

#### CHAPTER XIV.

*Sir John Madden's Reminiscences Continued—George Watson—Hunting-Hounds Meet at the Junction—James Henderson—His Pack of Beagles — A Stag Hunt—Meet on the Esplanade, 1878—Bush Racecourse—A Lively Race Meeting—Fifty Horsemen Fight Each Other—Village Belle Hotel—Henry Peers Humor—Place Name Locations—Mrs. Knox's Memories—Notable Men and Homes—Oakleigh Hall—Carlton House—Royal Hotel, 1859—The Mooney's—Justice Chapman's Memories—First St. Kilda Newspaper—Robert Sparrow Smythe— First Steam Printing Press Made in the Colony Constructed in Acland Street, St. Kilda.*

**WE** continue Sir John Madden's reminiscences of early St. "Kilda. He writes: "Tom Miller, and Frank Stephen, were two of the best known police court lawyers, of the early days, and both of them were good hunting men. They loved dogs, the gun, and the horse. Tom Miller seldom addressed the Melbourne Police Court Bench, that usually had as Chairman Mr. Joseph A. Panton, on the civil side, and Mr. F. C. Call on the criminal aide, without an elaborate cleaning, and adjustment of his eyeglass. He had a quiet way with him, and his look of feigned astonishment, when Frank Stephen, who was a masterful man, "rushed a verdict" in his client's favor, leaving Tom's poor client lamenting, with fees, to pay, was very amusing."

We resume. On April 22, 1850, George Watson was married in All Saints' Church, St. Kilda. He lived at "Fenagh" in Burnett Street. The main buildings of Watson's house "Fenagh," had undergone but little alterations since they were brought in sections from England. At one time, Watson owned the only pack of hounds in the Colony. As Master of the Hounds, residing at St. Kilda, it was in accord that members of the Melbourne Hunt Club should hold their annual dinners in St. Kilda. These dinners were of such a nature as to almost justify the claim that they were "famous." They were at least famous in St. Kilda in their hour, though perhaps to-day, with dinners eaten, wine drunk, and diners in graveyards, few, if anyone, remain who personally can recall them. The dinners commenced

punctually at 7 p.m. and they generally finished in the early hours of the following morning. Club members were required to appear in pink, and visitors in evening dress. Strict supervision was exercised over the tickets issued, by Mr. M'Candlish, at George Watson's bazaar in Bourke Street. A notable club dinner, with George Watson in the chair, took place in the New Baths Hotel in December 1857. Hunting songs were given so lustily by the huntsmen that the "choruses could be heard a quarter of a mile away."

The New Baths Hotel was selected by the huntsmen for their annual dinner because the licensee, H. J. Johnson, had a reputation for keeping good cooks. Formerly he was the licensee of the Star and Garter Hotel, and that regally named Inn, became, under him, one of the fashionable hotels of St. Kilda. Johnson was careful to observe the old English custom of keeping his proper station "towards the squire, and his relations." Consequently Johnson was popular with the gentlemen of St. Kilda, and he shared their custom with James Mooney at the Royal. When the hounds met at the Royal, Mooney provided a minor imitation of an English hunting breakfast, a welcome reinforcement to the huntsmen with a hard day ahead of them.

In the years of the fifties the meet of the hounds often took place at the Junction, or on the Esplanade, alongside Mooney's Royal Hotel. On the Queen's Birthday, May 24, 1858, a meet of the hounds was held at the Junction, when the late Mr. John Madden, was out for the first time in Australia. In a letter we received from Sir John, he says, "The hounds threw off somewhere about Hotham Street, and Balaclava Road corner. Much of Balaclava was at that time an unoccupied swampy locality, and the country eastward and southward of it was quite open. The hounds ran a drag to about Murrumbeena, and there they found a kangaroo that they hunted towards and killed near Dandenong. These hounds frequently met at the Village Belle junction, where an open space of considerable extent existed between it and the sea."

"As St. Kilda swiftly extended in the early sixties, the hounds retired further out, and they usually met at the 'Plough and Harrow,' a little beyond Brighton, and at 'Oakleigh Steeple' (i.e., near a little church at Oakleigh), whence they hunted kangaroos, then abundant in all the country around these places. They were

found, and hunted too, not infrequently in the valley eastward of the State Government House, and occasionally even nearer to Prahran."

