number engage in these meetings, which is cheering indeed. Mr A preached on Lamentations 3.24 a good Sermon. up to dinner then over to W.A. had meeting about 30 present. I trust they may do good.

M 10. nothing particular. up to Mr A tells me of the interesting state of Mrs Laidlaw. God is surely visiting us in this District. Oh that He would pour out upon me of His own Spirit that I might be led to the embracing of Jesus as my own.

T 11. nothing. at home this Eveng. except that I went down to Mrs Sloane's, who seems to be getting weaker & weaker

W. 12. went into Town this Afternoon, & to Education Meeting at night, a very good thing on the whole. Mr Begg there to raise a row. I only spoke a few words in answer to Mr Begg. came out with Lee W. Ander. Mr A. home about 12½

T 13. had a touch of bowel Complaint during night passed of [sic]. up to Township, got a Letter from Gilbert in which he tells me that he has been ill for some time & wants to come here. I shall ask him to come & perhaps by Gods blessing he may recruit if nothing should tum up, he can stay with me I feel very uneasy & sad about it. at Mrs Laidlaws. stayed for a short time with her, then down to Mr. A & then went to Prayer Meeting not large but I hope it will be profitable.

F 14 wrote Gilbert to day asking him to come down here for some time I hope it will

do him good. Lee down tonight. nothing

S. 15. out to day getting signatures to Petition about Salaries. got a goodly number considering all things. went to Midgley's and spent the Eveng. saw Eliza. they {were} are more kindly now then [sic] formerly. home about 10.

Sab 16. up to prayer meeting, then Church. Mr. A. John 5.40. up to dinner then over to W.A. who conducted the meeting.

M 17. writing home Letters. went out to get petition signed, and got several RC's to do so, and they promised to send some of their Children to School next wk. I do not particularly desire them.

T 18 writing home Letters. mail not in yet long behind time now –

W 19 nothing. poor Mrs Sloan very bad failing much this some time finished Letters tonight did not tell Mother about Gilbert's illness but told W^m.

T 20 no word as to what our Salaries are to be for the future nor word of Jany. Saly. Harvest now generally over. R Midgley down tonight

F 21. busy at address for Sabbath.

S 22. at home all forenoon then up to Township. home about 8.

Sab 23. up to Meeting very few present. at opening Service Mr Abernethy Jeremiah 17.12.13. [sic] a very fine Sermon. Mr A. asked me if I had heard of a call to Eaglehawk, which I had, and he told me that he did not know of it. over at W. A. spoke to him & he told me that Mr Urquhart had been out about a union with Belfast. had Service there I gave the address from Rom. 14.10 and did it middly

M 24. a large School to day. up to Township. at Mr. A. who has got some private notice about a call but none officially. had a chat with him about it and he will go I think and really I cannot blame him for so doing & however much I may regret it I cannot blame him. home about 10.

T 25 down to Mrs Sloane's tonight. she seems to be getting worse daily. she expresses her willingness to go if it is God's will. Thomas up tonight but would not stay. has sold his Wheat for 4/ per bushel.

W. 26. up to W.A. and had a talk about things & Church matters. must wait their development

T 27. no word of mail yet, but intelligence has come of death of Prince Albert, and of threatened War with America, on account of the Yankees having boarded the Mail Steamer & taken out of her 2 Southern Commis*s*ioners. truly they are a bouncing set. up to Township & to Mr A. no news further

F 28. got lots of papers from Board but no money £202. 5/6 the amount of last years money Mrs Geo Bruce got a son this Mornng. am weary for the mail but suppose we must patiently wait for it.

Saturday March 1. 1862.

Went into Warrnambool to day. met Thomas nothing particular. out to Thomas. Mrs. T. complaining of his not using her well. I am indeed very sorry to hear of it as twas not what I had hoped for, but on the first occasion of his stopping with me at night I feared there was something wrong. he has not that free way which would satisfy her. I trust however it will be better with them. tis sad & vexing in the highest degree. Mrs. T told me that M.D. had been expecting James Mann but things have assumed another phase.

Sab. 2 up to meeting a few more present this Mornng. Mr A. on {2 Cor.} Philip 3.20.21. [sic] a very excellent Sermon. how few there are who really have their conversation in heaven, how close to the Earth do we cleave, how little elevation above times things are [sic] there with one. at Mr. A. then rode over to W.A & had a most practical Sermon from Mr Aber. on 2 Cor 6.1. waited for Tea.

M 3 nothing. a large School. wish I had some assistance in it, as it is much needed. up to township. No Saly this year as yet.

T 4 very hot & sultry to day it has been. have had no rain this long time. at present there is much trouble about more particularly among Young Children. had a rather sharp thunderstorm this eveng.

W. 5. nothing particular

T 6 News from America there is to be no War. the Southern Commissioners have been given up & Britain is satisfied. up to Mr A he has heard of the call, and meeting to be next week. Thomas up tonight.

F 7. up to W.A. about National Education Meet^g on Monday, making preparations. nothing. have had rain these 2 days past which will do good.

S 8. came on rain & kept me in house all forenoon. P.M. went out & had a ride. called at Mr. A. did not stay long.

Sab. 9. up to meeting, a larger attendance this Mornng. Mr A. preached on Psalm {130.4.} 130.3&4. at School, only Miss Pollock & Self there. up to Mr A. then to W.A. to meeting, home about 9 hot to day, cold at night. felt tired & fatigued

M 10. feel unwell to day. Severe headache & have a large School which does not help to mend it. up to Koroit to Educational Meetg. a miserable affair it was, only about 2 doz present. home about 10. took some medicine

T 11. feel the better of my medicine, but still not quite right yet. nothing. down to see Mrs Sloane and had some talk with her, but I feel that I cannot speak experimentally of religious matters, & feel that I am a hypocrite in the sight of God, fair external, but full inside of rottenness.

W. 12. nothing

T. 13. over at Mr A. tonight meeting of Session. made up Communion Roll & had a talk over various matters

F 14 Mail in. no words [sic] of last Months so that we may have to fear her loss

S 15 Making preparation for Tomorrow. p.m. went down to Mrs Sloanes, then up to W.A.

S 16. up to Meeting. a very coarse Mornng & had a smallish attendance. Mr A preached

on Isaiah 50.10. up to dinner. Miss Pollock there a nice person, would like to know her more particularly. over to W.A. & addressed them on flee from Wrath to come Math 3. a deeply solemn subject. stayed to Tea. then into Belfast to communion

M 17. St Patrick's day, went up to P.O & got home Letters, all well but times bad. over to Mrs Leishmans, stayed some time, then to Mr. Abernethys met Miss P. there. down to Corroboree at Koroit poor thing did not wait long.

T 18 School not so large owing to prevalence of blight amongst Children, a great deal of sickness there has been this some time in the District see by the Papers that in Committee only Salaries for half year have been granted in order to force Government to do something. up to Mr Begg's Lecture on Education at McLaws, a good one it was but not on the part which system is the best. Thomas stayed all night

W. 19. writing home Letters. Mr Venables done [sic] in this Quarter. will have him soon.

T 20. into Warrnambool this Eveng. Saw Thomas & Owen & McLeish, both of the latter grumbling. Salys for the whole Year have been voted, but I expect a reduction – however there's no use fretting

F 21. Lee down to night. R Midgley & Wm. going to England & I had expected to have had something to have sent with them, but have been disappointed no Salary have I got this Year yet. Wheat still very low, and little prospects of a rise – tis a trying time for many farmers about at present. Mr A is going to leave us, I feel certain now, but who can blame him

S 22. at home writing all forenoon. then went over to Mr A. did not stay long. up to see Miss McVicar who has been very unwell and is not expected to get better, then went to Snobs for Boots, then over to W.A's. home about 10.

Sab 23. up to Meeting, very few there. Mr A preached on Math. 24.13. "He that endureth unto" &c. on perseverance. after school went over with Miss Pollock to Miss McVicar's to see her. she seemed a little easier than on the last occasion. talked with her a little but she is not very communicative to me but Mr. A. thinks that there is a great change in her within this some time – walked a short way with Miss P. & am pleased with her. over to W.A's. meetings there are getting small. it must be our own fault in not being earnest enough about the matter, in not being more prayerful than we are

M 24. up to Koroit. at Miss McV. about the same way. to Mr A. Meeting of presby at Portland on Wednesday. has got the call & he will I doubt not accept it – to Mrs. A.

T 25. what next. Blueett is talking of going home. down to Mrs. Sloanes but did not see her.

W. 26. Mr Venables called today. up to Ross prayer meeting & heard the {first} 2^d Gaelic Service since I came to the Country. how it put me in mind of Duke St

T 27. don't feel quite strong at present. am {going} purposing going on Saturday to Kirkstall, & see Miss P. I think I will try if she will have me. School has decreased within these last 2 weeks, at potatoes & ailing.

F 28 up to W.A to hear about this Presbytery business – they (the presby) seem impressed & resolved with the necessity of a union of some kind being accomplished with Belfast. I do not see how it is to be carried out, however time will reveal. we must

THE THIRD DIARY

just with patience wait for it. down about 10

S 29. went away to get someone to dig potatoes did not succeed. then went over to Kirkstall & made up returns. then went to see Miss P. & stayed a short time.

Sab 30. more sad news. Mr Jas Davidson died at Sea on the voyage out. I am deeply grieved on account of the family, they seem to have had many trials since he went away. May the God of all consolation & grace grant them strength to bear up under their trials & afflictions. Mr. Thomas came up & told me Mr Anderson from Warr. preached on 2 Timothy 1.12. an excellent Sermon it was. dined at Mr A. then went to W.A. small meeting & a very indifferent address on 1 John 3.1 by myself Mrs. A unwell. home about 9. saw Miss McVicar very weak.

M 31. nothing expecting Mr Venables but did not come would like to call & see Davidsons, but have a feeling of delicacy about it. writing up returns.

Tuesday April 1 1862.

up to Koroit tonight at meeting of Finance Committee, to raise some stipend beginning of week. up to Mr A. then over to Thos Leishman to meeting with Mr A home about 11

W 2. Mr Venables with me today. inspected School, pretty fair.

T 3 up to Presby meeting but twas over. Mr A has given up his Charge. I hope that he will succeed in his new sphere and that his labours may be abundantly blessed for the good of Souls & the glory of God – up to Mr A to dinner, presby there. with W.A home about 10. getting £150 Bill renewed.

F. 4. in School. wet weather & School small spoke to Mr Ven. about a Work Mistress.

S 5. went down to Thomas' then went into town stayed a short time with McLeish then went out to Davidsons. found them all deeply grieved at the sad occurrence [sic]. stayed about 2 hour<s> with them. home about 9.

Sab. 6 up to Meeting, good rather. Mr A. preached his farewell Sermon, took for his text Col. 4.2. an excellent Sermon on prayer it was – on its perseverance & watchfulness. Referred but briefly to his own ministry & what had been done during it, what had been accomplished &c. & feelingly bade us farewell. heard of the death of Margt McVicar & tho I was prepared for it I felt surprised. Must take blame to myself for not having been more frequent in my Visits to her. I have been verily guilty in this respect & so also to Mrs Sloane. up to Mr A. with Miss P. had a bite of dinner then went to the funeral which was a pretty large one. she has gone to God & her Saviour I trust. What loud calls to a sleeping World is [sic] there at present to awake awake and call upon our God it may be that He will repent & leave a blessing behind Him. up to W.A. & had a good Sermon on 1 Cor 10.31. a plain practical Sermon, the last we may ever hear from him. I am much grieved at his going away, but I trust it will prove for his good, for Gods glory, when he goes, & also for our benefit. "We may not have his like again" for some time at least. the prospect of a Minister seems dark & lowering – but light may arise out of darkness & gladness to {the} us out of sadness –

M 7. have a touch of sore throat. down to Mrs Sloanes tonight who is very poorly indeed & seems to be near her end. oh that we were wise redeeming the time –

T 8. {Over} annoyed about Stephens & Mr Venables potatoes. he refuses to let them be carted through his ground. over to Mr A did not see him he having gone to Leishmans. no word of Salary yet (this year).

W. 9. down to Mrs Sloanes, very poorly.

T 10. made myself miserable tonight over some fancied wrongs & kept myself so for some time which was wrong very wrong. over at Mr A. but had no private conversation with him. he goes tomorrow

F. 11. Mr Abernethy gone to day. felt like parting from a brother, our intimacy has been so frank & cordial & brotherly. he has been to me a most kind generous friend, one who thro life I trust I will love & respect & esteem. he has proved himself to be in all relations of life here a man, a Minister. what more need I say May God bless & guide him in his new sphere of labour & grant that he may be long spared to do much good.

S. 12. went up to Spring Creek to see about their Soiree, had never been up there before, not much variety, place nicely situated. got cold & head ache. when [sic] down to Mrs. Abernethy's. home about 6.

THE THIRD DIARY

Sab 13. up to Church. I opened & gave a short address W. And. read a Sermon. what a blank there seemed the absence of him who ministers, but if we seek we shall receive grace in proportion to our wants. had a talk with H.P. then came over to W.A

M 14. School small to day. some of the children have got scarlet fever, which is deterring others from coming – up to Township and had a meeting about the clause allowing public houses to open on Sunday.

T 15. nothing. came on wet this Eveng, a {rgular} regular storm.

W. 16. wet day few at school. in house all Eveng

T 17 Do up to Church for prayer meeting but only 2 there & had none. came home with W.A

F 18 Good Friday and as a holiday I keep it up to Spring Creek to a Soiree in connection with the Presby. School, which passed off pretty well W.A came home with them back about 1. Soireés [sic] very nice things but such journeys to them are exceedingly tiresome. spoke on "Hard Times"

S 19. tired today. away about some Money, & must look a little smarter after it as I fear I shall lose some this season as so many are making a smash of it. over to township & to Mrs. Abernethy, she well back about 7.

Sab. 20. at home in the forenoon then up to Mrs. A & then to School with HP. had Mr Anderson out to day, who gave us a good Sermon on the Time is short. then to W.A very few there. home about 9.

M 21. writing home Letters went into Town in the afternoon, intended to have called at Davidsons but was too late. got Jany & Feby Saly to day nothing new.

T 22. down at HV. ground nothing

W. 23 went over to Kirkstall & saw H. Alex B. speaks of her as a good woman, & spoke highly of her. I think I will try & get her. home about 12. Johnston of Belfast trying to get the School there.

T 24 down at Mrs Sloans. getting weaker & weaker he was complaining of not frequent enough visitation

F 25 nothing, weather fine again. W. Rutledge has become insolvent, £100.000. a great smash & will bring down many, I fear but will ultimately do good to the District.

S 26. went to Thomas' & he gave me £7 out of £15 which is too bad after keeping it 5 Mo^s. he needs it I daresay. into town, saw Mr Andersen [sic], McLeish &c intended to have called at Davidsons, but stayed too long in town. out about 7.

Sab 27. up to Church read one of Cairds Sermons on Regeneration. then went down to Mrs Sloanes to see her. she is very weak and seems to be wearing away, but she expresses herself confidently as to her happiness thro Jesus. tis well for her to have such an assurance, wish I had it, but I am getting terribly hard hearted and indifferent to all that is good & holy & loving. up to W.A to meeting, rather better attended.

M 28 have been in a bad state of mind to day hardening myself against God almost felt that I was doing wrong to pray. am terribly unsettled just now & cant account for it but owing to an absence of love to God, Sin has got a great power over me which I cant shake off & indeed there is a want of desire to do so. I am before God an arrant hypocrite, with a name to live but am dead. up to Mrs A home abt 10

April 1862

T. 29. about the same way. down to Mrs Sloanes, very poorly. I am bereft of feeling altogether & cant even speak one word of comfort. I am become awfully worldly, awfully impure. the Evil One has a great power over me & there is not that in me to resist him.

W. 30. nothing down to Mrs Sloanes just about the same way. I am but a poor comforter to a dying person away far from Christ myself. how can I speak of His Love to others. I am ashamed of myself these few days past. I am so bad so hateful of God & of His Christ. that hypocrisy can be carried any length I do believe judging by myself, tis most awful.

Thursday May 1. 1862.

don't feel well . . in body. and am far from being happy. at home this eveng.

F 2. see by the papers that we are to have another reduction of 5%. now 10%. I suppose we must submit when all things else are coming down tho my expenses are heavy too, and I feel certain that were I married as far as eating & drinking goes I could be as cheap & much more comfortable. am bent on trying HP. and hope I may get her. writing tonight on Isaiah 61–1.3. [sic] a beautiful subject.

S 3. at home forenoon. went to Warrnambool to Sale of Mr Beggs books but did not get the ones I wanted. home about 8. nothing

Sab. 4 an awful wet mornng., wind & rain in plenty. up to Church about a dozen present only but as many as could be expected up to Mrs. A at W.A. {on} self on Isaiah 61.1.2.

M 5 unwell to day sore throat & cold. another awful wet day, few at School. up to Koroit to hear Temperance Lecturer. most fierce & foul the night was

T 6. wish I had a wife. a little better to day, School small however. Letter from Mr Abernethy.

W. 7 went over to Mrs. Abernethys & found that she had had a son Yesterday about ½ p 4. she & it are doing well. a big fine boy it is. Cold still hanging about me

T 8. Brother W^m. 32^d birth day. We are tu<r>ning old I wonder what has come over Gilbert whether he lives or is dead. I am very uneasy about him at times, and do not know what to think. do not feel much better, must keep more at home in the evengs now that the wet weather has set in as that I do not well like. am likely to lose several large a/c this Season. I should not have given such long credit to many as I have done, but I must not fret – if I sought more & first the Kingdom of God & His righteousness it would be better for me, but He knows how little I do so & how much loss I suffer from this negligence.

F 9. better today. R Urquhart called today about a reunion [sic] with Belfast, and seemed very anxious that such a thing should be consumated [sic], and really as things are now I see no other course open for us. to have another Minister & starve him I do not wish to see.

S. 10. up to W.A. then went over to Kirkstall to HP. saw her & spent a short time pleasantly with her. would have asked her to day, if I had had time or rather opportunity. home about 9.

Sab. 11. up to Church, read one of Cairds Sermons, on Self Ignorance. brought before the Congregation the matter as to what course was to be adopted, to decide next Sabbath. with dear H. and tho twas scarcely a proper day asked her to be my Wife. the upturned face, the stretched out hand, the raised lips, gave me answer without words. I embraced her & kissed her & was her accepted. I bless God for it for I think she will make me a good Wife. May He bless us with his own Spirit so that we may at all times glorify His Name. it will be too much to expect life without troubles or trials, or failings on either side but if we have His love & fear reigning & ruling in our hearts, we may be fellow heirs of the grace of life

M 12. up to P.O. then to Mrs. A. who is keeping well. Mr A. is afraid that he will not be able to get down. I hope he may for several reasons.

T 13. down to Mrs Sloanes tonight. she is very poorly.

W. 14 over this afternoon to see dear Esse, and had a walk with her. did not fix any time for it depends if Mr. A comes down. tis no use trying to keep it Secret. tis out already.

T 15. told Mrs Blueett today of it, and she seemed in no way pleased tho she did not say much

F 16. told W.A. today. he was surprised at HP.

S 17. up to McVicar's & had an interesting talk with him on religious matters. there seems to be a great change in his mind, since his daughters death. then to Mrs. As who is better. then went over to dear Esse & had a long chat with her, & made different arrangements with her – told the old folks who expressed themselves as agreeable and gave her a high character for being a good daughter so I trust she will make a good wife. stayed late nearly 12 when I got home

Sabb 18. up to Church, conducted the first part W.A the 2^d. then the matter of Minister was brought up, when it was decided to keep separate from Belfast. with E. for a short time, then up to W.A. & gave a poor address

M 19. Blueett & She seems [sic] to be displeased or at least to be thinking I had no right to do such a thing as I propose, but I dont care a straw, they may or not. up to post Letter from Mr Abernethy, Mr Venables & S McPhail – up to Mrs. A. not very well.

T 20. nothing – down to see Mrs. Sloan tonight very poorly. expresses her hope & trust in her Redeemer entirely.

W. 21. Alex Barber called to day. he is going to leave us & go to Bendigo. nothing but changes. at Mrs. Sloane's worse. a very wet night. am wearying for Esse coming. nothing, but that no fees are coming in

T 22. nothing. went over to Essie, & had a short time quietly with her, made arrangements with her about sundry things, wish it was over. twould be better for all. home about 12.