"James Henderson, who was the official judge at the Flemington Races for many years, and who resided at St. Kilda, kept a pack of beagles. Their meets usually took place in Albert Park, then a large open reserve. There they hunted such harmless game as bagged rabbit, or indulged in the wild excitement of following a drag. Tom Miller, the well known solicitor of early police court days, kept another pack of beagles at the south end of St. Kilda, and he hunted round about there. His game was also bagged rabbits, and an occasional wallaby."

We supplement the remarks of Sir John regarding James Henderson's St. Kilda pack of beagles with some of our own gleaned from the newspaper files of "Bell's Life in Victoria." St. Kilda was the most favored place for holding the meets of the beagles, though sometimes in the year 1861 the pack met at the Wattle Tree Hotel, at the corner of that road, and what is now Glendearg Grove, Malvern. They also assembled at the Cheltenham Hotel, Cheltenham, and the Retreat Hotel, Brighton. The game hunted was deer, bagged dingo, and kangaroo, or failing the production of live animals, the beagles followed the trail of a drag. Henderson made Sam Waldock, a well known sportsman of those days, the master of the beagle pack. In St. Kilda the beagles met at the New Baths Hotel, or at the St. Kilda Park gates. "Bell's Life" in its issue of April 27, 1861, states, "Mr. Henderson's Beagles—Sam Waldock will hunt the beagles during the coming season. The first meet will be at the New Bath Hotel, St. Kilda, on Tuesday next, at half past one o'clock. A fine young stag has been given for the occasion by Mr. Wedel of the Criterion Hotel."

Henderson kept his pack of beagles, in kennels, next door to the abattoirs, erected on the Customs House Reserve, at Elwood. This he did, by permission of the Lands' Survey authorities, after they had ascertained from the St. Kilda Council, that the Council had no objection to Henderson doing so.

According to contemporary accounts the unsportsmanlike behaviour of the stags was not always satisfactory to the huntsmen. Apparently the animals did not appreciate the honor done them. They appeared to dislike being hunted, in the same way,

as it is creditably supposed, a worm objects to a fisherman's hook within his skin. At times, the inconsiderate deer went on strike. They refused to leave the shelter of the boxes in which they were brought to the field of honor. They were at other times "sluggish," and they declined to run for their lives, threw in their horns as it were, dog or no dogs. If they were to be worried to death then that worry would be the end of their own. The huntsmen had to whip off the beagles to save the deer. On one occasion the huntsmen had a disappointing surprise. The newspaper reporter of the incident states, "The handsome, and lively deer, was duly carted to the spot for turning him out, and all was anxiety, and holding hard when the looked for moment for uncarting arrived, but, sad to say, when the door was opened, the antlered beauty, proved to have been so eager for liberty that he had broken his neck in the struggle to escape, and the afternoon's chase was literally "knocked on the head." However, two capital drags afforded the desired galloping, and fencing."

The stags were driven in a closed cart on to the Elsternwick, or Elwood flat, and there the animals were turned loose. If the unhappy creatures were in a running mood, they made across the, more or less, bush country towards the east. Henderson eventually sold the beagles to Peter King and then King renamed the St. Kilda pack the Prahran Beagles. We have seen a record of a meet of the Prahran Beagles, at the St. Kilda Park gate, for a stag hunt, on the afternoon of May 2, 1863.

The Melbourne Hunt Club on June 21, 1873, held its meet on the St. Kilda Esplanade. It was a Saturday afternoon, and a large number of sightseers was present. The whole length of the Esplanade was crowded, while the carriage way was almost blocked up with vehicles. After the populace had been gratified with a good look at the "picture in pink" a move was made in the direction of Elsternwick. The hounds were laid on to a drag, the line being taken in the direction of Oakleigh. Just beyond this village a dingo was turned loose. From this point the hounds went along the Dandenong road for about two miles when they inclined to the right, and ran towards Mordialloc. The dingo rushed into a hut in Key's paddock, and so saved his life, the hounds being whipped off.

In some reminiscences, recalled in July 1927, the late Miss Henrietta Jennings, mentioned that hunting was very popular among some of the well to do residents of St. Kilda. St. Kilda was, in a way, the centre point of hunting interests, since George Watson, of Burnett Street, was the master of the Melbourne Hounds. Dr. John Madden was a great hunting man, and he wrote vivid descriptions of the Saturday afternoon hunts each week, for *The Australasian*. Miss Jennings mentioned the famous "Lady in Grey," for the "Lady in Grey" was quite well known to Melbourne, as a brave huntress who cleared her three and four railed fences, on "Major," in true Diana style. We suspect that the Irishman, in Dr. Madden, when he took his running pen in hand to cry tally ho! and to describe a run of the Melbourne Hounds, overflowed, with admiration, for the St. Kilda horsewoman, and her mount. He loved the picturesque pen touch of the lady in the grey habit among the scarlet jackets. Moreover, the "Lady in Grey" was Mrs. Henry Field Gurner, whose husband, one of the pioneer residents of St. Kilda, was the first lawyer to be admitted to the Port Phillip Courts and he was so admitted at Melbourne, on May 9, 1841. The next year he was appointed to the office of Crown Solicitor, and the clerk of Peace at Port Phillip, and in September he was selected, by Governor C. J. Latrobe, to be the first town clerk of Melbourne. We have spoken of him elsewhere, but it is to be seen here that the legal atmosphere about Henry Field Gurner, must have had some kindred to Dr. Madden's legal susceptibilities, and that the doctor found pleasure in giving the "Lady in Grey," the brush for her horsemanship, and in pleasing the Crown Solicitor of the Colony at the same time. Gurner held the office of Crown. Solicitor for twenty years. He was born at Sydney, and died at St. Kilda, on April 17, 1883, at the age of 64.

Miss Henrietta Jennings was a proud old lady when she told the story of her skill in archery. It is a curious trait in men, and women also, that they are more proud of their college "blues", or their sports' prizes, than they are of their senior wranglerships and such scholastic triumphs. Miss Jennings won the archery competition at Government House, Toorak, when Sir Henry Barkly was Governor. She was then eighteen years of age, and though at the time of her speaking, over sixty years had passed, since that day of success, she was,

womanlike still able to describe the dress she wore. She *said*: "My costume for the match was a full length skirt, a high collar, a black lace shawl, and a poke bonnet with roses inside the brim." The Alma Archery Club, she remembered, was founded in the year 1858, and the membership was limited to 60. The targets were placed in a paddock, at the corner of Chapel Street, and Alma Road.

Henry Jennings migrated to Hobart Town, with his brother, in the year 1842, and when he arrived in Tasmania, he was 21 years of age. On board the ship he came by were five sisters, named Legge. He recorded in the diary he kept aboard the ship, that one of the sisters "has the gift of the gab, but I find what she says is worth listening to." The sequel showed, that he was interested enough to think it worth while, to listen to the lady's voice, for the rest of his life. He married her in Tasmania. The old tell-tale diary today remains to recall that romance of eighty eight years ago.

In 1853 a bush racecourse was situated south from where the Village Belle Hotel now stands, at the corner of Smith, and Barkly Streets. A two days' race meeting was held on January 12, and 13, 1853. Contemporary reports describe the appearance of St. Kilda Road, with "equipages of all kinds too numerous to particularise," carrying the Melbourne sportsmen to the St. Kilda race, as a very animated highway. "The race course," we are told, "is situated rather more than a mile beyond the township of St. Kilda, and upwards of four miles from town." The crowd on the race course was a large one, and sightseers lined the course, on both sides, in the neighborhood of the winning post, and "in some places the crowd was two, and three deep." The fair sex was well represented. Booths, and stalls, also swings for youngsters, were to be seen. "Cards of the race, with colors of the riders, were cried about the course in true English style, which must have struck the new arrival as being more like 'home' than he could have expected at the antipodes of his native land."

We learn from The Argus newspaper that the great attraction of the day was the contest for the St. Kilda Cup, between "Blind Billy," "Bendigo Nugget," "Shamrock," and "The Doctor." The merits of the two former horses had been, for a considerable time, a theme of discussion in the sporting world of Victoria. Bets of a heavy amount, it was stated, were wagered on the result of the race for the St. Kilda Cup.

A party of mounted police was kept busy on the first day in quelling several disturbances, "but none of much importance." On the second day the sport was described as "furious." The personal favors that are reputed to be so freely distributed at Donnybrook Fair appear to have been willingly given, and as willingly returned, at the St. Kilda Races. The Irish element was a strong faction, and when the followers of the Michael O'Rileys, and the Barney McGraths found that "Shamrock" ran second, and "Bendigo Nugget" third, their feelings required an outlet.