F 23. down to Mrs Sloane's tonight, still getting worse weaker & weaker. home Letters today, all well. am seriously advised to get married, wish that I was so & that dear E. was home.

S 24 went into Warrnambool, bought a few things & got 3 rings to choose from. Saw Mr Anderson who again offered to marry me for nothing. At Thomas'. both of them seem to be down in spirits nothing else interesting

Sab 25. up to Church Essie not there conducted Service. to Mrs. A dined there. then went down to Mrs Sloanes who was very bad, so bad indeed that I did not think she would get thro the night

M 26. Mrs Sloanes, a little easier. anxious about Essie to Mrs. Abernethy & on the road over, the horse fell & I too, but by God's good Providence I was but slightly injured. Mrs A told me of E. illness & went away over, in pouring rain & storm. found her rather better & spent a few hours most pleasantly with her. the future not in grey, but in life like colours we drew it stayed all night

T 27. home early. letter from Mr A. he is coming down so I must get ready, but fears not to celebrate the communion. letter from Mr Venables.

W. 28. nothing. down to HV's ground. then up to Mrs Abernethys, stayed a good

THE THIRD DIARY

while, home about 10.

T 29 nothing up to Ross & met McLure from Wangoom. had a very good meeting.
Thomas up tonight

F 30 another wet day, few at School began to paper & line the house, making ready for dear E. wish it was over, as it keeps my mind excitable & anxious and may God grant unto us of his best blessings & may it prove to us a source of purest joy & happiness

S 31. went over to Kirkstall & stayed until pretty late with E. wet dark night. how I wish that I had her home & it over.

Sabbath June 1.1. [sic] 1862

A telegram from Mr Abernethy, that he will be down next Sabbath. a wet day. Saw E. over to W.A. at night.

M 2. nothing. into Warrnambool to see Mr Anderson about preaching.

T. 3. over to Mrs A. tonight. Mr A to be down tomorrow.

W 4. Mr A down glad to see him. over to Kirkstall & had a pleasant happy Eveng. with E. waited so long that it was ½ p. 3. on

T 5. before I got home. over to Church. Mr A preached on "I am crucified with Christ" – a good Sermon it was. I almost {rgret} regret the two events coming on together, as the mind clings to [sic] much to sense & sight not to faith, or Him whose death we are to celebrate. several new Members at this time. May God grant unto us all & to myself particularly preparedness of heart to sit down at his Table

F 6. down at Mrs Sloanes, a great change upon her & evidently drawing near to death. Oh that he would learn us lessons solemn & telling as to what we ought to be, that he would show us Christ in His fulness & all sufficiency, as my own Saviour & Redeemer.

S 7. busy today at house, am sure to be behind after all. up to Church Mr A on Syrophenican [sic] woman. then to W.A. spoke to Mrs. A about things for marriage, she is going to assist Essie not out today. Tomorrow is Communion Sabbath and I am very unfit & unprepared for it, tis always with me a season of such.

Sab. 8 Communion Sabbath. Mr Abernethy officiat<e>d & preache<d> a good sermon on "Tho he was rich yet for our sakes he became poor" an improvement in his style of preaching. did not feel prepared in heart for Such a solemn meeting, mind too frequently on my own enjoyments with earthly objects, and did not rise high enough above them Dear E there & for once I felt that there was Someone dear to me there. up to Mr A's to dinner for the last time. called at Patersons a man who has been long ill

M 9. nothing particular. {T 10. Mrs Sloane died} over at Kirkstall to dear E. for the last time until she is my own. spent a few hours pleasantly inde<e>d with her.

T 10. Mrs Sloane died this Eveng after her long illness I think for her it will be no loss but great gain up to Mrs. Andersons to see about things

W 11. gave half holiday & no School until Monday. up to Mr A.'s Sale & bought some things, & had some conversation with him. home about 5 & set to [sic] tidy & line the house. Essies things came over yesterday, & all things are now drawing to a consummation. I wish twas over. working with Blueet till 12 lining house, &c.

Thursday, 12. a most serious day – at least events of a Serious kind. got up & made ready, & went away up to Church about 11. neither much elated, nor depressed. had to wait about half an hour, when Rev Mr. Abernet<h>y came with my own Dear Essie, & got her made mine mine for ever, weal or woe, health or sickness all circumstances & conditions, twas solemn. Mr A did not say much to either of us. he seemed pleased however with it, & seemed also much affected at it. Ceremony concluded, we bade him farewell & came home. a few friends only were with us W. Anderson & Mrs. A. Robt & Mrs. Pollock Blueet & Mrs B. & our 2 selves. spent the Eveng very quietly & pleasantly. John Lee came down also. Most of the company waited until about 10½ & we were left alone, & then sat with E. some time & then to bed, about 12.

F 13. late of rising, not doing much today.

THE THIRD DIARY

S14 went into Warrnambool to day. did not stay long. Mr Abernethy Sailed yesterday. I wish him all success & may every blessing attend him.

S 15 up to Church with my dear little Wife & got Kirked with her, congratulated we were on all hands whether sincere or not is another matter. both stayed to School. home & then up to W.A. to meeting.

M 16. resumed duties again today

T 17. nothing

W 18. am enjoying the comforts of a home now, & am much more comfortable than I was. how much cause have I to be grateful to God for His goodness & kindness towards me, in at last providing me with a wife. all our ways are in His hands. He will do to us what Seemeth to Him good, if we will only trust in Him and commit ourselves to His care

T 19 nothing

F 20. do

S. 21. went away over to Kirkstall. came on Wet & got Cold. nothing new there. home about dark to E

Sabb. 22. up to Church. Mr Sutherland preached, on {I am not} "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of Christ". a good sermon it was and felt pleased with him. home with E, then went up to W.A to Meeting. home about 7.

M {22} 23. Cold rather worse.

T {23} 24. do.

W. {24} 25 " " better, tho not all right yet, but trust I shall soon.

T {25} 26. a very wet day. nothing strange. School rather small at present. W.A has written to the Board as to Essie being appointed Work Mistress & monitress. do not know how it may go.

{W {26} 27. nothing}

F 27 Nothing

S 28 "

S 29. To Church & then to School. home just in time to save a wetting & very wet Night it w<a>s

M 30 nothing.

Tuesday July 1. 1862.

had no holiday. Meeting of Finance Committee none.

W 2 nothing all Mr Venables Trees dead. have written to him about them. Geo Bruce & wife here tonight

T 3. Nothing.

F 4. am keeping at home now, much more pleasant than formerly, with Essie, and feel comfortable far than previously

S 5. digging at garden all forenoon then up to Koroit. called at Post, at Mrs Geo Anderson who is ill with diptheria [sic] then at Patersons who is dead Conference at Belfast of presby. as to union with Belfast. no good. Mr Simpson leaving for Horsham.

Sab. 6. up to Church. Mr Sutherland Song of Solomon 3.11. a very good Sermon. at School then visited with dear E Andersons & Patersons. do not think Sabbath visitation even of Sick profitable as there are generally so many persons present. not up to W.A.

M 7. Essie down at School to day. Education Bill has passed establishing but one system, which I hope will prove beneficial. R Urquhart gave the deeds of the ground to day, and now I presume we will get some alteration made.

T 8. {over} School larger to day. went over to Geo Bruce & spent the Eveng. pleasantly. did not feel well

W. 9. a pleasant day, and feel rather better. we have had very changeable weather which has caused colds to be prevalent. Blueet has been unwell these last few days.

T 10. nothing new. Weather very stormy & wet.

F 11 still stormy. Board has approved of Essie as Work mistress & monitress. up to Township. nothing new.

S 12 Month today, Since we were married. went into Warrnambool. nothing new there called at McLeish & at Thomas home about 6.

Sab. 13. Mr Anderson out today & gave us a very fine Sermon, & then brought the matter of a union with Belfast before the Congregation, when a Committee were appointed to confer with the Belfast people & to learn what terms they proposed as a basis of union. Mrs Geo Anderson very ill Scarletina, brought on labour & Mortificn. set in. died about 2 pm. had called to see her twice, but had not spoken to her. how ready ought we to be to take every opportunity of doing our duty.

M. 14. Mrs. Anderson buried to day. Essie down to School to day all day. She has not been well this past week with cold &c Mrs Anderson buried to day.

T 15. nothing up to Township, some home papers.

W. 16. {g} nothing particular

T 17. are having very rough Weather.

F 18. writing home Letters tonight.

S 19 garden<in>g this forenoon dear Essie not better. up to Post, got Letters from Merry Burt F M. W. no news of importance. Cousin Maggie had a Son on 27th. April.

{S} Sab 20. a very wet Mornng. up to Church. I opened & W.A read. old way again. E. not out.

THE THIRD DIARY

M 21. a fine day. School large. Essie good help. in the Eveng. came on Such a storm of Hail Rain Thunder & Wind as I have not seen this long time & continued during the whole night.

T 22 Roads terribly bad at present. have never seen them worse. School small to day & no wonder at all. up to Post got a Letter from Gilbert the first these 6 M^{os}. past. has been ill obliged to give up his place.

W. {21.} 23. Weather has been terribly bad these last

T {22} 24 few days and School has been very small

F {23.} 25. such incessant rain.

S 26. went into Belfast to Church Committee meeting, but no good resulted from it. a Committee to be appointed to talk with ours. Anderson Warrnambool to blame. Simpson leaving for Horsham. came on a very wet Eveng. out about 8.

Sab 27. a fine Morn^g. & walked up to Church with dear E. who has been rather unwell but is now better. got home wish we had a Minister of some kind or another. came on a dreadful wet Eveng. up to Andersons no one else save themselves.

M 28 my 34th Birthday, and a stormy one it is. {had a letter} and am not wiser tho older.

T 29. a fine day. nothing.

W 30. nothing

T 31 a fine day. Month over again. Common School Bill comes into operation end of next Month but have not heard anything as to arrangements. I hope the School will be got enlarged before that time, as it needs it now

Friday August. 1. 1862 — Opened a fierce Stormy day. a great quantity of rain has fallen this season. nothing.

S 2. at home in the forenoon. went up to W.A. & stayed a short time with them.

Sab 3. up to Church. Letter from Belfast Com requesting an interview. to write asking information as to course adopted. to School then home & up to Andersons.

M 4 a fine day. School {lage} large. Essie a great assistance [sic], & hope when School is enlarged that we will get on better. E. *2*

T 5 a wet day. Weather very severe indeed, these last 2 Mo^s.

W 6. up to Township. roads horrible.

T 7. wet again. nothing. little boy of James drowned in creek — fell into it

F 8. W.A

S 9. Roads horribly bad. went into Warrnambool not quite so well to day. at Mrs McLeishs, nothing our Blueett has sold his place and leaves next week out soon.

Sab. 10. walked up to Church with E, at School then up to W.A's. not many there.

M 11. Blueett has sold his place & goes out this week.

T 12. meeting of Patrons tonight. Mooney been complaining of my dilatoriness. new Tenders to be called for for School. R Pollock & wife over

W. 13 Weather still keeping bad Blueett moving

T 14 nothing

F 15. very wet day, horrible. nothing

to

Sat 30. Nothing particular during M^o. School to be enlarged. am getting on quietly & happily with my dear Wife, with much to be grateful for to God for all his goodness. Church still without a Minister — & no immed<i>ate prospects of getting one. Weather dried up about end of Month School very large.

Sab. 31. at Church. Belfast have left it to us to choose a Minister which we cant do until we pay Mr Abernethy

THE THIRD DIARY

Monday September 1. 1862.

Essie & self went into Warrnambool, got loan of Mrs. Andersons horse. got Portraits taken at Mrs McLeishs. then out to Thomas, stayed a short time. home about 8 all right E. better of ride.

T 2. at home. up to Church Meeting tonight R Pollock came across with horse

W. 3 went over to Kirkstall, with dear Essie & got thoroughly drenched & got thoroughly ill stayed at Robt. till

F 5. & was well & kindly treated tho I felt that I must have been a trouble to them. did not get to any of the Meetings. came home still unwell and so terminated our trip

S 6. down to Venables ground. nothing part.

Sab 7. up to Church not able to take part in Meeting. came home & stayed all day

M 8 School Alterations not completed, so have another week of which I am glad as it will enable me to recruit before next week what I have lost. has been a very severe cold day.

T 9. Mail in, Southerners defeated Northerners 12,000 Prisoners & 3 Mos. Stores. wonder when this horrid work is to cease such horrid carnage & butchery. up to township.

W. 10 went into Warrnambool feeling rather better than previously. New Land Bill comes into operation to day. large discoveries of gold in New Zealand, another rush.

Saturday November 1. 1862

My Diary has been lying unwritten from [sic] till now. during that time I have been but enjoying rather middling health which has caused dear E some sorrow – but I trust by care & Gods blessing that I will get over it – have had word from home as to my Marriage and they do not seem pleased at it especially Mother. I should like that they had been satisfied, for their dislike has cost me pain, but I think nay feel sure that I have acted well for the furtherance of my own happiness – have been annoyed at the conduct of Blueetts people, who have adopted every thing by speaking they could do evil, but they will find that it will recoil on their own heads. how malicious I could not conceive that hearts would have done it, but they seem fit for anything. tis not ill to find a motive for their so doing the loss of my Money, which now I am convinced was far too much has enraged them and they have adopted this means to injure myself & a person they never knew. in Church Matters we have been going on in our usual way WA & self officiating but now we have the prospects of a Minister if we only raise money to satisfy Mr. A's Claim. I trust that he will prove as good & useful a Minister of Christ as did his predecessor Belfast also promises to work amicably with us and I trust we will get on. Our School flourishes and is large 75. average last Month dear E. a great help to me in it, but do not know how I am to get on when she Leaves she is keeping remarkably well in health & we get on most happily together. Things are very dull in this District still, and I fear will so continue unless prices rise which I hope they will do, before long. We have no Word from the New Board as yet but from what I hear there will be Changes.

S 2. Mr Robertson preached and was pretty well taken by the folks. I hope we may get him.

M 3 to S 8 Nothing very particular have got Mr A's Money raised & sent off & {that that} now that difficulty is out of the way I hope some steps may be taken to get one of our own speedily amongst us. School still keeping la<r>ge and giving us both enough to do into Warrnambool.

S 29. nothing very Particular occuring [sic] at the present time

Monday. December 1. 1862

last Months average 84 would like to have some more assistance

T 2 nothing

W 3

T 4 away with Mrs. Anderson to Wangoom to Presbyterian Church Soiree a very succesful Meeting a nice road to it never there before left about 11 home about

F 5 at 2. my dear Essie is keeping very well & getting stouter Robt & Wife here today.

S 6. at home this forenoon writing

to W. 31. have been having our holidays went into Warrnambool with Essie & Christmas Day over to Kirkstall, the rest of them wandering about, here & there. nothing of great importance Mr Abernethy ill with Colonial fever. Mr & Mrs Leishman, & RP. & Mrs P.

THE THIRD DIARY

Thursday January 1. 1863.

Must begin again & keep my Diary the more punctual than I have been up to Andersons & Ross, old Ross being very ill with inflammation [sic] – invited to go to Wesleyan Soiree at Kirkstall but did not go, as I do not see any necessity for a Church there came home & spent the evening quietly

F 2. at home Mr & Mrs McLeish out up to Lake with them. at home all Evening. holidays now at a Close for another season.

S 3. over to Mr Robertsons. a very hot day, indeed. then to township & home. am reading the Eclipse of Faith". Average for Quarter, 80.

Saturday February 28. 1863.

There have been many subjects on which I ought to have written but have neglected to do so. dear E. these two last nights has been very ill, with pains. went away in for Dr Singleton & came out, and now she is in labour. it has come on sooner than we expected, & before its time hope that she will get through in safety. I felt anxious about her these 2 nights back no one being with us. got Mrs Miller – Essie very bad no prospects of delivery – up all night her cries are most {a} heart rending but God is wonderfully supporting her Sarah came over & stayed

Sabbath March 1. 1863.

not in bed at all – no appearance of relieve [sic] for my dear E. Singleton says it must be taken away. went in to Dr. Breton who came out & took away the child in pieces. it was most severe on her, but she is now mending – the child has been dead some days, & had swollen very much – which was the reason why it would not come away. Poor thing it has returned to Him who sent it and is now one of the little ones before the Throne. for its own sake I regret it not for better far it is in his hands than with us. how deeply grateful to Him who is the giver of every good gift ought we to be for His unparralled [sic], unmerited mercies. He gave E strength else she never could have come through it & me strength also to stand it as I have done Glory & praise to His name. We must give ourselves more & more to Him who thus has crowned us with loving kindnesses & tender mercies. so our hopes in that way have been destroyed but tis one more tie to bind us to the better land, to Jesus & the ransomed around the throne. twas a little girl.

Monday March 2. Essie keeping favorably better. went & got a Coffin for the little darling down to School for about an hour, & then let them out had no heart to teach. up home & about 4 went down to the Cemetery & buried the remains of our first born. I feel it deeply. did not think that I would have felt it so much I had been looking forward to it with so much pleasure as a source of happiness & joy, when {it} God saw meet to take it to Himself. blessed be His Name, that our trial may be sanctified to us & that we may more & more be his in soul body & spirit. Essies sister Sarah here with us of which I am truly glad – Mrs Blueett called to day, at which I am perfectly amazed. what a change of mind – perhaps it has been so.

Tuesday, 3. Dear E. still keeping better & I hope is now recovering, but she has had a very severe shake.

W. 4 Essie still keeping well, and yet I do not feel thankful enough to God the giver & restorer of her to me. my heart is so cold & so dead to all gratitude & all good. Lord do thou enliven warm & quicken me into life & make me thro thy spirit to give myself up more & more to Thee Sarah went away to day, & Rebecca came across as well as Rob^{ts}. Wife, they are kind in so doing & God has so ruled it in His providence, that they should be here at this time. He has mingled Mercy with His Chastisements & Mercy has been above all. Oh that I would praise Him for His goodness & mercy. when thinking on my Child I feel its loss more than I thought I would but why should we regret it. it has gone before us. We must go to it but it can't come to us.

T. {4} 5 Essie still keeping better. Alex Barber called tonight. am keeping well myself. Nothing particular now. trust that E. will soon be better.

F {5.} 6 E. not quite so well this Eveng. had a Letter from Mr Venables. he says that there is no Rules of the Board framed yet, and that the proposed Rules are not likely to be adopted I do not feel deeply grateful enough to God for His goodness to me in preser<v>ing my dear E.

S 7. Went into Warrnambool & did some little business did not stay long however as I was anxious to get out again – this recent sad affair seems to have drawn us closer to each other & if possible making us love each other more. this has been a memorable {nigh} week to me and I may well here raise a stone of remembrance as truly the Lord hath helped us. He has redeemed our eyes from tears & preserved her in the land of the living Bless the Lord O my Soul for His kindness and goodness toward you in the land

of the living.

Sab 8 up to Church and had a good Sermon from Mr R. and like him better than I have done this some time and I hope he will continue to study & improve as tis much needed. dear Essie up to day for a short time. home all evening, what a contrast to last Sabbath.

M 9. rather a large school to day Rebecca down. had a Letter from Mr. Abernet<h>y today about Eaglehawk School, and as to applying for it. have consulted Essie & she thinks it better to stop at present where we are, until Educational Matters are arranged have got a touch of cold again & breathlessness that I might be kept in mind of my own weakness and insufficiency [sic] –

T 10 have a change in weather today. Wet & stormy. it will do good to the grass I hope New Zealand & Queensland are at present all the rage & Victoria seems at present only amongst the middlings we are passing thro a Crisis in our history either for good or bad, I trust the former the things at present are very trying indeed. Essie has been up a good part of Today and is keeping remarkably well. if only we were thankful enough & humble enough towards Him who gives us all Mercies.

W. 11. nothing particular. dear E. still keeping better, and I hope she will be all right soon again. have been much at home these Evengs.

T. 12. Nine Months married to day, & what occurrences during that time. how rapid it has been & how frequent they. E still keeping better got again nestling in beside her last night. went this Eng to Geo Bruces. home about dark.

F 13 am not so well this past few days got wet last Saturday in town

S 14 at home all day it being very wet up to township in Eveng. Essie still keeping well.

Sab 15 in house forenoon wet day up to Church and got a very poor Sermon dont know what to make of Mr Robertson he is poverty stricken in his faculties for Sermon making.

M 16 a wet day. up to Church meeting tonight and are to have a Soiree. Very wet late.