The Argus states that "the pleasure of the company was greatly disturbed by the continued fights, and disturbances, occurring around, caused, there is no doubt, by the unlimited sale of spirits upon the ground in the most open manner. 'Nobblers' were served round on both sides of the course, and unblushingly cried, as were oranges, or any other comestibles. Sergeant South, and about five mounted troopers, paraded the ground, but on their interfering in several instances they were set at defiance. One fight especially, assumed a most serious aspect." It was reported that upwards of fifty horsemen appeared to be belaboring each other. A number of gentlemen aided the five mounted troopers, and the police sergeant, who were engaged, with their batons, in dispersing the howling and fighting mob.

At the beginning of 1854, a man with an eye on the custom that future race meetings might bring, built two, or three rooms, on the land now covered by the Village Belle Hotel. His name was Henry Peel, and he applied for a publican's licence for the wayside shanty. Peel said that if he obtained the licence he would call his hotel the "Village Bell," and he would be the "peal." On May 9, Peel's application was before the Licensing Court. The Argus summarily reports the result :

"May 9, 1854.

City Annual Licensing Day:

Present—E. P. Sturt, Esq., Police Magistrate, and Mr. Inspector Freeman, J.P.

Henry Peel, the Village Bell, St. Kilda. Refused because the premises are unsuitable."

This little rift within the lute made Peel's music mute. Peel then dropped out, for Edward Stead applied on April 17,

1855, for a licence for the Village Belle Hotel, which was granted. The Village Belle Hotel has enjoyed a celebrity ever since it was a wooden building up to the present day, when it has merged into a modern brick hotel. Originally the hotel was the last house of call before the traveller crossed the then dreary wastes of the swamp lands of Elwood on his way to the Dendy settlement at Brighton. So remote, and so little frequented, were the lands of Elwood, that the promoters of a prize fight, cleared a space there, in the tea tree scrub, as a suitable place where a fight could be fought, bare knuckled, to its brutal finish. The confidential meeting place of the pugilistic crew was in front of the Village Belle Hotel. At the hour just after dawn the company was to move on to the secretly prepared site for the ring, east of the Red Bluff. The police were well informed of the devious doings of "The Fancy." Before a breach of the peace could take place the mounted troopers broke through the scrub, and flushed the unsavory crew. Dozens of men made off in every direction fearful of arrest if they did not escape. The prizefighters, their seconds, and their backers, hurried off in cabs to Brighton, but the troopers trotted behind the cabs, regardless of jeers. They made any attempt to stage the fight impossible that day.

Frequent mention is made in the early minute books of the Council to the location of the Village Belle Hotel. Even to-day the place of the Village Belle has official recognition. Almost unnoticed it appears as if a place name for a municipal district is in the course of evolution, or that the place name is already evolved. Elwood residents dated some of their troubles from the Village Belle Hotel location, not, we make haste to add, from the bar of the hotel. On August 11, 1873, a memorial was received by the St. Kilda Council from G. B. Evans, S. Foy, and James Osborn, of Elwood, calling attention to the want of repairs to the road, leading from the Village Belle Hotel, to the St. Kilda Abattoirs. The carting of heavy material for the new Elster Creek bridge, in wet weather, in addition to the ordinary traffic, that passed over the road, had cut the road up, and made several large holes in it. Since that complaint was received the road has been many times repaired and the Village Belle Hotel rebuilt, and so, with electric tramways, the place moves to further improvements.

Holiday race meetings were generally promoted by enterprising publicans. No one was more to the fore in such affairs than an early boniface named Broad, who was the licensee of the Greyhound Hotel, opposite the present City Hall. On some high days publicans would offer an additional draw for trade by advertising the hunt of a kangaroo at the end of the day's racing. The Melbourne Morning Herald of January 11, 1855, thus records such an event:—"After another hack race, a kangaroo hunt followed, and afforded intense amusement to a large number of spectators. The animal was caught, after a twenty minutes run, and will doubtless afford further sport on future occasions."

Upon the walls of the Greyhound Hotel was in its early days a painting of two greyhounds coursing a hare. It was the second hotel in St. Kilda to have such a subject as a sign. The Hare and Hounds Hotel, in Grey Street, was the other. Coursing was a favourite sport in St. Kilda, and meetings were held on the Elwood lands, and in the Albert Park. The St. Kilda Coursing Club was in full running, in the year, 1879. Its patron, was the Hon. W. J. Clarke. President, John Finlay and Vice President, Samuel Willis. The treasurer was "Paddy" Guaran of the Bay View Hotel, and the honorary secretary, W. J. Livingston. The judge was W. Pitt. The programme for 1879, showed "The St. Kilda Stakes," the Prahran Stakes, the Trial Stakes, the St. Kilda Cup, run in July, for thirty two, all aged greyhounds, at 3 guineas *each*. Winner £10, and a piece of plate, value £10, presented by the club; Runner up, £20. Two dogs £5 each, four dogs £3/3/- each, and so on. The stakes were run under the rules of the National Coursing Club of Australasia. At the time the club was started in March, 1879, Samuel Willis, the vice-president was the Mayor of Prahran, and a member of the firm of Willis Brothers contractors that did municipal work for St. Kilda as well as elsewhere. The coursing meetings were held on Mr. Robertson's estate Keilor Road. The club's members were in the habit of training their dogs in the Albert Park. That practice went on for years. The Secretary of Lands wrote to the St. Kilda Council on April 14, 1890, stating the Department had received complaints of the annoyance caused by greyhounds in the park. He forwarded a regulation to "meet the case" and asked the Council to attach

the corporation seal to the document. A St. Kilda resident, John Munday, was for many years and till he died the secretary of the Victorian Coursing Club.

In 1878, the St. Kilda Sailing Club was in existence. Its chairman was P. Oakden, R. Hill was Commodore, Dr. J. Cook and W. Collier vice commodores, and Captain P. Oakden, and William Anderson were respectively treasurer and secretary.

Mrs. Knox, in her memoirs of Early St. Kilda, and Alma Road, states that "no houses were near the Ireland's, but on the side opposite to us (the Knox's) it was all trees, and paddock, until you came to Chapel Street. Away back among the trees, and fronting High Street, was a large two-storied house; I think it was of brick belonging to a Mr. Harvey. We could scarcely see it until some of the trees were taken away, and a lawn made in front of the house. The place was enclosed by a high picket fence; the entrance gates were very plain, and there was no carriage way. The ground extended a long way down High Street. It was the place where, in 1866, the Governor, Sir J. H. T. Manners-Sutton stayed while the Governor's House was being renovated for the expected visit of Prince Alfred, and his suite. There was a large family of the Manners-Sutton, but before he came to Harvey's house the front fence was removed, and a nice new fence, as well as a wide main iron gate, iron side gates, were substituted for the old fence, and gate. The house was done up too. In the grounds were kept numbers of emus and kangaroos."

The Harvey, Mrs. Knox refers to, was Matthew Harvey, and the dwelling, Charnwood House. Harvey was a wealthy squatter, who spared no expense in the construction of the place. He did not, unhappily, long enjoy living in the house which he had built. A series of bad drought seasons, and other financial misfortunes, ruined him. He was found dead on a lonely road, in the bush, a few years afterwards. Both he and Kyte rose to fortune, both of them built notable houses in St. Kilda, and both of them lost their fortunes. Harvey named his house "Charnwood," after the place name of the famous forest in Leicestershire, from which county he is said to have come. Charnwood forest occupies the highest ground of the undulating table land which is the topographical feature of the English

midland county. The place name Charnwood in St. Kilda was not inappropriately attached to the high lands that formed Harvey's property. Selwyn Smith's recollections of the place, as it was, when he was a boy, in the years of the sixties, is that "there were multitudes of goats on the wilds of Harvey's paddock where Charnwood Crescent is now." The old house, divorced from its once ample garden, and paddocks, is hemmed in with modern houses, such as the group called "Charnwood Oaks." In the place where the kangaroos, emus, and goats roamed free, is the St. Kilda Jewish synagogue, a beautiful building wherein to worship the God of Israel, and not far away is the Jewish school, and also buildings, all new corners. Charnwood House still holds its own, with the dignity that remains with it, from the days of its vice-regal patronage.

Continuing Mrs. Knox's recollections, she relates how : "The blacks often visited us then. When father began business at the Junction (160 High Street) some time afterwards, the blacks used to come down to see him. They used to say 'You move! You move! Give old Billy an old coat.' They used to admire themselves in a cheval glass, and then go round to the back of the glass to see if the black they saw in the glass was really the one who was reflected in it. One Sunday afternoon an omnibus going to the Beach struck a stump in front of the shop, and the bus tumbled over, smashing into the shop window. Some of the passengers were cut by the broken glass. They were taken to Patrick E. Matthews, the chemist, who lived in that street, and their cuts and bruises were attended to by him. He was the only chemist in St. Kilda, and the post office was at his shop. The first baker in High Street was John Grant. I think Moses Frazer was the first grocer. A Mrs. Taylor was living in a tent house near Inkerman Street, and she was Joseph Taylor's mother. Our house was the first two-storey house in that part of St. Kilda. It stood alone for a long time. Farmer's paddock was next to us, on one side, and Anstey's three-roomed house on the other. Father was one of St. Kilda's first volunteer firemen, and his uniform had to be on a chair in his bedroom at night. Water was 15/- a full load, and there was only casks to hold it in. The driver of the first water cart at a fire got 10/-, the second 7/6."