T 17. St Patricks day, holiday. at home all day it being wet. nothing of note.

W 18. a terrible wet day. only 6 at School, and yet this should be taken in, verily we have a lot of asses to manage our School affairs.

Saturday May 23. 1863

By fits & starts is now done that which was formerly a regular duty. have little now to write save of our minister, who is turning out a complete shicer, no good he preaches such poor Sermons & giv<es> so little satisfaction, every one now a days complaining of him – and he has gone away up the Country to get Money for a manse, without making any provision for Tower Hill. trying to get the debt of [sic] the Church at present, in which I hope they will succeed. Self & Essie both well for about a Month I was unwell but am now better. dear E. quite strong again have had no word of Gilbert these last 6 Mo^s. & do not know what to think of him. Inspector down at present – and seems to be intended to bring in the Scheme of rebates. will see how it will do if spared. down to Kirkstall to day to see the old folks. gave them our portraits at which they seemed pleased. home about 7.

Sabb. 24. up to Church. Mr R home had a pretty plain Sermon on prayer. he has got about £100. for Manse & I think {I} we must now gone [sic] on with it. did not speak to him, as if he did not like to tell me or the Session of his going away I did not choose to give him a welcome which I did not feel

M 25. Wet still School small owing to the rains. War has broken out again in New Zealand. up to W.A. tonight No News at all

T 26 Geo Jackson gone to India Don McCaulay [sic] late of Bridgend [sic] School committed Suicide in New Zealand lately. Queens Birthday did not give a holiday but wish that I had done so.

W 27. Weather rather better, & so also School. Mr Robertson called & told him that I thought he had not done right in going without telling the Session he made an excuse that he had not seen any of us that afternoon which may have been the reason. came up to house & stayed for a few hours. Mr Venables in district just now.

T 28. a fine day for the Season. nothing new.

Friday June {6.} 5. 1863.

no word from Brother Gilbert these last 6 or 7 Mo^s. and am anxious about him, tis far too bad to treat us in the way he is doing if he is alive. have had another attack of illness which has been rather sharp but am now better. how many Mercies does He confer upon me ungrateful selfish as I am, wonderful is his long suffering & tender mercy toward me. am not at all satisfied with the new regulations of the Board anent Wet days, but I presume we must submit

S. 6 a very wet night. went into W-Bool Mr Venables paid me balance of a/c called on him to day – debate on Edu/ Vote adjourned until Tuesday, wish it was settled some how or other. see Ministers have been defeated in 2 places one for upper other for lower house Smith & Bear. did not wait long in town. out about 5. & spent part of Eveng reading. nothing particular besides. wrote Gilbert today. have been getting in a lot of fees this Month or two past as the Potato crop has been very good this season in this District, which is a pleasant thing as if it had not many would have been ruined

S 7 rode up to Church, Essie not going. plea a cold, reality thinking me not well enough it would have made me walk, but the reality was not the case. Mr R. had not a very bright Sermon. home about 3. & stayed at home all eveng. We often complain that we have no time to do what things we have to do but were we to use aright what we have we could do much more. nothing Particular

M 8. A wet day & a small School at least rather so, but there's no use complaining as things must be some how best to take all things quietly. up to Session Meeting this Afternoon and expecte<d> to have had a rather disagreeable one but it passed of [sic] pleasantly enough & were Mr R & his Session to have more intercourse, we both would be materialy [sic] benefitted. A Barber resigned his office of Elder which was accepted then went with WA to collect stipend home about 9.

T 9. Rules & Regulations to be made known to night to the House, we must wait however impatiently until promulgated. at Session last night it was resolved to have meetings once a fortnight at Spring Creek to be conducted by W.A & self, which I hope will prove beneficial both to ourselves & them

W. 10. had a good school to day. Essie began Arithmetic lest the Inspector should be for having an Examination. up to Township hea<r>d of 2 parties leaving it & are desirin<g> to sell their Ground.

T 11. not so well today, with old complaint. what a weariness School is when one is unwell. had a ride this afternoon, of which I always feel the better. expected Chancellor [sic] over tonight but he did not come. Mr Venables I think would be willing to sell his ground. how frail & weak we are and myself especially up & down ...
Twelve Months since my last Bachelor days. this eveng. was trying to sort my Brass Clock & spoiled it.

F 12. the first Anniversary of our marriage 12 Mo^s. ago. how short yet how long. how much of incident has been in it what changes! & how much cause have we for gratitude to Him who rules all events for His goodness & mercy towards us. must see & give ourselves more & more to Him. met Conrick to day who told me that he had been told yesterday that I had been getting the Children to write the Commandments of our Church & it seems twas Rules for the Schoolroom in Youngs Infant School Man(which I had given. how easy to trump up a story, & that of a malicious kind. I think must have been Murphy. will have to get a meeting of Patrons to set the thing right. had a Letter

from Gilbert tonight he is still poorly but wants to come down here if he can get a situation. nothing else New.

S 13. at home all morning, working in garden, the change from School is so pleasant & the relaxation so agreeable to us toiling mewed up customers Am taking Morrisons pills a prescript<i>on of McLeish to try & do me good. took a ride up to WA did not see him as they had gone to Spring Creek. old man got his foot Scalded. home early. Paid H Pollock the balance of his money. am reading Recreations of a Country Parson just now. pleasant kind of reading but nothing very striking or sensational.

Sab 14. up to Church with Essie Mr R preached. came home & spent the Eveng quietly. not very well

M 15. a good school. called a meeting for Tomorrow Eveng. up to Post. no word of new Rules yet.

T 16. better today a fine day. Dean Slattery called, & looked over the Catholic Children then charged me with burning Catholic Catechism. how the plot thickens, how lies once circulated gather force & quantity constantly augmenting till they become a mountain. a meeting of Patrons tonight. came out that Kate Mooney was the first to tell the story. another meeting called for Friday tis most annoying – after trying to avoid as much as possible, all offence giving to find such things brought up. they are a deep set these papists after all, but tis one of the Blisters of Humanity, Malignity & evil. there is no saying what may come out as they will stick at nothing to gain an object. a trial perhaps to {take} teach me a little humility. it may do good.

W 17. a fine day. nothing new. a meeting called for Friday. I hope all will come forward to make any charges they have to bring forward. saw Bruce & Walker. they see in it an attempt of the Catholics to get the ascendancy in the matter but to this they will not submit. English Mail in. Confederates stars still in the ascendant, which [sic] it was more so & get the job finished – Wars & bloodshed done away with, & also Slavery eradicated how long this is to continue no one knows, but tis sad indeed to see it so.

T 18 up to post. got 1 paper. probability of War with England & America – but hope it wont turn out so, as t'will [sic] be awful bad. only writing to Fathers people at this time

F 19. had a meeting of Patrons again this Eveng. when they examined several of the Catholic children as to the alleged writing of Commandments – & they expressed themselves satisfied that no such thing had been done. I am glad it is past as it was annoying while it lasted – WA came over & stayed a little & we had some amusement with the Microscope, which is a wonderful thing since I know now a little the way to use it I should have mentioned that no one came to the meeting tho some of them had been asked to do so, Murphy amongst the number.

Sat 20 went into Belfast today to see Hutchison before he left, but found that they had altered their minds. out about 9. Rev Mr R. not getting on so well in Belfast as expected, and some disagreement about the Manse has been the result or rather the cause. went to the beach & gathered some sea weed.

Sab 21. up to Church with E Mr R his Sermons are a little better, but still there is a barrenness & leanness about them that is very bad. at School then home Mrs Sprod is very unwell & is not expected to recover.

M 22 School large today. Hennessys 2 Children away owing I presume to the stories

that have been raised. up to Church meeting tonight. have got all the money to pay my Bill, which is to be done & the Church is now clear of debt. late of getting home

T 23. had the Inspector to day, & Class did not get on well at all. tis most annoying try all I can & yet they humbug a fellow & fail. The OShannessy [sic] Ministry have resigned, wonder how this will affect us. Alex Barber here to day & wanted the loan of £80 pounds proffering as security the rents of his Farm & D. Russell of Belfast. I would just as soon {as} if he had not asked it but cannot refuse him & so promised it to him. had a ride this afternoon.

W 24 a very wet day & School small got the amount of £150 with 25/ interest from Tower Hill Church in payment of the Bill due me, of which I am very glad as now the Church is free from Debt.

T 25 a fine day after the rain. a good School. gave Alex Barber the money he wanted. up to Koroit Mr Lee is very unwell got cold very severe while out in the rain last night. heard tonight of the sudden death of Mrs May of Spring Creek of Inflamaton [sic] of the womb after having given birth to a Child. was very much struck with it so sudden so awful, & felt it the more when thinking on my own dear E. & her circumstances. all the Young Wives [sic] in this quarter seem to have been peculiarly tried at this time. I feel how ungrateful I am to the Great Disposer of all events for His goodness towards us in sparing her to me, for it might have been as here have had no Letters this mail from home for which I cannot account got Cousin Maggies Carte de Visite" a clear frosty night, which does not agree very well with me & feel rather unwell

F 26 not so well today had Mr Venables today who finished inspecting the School Chancellor had been so foolish as to get on the spree John Lee unwell had intended to have got Mr. A's horse & gone to Kirkstall tomorrow but Eveng came on wet & did not go.

S 27 rather better this Mornng went over to Mrs Leishmans. saw Mrs Sprod who is poorly, indeed, but who also seems to be seriously inclined about her Salvation. {head} heard of Mrs May & her Mental condition, she seems to have been willing to depart & be with Christ which is far better. Oh that we would lay this solemn lesson seriously to heart & redeem the time, making our calling & election sure now in times of health & strength. Saw Mr Robertson home about 7. from this date to

Friday July 10. have been very unwell and tho at School not quite fit for it. have great assistance & comfort in dear E. have got a change of Ministry with McCulloch at its head perhaps they may prove more the Teachers friends than the last one has done busy writing tonight Minutes of Meetings of session Finan^{ce} Committee which have been lying over for some time. gave A Barber the £80 he asked for.

S 11. went into W'Bool nothing particular no rules published yet, and dont know when Mr Venables has got them but they are yet confidential & he did not tell me {off} of them. out by dark. I dont like to be out at night now at all. 2 Vessels have been wrecked in W'Bool through the last Mondays storm, which was terrific & fierce, the most violent that I have seen since I came down here. am feeling better today. took in W^m. Andersons & Alex. Barbers Bill to the Bank

S 12 up to Church. Mrs. Sprod died this Morng after a lengthened illness. had a very good Sermon from Mr Robertson, after that went up to Woolsthorpe & conducted Service there only a few persons present, did not keep them long. must try if I can get up something of my own for them. at leaving it came on to rain & poured all the way down, & I got partially wet, home about 6½

M 13. not so well today. the wet last night & —— has done it. I hope it may not prove lasting felt awful bad in mind – angry at myself up to post

T 14 rather better. Weather is getting very rough, and stormy.

W 15. rather better today. writing home Letters just now

T 16. came on a terribly wet afternoon, Wind & rain very strong reading Friends in Council road very bad.

F 17. writing home Letters. up to P.O. & got Letters from F. Merry Burt, Rev Mr Abernethy & Gilbert, who promises to come down next week & I will be glad to see him – well I hope Mr A advises me about Mr Robertson.

S 18. a fine day amongst the bad. gardening a bit to day. Thomas came up. went down to Venables ground with him then to Koroit & home dont feel quite well. I am a weak mortal truly the least thing does me harm. they are about to try & get up a General school in WBool in order to meet {a} the demand for a better Education

Saturday December {6.} 5. 1863. Since last entry nearly 5 Mo^s. have gone & during 3 or 4 of these I have been very unwell. God has dealt kindly & mercifully [sic] with me notwithstanding my unworthiness & neglect of Him. Brother Gilbert has been in this Quarter about 3 Mo^s. of which I am glad. my darling Essie has been all along in the enjoyment of good health – & now again I must try & write daily my doings. poking about the garden to day for about 4 hours PM. went up to W^m. Anderson's who while I was there had a fine young horse died. he has met with a great many trials this some time back in the [sic] Sarah Fish has went loss of money & of horses. then went over to Koroit & home about 6½. we have had very changeable weather this season & tho now Dec^r we have cold & rain like August or July. Gilbert in Bridgeend School this 2 Mo^s. without Salary

Sab. {7.} 6. nothing in forenoon. walked up to Church with dear E. the second time these last 3 or 4 Mo^s. to School. Mr Robertson preached but really tis not worthy the name of Sermon. oh for the good days of Mr Abernethy. tis sad indeed to hear such given in the name of Sermon it is not food for a weeks support at any rate. had a meeting of Session after

M {8.} 7. got Sept Salary. probability of changes next year in Saly. &c. but I suppose we must be content. Thomas up tonight, up to Lees. Letter from Mrs Abernethy, also from John Baker.

T {9} 8 nothing new. School good. over to Gilberts tonight, he also has a good attendance

W 9. a very fine day, amongst the first we have had this season. had a good School Eveng up to W.A. did not stay long anoth {?}

T. 10. have had heavy rain during night which will do good to late Crops. had a smallish school to day owing to rain up to Koroit. dont feel so well tonight, probably brought on by the change. Will have to give up going to Spring Creek owing to a prohibition of the Board.

F 11. nothing particular. glad when Week's Work is done. felt Wearied a little went & had aride [sic] then home

S 12 went into W'Bool, to bank. Wanted to get some interest for money & must try & find some investment for it. Bank will only give 4%. had a number of calls. out to Thomas, then home about 7. we are likely to have trouble about our Govt Grant for the manse, as the assembly have refused to grant it Us this Year, which will delay us considerably so much for Ministers influence the more we know of many of them the more thoroughly is their hypocrisy apparent the little clean spirit they display, shows that they have not the root of the matter within them.

Sab. 13 this has been a sore day with rain & storm, & cold like June weather altogether. got up to Church without being wet, but it came on to rain very heavily. had a {v} middling Sermon from Mr R on the Lords Supper how little there is of fire in his remarks, how puerile almost – a good Sermon at home would be more profitable {John} home about 6.

M 14 a very stormy night & mornng this has been, and had a small school to day. up to township & got papers. the wheat Crops have been laid a good deal with the heavy rains, but to late spuds twill prove a blessing. have got McLeods Earnest student, a very good book.

T 15. another very stormy day. very unseasonable weather. School still small. nothing I wonder what makes me trouble now with a diary. I have so little outward to put down in it and I am not very ready putting down thoughts. dont feel quite so well tonight owing to wind & rain. how lightly I ought to hold the world for there is such uncertainty in my health & life I ought to be seeking to be far above it, but am not.

W 16 another stormy day. School small. busy with home Letters tonight. over at Gilberts this eveng.

T 17. a little better today the weather is. up to W.A. Writing again should have had some Examinati~~o~~n but tis a matter I dont like & yet tis most essential to know ourselves

F 18.

S 19 into W'bool, out early

S 20. up to Church and had our Commun~~io~~n Service, about 60 partook of the feast. did not feel much the better of it but must blame myself for not having made better preparation for it. Mr R was a little better than on the last occasion, but still there is a great shortcoming. managed to walk up to Church & down again to day the first time I have been able to do so this long time.

M 21. a small School to day & wont be large this week I fear, so near the holidays.



how happy, I feel, should it only prove well

T 22 nothing fresh there is hopes of Gilbert getting his Salary of which I am glad indeed. Yesterday at Church Mr Sutherland preached an excellent Sermon on He shall see of the travail of His Soul – afterwards a Meeting at which plans for the Manse were submitted. Estimated cost £629. far too much money in present circumstances –

W. 23. busy making out bills for Youngsters up to W.A. still being cursed about the new rules regarding preaching &c by Teachers most unjust.

T 24. gave holidays to day. went into W'bool, got Saly for {Sep} October & 5% for 1862. met Mr Venables. going to change Master saw a most horrible a/c of the Rev Mr Donie of Largs seduced a Lady sent her o/. correspondence discovered, & then Suicide, tis awful & sad.

F. 25 Christmas Day not feeling very well. in house all forenoon. up to old Mrs. Andersons then went to post office got home Letters tho behind time, things still bad in old Country. Mother not making it much better.

S 26. up to township called on John Lee & was surprised stunned when he told me he was married to Miss Conn. I am not satisfied with their conduct in this matter one an RC, the other Episcop. I had told them both – not however with the least notion of this – that there should be no mixed marriages, but he says that he will not interfere with her religion, which I hope he will too. in coming home heard of the illness of Harry Begg who is not expected to get better. these are trying times in many respects, may the good Lord grant us deliverance from evil & grace to bear up under it should we be tried do not feel so well myself tonight with old complaint.

Sab 27. a little better this Morng a very fine day. rode up to Church. Harry Begg died last night @ 11 oClock I regret much that I did not on the 2 last occasions I was in town

THE THIRD DIARY

see him. how unavailing are regrets duty should be done at its proper time may I take warning for time to come & whenever duty demands do the work that has to be done. had a poor Lecture from Mr Robertson on Abrahams faith Sarah & W^m. down from Mt Rouse an election of Elders was to have taken place to day, but did not. walked down with Essie. Sabbaths are passing & getting fewer. Existence is wearing away & time is fast flying. Oh to be wise, to redeem it, & to improve the present with all its opportunities. We know not how soon we may have to go hence & be no more

M 28 up early, went away into Wbool to the funeral. an awful hot day had to come back by Woodford in consequence of Dennington Bridge being closed, tired & roasted almost. home about 3. found Sarah & W^m. stayed with us a short time & then left. Eveng hot. Essie feeling it also

T 29 another very hot day, the warmest this season. did nothing neither Essie nor self, but lolled about seeking the coolest place

W 30. up to township called on Lee saw them both up to W.A

T 31. Gilbert across today. Wants to go to Melbourne at which I am not satisfied but gave him Money. we are to get the 5% for the 9 Mo^s of this Year which has been kept up. *6 6 4 0 4* 1863 has now nearly gone, how many mercies have we received during its course from Him who is the giver of all good, who hath bestowed upon us so liberally a share of the bounties of His providence We should committ [sic] ourselves more & more to His care & protection

Friday January 1. 1864.

New Year's day, very quiet with us Essie washing. I went up to W.A. did not waitt [sic] long, then to old mans, stayed only a short time then home. got S. moores bill to day the first this Year.

S 2. very unwell today & not out of house did nothing. a sharp attack of Complaint came on & lasted all day our strength is but weakness & mine especially rather better towards eveng.

Sab 3. a very hot day *Evil*. went up to School, only a few there. getting the Church plastered. Mr R preached on Song 1. 3. had a cong^l meeting after in which the manse scheme was brought up, & which on present plan I opposed. no decision was come to on the matter. my reasons for so doing were the Work being too expensive & the present circumstances & future prospects of the Congs. I dare say I have not pleased Mr R., but I think I have done right. tis most disagreeable to do these things on Sabbaths, and for the future I will try and avoid it, if possible.

M 4 at home. up to PO & then on after up to W.A & stayed until about 9. No forms, nor any word of them from the Board. the rule against Teachers preaching recently promulgated is causing a great deal of stir amongst the religious bodies tis an unjust stretch of authority

T 5 up to WA for the Cart, then dear E. & self started for Kirkstall & spent the day there visiting am always glad to get home at these times for there is no place like it the crops there are very bad & generally throughout the district. It looks as if God was in judgement visiting us on account of our Sins. we have much need to humble ourselves before him on this a/c thus he may turn away his anger from us

W 6. was seized during the day with illness Feverish & very bad.

T 7. got relief by purging something must have injured my stomach Yesterday felt very bad R & wife over to day, & {in} I in bed. how short lived & how little to be depended upon is our health & happiness the grass in its beauty the flower in its glory.

F 8. a very hot day rather better but still not right.

S 9.

Friday August {27} 26 1864

have this long time allowed this book to lie useless too lazy or too careless perhaps nothing of consequence to enter, but things of note are happening which induces me again to begin it and try to keep it up again regularly. dearest E. at home this week not being able to go. her confinement expected every day I trust that she may get through it – and both herself and Child spared to me – she has kept very well all the time. have had School alone all the week and miss her presence very much. tis a regular drag without some one with me, and the bigger ones take advantage of me having so much to do.

S 27. at home all forenoon. wrote Mr Donaldson as to meeting wonder if he will come tis a painful thing the way matters have gone on with him and our Church. the Lord will I trust overrule all things for His own glory & for the good of his people. it ought to quicken us up to be more earnest, more zealous about His cause & glory. went up to Township in the afternoon. home early. Gilbert across

Sab 28. Essie pretty well. went up to Church tho I felt almost as if I should not have gone. got a good Sermon on Zaccheus, if he would continue to preach good Sermons & work [sic] about amongst the people he would do much to break down the feeling that prevails. Robert not out to day wonder if he intends to give up coming hope not. came home quickly & found dear E. quite well. to bed about 10

M 29. woke up about 3. E. rather unwell expecting Something to day. trust that God may grant unto her a safe deliverance went up to Mrs McVicar found her away elsewhere called & got Mrs Hennessy to come up which she kindly did then went into W.bool & got Boyd to come out but he was so long of coming that there was a little girl born before he came. Essie got through it nicely I believe, how thankful we should be for this renewed token of His mercy, and yet I fear I feel it not as I should do. up at School all day & went up to township in afternoon, then went to meet Gilbert but he did not come then home found Essie & little one pretty well considering. am very tired indeed

T. 30. very knocked up to day, having had little sleep. at School. have got Miss Robertson with me, but miss Essie. came home directly from School, tired & used up. to bed early, & {h}

W 31. had a good nights rest & feel refreshed. Essie keeping pretty well & so also baby a fat jolly thing it is a McKay. down to Houston [sic], & Mrs Miller. Eveng. Essie's breast troubling her & cant get baby to suck. nothing evil will happen I hope to her. trust in God who has brought us through so much that he will still continue to bless & keep us. Committ [sic] all our ways to Him for He careth for us. none of Anderson's folk have been down which seems very strange Im Sure If any event of this kind was happening to them I would be there by now. however no harsh judgement. there may be reasons for it. Singular coincidence that babys birth should be to an hour the 38th Anniversary of Father & Mothers marriage, counting the difference of time

Thursday [1] September 1864.

dear E. still keeping better. up to Township tonight had a Letter from Mr Abernethy, relative to the present state of affairs amongst us, of counsel and advice. it requires wisdom to know how to deal with the people in this matter. baby thriving

Fy. 2. a fine day to day. Robert & wife over to day. sent off Letters to day. E. & baby still keeping better. going on nicely. am at a loss to comprehend why none of Anderson's folks have called. there must be something on Mrs. A's mind. I am vexed that she should act in such a manner. however, as best pleases her let her do. I did not expect it. I shall try & not let it influence me in the least in my conduct towards them. dearie [sic] was up for a short time today.

S. 3. at Returns to day do not feel so well this day but I hope t'will [sic] pass away. dear E. keeping better & so also little one. went out & had a ride. nothing else Gib not over. frightened perhaps. a very fine day indeed I had a short ride. home soon.

S. 4 up to Church. Mr Walker telling us of the Lecture on Baptism. got a note from Mr Donaldson to day, most abusive. had a very good Sermon to day from Mr R. then home.

Monday 5. a very fine day Essie keeping well got up to day. no milk has she Mrs Anderson down tonight. up to Meeting of Session D past [sic] under consideration. wrote him, fully & firmly to bring specific charges against us, if not, proceed later & move against him. a melancholy job this is the new J leaving

T. 6. E not so well this mornng. nor baby either nothing of conseq_____

W. 7 a fine day again. School good Miss Robertson does pretty well as helper, but would far rather have E. old Mr Midgley died yesterday of inflammation – gone at last after all his trials & troubles to where the weary are at rest. He died in peace. writing Donaldson & McLachlin [sic] tonight.

T 8. at Mr Midgleys Funeral to day 64 years aged. nothing

F 9. up to township, at Lees. Essie fretting about having no milk for child, but both are keeping pretty well.

S. 10. into W'bool, paid several visits & hearing news. sent off 3 Mo^s. returns to day – Mail in. home about dusk Gib across. to bed about 1 long chat with Gib about feeling of Kirkstall people about McLachlan. Seem generally in favour of him which I am sorry for.

S 11. up to Church. old Church has been broken open, by some of the disaffected, but must be fixed again I think in this matter we are doing right tis a Presbyterian Church & was not intended for Baptist preaching. heard of the death of two of John Hares children of dipther<i>a [sic] Mr Robertson had a very good Sermon to day on Isaiah 32.2. had S. School, went down to the funeral. twas sad indeed to see the 2 little coffins laid side by side and they naturally were in a great state tis a sore trial and hard indeed it must be to say "Thy Will be done". may all His dispensations & dealings be sanctified unto us & tend to wean us more & more from the World towards Himself who is the permanent & stable one

M 12. A very rough day. intended to have gone to Mr Robertsons Lecture on Baptism but it was very rough and I did not feel quite well & so stayed at home. Essie getting quite strong again & baby getting on nicely, considering that she is fed with the bottle, E having no milk. have named her after my Mother "Isabella Sayers", with which I

THE THIRD DIARY

daresay she will be pleased. that she may be brought up a child of Jesus is what ought to be our desire.

T 13 nothing

W 14 Baby getting on pretty well. {T 15.} J Hares other child buried today, a sad dispensation & sore trial. Saw Mr Donaldson at the funeral made me a Polite bow, to which I merely nodded in reply.

T 15. up at Post.

F 16. nothing

S 17 over to Kirkstall to see old folks. up to Robt – never spoke to him about present matters home about 8.

S 18. up to Church had a very good sermon today from Mr R. home about 3.

M 19 up to Revision Court did not stay long afternoon to meeting of Session, then went down to old Church & heard Mr Robertson Lecture on Baptism he handled the matter very well indeed, a large meeting. the Baptist party broke open the Church, though we had put a lock upon it home about 12

T 20. heard in the afternoon that there was a great Baptism at a Creek at Germans [?] Lane Men & Women Jas Donaldson the first and foremost. how we change. Mrs Miller and several others. have been told that the scene was unedifying. Robt Pollock almost one. he has resigned his office

W 21. up to township tonight. hearing a/c of Baptism Very bad

T 22. up to meeting at Church. none held down to McLaws. at Baylis [sic] Election meeting. am afraid they will make a mess. 3 Protestants are standing & 2 P.I. for 2 Vacancies home about 11

F 23 up to WA about old Church had to go to township resolved to shut it up again & set a watch on it

S 24 at home all day. Baby thriving, Essie well. busy gardening towards evening, Gilbert brought Isa. a handsome cloak & hood. sent for Books to day and an additional Blackboard.

S 25. up to Church. had a middling Sermon then went down to old Church which we had ordered to be shut up. stayed until about 6 no molestation, all quiet. then with W.A. came home & felt the day sadly {mispent} misspent – at least my mind was not fixed on the right thing. home about dark

M 26. awoke this mornng very unwell and it kept about me all day. a very coarse day. a great many children unwell with cold &c. at present, & School is consequently small. did not go to Church meeting tonight.

T 27. up to Koroit. Mrs Robertson called to day the tale is all about the Baptists and their doings. Essie and Baby keeping well. have resolved to call her after Mother Isabella Sayers. met Gilbert he has resolved to leave as soon as they get a Teacher. got 3 Mo^s Saly tonight

W. 28. rather better to day though not quite well. very changeable weather just now.

T 29. nothing

September 1864

F 30 close of another month. not so well tonight, a sudden attack.

THE THIRD DIARY

Saturday October 1. 1864 went into W'bool to day all busy Electioneering met Mr Anderson who was also busy at it. nothing new saw Thomas

Sab 2. took up our little one to day to be baptized and took upon me solemn vows to bring her up in Gods service. may He give us both grace to perform these vows and grant unto us that we may bring her up to His Service.

M 3. up to township & met Gilbert. W.A away to Presby meeting.

T 4. a little better very coarse weather.

W 5 up to Koroit to Election, great excitement. voted for Moffat [sic] & Baylis [sic]. it has become quite a religious question & great feeling is shown about it. home with W.A. Donaldson to be cited to next meeting of Presbytery. R.P. recommended to be seen & tried to withdraw his resignation if not to depose. tis sad & vexing. do not know what is to come of our Church, tis very trying to me & all, but good may come out of all these trials, and as silver purified we may again appear. may we give ourselves more & more to Him.

T 6 have made a great mistake as to my School fees, having omitted to put down 77/3 as Cash received, it being at the bottom of the page. hope it will be rectified as I would otherwise lose £4. 9/. – W.A. here tonight

F 7. up to W.A. Moffat & Baylis have been returned. am glad off [sic] it as it takes the Counties out of the RC hands. they must be mad

S 8. at home all forenoon, in Garden & writing. pm. up to Koroit at Lees. heard that John Atcheson was likely to leave us & go with Baptists. I trust it may not be true but am afraid of it. I know not what things will turn too [sic]. black enough they are certainly at present. it seems very strange that the most of those who have gone are North of Ireland people – I can't account for it but such is the case. home about dark heard a strange story about Janet Bonar that she had got married to Yuille [sic], about 2 years before her death. would like to know if her former one is dead. Mrs Somerville has gone home.

Saturday February 3^d 1866.

I have given up this long time writing down my doings &c, but will now resume. into Wbool this foren. & got several things, in anticipation of dear E. confinement. called at Rev Mr Anderson's. out about 6. & then making up our a/c for the Year. went to bed abt 11

Sab 4. about 6. E. awoke me & told me that she felt unwell and that I had better go for the Doctor. we were not expecting it however for about a month, but as she was exceedingly large, we thought there must have been a mistake went in for Dr Boyd who came out & as the Labour was very protracted he took the children away, first one then the other. dear E suffering very much the first one seemed to be suffering much the second only lived a few minutes, but the Doctor said he did not expect that the other would live either, in which he was quite right, as it died in about 4 hours so both are gone to Him who gave them 3 out of our 4 little lambs taken to Himself they are safe in the fold of the Great Shepherd. dear E. going on favourably I hope God will sanctify unto us this dispensation, for without the gracious influences of His Holy Spirit I feel that afflictions do no good. He has surely some purpose in thus chastising us in our family & I must acknowledge that we have much need of them, for my thoughts and feelings toward God are not what they should be

M. 5. dear E. a little better, very weak still however, which is to be expected. I hope this will not further harden my heart, but thro His blessed spirit subdue & soften. how calmly the 2 little things lie side by side, their spirits before the Throne in the enjoyment of felicity eternal.

T 6. opened school today. feel sad, but not so much as if they had been with us for some time. they are safe. up to Post. had a notice of School Visitation for Friday.

W 7. E. still keeping better, breasts bad but hope will pass over. have had Annie Saunders today with me in School.

T 8. Weather very hot. E breasts better much this mornng. we have cause of gratitude that she is getting better so rapidly. Sarah & Huston over to day, up until late with them

F 9. Essie better. S & H. away to W'bool. Mr Venables did not come to day. School attendance small this week. up to W.A with my Papers. I am not mindful enough of what has happened to us. God keep me from forgetting His dealings with us so speedily – but may He send His blessed spirits influence upon us thought we would have had rain but it has not come. it has been raining up the country. Bella keeps nicely, for which we should be grateful I pray God that He may Preserve her to us.

S 10. Letter from Gilbert, wants £100 to begin business with, which we will let him have and hope he may be succesful in it, tho we wish that it had been in some other business. good Crops there are in this District this season, and some people are getting drunk as often as possible over the head of it. what can be Gods purpose in thus depriving us of our children there is & must be some good reason in His mind for doing so. what is that. perhaps to raise our minds more & more away from this world to a better, to Himself, for tis true that we have not been as we should be. how much have I forgotten Him then & now. I should try and meditate day by day on those things which make for peace our eternal peace. did not leave the house to day. S & H away, & so also Mrs Grant & the house has resumed its usual quiet. Mr Thomas up tonight had Inspector yesterday.

THE THIRD DIARY

Sab 11. rather late of rising. had a strong dislike to go to T. Hill to day, to meeting so many who would be asking. stayed at home until the afternoon then went to W^dford & heard Mr Anderson, a good Sermon on the duties of Preachers & Hearers & on the operator The Lord opened the heart of Lydia. We must yield a willing consent to the workings of Gods spirit He works not contrary {to but} <to> our wills, but we should go along with Him, willing puples [sic] in the day of His Power. I ought to yield to Him but I have so long been a servant of Sin & so long has my mind run riot in wildness that it will be a hard task. looks like rain the heat has been excessive – & several bush fires are in our neighbourhood

M 12. a large School to day. Dear E still keeping better, up to day. hae Bella down for a ride tonight. am not thinking enough of the late sad event which happened to us. had a Letter from Gilbert to day, in which he tells me of his intention of starting business & of having taken a place

T. 13. had the Inspector to day. had a large attendance, but they turned out very poorly only 3½ months having elapsed since last inspection, and this I told him. it will make a good deal of difference to me besides the name of the thing

W. 14 nothing. E. still better & getting strong how should I praise God for His goodness and mercy toward me, and yet how cold hearted I am, how ungrateful to Him for His manifold mercies. busy writing up Books for sending out a/cs.

T 15. nothing. up to F. Johnston, James bad with diptheria, then up to W.A. not at home. home about ½ P. 9.

F. 16. had a large School for Friday. have had Annie Saunders helping me these 2 weeks A has bought a new Thrash^s machine. I suppose that I will not get my Cash from him this year yet. I would liked [sic] to have got it, if I could get a piece of land, but if not am not particular. Letter from Gilbert tonight will send him his money Tomorrow which I hope will do him good. I should like to see him have a start in life. went to R. Urquharts

S 17. into Wbool sent Gilbert his money out at Thomas, then home

Sab 18 up to Ch Mr R. a little better than usual. F. Johnstons eldest boy has diptheria

M 19. got my hair cut on Saturday & have been ill all the week after it. Jas Johnston died on Friday, & several others of the family have taken it. E still keeps better –

S {23} 24 at home to day not well yet –

S {24} 25 passed a bad night, & did not get up until abt ½ P. 10 too late for Church. went to Jas Johnstons funeral 15 Y. 9 M. cut off so young, just when getting useful. how wonderful are Gods ways unsearchable

M {25} 26. a pretty good School to day. Conricks child<ren> are ill with diptheria

T {26} 27. School small to day. have all taken alarm & singularly enough all the RCs are absent. Mooney wanted me to shut School but this I dont feel inclined to do up to Conrick's & W.A's

W 28. smaller still. Several cases more

Thursday March 1. 1866.

Very close warm weather. there has only been about 2 showers these last 2½ months. I never saw such a continuance of dry weather, since I came to the Colony. went down this evening to the Baptist Soiree, which was a very successful affair. the speaking was rather heavy however. waited until abt ½ p 10. how we change 12 mo^s. ago I would not have gone to it, but now I did, and tis the better plan. we must differ on many points, but yet we needs [sic] not quarrel and religion is so important a matter and one in which there is so much personal concern, that no one should interfere with anothers conviction in the matter further than moral Suasion

F 2. only 19 in School to day. a most disagreeable day, mornng so cold also. these days affect me & good too. E not so well to day.

S 3. had sore throat to day, & stayed in house so also had Dear E. a change of weather, wet & cold –

Sab 4. up to Church this forenoon Mr R a quiet little affair. home about 2 a man called in afternoon friend of E.

M 5. School very small. E resumed her duties, and am so happy that she is able to be with me again. my affection for her increases with age – we are both better of our colds up to Ch. meetg tonight. things are in anything but a happy position, loaded with debt, a thin Ch. no life no interest After some consideration, it was resolved to wait upon Mr Robertson, as to the present state of affairs and to the desirability of his [?] looking out for another charge. tis a very painful position to be in, and for which I feel for him, but what can be done it is such a heavy drag upon the few who remain, that we cannot stand it

T 6. School still small. people seem to be panic stricken. Conricks children better. am put about about Mr R. feel for him! E over at Geo Bruces.

W 7. nothing part. small still.

T 8. Still very small. gave them a holiday tomorrow on that a/c Thomas up tonight. have got nasty cough.

F 9. a fine day. holiday. digging a bit to day – up at Koroit. saw Lee he had some words with the Inspector General. have heard no word of Mr Robertsons intentions yet. E busy making up a new dress. very dry weather still. intended to have gone to Mrs Leishmans tomorrow, but could not get a Cart.

S 10. purposed going into Wbool, but had so much difficulty of catching my horse that I was kept too late. went over to K'stall instead & stayed a short time with the old woman. home about 7 – Sloane's land is to be sold, and would like to get a bit of it if it does not go too high

Sab 11. went up to Church with dear E & heard an excellent Sermon from Mr Sutherland. if we had always Sermons like it, how pleasant it w'd be – called at Mrs Moore {whose} who has a child ill with Diptheria, rather better Downs called this Evng. do not like visiting on Sunday Evng. See Dr Cairns is out to the Colony again.

M 12. School rather larger to day. Mrs Moore's child died last night at 7 oClock. poor Woman I feel for her in her loss. She had a Sale of Stock &c to day – went up after 4 oClock, abt over Saw Grant who told me that Mooney was at his old tricks again, trying to do me injury – & John Bruce told me the same thing. tis annoying but it cant be

THE THIRD DIARY

helped & must be met.

T. {12.} 13. a wet mornng. School small, a few back. nothing part. took a short ride with Bell

W {13.} 14. a fine day. into Wbool this Evng to see Rev M<r> Anderson about his coming out on Sabbath. he does not incline to do so, so we will have to manage ourselves as we can. had a Letter from Gilb. he has started business on his own a/c in Melbourne

T {14.} 15. nothing particular.

F {15} 16 up tonight to a meeting of Session in which we had some discussion. am sorry for Mr R., tho am convinced that his looking out for another place is the only plan to save himself and us. did not break up until nearly 12.

S {16.} 17. The RC have a great time of it just now, the Bishop being down here at present – confirming &c Essie & Bella with self into Belfast, & Mr & Mrs And. in town several hours and was tired of it. home about 8. Sloanes Land is to be sold and w^d like to get a few Acres of it.

{S} Sab 18 up to Ch. and had a pretty fair Sermon, afterwards had a Cong^l Meetg at which nothing was done, no one taking any part in the proceedings very small attendance. Mrs Moore lost her little girl by Diptheria, & there have been several other cases of it in the neighbourhood.

M 19. School still Small. very dry Weather

T. 20. writing home Letters tonight to Coz Maggie who has lost her little boy our Aunt Cameron died also in Nov. old & full of years. melancholy & sad these repeated dispensations intended for our Good they doubtless are

W 21. Gib has commenced business in Melb as P.B. I wish that it had been something else but cant help it. have given him the loan of some money I do not think folks at home will like it but I cant help it.

T 22. no Saly, nor wont until Gov gets into order. Wish it was settled

{W} F 23. School still small up to Mr Andersons for the cart.

S 24 into Wbool the whole 3 of us to get Bella's likeness went to Hiders first, tried 3 times could not get it taken then went to Johnston's who took it pretty well. got some things. home early.

S 25 up to Ch. a very hot day dear E with me. had a pretty fair Sermon from Mr R. walked down & were both tired.

M 26 a wet Mornng. School small

T 27 nothing

W 28. went into B'fast this afternoon to a Temp Soiree Very poor affair it was Mr A. also in, spouted a little

T 29 Up to Land Sale to day, but it went far too high so that I could not purchase any, £50 or £60 per acre what would old Sloane have said to that R. & Houston down.

F 30. Good Friday and a holiday. working about. up to Wesleyan Soiree up at Barn [?] a very good meeting indeed, well prov<i>ded with every thing. had some fairish

March 1866

speeches. Mr R made abt the best of the lot

S 31. busy to day writing &c. a Letter from Gib to days [sic] wants other £50 which I suppose he must get. I think that it is safe enough

Sabbath April 1. 1866.

Up to Ch this fore. Presby meets on Tuesday. Sermon a little better, but not much.

M 2. went up to Hawkesdale this aft driving had a nice pleasant ride. found all things there at 6^s & 7^s no order, no responsibility. McCaulay [sic] there drunk a vile wretch he is, most abusive poor Soiree altogether. home to Mr Leishmans who was up with me about 12. intending to go home, but found that Puss had gone of [sic], so had to stay

T 3 at home about 12. Puss got home herself. Robt. across about some land very tired & rather unwell.

W 4. at home to day. a Mr Hill Teacher from Portland called & stayed some time Mr Robertson also called. I do not think that he has any intention of going away he wants I see to bring me round, but I do not see how I can do much if all the Cong is against him.

T 5 up to W.A. this aftern. Mr R had made some strange statements at the Presby, which is to meet at Koroit on the 25th inst. when I presume all papers &c will require to be produced went into W'bool this mornng – got Bellas portrait to day.