To resume. At the corner of Westbury Street, Archie Yuille, senior, who was well known in connection with the sales of

racine horses, had his home. In addition to selling blood stock he owned racehorses, and he won the Championship race of 1859, with a horse he named "Flying Buck." The horse only succeeded in running into a second place in the Derby, in the same year. A St. Kilda school boy, Henry Meend, a pupil of Dr. Bromby's at the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, rode "Flying Buck" when he won the Champion Race. Meend, in later life, became the well known racehorse trainer.

A perusal of the St. Kilda section of the first Melbourne directories discloses that a notable company of leading merchants, barristers, and bankers had their homes in St. Kilda. A complete list of them, and of the streets in which they lived, would extend for pages. At the corner of Hotham, and Inkerman Streets, Captain Theodore Boyd resided with his large family of sons and daughters. He had been in the 11th Regiment, and he had served as A.D.C. to General Macarthur during the time he was Acting Governor, or Administrator, in 1856. A notable man, George Collins Levey, resided in Fulton Street. Levey was the proprietor, and editor of the Melbourne Herald newspaper, from 1863 to 1868. He it was who issued The Herald at the price of one penny, and thereby became the pioneer of penny newspapers in Australia. Afterwards Levey found an outlet for his energies in managing exhibitions for the colonies. He received the honor of a C.M.G. for his services.

Among early St. Kilda men none was better known than the late Judge Brice Frederick Bunny, who built, and occupied, a house in Inkerman Street, West. When the judge left London, as a young man, to seek his fortune in Australia at the diggings, his friend Vice Chancellor Bacon advised him to take his law books, his tools of trade, with him in case Mistress Fortune at the diggings should pass him by. After a six months' trial at the diggings, Bunny recognised he was "non-suited," and he turned to law, and soon secured a good practice. In 1861 he was elected a member of the St. Kilda Council, and he was the chairman of the Municipality in 1862-63-64. He was a member of the Legislative Assembly from 1859-60 when William Nicholson's Ministry was in power. Another legal light, Judge Billings, resided in Balaclava Road East, and not far away from him, was the house of Thomas Henry Lempriere, whose father was a lieutenant in the waggon train at the victory of Waterloo.

Carlton House was known as Sugden's Folly, but whether it was or was not a folly the house was a portion of the insolvent estate of William J. Sugden, and it was sold by the official assignee, Alexander Laing, for what it would bring, on October 10, 1860, subject to a mortgage of £3,000, at £10 per cent. rate of interest, with eighteen months to run. The house was originally known as the Carlton Family Hotel, and it stood at the corner of Acland Street, to which the property had a frontage of 1231 feet, by a depth of 102 feet to Robe Street. Carlton House was three stories in height, with a flat roof, built of bricks, placed on bluestone foundations, and it contained thirty rooms. Beyond that, there was, built also of brick, the kitchen, coach house, granary, harness room and hay loft. In the yard was a water tank, 16 feet 6 inches in square, stone, and cement lined, upon a brick foundation. The tank held water all the year. The hotel was well built; the rooms were large, and lofty, and they were well fitted, "with every regard to comfort, forming, without exception, a first class, and most superior family and commercial hotel. Sugden's ideas were in the right direction, but Carlton Hotel was before its time, so much so, that it was eventually pulled down. The hotel was not sold by auction, and it was offered for private purchase. The auctioneer, Alfred Bliss, advertised that, in his opinion, the house would give unusual advantages for a St. Kilda club house. We add that William Sugden was a successful Melbourne publican, who made money in the business of hotel keeping, at the "Royal Mail," and the "Bull and Mouth" Hotels, Bourke Street, Melbourne. In an unfortunate hour, he relinquished his licenseeship of the "Bull and Mouth" Hotel, and embarked his savings in the speculation of building Carlton Hotel, St. Kilda. What was intended to have been a revelation in the way of a seaside hotel, the prospectus said so, proved to be an hotel that could not pay its way. That was revelation enough for poor Sugden, and he went to T. B. Payne, a money lender, and mortgaged the hotel. In the end Payne owned the house. Payne let the house to William P. Bonwick who used it for a school, but its vastness was depressing. The thirty rooms, almost all of them unfurnished, were nightmares of loneliness, and productive of reverberating echoes when entered. Bonwick was glad to get out of the ill-fated, almost sinister, building. After a period of neglect, and

of being tenantless, Payne had the building pulled down, and built a terrace of houses on the site of Carlton House in Robe Street, using the bricks of the demolished building for the purpose.