F 6. Mr & Mrs Leishman over to day, stayed for some time. W^m Stevens paid his Bill of £22 to day tho not due for a few days. Robt also here to day. Country in a sad state no Government at present, no wages, no Saly paid dispute between Upper & Lower House

{F 20} M 22 [mistake for 23] up at Koroit tonight called on Mr R & went over in detail the finance statement showing deficit of £133.11/6. he was quiet on the subject. late before I came home

T 24. at meetg of Presby tonight, when they had a consultat<i>on on Mr R's affair I laid the finance affair before them, & J Baily & J Thompson were the only 2 who had any courage to say anything. Mr R. agreed to {s} continue without any guarantee, & to this the Presby agreed, which granted all that was asked by Petition from the Presby. he has gained his point. perhaps it may turn out for the best after all, but as they are things are very bad at present. we are not enough Christians to have many blessings some papers in favour of Mr R. were laid upon the Table, which took us quite by surprise and in the face of these the Presby. could do nothing else. Mrs Anderson was in a great way

W 25. having a Soiree this Eveng. and it was a poor affair. only 5 Tables, and they were crowded several times. we had a good array of speakers, & good speaking. home about 12½

T 26 Knocked up to day a little. nothing. wanted to go to Wangoom Soiree but could not

F 27. Mr Paton Miss T up at Ch, but could not go. very interesting meeting they had but very small. rather better

S 28. at home all day to day. Working a little, too often forgetting the care of my Soul, laying up treasure here & thoughts along with it on earth. a Letter from Gib today. getting on pretty well.

November 5. 1867.

had a Presby visitation at Koroit this Eveng. after opening proceedings Elders were called on for statement. W.A spoke & so did I. said as little as I could to Establish my case. then 2 memorials were presented one for other against Mr. R. both subjected to severe scrutiny. the one against him had the majority 30 Members & 22 adherents, for him 9 Members & 40 adherents. Mr R elected to go no further into the case but tendered his resignation. {made} he made a speech in which he attacked Mrs Anderson WA Peter Millar & self, as being the cause of dissension. it will learn me to be a little more careful in future as to any communications I make to any one. I am glad this affair is settled, as it has been a source of much anxiety & grief to me, and now that it is over these do not cease what is the future to be? I see no prospect but further trouble and anxiety as doubtless the whole responsibility [sic] will rest on WA & self and with a divided congregation things cannot be conducted very efficiently. in past proceedings I have not been actuated by malice to Mr R. but for the welfare of the Church. Mr Leishman was against us, though he stated himself that no good w^d result from Mr R's staying here.

{Jan^y} Dec^r. 10. had a Son born to me this Eveng. my darling got through it much easier than the last time, & I hope will speed<i>ly recover as it has pleased God so again to bless us may we have grace given to bring him up rightly.

THE THIRD DIARY

Jany 1868 Went to Melbourne at X^tmas Saw brother Gilbert & stayed a few days. Saw Prince Alfred once. great mania prince hunting Essie found unwell on my return with a sore breast. suffered very much indeed – what Woman has to Endure in child bearing while we men have the pleasure

18th. old Mr Leishman in carrying out Mr Robertsons legacy of ill will has been very industriously sowing the seeds of ill will against me – and it may cause some disagreeableness. had he been connected with the School, I w^d have thought less of it – but to come so far out of his way to do Evil is provoking he resigned his Eldership – but has again resumed it – I wish to bear no illwill [sic] to him, but forgive him Father has got £37 a year from different bodies of which I am very glad.

Feb'y. had a meet^g of Com. School about things. Mooney as usual aided by McLachlan. showed I think clearly that they had no cause to complain. Jas Bruce also over & complained about Children on road, just a cloak to get some thing else shoved in. however the upshot was that there was nothing.

{March} Feb have had Mr Gillespie preachg here this last m^o. and like him very well, fully better than Mr Adam there is to be a national feeling brought into play which I much regret. have resolved that in this Election I will take nothing to do but go in with any one, {as} so that sh^d Circumstances of an unfavorable [sic] kind turn up I will not be under any necessity of taking part in them as these clerical squabbles are most disagreeable things.

March 30 A meet^g was held this Even^g at which Mr Adam was Elected by a majority, with one Excepti^on I think all Scotch, while the Irish alone with one Excepti^on supported Mr Gillespie. I hope & Pray that things will go on prosperously but I am much afraid of it, as I doubt that it will take long to soothe down these feelings. I took no part in it whatever, and have thoughts some times of resigning my office tho I acknowledge that I do not altogether see my way clear to such a course on the score of duty alone

April 7. Mr McLeish died Yesterday he had been ailing for some time went away very peaceably, resigned and with hope in Christ – an old friend, & tho he had his peculiarities yet a fair honest man – Will we be wise & learn. very many are being taken away at this time much need for us to be wise – A most diabolical attempt was made about a month ago to shoot the Duke of Edinburgh, which was succesful so far that he was wounded, but has now recovered. Fenianism is said to be at the bottom of it – the wretch has been condemned to death. I am afraid that that Evil is pretty rampant in the Colonies, it has however raised a very strong feeling against it here.

NOTES

The diaries of Sarah Midgley and Richard Skilbeck partly overlap George McKay's diary. Midgley's diary overlaps until September 1861, Skilbeck's until November 1864. When an entry by Midgley or Skilbeck corroborates or elaborates what G. says, I quote at least part of it.

MARCH 1861

20 (line 2) **sent out** From Scotland, by G.'s parents.

(4) **Portraits** 'photos'.

Mother . . . When the photos were taken, his mother was 65, his father 68 or 69, his brother William 30.

(5) **Eveng.** Evening.

Township Koroit, about 2½ miles away from Yangery School (see map 2). The word *township* in the Diary always refers to Koroit, while *town* refers to Warrnambool.

22 (1) **got Letters** . . . From the P.O. agency in C. Norman's store (see map 3). It's not clear where G. was living at this time, but it was probably near the school. Distance from school to P.O. was about 2¾ miles.

Aunt Jackson Catherine Jackson, née McKay.

(5) **thro** thro' (through). G. usually omits apostrophes. (In the same sentence, note *Jesus* for *Jesus'*.)

23 (1) **foren.** forenoon.

Bills For school fees. See Introduction 39.

W^m. Anderson's See *SBN* 22ff., and maps 5d and 5e.

24 (1) **Church** The old wooden Presbyterian church, south of Tower Hill Lake (see *GAPL* 26). G. was church Secretary and a member of Session (Elder). See Introduction 21.

Mr. A. Mr Abernethy, Minister at Tower Hill from November 1859 until April 1862. See *SBN* 22.

After. Afternoon.

Exodus 17.15 "And Moses built an altar, and called the name of it Jehovahnissi."

(3) **improve** 'profit spiritually from'.

25 Arch^d Archibald. He soon relapsed (see entries for 15/08/1861 and 25/08/1861).

27 better i.e. more pupils attended.

29 (1) **W.A.** William Anderson.

(2) **the Wesleyan Soiree** It was held at the Wesleyan (Methodist) chapel in Koroit. The Midgleys, who were Wesleyan, provided a tray of food.

(3) **Owen** Probably George Owen, teacher at a National school in Wangoom.

(5) **Gilberts** Gilbert McKay's. See *SBN* 26.

SM 110 "Mother was poorly so could not attend the tea meeting at Koroit this evening. All the rest of our family circle with the exception of Father were present upon the occasion. Sister and I had to preside at our tray there was in all eight and they were all well filled two of which were in a tent erected at the Chapel door. After tea was over the mind naturally prepared itself for an intellectual feast. The speakers' list includes Messrs James, King, Foster, Wittin, McKay, Anderson and Mr Burns. . . . The people generally seemed to enjoy the evening's entertainment very much it was a beautiful moonlight night so that it was pleasant returning home."

RS 188 "Held our soiree in connection with the Chapel Anniversary. In consequence of the Chapel being too small on previous occasions we erected a tent at the door end of the Chapel which held two tables. In all we had eight trays well and substantially furnished . . . The proceeds amounted to £18 clear of expenses."

30 Subscription Lists Lists of people who had promised money for a new Presbyterian church in Koroit.

Mrs Leishmans See *SBN* 26, and map 5b.

31 Dr Singleton A medical doctor in Warrnambool. He officiated because the Minister Mr Abernethy was away. Dr Singleton is mentioned at *SM* 93, 96f., 101, 103, 111, and at *RS* 172, 183f., 186, 193.

APRIL 1861

1 (2) election day The election was for the Legislative Assembly.

(3) town Warrnambool, about 8 miles away (see map 1b, and photo p.18).

McLeishs William McLeish, teacher at a National school in Warrnambool.

(4) Thomas Richard Thomas, teacher at a National school in Dennington. Dennington is about 3 miles NW of Warrnambool (see map 1b). Thomas is mentioned at *SM* 98.

(5) drove out They were using a cart belonging to the Andersons.

(6) out i.e. back to Yangery.

RS 189 “The polling day for Ireland and Rutledge. I voted for Ireland.”

5 (2) Rutledge See *SBN* 28f. His opponent was Richard Ireland, a Roman Catholic barrister, who emigrated from Ireland in 1852. Rutledge’s election was declared invalid, and Ireland sat as MLA for Villiers and Heytesbury from 1861 to 1864.

SM 111 “Bro. William is not at all well.”

7 (1) Tower Hill i.e. the old Presbyterian church.

Mr Burns The Wesleyan Minister in Belfast, who was leaving to go to Brunswick. G. attended the morning and afternoon services in the Wesleyan chapel in Koroit.

(2) School i.e. Sunday School, probably at W.A.’s house.

Wesl. Wesleyan (chapel).

Chron *Chronicles*.

(3) E.M. Eliza Midgley, Sarah’s younger sister, now 21.

SM 111 “The Anniversary Sermons were preached today at Koroit by Mr Burns they were also his farewell sermons . . . We all went up to the service in the afternoon Mr Burns preached a good sermon . . . he was quite overcome at the conclusion so that he was unable to finish the service by prayer and could scarcely dismiss the people at all.”

8 Sloan G. was renting a house from Thomas Sloan, probably close to the school. On September 3 a new landlord, J.B. Bluett, goes into Warrnambool to buy G. a bed and bedding.

9 Gil Gilbert, G.’s brother.

10 a Lecture Probably at a meeting of the Teetotal Society, of which G. was Secretary.

11 SM 111 “Father has got Dr Singleton to come . . . Dr S. says his [William’s] complaint is Colonial Fever.”

12 Colonial Fever Typhoid. It was not reliably diagnosed until the 1870s.

13 (2) Miss Davidson’s The Davidsons lived near Warrnambool.

(3) they Margaret (“Maggie”) and her sister Elizabeth.

14 down i.e. to church.

Mornng. Morning.

15 SM 111 “Mrs Anderson came this afternoon also Mr McCoy [McKay] to see Wm the latter staid the evening with us.”

16 Port Fairy The port at Belfast. The town itself was later called Port Fairy.

SM 111f. “A most furious gale of wind blew over us this noon it levelled in its course a great number of trees . . . There has been much damage done to the buildings in Warrnambool two

men have been drowned in Belfast in consequence of their boat being upset by the sudden tornado.”

17 home letters i.e. letters to family in Scotland.

18 do ditto.

19 (1) the National Board . . . See Introduction 35.

(3) our 5% See Introduction 39.

the New Zealand War The first Taranaki war, a conflict over land between the Government and Maoris in the Taranaki district of the North Island. It lasted from March 1860 to March 1861.

20 portrait ‘photo’, perhaps the photo on page 2 above. Where G. got the photo is unclear.

Robt. Cameron Probably the grandson of G.’s Aunt Cameron (née Sayers). He was 26 or 27.

23 resigned He was in fact disqualified, because he was a Government contractor (see Introduction 28).

24 making ‘doing’.

SM 112 “Mr McCoy came to see William who is still very weak.”

25 Mrs Sloan Elizabeth, née Gibson. She married Thomas Sloan in 1860, and was now 25 or 26.

26 Average sc. daily number of pupils.

27 (4) in love i.e. in reciprocated love.

29 Geo. Bruces See *SBN* 24.

30 Church The new church in Koroit, in Garden Street. See map 3, and photo p.22.

MAY 1861

1 spec speculation.

3 see and get ‘see if I could get’.

4 M’s Maggie Davidson’s.

5 (1) Mr. Begg James Begg, Presbyterian Minister in Warrnambool.

6 Inspector [sic] School inspector Mr Venables. See *SBN* 30f.

8 (1) W^m. G.’s brother William was now 31.

Finance Meeting Meeting of the church’s finance committee, which G. attended as church Secretary.

(3) our Church i.e. our new church.

(5) Blueet’s [sic] G. always spells the name *Blueet* or *Blueett*, mistakes for *Bluett*. John B. Bluett was the carpenter who supplied the furniture for Yangery School in January 1859 (see Introduction 37). He was also a Patron of the school (confirmed for December 1860 by the *Eighth report*). A Wesleyan, he was an active member of the Yangery Mutual Improvement Society, and gave numerous lectures (Sarah Midgley mentions 5). We also hear of a talk to the Teetotal Society (*RS* 186). Midgley speaks of his “merry wit” (*SM* 80), and describes him as a “droll man” (*SM* 82). His wife Milly fainted in the Wesleyan chapel on 10/02/1861 (*SM* 109). See *SM* 74, 80–82, 86–8, 93, 98, 109, *RS* 152, 164f., 186.

(6) Lecture Probably to the Teetotal Society.

10 Mr Aber. Mr Abernethy.

down ‘called in’.

Dr Cairns Adam Cairns, Presbyterian minister and theologian. He emigrated from Scotland in

1853, and was a leading figure in the Presbyterian Church in Victoria.
not coming sc. to the opening of the new church.

11 had ‘possessed’.

12 Math Mistake for *Matth(ew)*.

13 (1) 3½ 3.30 p.m.

Allansford About 14 miles SE of Koroit (see map 1b).

(5) Wangoom About 4 miles north of Allansford.

15 Mr Begg’s case What he was accused of is unclear.

16 altogether ‘at all’.

17 (1) F Father.

trade They were shoemakers in Glasgow.

18 most ‘mostly’ (Scottish).

19 (1) Math. [sic] The second *Math.* starts a new line, hence the mistake.

(2) if ‘if only’.

20 Tem. Temperance.

21 Mr. Stephenson T. Stephenson had recently taken over from Mr Burns as Wesleyan Minister in Belfast. G. spells the name with *ph* here and at 05/01/1862, with *v* at 29/09/1861. *SM* spells with *v* (3 times), *RS* with *ph* (once).

not a lively reading speaker i.e. not a lively speaker, and he read his speech.

SM 113 “Eliza and David rode up to Koroit this evening to hear Mr Stevenson preach he returned with them for the first time to stay overnight at Yangery with us, he is very quiet company.”

23 home i.e. back to Britain or Ireland.

James Davidson Father of Maggie.

25 (1) staying away He stayed overnight at W.A.’s place.

26 (6) 1 Kings 9.3 “I have hallowed this house, which thou [Solomon] hast built, to put my name there for ever; and mine eyes and mine heart shall be there perpetually.”

(7) dinner sc. with the Abernethys.

SM 113 “The Presbyterian Chapel at Koroit was opened today by Mr Abernethy preaching morning and afternoon.”

27 Mr Lee See *SBN* 25.

28 (5) Mr Baker Louis Baker, Anglican Minister at Tower Hill. He is often mentioned in *SM*.

Simpson Presbyterian Minister in Belfast.

SM 113 “Mr Holden and Mr Allan Jenkins called to see us on their way to the Presbyterian Soiree at Koroit. Bro. William (though still weak but very venturesome), David and Sister Eliza accompanied them . . . They have been favoured with a lovely day which seemed very unlikely yesterday when it almost poured with rain. Sister and Brother [brothers?] returned home very late. They had passed a pleasant evening at the Soiree the Chapel was filled to overflowing and the Speeches (some of them) talented and interesting.”

30 (5) want ‘lack’.

JUNE 1861

1 (2) Mrs. Thomas Wife of Richard. They lived in Dennington.

(3) M.D. Maggie Davidson.

he Maggie’s father James.

2 (3) Ser. Service.

School i.e. Sunday School.

threatening <words> Perhaps *Isaiah* 1.15 “yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.”

7 & ‘also’ (a rare sense of *and*).

Miss Dyer Probably a teacher whose school had closed. She may be the same person as the “Mrs Dwyer” mentioned by John Fraser in his reminiscences: “My father and mother drove my two sisters and myself about this time [1860] to a little school approximately two miles away towards Koroit and told us to walk home after school each evening. The teacher was a big fine woman, whose name, I think was Mrs. Dwyer.” (SSTS 7.)

apity of ‘a shame for’.

10 a Comet Great Comet (Tebbutt), official designation C/1861J1. It was visible in Australia from mid-May to near the end of June. G. was interested in astronomy, and had given a talk about it to the Yangery Mutual Improvement Society on 30/05/1860 (SM 97).

11 (3) the one Comet Donati, C/1858L1. It was visible in Melbourne from 12/10/1858 to 12/11/1858.

14 no news of importance Rare irony.

at war The southern states had seceded from the Union over the issue of slavery, and the American Civil war (1861–5) had begun. Abraham Lincoln was President.

Europe all arming The unification of Italy was proceeding apace, and there was a powerful drive for unification of Germany. Tensions were rising, and before long war broke out, between Austria and France on one side, and Prussia, Russia and Italy on the other.

16 (8) and [sic] The word *and* starts a new line, hence the mistake.

18 the Examiner Probably a public prosecutor, who examined suspects and decided whether they should be charged.

19 Trooper ‘mounted policeman’.

21 (2) Mrs Sloanes [sic] Mistake for *Mrs Sloan’s*. G. frequently spells the name with an *e*.

22 (1) Gillies The surname occurs only here. Mr Gillies (possibly “Gillie”, but that name is much less common) was presumably a neighbour of G. The Sarah who gave evidence at the trial (see entry for 10/07/1861) was perhaps a family member, perhaps a servant.

Copper Coins Pennies and halfpennies. These were heavy and low value, and the thief had decided not to keep them on his person.

(3) Searched ... & found ... i.e. he was searched ... and they found ...

(5) consecutively [sic] Malapropism for *conclusively*.

24 (3) Temp Temperance.

(4) over i.e. from Koroit to Yangery.

25 Mr Walkers Mr Walker was evidently an accountant.

27 (3) {des} G. was perhaps intending to write *destroying*.

JULY 1861

10 (4) Sarah Perhaps Sarah Gillies, perhaps a servant of the Gillies’ (see June 22, and note).

(6) out ‘got home’.

11 (2) the Amount The amount of money collected for Mr Abernethy, to persuade him to stay.
him Mr Abernethy.

14 Woodford Woodford is about 5 miles east of Tower Hill Lake. See map 1b, and photo p.18.
to Mr A. G. presumably went to visit Mrs Abernethy.

17 (2) the Still hour Austin Phelps, *The still hour, or Communion with God*, London 1860.

18 (2) hon. Stipend Honorary stipend, for Mr Abernethy.

(5) **Mr Baker's** The house of Anglican Minister Louis Baker.

(8) **wants** 'deficiencies'.

19 Merry Nickname of G.'s cousin Agnes Jackson, now 9.

Burt Agnes' brother Robert, who had just turned 19. They were probably living together, and perhaps wrote a joint letter. Both their parents were now dead.

F. M. W. Father, Mother, William.

21 (1) Romans, 9.33 "As it is written, Behold, I [Jesus] lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence."

such i.e. a stumblingstone and rock of offence.

(6) **redeeming the Time as the days are evil** *Ephesians* 5.16.

redeeming i.e. saving from being lost, using to serve God and earn salvation.

22 Skilbeck See *SBN* 29f.

23 Mr Kells Andrew Kell was a Scottish Protestant, who emigrated with his wife Sarah in 1841. They moved to Belfast in 1846, and for a while Andrew worked for William Rutledge. Later he bought a 383-acre farm just west of David McLaws' property "Rosebank" (see map 5a). In 1857 he was a Patron of Tower Hill Lake School.

a boy Probably Andrew Kell, born in Belfast in 1849.

28 (4) a day that i.e. a day such that.

AUGUST 1861

1 (4) Livingstones Travels in Africa David Livingstone, *Missionary travels and researches in South Africa*, London 1857.

SM 114 "The weather continues exceedingly inclement there is not a day but heavy showers descend I think now for the past 3 weeks."

3 (11) Mr Venables agreements Mr Venables was buying land from Walter Stephens. See *SBN* 31.

10 (1) D. Davidsons.

12 Election Day Another election for the Legislative Assembly. Richard Ireland, the sitting member, had been elected just 4 months earlier, on April 1st.

14 Mo^s Months.

15 (3) Miss McVicar Margaret, aged 16 or 17, daughter of Peter and Mary. Peter owned a large block of land in Koroit (see map 4, middle right), and he and Robert McVicar owned a farm just east of the town, adjoining Peter's block (see map 5c). Peter was a Patron of Tower Hill Lake School.

16 Cozs Cousins. The 4 cousins were Margaret Tennent, Isabella Jackson, Agnes Jackson (aka Merry), and Robert Jackson.

25 (1) Zech. *Zechariah*.

27 Gib Gilbert.

Chambers [sic] Mistake for *Chalmers*.

28 35 Years The anniversary was actually 20 days earlier.

30 Gold Fields In May 1861 Gabriel Read, an Australian prospector, had discovered gold in Otago, and a gold rush followed.

SEPTEMBER 1861

1 (3) **the rod** i.e. the threat of being denied salvation.

3 (1) **bought me a Bed** In April G. was renting from Mr Sloan. He now moves house and begins renting from Mr Bluett.

7 (3) **McAulay** Don McAulay, teacher at Bridge End School. According to Jean Uhl (SSTS 12) he was a son of the Thomas McAulay who ran a private school in Spring Creek Road. Don ignored G.'s advice and went to New Zealand (see entry for 26/05/1863, where G. spells the name *McCaulay*).

8 (1) **its records** i.e. its "balance sheet" for the week past, an imaginary record of good and bad behaviour, to be consulted on the day of judgement.

(2) **union** If they united, the 2 churches would share a Minister.

(4) **Octr** October.

(12) **as [sic]** Mistake for *and*.

15 **Col.** *Colossians*.

to no home 'for what is not a home'.

18 (1) **found myself** sc. there.

(2) **Holden** J.B. Holden was a business partner of Richard Skilbeck (see *SBN* 30).

(3) **Norman** Miss Norman is not mentioned by Skilbeck (see below).

(6) **Young folks** The bridal couple and Richard Midgley, now 25. Mrs Anderson went with them.

RS 191 "The day which ushered me beyond the reach of 24 years and into the arms of 25 [his 24th birthday] also proclaimed me a deserter from the noble army of Bachelors . . . At about 12 o'clock at Yangery Grange the Reverend T. Stephenson Wesleyan minister joined me in the bonds of Holy Matrimony to Sarah, eldest daughter of John Midgley. . . . The unloosable knot tied and our fate sealed for life, dinner was a secondary consideration laid out in a tent at the back door. . . . The company present consisted of Mr and Mrs. Anderson, Mr McKay, Mr Holden, Miss Barrett, J. Watson, with our family. A game at Tersey and Cricket passed the afternoon, when Sarah and I started for Koroit our *New Home*, accompanied by Richard and Mrs. Anderson. . . . The company at Yangery spent a merry evening and dispersed at midnight."

19 (1) **Mrs Blueett** Milly Bluett was apparently cooking for G. The house G. was renting must have been close to the Bluetts' own house.

20 (3) **Ma D.** Maggie Davidson.

(4) **staid** This spelling occurs only here.

21 **Mrs T.** Mrs Thomas.

22 **Church** i.e. the Wesleyan chapel.

Miss Midgley Eliza.

them Eliza and at least one other Midgley.

29 **Mrs Chalmers** Elizabeth Chalmers, aged 43.

Church i.e. the Wesleyan chapel.

OCTOBER 1861

1 (2) **Com.** Committee.

6 (1) **Mr Witten** Mr Witton of Belfast, a Wesleyan preacher, frequently mentioned in *SM* (*Witten, Wittin, Witton, Whitten*) and *RS* (*Witton*). Skilbeck's spelling is consistent (8 times), and probably correct.

(2) **Mr Simpson** Presbyterian Minister in Belfast. Mr Abernethy was still in Melbourne.

12 Mrs B. Mrs Bluett.

13 (1) Mr Gregory Probably the teacher mentioned in the entry for 13/05/1861.

17 Conrick Patrick Conrick, a Roman Catholic, who emigrated from Ireland in 1841. He owned a 346-acre farm called “Rahill”, just NW of Yangery School (see map 5e). He was a Patron of the school (confirmed for December 1860 by the *Eighth report*).

19 (2) faceache ‘neuralgia’.

(6) **w [sic]** Sense requires *when a*.

letter Her father James was visiting Britain or Ireland (see 23/05/1861).

20 (2) about her usual way ‘as she usually is’.

(7) **{wet d}** The entry was evidently written on the following day, a very wet one.

27 (1) 1 Corinthians 2.14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

29 Saly. Salary.

31 (1) a duffer There are no fortunes to be made there from gold.

NOVEMBER 1861

2 (1) Mrs McL. Mrs McLeish.

(5) **wintering** ‘winter, wintriness’.

4 (1) A Barber Alex Barber, of Kirkstall, a farmer. He was an Elder of the Koroit Presbyterian church from August 1860 until June 1863.

(2) **Kirkstall** About 3 miles NW of Koroit (see map 1a).

5 Mrs Bonar Isabella Bonar, aged 74.

7 Stevens Elsewhere G. spells the name *Stephens*.

10 (1) Hosea 1.1.3 [sic] A mistake, perhaps for *Hosea 1.1-3*.

(2) **Chapel** Presbyterian.

11 (1) Explorating Neologism for *exploratory* (a blend of *exploratory* and *exploring*).

Burke ... Robert Burke (1820–1861) led the expedition, other members were William Wills, John King and Charles Gray. They were the first Europeans to cross Australia from south to north. They left Melbourne in August 1860, and reached the Gulf of Carpentaria in February 1861. On the return journey 3 of the men died from exhaustion and hunger, first Gray, then in June Burke and Wills. The news was slow to reach Koroit.

(4) **Heales** Richard Heales (1821–1864), politician and temperance reformer, was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1857–1864, and Premier in 1860–61.

12 (1) Mr Andersons Mr Anderson was the new Presbyterian Minister in Warrnambool, in succession to James Begg. He was also in charge of the chapel in Woodford.

14 (1) in the Yarra He had been intending to come by sea.

(4) **a rub** ‘a teasing’.

15 (3) to go i.e. to Wangoom.

(4) **Book Club** Mentioned only here.

16 (3) got ... out ‘brought back’.

Communion Service Some or all of vessels, wafers, wine.

18 (3) served me well ‘served me right’.

19 Temp Lect. Temperance Lecture.

20 (1) Mrs Saunders Elizabeth Saunders, née Broadbent, aged 28. In 1849, aged 16 or 17, she married Alfred Saunders. Children were (or included) Ann Anderson (born 1851), Henry (born 1855), Elizabeth (born 1860), Mary (born 1861).

(3) **Burke & Wills . . .** G. repeats what he wrote on the 11th.

(4) **Eliz.** Elizabeth, Maggie's sister.

21 home i.e. a day spent at home.

22 Mrs Logan Probably the wife of Robert Logan (2) (see *FAR* 26ff.).

23 (2) a row On the Merri river (see map 2).

(10) **tried** 'judged'.

(13) **place** 'empty space'.

24 (1) want 'lacking something'.

(3) **house** i.e. Mr Abernethy's.

(4) **got on** 'managed'.

27 (2) the day Something seems to be missing before this, perhaps *later in* or *during*.

Brains [sic] Probably a mistake for *Braim's*. See *GAPL* 25, 36, *SM* 53, 66, *RS* 170.

28 come out i.e. returned from Scotland. See *SBN* 30.

DECEMBER 1861

1 Thes. *Thessalonians*.

7 Dr Boyd He had been living in Belfast since at least 1858 (*SM* 69f., *RS* 140). By 29/08/1864 he had moved to Warrnambool (see diary entry).

23 Johnston James Johnston was teaching at a National school in Belfast.

29 (4) A.B. Alex Barber.

Mrs B Mrs Bluett.

31 (1) home . . . again G. must have gone out again on Monday, and spent the night somewhere.

(3) **Norman** Perhaps the storekeeper Christopher Norman, later a Patron of Koroit State School (see *SSTS* 53–5).

JANUARY 1862

5 preached He will have preached in the Wesleyan chapel.

13 (1) more sc. pupils.

17 (1) John Barber Probably brother of Alex.

(2) **School papers** A new National school had just opened in Kirkstall, or was about to open. John Barber was probably one of the school's Patrons.

18 Mrs [?] Possibly *Mr*.

19 (2) if 'if only'.

(7) **Mrs Aitcheson** Margery Aitcheson, aged 40.

20 (1) machine 'stagecoach'.

25 versen [sic] version. The "strange version" probably came from William McLeish, in Warrnambool, or Richard Thomas, in Dennington.

26 (1) Meet^g Meeting.

28 Stipend sc. for Mr Abernethy.

FEBRUARY 1862

1 (5) Cassidys Mentioned only here. Mr Cassidy lived by the river Merri, and owned a punt (SM 87).

2 (1) Eccles *Ecclesiastes*.

(3) "O ye ..." *Matthew* 14.31 "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?"

7 (1) He has crowned ... *Psalms* 65.11 "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness."

8 Mat. 25.14 Mistake for *Matthew* 25.13 "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

10 interesting state i.e. pregnancy.

13 (3) recruit 'get better'.

18 long behind time G. had received home letters on 24 September, 15 October, 22 November, 20 December, and 16 January, so "long behind time" on 18 February is very surprising. In fact the mail ship due in February had still not arrived by 14/03/1862. Did G. write the entry for 18 February well after that date?

20 R. Midgley Richard, now 26.

23 (2) 17.12.13 [sic] 17.12–13.

a call i.e. a request for someone to come as their new Minister.

Eaglehawk A gold-mining town just NW of Bendigo.

(5) middly Neologism for *middling*, 'fairly well'.

24 (1) a large School It perhaps included some of the R.C. children promised the previous Monday.

27 (1) Prince Albert The Prince Consort, husband of Queen Victoria. He died on 14/12/1861.

(2) the Yankees Soldiers of the northern states, or Union.

(3) Commiss<i>ioners Officials appointed by the southern states, whose job was to travel around enlisting support.

bouncing 'boisterous, aggressive'.

MARCH 1862

1 (2) to Thomas i.e. to his house in Dennington.

(5) free way 'openness, candour'.

(7) expecting sc. a proposal from.

2 (1) 3.20.21 [sic] 3.20–21.

(2) conversation in heaven *Philippians* 3.20 "For our conversation is in heaven."

(3) times things i.e. things of this temporal world.

9 Miss Pollock First mention of Hadassah Pollock.

14 Mail in The ship had arrived in Melbourne. G. got his letters 3 days later.

last Months sc. mail ship.

16 (1) coarse 'stormy'.

(3) flee ... *Matthew* 3.7 "O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"

17 poor thing G. shows no interest at all in the Aborigines or their culture. (The word *Aborigine* does not occur in the diary.)

18 (1) blight ‘inflammation or eruption of skin’.

(4) **McLaws** This probably means ‘McLaws’ Assembly room’. David McLaws owned the property “Rosebank”, just west of Koroit township, and in 1861 he built the Koroit Hotel in the NE corner of the property (see map 5a). For the Assembly room, see *GAPL* 63 and *SSTS* 20. McLaws paid rates on it in 1871.

19 done [sic] Mistake for *down*.

21 (2) something Money for his parents and brother in Scotland.

22 Snobs An appropriate name for a shoe shop, as *snob* is a dialectal or colloquial word for ‘shoemaker’.

24 about the same way ‘in much the same state of health’.

Presby Presbytery (a court in the Presbyterian Church, consisting of all the Ministers from an area, and a senior Elder from each parish or congregation).

has i.e. Mr Abernethy has.

26 Ross prayer meeting i.e. a meeting conducted by Mr Ross.

Duke St In Glasgow G. attended the United Presbyterian church in Duke Street. The Scottish connection makes him think of the church, though services there were not in Gaelic.

27 at potatoes i.e. digging them up.

28 (1) to hear W.A. had attended the Presbytery meeting as a senior Elder.

29 to dig potatoes i.e. on Mr Venables’ land.

returns For the new National school there (see entry for January 17).

30 (1) at Sea He died on the ship *Orwell*, returning from a visit to Britain or Ireland (see entry for 23/05/1861). He was 44.

APRIL 1862

1 stipend It was for Mr Abernethy, who was leaving the following week, so it was needed by the beginning of that week.

3 (1) meeting Probably in the church.

(4) **£150 Bill** G. had lent this sum to the Presbyterian Church (see entry for 24/06/1863).

4 Ven. Venables.

6 (2) Col. 4.2. “Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”

(4) **death** She died aged 17.

(10) **repent** Perhaps a mistake for *relent*.

(13) **his like** A probably unconscious echo of *Hamlet* 1.2 “He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again.”

8 refuses Venables bought his land from Stephens (see entry for 03/08/1861), so the latter’s refusal is surprising.

12 Spring Creek Today called Woolsthorpe, it is about 11 miles NE of Koroit.

when [sic] Mistake for *went*.

13 And. Anderson.

H.P. Hadassah Pollock.

14 meeting Probably a meeting of the Teetotal Society.

17 Do Ditto.

18 (2) Presby. Presbyterian.

W.A Something seems to be missing after this, e.g. “was there” or “spoke”.

(3) **them** Probably Mr and Mrs Anderson.

(4) **“Hard Times”** Dickens’ novel, published in 1854. Mr Gradgrind’s unenlightened views on education would be a suitable topic.

19 making a smash of it ‘going bankrupt’.

20 Mr Anderson Presbyterian Minister in Warrnambool.

22 HV. ground ‘Henry Venables’ land’.

23 Alex B. Alex Barber.

Johnston James Johnston, teacher in Belfast, did get the school in Kirkstall (SSTS 15).

24 he Mr Sloan.

25 do good G. probably disapproved of all the Irish Catholic tenant farmers on Rutledge’s land.

27 (1) Cairds Sermons Rev. J. Caird, *Sermons*, Edinburgh 1858.

28 (5) with a name to live ‘who am called alive’

abt about.

29 (1) about the same way i.e. my state of mind much the same.

MAY 1862

2 (1) another reduction See Introduction 39.

(4) **HP.** The letters are joined, with the downstroke of the *P* written over the second downstroke of the *H*. So too in the entries for the 10th and 16th.

(5) **61-1.3. [sic]** In the entry for Sunday, G. says that he spoke on verses 1 and 2.

4 Isaiah 61.1.2 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.”

7 a son William McLure. When Mr Abernethy left Koroit, on 11/04/1862, his wife stayed behind, because she was heavily pregnant.

9 (1) reunion [sic] Mistake for *union*.

11 (2) the matter sc. of union with Belfast.

14 Esse Hadassah’s family usually called her “Essie”, short for “Esther”. The nickname probably arose because of the biblical Hadassah, whose later name was *Esther*. It no doubt also seemed appropriate because of Hadassah’s paternal grandmother, Esther Reid. G. spells the name *Esse* until May 21, thereafter *Essie*.

15 in no way pleased The Bluetts were no doubt displeased because Hadassah was a maidservant, and felt that G. was marrying beneath himself.

16 surprised He was probably “surprised” for the same reason that the Bluetts were displeased.

17 (4) the old folks Hadassah’s parents, Robert and Jane Pollock.

18 E. Esse (Essie).

19 S. McPhail Mentioned only here.

29 to Ross Probably for a prayer meeting, as on March 26.

McLure Mentioned only here.

30 paper & line i.e. line with paper.

JUNE 1862

1 telegram Australia had adopted Samuel Morse's telegraph system and code in the 1850s.

5 (2) two events G.'s marriage and Holy Communion.

7 (2) Syrophenican [sic] Syrophenician. See *Mark* 7.26.

Mrs. A Mrs Anderson.

(4) a season of such i.e. a time when I am unfit and unprepared.

8 (2) Tho he was rich . . . *2 Corinthians* 8.9.

(6) last time Mr Abernethy's wife and child were now leaving Koroit and accompanying him back to Eaglehawk.

10 died She was 27.

11 (2) set to [sic] Mistake for *set to to*.

12 (1) Thursday The heading of this special day is not abbreviated.

(7) a few friends The Skilbecks were not among them, in spite of the fact that G. had been Richard Skilbeck's best man. See Introduction 21.

(15) Kirked 'welcomed to church (kirk) as a newly married couple'.

22 Mr Sutherland John Sutherland, Presbyterian preacher (mentioned at *RS* 193).

"God forbid . . ." *Galatians* 6.14.

JULY 1862

1 no holiday G. kept the school open on a public holiday.

none The meeting was cancelled.

4 far Mistake for *far more*.

5 Horsham About 109 miles north of Koroit.

6 Andersons George and his sick wife.

7 Education Bill See Introduction 36.

R Urquhart See *SBN* 30.

13 (4) Scarletina On the 5th G. said she was ill with diphtheria.

Mortificn Mortification.

19 Merry Burt Agnes and Robert Jackson.

F M. W. Father Mother William.

Maggie Margaret Tennent.

22 place 'premises'.

27 RS 194 "The weather has been unusually wet and cold, surpassing in both anything in my Colonial experience."

AUGUST 1862

3 Com Committee.

4 assistance [sic] The word is divided between 2 lines, *assist-tance*.

DIAGRAM The diagram is the first of 4 which illustrate the process of procreation. See Introduction 21. The diagram means in effect 'pregnant', and is to be taken with the preceding *E*. The dot top left represents the baby after birth, the middle dot the embryo in the womb, and the dot bottom right the spermatozoon before conception. A girl was stillborn on 01/03/1863.

7 James Mr James.

8 W.A i.e. up to W.A.

9 Mrs McLeishs William was presumably out.
out i.e. I returned to Yangery.

12 Mooney A Roman Catholic parent, probably the J. Mooney who owned a farm just north of the school, on the other side of Woodford Road (see map 5f).
15 to 'until'.

31 left it to us The Koroit and Belfast churches had decided not to unite, but had agreed to share a Minister. The agreement ended in 1864.

SEPTEMBER 1862

1 (2) into Warrnambool Yangery School was closed, because the schoolhouse was being enlarged.

(3) at Mrs McLeishs Why the photos were taken there is unclear.

2 horse i.e. a second horse, for Essie to ride on the following day.

3 at Robt. i.e. at the house of Robert Pollock.

5 Meetings Probably Church meetings.

6 part. particular.

8 recruit 'regain' (health and strength).

9 Southerners . . . The mail brought news of a Confederate victory.

10 Land Bill The Duffy Act made 10 million acres, about 20% of the State, available to selectors. It was meant to increase the number of small farms, but in fact increased the number of very large ones.

NOVEMBER 1862

1 (2) from [sic] Sense requires *from the last entry*, or similar.

(5) do not seem pleased They were unhappy that G. had married a maid (see Introduction 21).

(9) how malicious They must have been spreading a very hurtful rumour about Hadassah, probably that she was promiscuous.

(10) hearts i.e. people with a heart.

ill 'hard' (archaic).

(11) the loss G. had evidently left the house he had been renting from the Bluetts.

(18) Leaves sc. for the birth of her child.

(19) dull 'depressed, unprosperous'.

(21) New Board The Common Schools Board.

2 I hope we may get him William Robertson was appointed Minister of Koroit Presbyterian church on 05/02/1863, in succession to Mr Abernethy.

DECEMBER 1862

to 31 (2) the rest of them i.e. the other days.

(3) Mr and Mrs Leishman . . . The McKays' wandering included visits to the Leishmans and Essie's parents.

JANUARY 1863

1 (3) old Ross Probably Ross's father.

3 the Eclipse of Faith Henry Rogers, *The eclipse of faith; or, A visit to a religious sceptic*, edition 2, 1852. Rogers was a non-conformist Minister; the book is a defence of established religion against sceptics.

FEBRUARY 1863

28 (3) in i.e. to Warrnambool.

(7) {a} G. was perhaps going to write *alarming*.

(8) Sarah Sarah Pollock, younger sister of Essie. She came on Friday (when Mrs Miller also came).

MARCH 1863

1 (8) how deeply grateful . . . G.'s strongly held Christian beliefs must have been sorely tested by the stillbirth and Essie's suffering. That it was a struggle is clear from what he says 3 days later ("my heart is so cold and so dead to all gratitude and all good").