In the year 1859, George Attaways was the licensee of the Royal Hotel, which was described as having 29 rooms, coach house and stalls, and its owner was James Mooney. Joshua Mooney, his brother, had a wooden stable, with 35 stalls in Robe Street. Two cottages, next to the Royal Hotel belonged to this period. The material used in their construction was sent from England, in numbered sections, discharged from the vessel, and they lay unclaimed on Coles Wharf alongside the river Yarra for some considerable period. James Mooney bought the material, and erected the cottages. One of them contained six rooms, and it had a stable in its yard; the other cottage, of five rooms, not only had a stable but a coach house. The first cottage was rented by Edward Alexander, and the second one was let to Hugh Murphy. When house accommodation was hard to find in, and around Melbourne, James Mooney was paid in rent, for the cottages, at the rate of £350 per annum for each one.

Close by, in February, 1854, the storekeeping firm of R. Dransfield & Co. paid £500 per annum rent for two shops with single roofs, and Bryant, a draper, beside them was rented at £500 for a shop, with a frontage of 17 feet to Robe Street. The veranda shop's area was 17 x 11 with a show room, 17 x 12. The building had, within it, two bedrooms, and kitchen, and attached to it a coach house.

When Mooney took over the hotel, from Attaways, he made large profits out of the lucky gold diggers who came to St. Kilda in "great Colonial style." His hotel was a favorite hostelry for successful diggers to drive to with their "temporary wives." They usually hired a carriage, and a pair of white horses, that were owned by a driver named Brewer, who stood waiting for hire in Collins Street. The diggers favored red shirts and their ladies selected flaming green, and yellow dresses. Sometimes three, or four, parties would be seen in drags driving along Fitzroy Street. On arriving at Mooney's they sat down to a sumptuous dinner. Afterwards, the diggers, and female companions, played skittles with the champagne bottles they had emptied.

The late Mrs. Mooney saw the Port Phillip Settlement in its infancy for she arrived there on May 6, 1840, in the ship "China." From her reminiscences, we learn that on reaching Hobson's Bay she came ashore for the day. On returning to "The Beach," as Port Melbourne was then called, the sea was too rough for the boatman to risk rowing her back to the "China." She had, therefore, to sleep in a tent on the sands, and she did so with Mrs. Liardet lying beside her. Mrs. Mooney had as a fellow passenger in the "China," Passmore, who afterwards owned Passmore's Hotel, mentioned as one of the starting places in Melbourne for the Royal Hotel Omnibus. Mrs. Mooney, when she arrived at Port Phillip, was a girl of seventeen. She was a native of Devonshire, and was yet another of the numerous emigrants from Devonshire who were associated with early St. Kilda.

His Honor Frederick Revans Chapman, judge of the Supreme Court of New Zealand, has written his extended reminiscences of "South Suburban Melbourne 1854-1864" consisting of memories principally of Prahran, and St. Kilda. They were printed in the "Victorian Historical Magazine" in June, 1917. We extract from them his observations, "That at the south-east corner of Alma Road, and Bull Street, was a patch of curious cottages of corrugated iron, built hastily to meet the tide of immigration, and removed long before 1864. They stretched down the east side of Bull Street, and one, perhaps two of them faced Alma Road. Facing them, on the west side of Bull Street, there were residences all the way down Inkerman Road. In one of these lived Mr. Sircom, and in another, Mr. Davis, the drawing master at the Church of England Grammar School. This latter gentleman stated that he tried to dig a well on his premises but struck running water, so that buckets, and other things, disappeared as if in an underground river. East St. Kilda ended at Hotham Street, as far as the line of Alma Road was concerned, although it extended a little further along Dandenong and Inkerman Roads. Beyond us, on the left, with a small gate near the corner, was the cemetery in which diligent search revealed a few scattered graves, hidden in the scrub. Then came a wide uninhabited block, commencing at 'The Springs,' used by those inhabitants who had no tanks, and who came from considerable distances to procure water from a barrel,

which was sunk in a small swamp. The unfenced land continued up to a shallow swamp, just beyond the top of the hill, known to the local cowboys as 'Water Flat.' Here vehicles had to swerve to the left to avoid the lagoon. Sometime in the early sixties drains were cut to lower the water on 'Water Flat' and 'Le-man Swamp.' and I can remember no other course that the surplus water could take than to follow the line of Inkerman Road, probably going to join the big ditch made to drain the swamp near the Village Belle, which had its outlet near the Royal Hotel, at the south end of the present Esplanade."

A resident of Early St. Kilda, who afterwards was world wide known in the spheres of concert, and lecturing enterprises, was Robert Sparrow Smythe, generally described as "The Much Travelled." The first St. Kilda newspaper, the "St. Kilda Chronicle," was owned by Goulding and Smythe, the office being in Barkly Street, near Kelson's Auction Mart. Smythe was the editor of the "St. Kilda Chronicle" during the year 1859-60, when he sold his shares in the paper to the late David Blair, who was successively leader writer of "The Argus" and "The Age." Blair bought the "St. Kilda Chronicle" because, as he stated, he wanted, in addition to his work on the "Age" newspaper, something to amuse himself with." Blair did not find a suburban paper "the toy he thought at first it was," and he ceased his ownership in it. Probably afterwards David Blair found the writing of a history of Australia merely a pleasant incursion in letters compared with the labor of editing the Early St. Kilda local news sheet.

Local printers, who sometimes publish suburban newspapers, have not found St. Kilda a profitable field for such enterprises. When Goulding and Smythe's paper, "The St. Kilda Chronicle" flickered out after a sickly career financially, under the ownership and editorship of David Blair, no other St. Kilda local paper appeared for some time. The second local paper published in St. Kilda was the "St. Kilda Advertiser," started, owned, and published by A. R. Ford. He had a printing office in High Street. After publishing the paper for about a period of two years and a half—it reached volume III, number 162, Ford sold the paper and plant, November 28, 1874, to Henry Osment who owned a Prahran paper called, "The Telegraph" wherein Osment essayed to give the St. Kilda and

Prahran news, charging threepence per copy for the paper. When relinquishing his ownership of the "St. Kilda Advertiser" Ford said that "when he came to St. Kilda he was not long in learning that a respectable moiety of the inhabitants were not satisfied with the only local journal they possessed should be "The Telegraph" at a cost of threepence." Ford sold copies of the "Advertiser" at one penny, and he published the paper on Thursdays. Osment removed Ford's printing plant to Prahran, and printed the "St. Kilda Advertiser" in Prahran increasing its price to two pence a copy. When Osment died his son Henry Osment, afterwards well-known in Prahran as a municipal councillor, and Chapel Street property owner, continued to publish the "St. Kilda Advertiser" in the same way. After his death the property was sold to Arthur Tilley a soap manufacturer. At his death the property passed to his sons. The paper ceased publication at the beginning of the year 1930. The last local newspaper to be published in St. Kilda was "The St. Kilda Mercury" the first copy of which appeared on Saturday, July 2, 1898 published and owned by Wellman and Callander. Later the paper was issued by William John Charles Wellman at his office 238 High Street, St. Kilda. Evidently the support accorded to the newspaper was not sufficient to warrant its continuance for it died after a year or two.

When Smythe entered into partnership with Goulding, the original proprietor of the "St. Kilda Chronicle," he noticed that the list of subscribers consisted mostly of residents in the old central part of the municipality. The eastern portion of Caulfield was principally occupied by market gardeners. In the hope of obtaining the patronage of these worthy husbandmen, he published weekly a translation of Jean Paul Richter's novel "Flower, Fruit, and Thorn Pieces." The idea was a happy one, for many new subscribers came forward, in the belief that Richter's book would contain valuable agricultural hints; but as neither vegetables, nor the kindly fruits of the earth, were ever mentioned during the quarter, these subscriptions were not renewed.

The first steam printing press manufactured in the colony was made in St. Kilda by Robert Bell, an engineer, who had his workshops in Acland Street, near Clyde Street in May, 1874.

Bell received a medal from the Melbourne Exhibition Commissioners for the workmanship exhibited in the manufacture of the printing press. Bell's workshops before he went to St. Kilda were in Little Collins Street.