(9) unparralled [sic] unparalleled.

4 (4) Rebecca Rebecca Pollock, Essie's sister.

Rob^{ts} Wife Jane Pollock, Essie's mother.

5 Alex Barber On 21/05/1862 he was planning to move to Bendigo. He either didn't go, or had returned.

7 (4) a stone He did eventually erect a tombstone, after the stillbirth of his eighth child, buried on 07/01/1873. The initial inscription was "Erected by George and Hadassah McKay in memory of five children who died in infancy."

8 Mr R. Mr Robertson.

9 (3) arranged i.e. by the new Common Schools Board.

10 (2) the rage They were so because of gold discoveries.

12 Eng Evening.

16 late i.e. got home late.

18 taken in i.e. included in attendance figures.

MAY 1863

23 (3) shicer 'worthless or contemptible person'. Australian slang, first attested mid-19th century. It is a coarse expression, meaning literally 'shitter' (Australian spelling of German *Scheisser*). G. was not a linguist, and was perhaps unaware of the literal meaning.

(6) of [sic] Mistake for *off*.

(10) rebates See Introduction 39.

24 (2) Manse For the rest of the year there was heated discussion about whether a manse should or should not be built. Eventually it was decided to go ahead, and the manse was finished in June 1864. See photo p.33.

gone [sic] Mistake for *go*.

25 War It began when Crown forces reoccupied land taken back by the Maoris in 1860.

26 Geo Jackson G.'s cousin.

McCaulay [sic] McAulay (see entry and note for 07/09/1861).

Bridgend [sic] Bridge End.

Birthday i.e. official. Queen Victoria was born on 24/05/1819.

JUNE 1863

5 (6) Wet days The Board insisted that they be included when calculating average pupil numbers.

6 (1) W-Bool Warrnambool.

a/c The account was probably for work done on Venables' land.

(2) Edu/ Education. The abbreviation is at the end of a line.

(4) Smith Member of the Legislative Assembly.

Bear John P. Bear, Member of the Legislative Council from 01/06/1863 until 1878.

8 (6) stipend sc. for Mr Robertson. They no doubt collected the money from the bank.

11 (3) Chancellor [sic] Mistake for *Chancellor*. The name is spelt correctly in the entry for the 26th.

(4) up & down The words are illustrated by the 4 dots which follow.

12 (6) Youngs ... T.U. Young, *The teacher's manual for infant schools and preparatory classes*, 1852.

Man(Manual. The abbreviation is at the end of a line.

13 (2) customers 'people (of a certain kind)'. A colloquial use, first attested in the late 16th c.

(4) old man ... This happened in Spring Creek, and was the reason for the Andersons' visit.

(5) H Pollock Huston Pollock, one of Essie's brothers. G. had perhaps bought land from him.

Recreations ... Written by Rev. A.K.H. Boyd, published in 1861.

16 (7) deep 'cunning'.

17 (2) Bruce & Walker John Bruce and John Walker, both Presbyterians, farmers, and Patrons of the school.

(4) which [sic] Mistake for *wish*.

(5) Slavery eradicated Inconsistent with his wish for a Confederate victory.

18 Fathers people Probably G.'s cousins Isabella Jackson, Robert Jackson, Agnes Jackson and Margaret Tennent.

20 (2) in Belfast Mr Robertson was the Minister of the Belfast church as well as Koroit church.

(3) disagreeance Neologism for *disagreement*.

(4) sea weed Presumably for the garden.

21 Mrs Sprod Alison Sprod, daughter of Thomas Leishman.

23 (2) OShannessy [sic] Mistake for *O'Shanassy*. John O'Shanassy, an Irish R.C., became Premier for the third time on 14/11/1861, and resigned on 27/06/1863. Presumably he had already lost an important vote.

25 (7) Disposer Man proposes, God disposes.

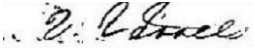
26 (3) Mr. A's Mr Anderson's. The horse was for Essie.

JULY 1863

10 (2) McCulloch Sir James McCulloch (1819–93) was Premier 4 times, on the first occasion from 27/06/1863 to 06/05/1868.

11 (1) W'bool Warrnambool.

no rules published yet sc. by the Common Schools Board.

(3) **2 Vessels**  G. has tried to illustrate the storm. The dots around the 2 are the stormy sea, the 2 and the V are storm-tossed boats, the sloping line through the first e is perhaps a tilting mast.

(4) **last Mondays** July 6. Richard Skilbeck (see below) describes what must be the same storm, but does so in his entry for July 27. For the whole year Skilbeck wrote short entries on only 5 days, in July on the 20th and 27th. G.'s date is almost certainly the correct one.

(6) **W^m. Andersons** G. had lent money to W.A. as well as to Alex Barber.

RS 197 (July 27) "The wind blowing a fearful hurricane almost unprecedented in the history of the Colony. Out of three vessels in the Warrnambool harbour one, the *Peveril*, was stranded and a valuable cargo of soft goods all lost, to the serious loss of our merchants. Another, the *Golden Spring*, a complete wreck, 100 tons of potatoes all lost by Bateman, also 12 tons of iron."

12 (1) died She was 25.

(2) **Woolsthorpe** A village beside Spring Creek. The district was known as "Spring Creek".

13 ——— G. was unwilling to record the second thing which had made him unwell. It caused him mental anguish and made him angry with himself. Had he been unfaithful to Essie?

16 Friends in Council A work in 2 volumes by Sir Arthur Helps, published in 1847 and 1849.

17 F. Merry Burt Father, Agnes Jackson, Robert Jackson.

18 (4) General school Probably a secondary school, teaching more advanced work to older pupils.

DECEMBER 1863

5 (8) the [sic] Something is missing after this, perhaps *way*.

Sarah Fish The Andersons' maidservant (since at least June 1856, if the Sarah mentioned at *SM* 31 and 43 is her). She married Robert Bridle in 1863, and had a child in the same year. Was the child conceived out of wedlock, and was Sarah dismissed in disgrace?

has went Dialectal.

9 anoth [?] G. probably began to write a sentence beginning with *another*, but changed his mind.

10 (4) prohibition The Common Schools Board had prohibited its teachers from preaching in public.

12 (4) assembly Legislative Assembly.

(6) **the little . . .** 'the lack of real spirit'.

(7) **they have not . . .** 'they don't have any commitment to the matter, or any real understanding of it'.

14 (3) McLeods . . . Norman McLeod, *The earnest student: being memorials of John Mackintosh*, 1854.

17 Writing sc. letters.

Examinati<o>n i.e. a medical one.

21 DIAGRAM See Introduction 21. Essie was now pregnant with Isabella, born 29/08/1864. The gist of the diagram is clear, but some details are not. A downturned mouth is followed by the figure 1 with a dot beside it: 'I was saddened by our first child (who was stillborn)'. A stylised 2, made to look like a face with eyes and mouth, is followed by an upturned mouth: 'Our second child (now in the womb) makes me happy.' An enclosed dot perhaps represents the baby in the womb, and that is perhaps followed by 2 breasts with nipples. Finally, there is another upturned mouth: 'I am happy that Essie is pregnant.'

should it only prove well i.e. if only the baby is born alive and healthy.

22 (2) He shall see . . . *Isaiah* 53.11.

23 cursed ‘cussed, cross’.

24 (1) 5% See Introduction 39.

(2) **Master** This probably means the man Mr Venables reported to.

(3) **Mr Donie** G. heard him preach in Largs in Scotland on 04/05/1851, and was not impressed (see G.’s First diary).

o/. ‘love’.

25 old Mrs Andersons Probably the house of W.A.’s mother.

26 (2) one Lee.

(3) **Episcop.** Episcopalian (i.e. Anglican).

(5) **will** i.e. will not.

Harry Begg Henry L. Begg.

27 (1) died He was 38.

(5) **Sarah and W^m.** Essie’s sister Sarah Pollock, now 25, and brother William, now 14 or 15. It is unclear why they were in Mt Rouse, which is about 30 miles north of Koroit.

28 (2) by Woodford See map 1b.

31 (2) kept up ‘withheld’.

(3) **DIAGRAM** The subject is the same as that of the diagram in the entry for the 21st, but the treatment is different. First comes a penis, with a dot representing the spermatozoon. Next comes a vagina, with carefully drawn orifice, and a dot for the spermatozoon. Then comes a womb, the dot inside it being the embryo. After that come the letters *ou* and an uncrossed *t*, spelling *out*. The dot which follows is the baby after birth.

JANUARY 1864

1 (3) old mans Probably “old Ross”, mentioned at 01/01/1863. (Probably not W.A.’s father, as 7 days earlier G. visited “old Mrs Andersons”, which seems to imply that old Mr Anderson had died.)

bill ‘promissory note’ (in payment of school fees).

3 (1) DIAGRAM A revised version of the diagram he drew 3 days earlier. He omits the first element, perhaps embarrassed by it, but leaves the second and third elements unchanged. The final element is still “birth”, but instead of simply writing *out*, he now draws a vagina, shaped like a funnel, through which the baby passes at birth, and a vertical line followed by a horizontal line, indicating the path the baby takes – down the vagina, then out. The dot above the horizontal line is the baby after birth. It is probably not accidental that the shape of the vagina is also that of a capital *V*.

(2) **Song** *Song of Solomon*.

cong^l congregational.

(5) **Congs** Congregations.

7 R Robert Pollock.

the grass . . . *1 Peter* 1.24 “For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away.”

AUGUST 1864

26 (5) to go sc. to school to teach.

27 (1) Mr Donaldson James Donaldson, a Presbyterian Elder who had become a Baptist.

(3) **overrule** ‘rule over’.

(4) **quicken** ‘rouse’.

28 (2) Zaccheus *Luke 19.2* “And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.”

(3) **work [sic]** Mistake for *walk*.

(4) **Robert** Robert Pollock, Essie’s brother.

29 (2) Mrs McVicar Probably the wife of Peter.

(4) **a little girl** Isabella Sayers.

30 Miss Robertson Perhaps the Minister’s daughter.

31 (2) Houston [sic] Huston Pollock, Essie’s brother, now 18 or 19.

(9) **Anniversary** G.’s parents actually married on 08/08/1826. G. makes the same mistake at 28/08/1861.

SEPTEMBER 1864

1 (4) this matter i.e. the defection of some Presbyterians to the Baptists.

2 (6) dearie [sic] Mistake for *dear E*.

4 the Lecture i.e. the lecture given by Mr Robertson on the 12th, and repeated on the 19th.

5 (2) D Donaldson.

(3) **later** A line under and partly through this word may be a crossing out.

(4) **J** Judas / James. Judas left Jesus and betrayed him, James Donaldson has left and betrayed the Presbyterian Church.

6 conseq_____ consequence.

7 (2) Mr Midgley John Midgley. See Introduction 28.

(4) **McLachlin [sic]** Elsewhere (twice) *McLachlan*. He must have been another Presbyterian turned Baptist.

11 (1) old church The wooden Presbyterian church south of Tower Hill Lake. It had not been used as a church since the new church opened in Koroit in May 1861.

disaffected i.e. Presbyterians turned Baptist.

(6) **they** i.e. the parents.

17 Robt The younger Robert Pollock, Essie’s brother.

present matters i.e. Presbyterians becoming Baptists. Robert was “almost” one of them (see entry for the 20th).

19 (1) Revision Court Presumably this was a Church court, perhaps one which decided whether someone should be expelled from the Church.

20 (4) office The younger Robert Pollock became a member of Session (Elder) on 03/04/1864, and resigned on 18/09/1864.

22 McLaws Probably his Assembly room (see note on 18/03/1862).

Baylis [sic] William Bayles (1820–1903), a Presbyterian, born in Yorkshire.

a mess sc. of the campaign.

P.I. Papist (R.C.) Irish.

23 had to go . . . He had to go into Koroit to find W.A.

24 Isa. Isabella.

OCTOBER 1864

3 Presby Presbytery.

5 (1) Moffat [sic] John Moffatt.

(3) **R.P.** Robert Pollock (Essie's brother).

(4) **to withdraw** ... 'He will be asked to withdraw his resignation as an Elder, and if he refuses they intend to expel him from the Church.'

6 lose £4.9/. Puzzling. A tentative explanation is as follows. G. regularly handed over the fees he collected to the Patrons, who were entitled to use part of the money for sundry school expenses; the Patrons then sent the rest of the money to the Board, and stated how much they had deducted. G. for his part informed the Board of the total amount he had collected. With his next salary payment, the Board then paid G. the total collected, less the amount deducted. On this occasion G. had collected 77/3 and the Patrons had deducted 11/9. G. feared that the Board would not pay the 77/3, but would still deduct the 11/9, and miscalculated his potential loss by adding the 2 items together.

7 Moffat & Baylis John Moffatt was MLA for Villiers and Heytesbury from 01/11/1864 to 01/12/1865, William Bayles from 01/11/1864 to 01/02/1880.
mad 'furious'.

8 (2) Atcheson Perhaps a mistake for *Aitcheson*. He may have been related to the Margery Aitcheson who died on 19/01/1862 (whose surname G. wrongly spells without an *i* in the entry for 21/01/1862).

(6) **Janet Bonar** Daughter of Isabella, whose death G. records in the entry for 05/11/1861. Janet married George Yule in 1860, and according to the VBDM index this was her first marriage. She died in 1862 aged 38. G.'s knowledge about her seems sketchy.

(8) **home** i.e. back to Britain or Ireland.

FEBRUARY 1866

7 Annie Saunders Her mother Elizabeth died on 20/11/1861 (see entry and note). Ann, born in 1851, was the eldest child.

8 Sarah & Huston Essie's sister and brother.

9 (2) Papers i.e. returns, for W.A. to send to the Board.

(5) **Bella** Isabella.

10 (1) Gilbert He was now back in Melbourne, and wanted to become a pawnbroker.

(4) **over the head of it** 'on this account'.

(10) **Mrs Grant** She had presumably come as midwife.

had sc. Richard Thomas had.

11 (1) T. Hill Tower Hill, i.e. the Presbyterian church in Koroit. (The old name stuck for quite a while, but was eventually replaced by "Koroit".)

(2) **W^dford** Woodford.

(3) **the operator** God.

(4) **The Lord** ... *Acts* 16.14 "And a certain woman named Lydia ... heard us: whose heart the Lord opened ..."

(6) **puples [sic]** pupils.

12 (1) hae Scottish variant of *have*.

hae Bella down 'I intend to take Bella' (lit. 'I have Bella booked').

13 difference sc. financially. See Introduction 36.

name 'bad name, damage to my reputation'.

15 James Probably one of G.'s pupils, or former pupils (he was almost 16).

16 (2) A Probably W.A., to whom G. had lent money in July 1863 (see entry for 11/07/1863).

Thrash^g Thrashing. The machine threshed grain.

(3) **liked [sic]** Mistake for *have liked*.

17 his money £50 (see entry for 31/03/1866).

19 taken 'caught'.

25 15Y. 9M. 15 years 9 months.

MARCH 1866

2 good too i.e. good days also affect me, for the good.

5 (6) charge 'responsibility, job'.

6 put about 'upset' (mainly Scottish and northern English).

7 part. particular.

9 (2) Inspector General Probably Mr Venables.

(4) a Cart The plan was for Essie and Isabella to go too.

10 (2) K'stall Kirkstall.

the old woman Jane Pollock, G.'s mother-in-law.

11 (2) w'd would.

(3) Evg. Evening.

12 (3) abt about ('almost').

Grant Probably the husband of Essie's midwife.

13 Bell Isabella.

14 (3) Gilb. Gilbert. (G. usually calls him "Gib".)

17 (2) And. Anderson.

(3) of it 'because of it'.

20 Coz Maggie Margaret Tennent. Her son was born on 27/04/1862.

Aunt Cameron Jean, sister of G.'s mother. She died on 01/11/1865, aged 79.

21 P.B. Pawnbroker.

22 Gov Government.

24 likeness 'photo'.

28 B'fast Belfast.

Temp Temperance.

Mr A. W.A.

29 R. Probably Rebecca Pollock, Essie's sister; possibly her brother Robert.

Houston Huston, Essie's brother.

down i.e. visited us.

30 Barn [?] Which barn is unclear. The reading may be wrong.

31 other £50 On February 10 Gilbert asked for £100. On February 17 G. sent him £50.

APRIL 1866

1 fore forenoon.

2 (1) Hawkesdale About 17 miles north of Koroit.

aft afternoon.

(2) McCaulay [sic] McAulay, perhaps the Thomas McAulay who ran a private school on Spring Creek Road. (See SSTs 12, and entry and note for 07/09/1861.)

(4) had to stay The cart was Mr Leishman's.

3 Robt. Robert Pollock, Essie's brother. He may have wanted to rent some land from G., as his brother Anthony did (*GAPL* 64).

4 Cong Congregation.

5 the 25th It actually met on the 24th.

6 (1) his Bill The bill was probably repayment of a loan.

24 (6) enough Christians 'truly Christian enough'.

(8) in a great way 'pregnant'.

DECEMBER 1867

10 {Jany} This shows that the entry was written in January 1868.

a Son John Gilbert.

JANUARY 1868

JANUARY (2) Prince Alfred Son of Queen Victoria, and the first member of the royal family to visit Australia.

18 (1) old He was 66.

(4) his Eldership He was a member of Session from 1860 until his death in 1891.

FEBRUARY 1868

FEBRUARY (1) Com. Common.

McLachlan He is mentioned on 07/09/1864 (*McLachlin*) and 10/09/1864 as a Presbyterian turned Baptist. The present passage suggests that he was also parent of a pupil or pupils at Yangery School.

(2) showed sc. I showed.

Jas Bruce See *SBN* 24.

{MARCH} FEBRUARY (1) {MARCH} This shows that what follows was written in March.
m^o. month.

(2) a national feeling Mr Gillespie was Irish, Mr Adam Scottish.

(3) take nothing to do 'play no part'.

(4) sh^d should.

MARCH 1868

30 (1) Mr Adam was Elected George W. Adam served as Minister of the Koroit church from 29/04/1868 until 11/02/1873.

(4) doubt 'fear' (Scottish).

(5) my office G. was a member of Session from 1860 until his death in 1896.

APRIL 1868

7 (1) Mr McLeish died He was 59.

(5) the Duke of Edinburgh Prince Alfred, created Duke of Edinburgh in May 1866. The assassination attempt was made in Sydney on 12/03/1868.

(6) Fenianism Revolutionary Irish nationalism.

INDEX OF PERSONS

The index lists all pages in the diary where something is said about a person, not just the pages where he or she is named. Alternative ways by which a person is identified are given in brackets after the lemma.

References are given for *SBN*, but not for other parts of the Introduction, nor for the Notes. A question mark after a page number means that the person there mentioned may have been wrongly identified (see Notes for discussion).

- Abernethy, James McLure. 1830/1–1904. (*Mr Aber., Mr A.*) *SBN* 22. Irish, Presbyterian minister at Koroit, close friend of G. 45–58, 60f, 63f, 66–69, 71–79, 82f, 85f, 89, 91, 94, 99f, 105
- Abernethy, Mrs Sarah L. (*Mrs A.*) *SBN* 22. Wife of James, gives birth to son. 46, 54f, 63, 69, 77, 79f, 82f, 85, 100
- Abernethy, William. *SBN* 22. Son of James and Sarah, is born. 82
- Abraham. Hebrew patriarch. 102
- Adam, George W. Scottish, Presbyterian minister at Koroit 1868–73. 116
- Aitcheson, Margery. (*Atcheson*) Dies. 72
- Albert, Prince. 1819–1861. Husband of Queen Victoria, dies. 75
- Alfred, Prince. (*Duke of Edinburgh*) 1844–1900. Son of Queen Victoria, survives attempted assassination. 116.
- Anderson, Mr. (*Andersen*) Presbyterian minister in Warrnambool. 66f, 78, 80, 83, 85, 87f, 108–10, 112
- Anderson, Mrs. *SBN* 22–24. Probably mother of W.A. 101
- Anderson, Mrs Ann. (*Mrs And., Mrs A.*) *SBN* 22–24. Wife of W.A. 46, 61f, 64, 67, 78, 80 (?), 85, 88f, 90–92, 105, 112, 114f
- Anderson, Mrs Ann: her sister. Is unwell. 67
- Anderson, Mrs George. Is unwell, dies. 87
- Anderson, William. (*W. Ander., W. And., W.A., Mr And., Mr A., A.*) 1828–1909. *SBN* 22–24. Scottish, Presbyterian Elder, farmer, politician (MLA), patron of Yangery School, close friend of G. 45–52, 54f, 57f, 60–64, 66–69, 71f, 74–80, 82f, 85–89, 91f, 95–106, 108–10, 112, 114f
- Andersons. Mrs George and family. 87
- Atcheson, John. Surname may be a mistake for *Aitcheson*, in which case he may be related to Margery. Is thought likely to defect from Presbyterians to Baptists. 108
- Baily, J. Surname is perhaps a mistake for *Bailey*. Member of Presbytery. 114
- Baker, John. 58, 100
- Baker, Louis. Episcopalian minister at Tower Hill. 50, 55
- Baptists. Break open old Presbyterian church, grow in number as Presbyterians defect. 104–6, 108, 111
- Barber, Alex. (*Alex B., A.B.*) Of Kirkstall, Presbyterian Elder, farmer. 66, 69, 72, 80, 83, 93, 96, 98f
- Barber, John. Of Kirkstall, probably brother of Alex. 71f
- Barrett, Miss. 61
- Bayles, William. (*Baylis* is G.'s only spelling.) 1820–1903. Presbyterian, MLA. 106, 108
- Bear, John P. 1823–1889. MLC. 96
- Begg, Henry L. (*Harry*) Of Warrnambool, dies. 101f
- Begg, James. Presbyterian minister in Warrnambool, resigns. 48, 50, 52, 54, 57, 63, 66, 69, 74, 77, 82
- Blue, Archibald. (*Archie*) Has drink problem. 45, 58
- Bluett, John B. (*Blueett, Blueet* are G.'s only spellings.) Wesleyan, carpenter, patron of Yangery School, G.'s landlord. 48, 60, 68f, 77, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91
- Bluett, John B.: his people. 91
- Bluett, Mrs Milly. (*Blueett, Blueet, Mrs B.*) Wife of John. 61, 63f, 69, 72f, 83, 85, 93
- Bonar, Janet. Daughter of Isabella, marries George Yule. 108
- Bonar, Janet: her former husband or partner. 108
- Bonar, Mrs Isabella. Dies. 66
- Boyd, Dr. Doctor in Belfast and later Warrnambool, is seen by G., attends Essie. 69, 71, 104, 109
- Braim, Dr. (G.'s spelling *Brain* is probably a mistake.) 68 (?)
- Breton, Dr. Attends Essie. 93
- Bruce, George. 1829–1878. *SBN* 24. Scottish Presbyterian, farmer. 47, 61, 87, 94, 111
- Bruce, James. *SBN* 24. Older brother of George, Scottish Presbyterian, farmer. 116

INDEX OF PERSONS

- Bruce, John. *SBN* 24. Older brother of George, Scottish Presbyterian, farmer, patron of Yangery School. 97, 111
- Bruce, Mrs Mary. *SBN* 24. Wife of George, gives birth to son. 57, 75, 87
- Bruce, William. *SBN* 24. Son of George and Mary, is born. 75
- Burke, Robert. 1820–1861. Explorer, dies. 66f
- Burns, Mr. Wesleyan minister in Belfast. 46
- Caird, Rev. J. Author. 80, 82
- Cairns, Dr Adam. 1802–1881. Presbyterian theologian. 48, 67, 111
- Cameron, Mrs Jean. 1786–1865. G.'s aunt, dies in Scotland. 112
- Cameron, Robert. Young relative of G., dies in Scotland. 47
- Carl. Seller of horses. 64
- Cassidy, Mr. Lives beside Merri river. 74
- Chalmers, Mrs Elizabeth. (Once wrongly *Chambers*.) Unwell, dies. 58, 60f, 63
- Chancellor, Mr. (*Chancellor*) Gets drunk. 96, 98
- Christ: see *Jesus*.
- Commissioners, two. Officials of the southern American states. 75f
- Confederates, the. The people of the southern states of America. 97
- Conn, Miss Elizabeth. Episcopalian, marries John Lee. 101f
- Conrick, Patrick. Irish R.C., farmer, parent and patron of Yangery School. 64, 96, 110f
- Conrick, Patrick: his children. 110f
- Davidson, Elizabeth. (*Eliz.*) Maggie's sister. 46, 48, 50, 67
- Davidson, James. Maggie's father, dies at sea. 48f, 51, 64, 66, 78
- Davidson, Margaret. (*Maggie, Miss D., Ma. D., M.D., M.*) Is courted by G., but refuses him. 46, 48, 50–52, 54f, 57, 59, 61, 63–68, 74, 76
- Davidsons. (*D.*) Maggie and family. 52, 57, 61, 67, 78–80
- Dickson, Mr. 67
- Donaldson, James. (*D., J.*) Elder of the Presbyterian Church, becomes a Baptist. 104–6, 108
- Donie, Mr. Minister in Largs, Scotland, commits suicide. 101
- Donie, Mr: the lady he seduced. 101
- Downs, Mr. 111
- Dyer, Miss. Probably a teacher. 51
- Edinburgh, Duke of: see *Alfred, Prince*.
- Episcopalians: see *Baker, Louis*, and *Conn, Miss Elizabeth*.
- Examiner, the. A legal official. 52
- Fish, Sarah. Andersons' maid, leaves. 100
- Forrester, James. Dies in Scotland. 47
- Gillespie, Mr. Irish, Presbyterian minister. 116
- Gillies: see *Sarah*.
- Gillies, Mr. A neighbour of G. 52
- Gow, Mr. Gets drunk. 47
- Gow, Mr: his child. Dies. 47
- Grant, Mr. Probably husband of the following. 111
- Grant, Mrs. Attends Essie. 109
- Gray, Charles. Explorer, dies. 66
- Gregory, Mr. Teacher in Allansford, preaches. 48, 63, 69
- Hare, John. 105f
- Hare, John: his 3 children. All die. 105f
- Hare, Mrs. Wife of John. 105
- Heales, Richard. 1821–1864. Politician, Premier 1860–61. 67
- Hennessy, Mr. R.C., Yangery School parent. 97
- Hennessy, Mr: his 2 children. 97
- Hennessy, Mrs. Probably wife of the preceding, attends Essie. 104
- Hider, Mr. Photographer in Warrnambool. 112
- Hill, Mr. Teacher in Portland. 114
- Holden, J.B. 61
- Humffray, Mr. Of Belfast. 45, 71

INDEX OF PERSONS

- Hutchison, Mr. 97
- Ireland, Richard. 1815–1877. Irish R.C., MLA 1861–4. 57
- Irish Roman Catholics, two. (*P.I.* ‘papist Irish’) Seek election to Legislative Assembly. 106
- Jackson, Agnes. (*Merry*) G.’s young cousin, living in Scotland. 55, 58, 87, 99
- Jackson, George. G.’s cousin in Scotland, goes to India. 95
- Jackson, Isabella. (*Bella*) G.’s cousin, living in Scotland. 58
- Jackson, Mrs Catherine. 1810–1861. G.’s aunt, dies in Glasgow. 45, 54
- Jackson, Robert. (*Burt*) G.’s cousin, living in Scotland. 55, 58, 87, 99
- James, Master. Little boy, drowns in creek. 89
- James, Mr. Father of the preceding. 89
- Jesus. (*Christ, Redeemer, Saviour, Son of man*) 45–47, 49, 52, 54–58, 60, 63, 66–68, 71f, 74, 79–81, 83, 85f, 91, 93, 98, 106, 116
- Johnston, Francis. Father of James (2). 110
- Johnston, James (1). Teacher in Belfast, and later Kirkstall. 69, 80
- Johnston, James (2). Son of Francis and Mary (née Sloan), dies aged 15. 110
- Johnston, Mr. Photographer in Warrnambool. 112
- Johnstons. Family of Francis and Mary. 110
- Judas. (*J.*) Betrayer of Jesus. 105
- Kell, Andrew. Son of Andrew and Sarah. 55 (?)
- Kell, Andrew C. Scottish Protestant, farmer, wants son to board with G. 55
- Kell, Mrs Sarah. Wife of Andrew C. 55, 64
- King, John. Explorer. 66
- Koroit landowners, two. Want to sell their land. 96
- Laidlaw, Mrs. Is pregnant. 74
- lawyer, a. 54
- lecturer on temperance, a. 68
- lecturer on temperance, another. 82
- Lee, John. *SBN* 25. R.C., teacher in Koroit, marries Miss Conn. 49, 58, 61, 63f, 69, 71f, 74f, 77, 85, 98, 100–102, 105, 108, 111
- Leishman, Mrs Ann. *SBN* 26. Wife of Thomas. 45, 51, 58, 69, 72, 77, 91, 98, 111, 114
- Leishman, Thomas John. 1801–1891. *SBN* 26. Scottish, Elder of the Presbyterian Church, farmer. 53, 64, 66, 71, 74, 79, 91, 114–16
- Livingstone, David. 1813–1873. Missionary, explorer, author. 57
- Logan, Mrs. A distant relative of G., dies in New York. 67
- Love, D. Wesleyan preacher. 61
- Lydia. Woman mentioned in *Acts of the apostles*. 110
- McAulay, Don. (*McCaulay*) Perhaps related to the following. Teacher, goes to New Zealand goldfields, commits suicide. 60, 95
- McAulay, Mr. (*McCaulay*) Perhaps the Thomas McAulay who ran a private school. 114
- McCulloch, Sir James. 1819–1893. MLA and 4 times Premier. 99
- McKay. Daughter of G., is stillborn. 93
- McKay, George Gilbert: the man who brought back his horse. 68
- McKay, Gilbert Sayers. (*Gib, Gil, Gilb.*) 1833–1879. *SBN* 26. G.’s brother. Moves from Melbourne to Koroit to teach, returns to Melbourne to become a pawnbroker. 45f, 48, 55f, 58, 60, 63, 74f, 82, 88, 95–97, 99–102, 104–6, 108–10, 112–14, 116
- McKay, Hadassah. Daughter of G., a twin, dies on day of birth. 109
- McKay, Isabella Sayers. (*baby, Isa., Bella, Bell*) 1864–1888. Daughter of G., is born. 104f, 106, 108–10, 112, 114
- McKay, John. (*Father, F.*) 1791/2–1870. G.’s father, shoemaker in Glasgow. 45, 49, 51, 55, 58f, 87, 97, 99, 104, 116
- McKay, John: his people. 97
- McKay, John Gilbert. 1867–1938. Son of G., is born. 115
- McKay, Mrs Hadassah: see *Pollock, Hadassah*.
- McKay, Mrs Isabella. (*Mother, M.*) G.’s mother, living in Glasgow. 45, 52, 55, 58f, 75, 87, 91, 101, 104–6
- McKay, Sarah. Daughter of G., a twin, dies on day of birth. 109
- McKay, William. (*Wm, W.*) G.’s brother, living in Glasgow. 45, 48f, 52, 55, 58, 75, 82, 87

INDEX OF PERSONS

- McLachlan, Mr. (*McLachlin*) Of Kirkstall, Presbyterian who turns Baptist, probably a Yangery School parent. 105, 116
- McLaws, David. Farmer, owner of hotel and assembly room. 77, 106
- McLeish, Mrs. (*Mrs McL.*) Wife of William. 66, 89f, 92
- McLeish, William. Teacher in Warrnambool. 46, 52, 57, 77, 79f, 87, 92, 97, 116
- McLeod, Norman. Author. 100
- McLure, Mr. Of Wangoom. 84
- McPhail, S. 83
- McVicar, Margaret. (*Miss McV.*) Daughter of Peter and Mary, unwell, has leg amputated, dies aged 17. 58, 64, 66, 69, 77–79, 83
- McVicar, Mrs. Probably Mary, wife of Peter. 104
- McVicar, Peter. Farmer, father of Margaret. 66, 83
- McVicars. Peter and family. 64
- Mann, James. 76
- Maston, Mr. Lectures on temperance. 67
- May, Mrs. Of Spring Creek, dies. 98
- May, Mrs: her child. Is born. 98
- Midgley, Eliza. (*E.M.*) 1839–1877. *SBN* 27f. Sarah's younger sister. 46, 49, 61, 75
- Midgley, John. 1800–1864. *SBN* 27f. Sarah's father. Wesleyan, farmer, dies. 48, 105
- Midgley, Richard. *SBN* 27f. Sarah's younger brother. 75, 77
- Midgley, Sarah. (*Mrs Skilbeck, Mrs S.*) 1831–1893. *SBN* 27f. Wesleyan, diarist, marries cousin Richard Skilbeck. 61, 71
- Midgley, William. 1829/30–1910. *SBN* 27f. Sarah's older brother. 46f, 77
- Midgleys. John and family. *SBN* 27f. 61, 69, 75
- Millar, Peter. 115
- Miller, Mrs. Attends Essie, becomes Baptist. 46, 92, 104, 106
- Miller, Robert. (*R.M.*) Unwell, dies. 48, 51f, 55
- Moffatt, John. (*Moffat*) 1817–1871. *MLA*. 108
- Mooney, J. R.C., farmer, Yangery School parent, complains about G. 89, 110f, 116
- Mooney, Mrs Kate. Probably wife of the preceding. Complains about G. 97
- Moore, Mrs. Probably wife of S. Moore. 111f
- Moore, Mrs: her little girl. Dies. 111f
- Moore, S. Yangery School parent. 103
- Morrison, Mr. Maker of Morrison's pills. 97
- Murphy, Mr. R.C., Yangery School parent. 103
- musicians. From Belfast. 50
- Norman, Christopher. Storekeeper, patron of Koroit State School. 69 (?)
- Norman, Miss. Perhaps related to Christopher. 61
- Northerners. Those fighting on the side of the Union in the American civil war. 90
- old man in Spring Creek. Gets foot scalded. 97
- O'Shanassy, John. (*OShannessy*) 1818–1883. Irish R.C., *MLA* and Premier. 98
- Owen, George. Teacher in Wangoom. 45 (?), 77
- Paterson, Mr. Ill, dies. 85, 87
- Patersons. Family of Mr Paterson. 87
- Paton, Mr. 114
- Patrick, Saint. 77, 94
- patrons of Yangery School. 61, 89, 96f
- Pollock, Hadassah. (*Miss P., H.P., H., Esse, Essie, E.*) 1833/4–1902. Of Kirkstall, Irish Presbyterian, a maidservant, marries G., gives birth to a stillborn girl, to Isabella, to twins who die on the day they are born, and to John. 76–80, 82–97, 99f, 102–6, 108–12, 115f
- Pollock, Hadassah: a male friend of hers. 111
- Pollock, Huston. (*Houston, H.*) 1845/6–1936. Essie's brother. 97, 104, 109, 112
- Pollock, Mrs Jane. (*Mrs P., the old woman, the old folks*) 1808/9–1897. Essie's mother. 83, 85, 89–91, 93, 95, 103, 105f, 111
- Pollock, Rebecca. 1842–1888. Essie's sister. 93f
- Pollock, Robert. (*R.P., the old folks*) 1795–1871. Of Kirkstall, Irish Presbyterian, farmer, Essie's father. 83, 85, 89–91, 93, 95, 103, 105f

INDEX OF PERSONS

- Pollock, Robert. (*R.P., R.*) 1829–1924. Essie's brother. Elder of Presbyterian Church, becomes a Baptist. 104, 106, 108, 112, 114
- Pollock, Sarah. (*S.*) 1838–1917. Essie's sister. 92f, 102, 109
- Pollock, William. 1848/9–1915. Essie's brother. 102
- Presbyterians. (*presby* 'Presbyterian', *presby* 'Presbytery') 77, 79f, 87, 91, 105, 108, 114f
- prisoners, 12,000. Captured by the southern states in the American civil war. 90
- Protestants, three. Seek election to the Legislative Assembly. 106
- Ritchie, Miss. 67
- Robertson, Miss. Perhaps daughter of William. Helps G. in school. 104f
- Robertson, Mrs. Wife of William. 106
- Robertson, William. (*Mr R.*) Presbyterian minister in Koroit. 91f, 94–103, 105f, 110–16
- Roman Catholic bishop. 112
- Roman Catholics. (*R.C., papists, P.I.* 'papist Irish') 46, 75, 97, 101, 106, 108
- Ross, Mr. Holds prayer meeting. 77, 84, 92
- Ross, Mr. (*old Ross*) Perhaps father of the preceding. 92, 103 (?)
- Russell, D. Of Belfast. 98
- Rutledge, William. 1806–1876. *SBN* 28f. Merchant, banker, farmer, politician. 46f, 80
- Sarah. Perhaps Sarah Gillies, perhaps a servant of the Gillies'. Sees thief, gives evidence. 54
- Saunders, Ann Anderson. (*Annie*) Daughter of Elizabeth, helps G. in school. 109f
- Saunders, Mrs Elizabeth. Dies. 67
- Saunders, Mrs Elizabeth: two of her children. 67
- Shearer, Mrs. 55
- Simpson, Mr. Presbyterian minister in Belfast. 50, 63, 67, 71, 87f
- Singleton, Dr. Doctor in Warrnambool, attends Essie. 45, 92f
- Skilbeck, Mrs Sarah: see *Midgley, Sarah*.
- Skilbeck, Richard. (*S.*) 1837–1924. *SBN* 29f. Wesleyan, businessman, farmer, diarist, marries cousin Sarah Midgley. 55, 61, 63, 66, 68, 74
- Skilbecks. Richard and wife Sarah. *SBN* 29f. 66, 74
- Slattery, Thomas. R.C. dean, accuses G. of burning Catholic catechism. 97
- Sloan, Mrs Elizabeth. (*Sloane*) Wife of Thomas, unwell, dies aged 27. 47, 51f, 55–61, 63–65, 67–69, 71f, 74–77, 79–83, 85
- Sloan, Thomas. (*Sloane*) G.'s landlord. 46–48, 53f, 58, 74, 80, 111f
- Smith, Mr. MLA and cabinet minister. 96
- Somerville, Mrs. Returns to Britain or Ireland. 66, 108
- Somerville, Mrs: her mother. Dies. 66
- Southerners. Those fighting on the side of the southern states in the American civil war. 90
- Sprod, Mrs Alison. *SBN* 26. Daughter of Thomas Leishman, unwell, dies. 97–99
- Stephens, Walter. (*Stevens*) Sells land to Mr Venables. 57, 66, 79
- Stephenson, T. (*Stevenson*) Wesleyan minister in Belfast. 49, 61, 71
- Stevens, William. Pays bill. 114
- Sutherland, John. Presbyterian preacher. 86f, 101, 111
- Syrophenician woman. (*Syrophenican*) Woman mentioned in Mark's gospel. 85
- T., Miss. 114
- Tennent, Margaret. (*Maggie, Mag, M.*) G.'s cousin, living in Scotland. 58, 87, 98, 112
- Tennent, Margaret: her son. Is born, dies. 87, 112
- thief, a. 52, 54
- Thomas, Mrs. (*Mrs T.*) Wife of Richard. 51, 61, 64, 66, 76, 83
- Thomas, Richard P. Teacher in Dennington, good friend of G. 46–48, 51f, 54, 57, 59, 61, 66–69, 72, 74–80, 83f, 87, 90, 99f, 108–11
- Thompson, J. Member of Presbytery. 114
- Thompson, Mrs. Dies. 72
- trooper, a. 52
- Urquhart, Roderick. 1808–1875. *SBN* 30. Scottish Presbyterian, farmer. 68, 75, 82, 87, 110
- Venables, Henry Pares. (*Mr Ven., H.V., the Inspector*) 1830–1890. *SBN* 30f. Inspector of schools, buys some land. 48, 52f, 57, 63, 66, 77–80, 83, 87, 90, 93, 95f, 98f, 101, 109f, 111 (?)
- Venables, Henry Pares: his "master". 101
- Victoria, Queen. 1819–1901. 49, 95

INDEX OF PERSONS

Walker, John. Presbyterian, farmer, patron of Yangery School. 52, 97, 105
Watson, Mr. 61
Watt, James. 49
Wesleyans. 45, 61, 71, 92, 112
Wills, William. 1834–1861. Explorer, dies. 66f
Witten, Mr. (*Witten* is probably a mistake for *Witton*.) Of Belfast, Wesleyan preacher. 63, 71
Young, T.U. Author. 96
Yule, George. (*Yuille*) Husband of Janet Bonar. 108
Zacchaeus. (*Zaccheus*) Rich publican mentioned in *Luke*. 104