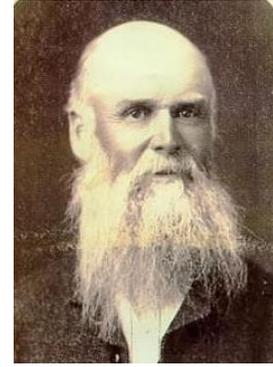


William Sorell Wilson

1821 – 1901

By his great great grand daughter, Jennie Towan, April 2012



TIMELINE

17 Sept 1821 - WSW born - first white child born in Sorell District, Tasmania.

4 June 1856 - marries Eliza Wilson, daughter of William Borrodaile Wilson & Grace Terry, in St David's Cathedral, Hobart.



June-Dec 1856 - Arrives in Victoria - age 35.

31 May 1857 – Frederick born, 'off Russell Street', Melbourne.

11 July 1858 – Margaret born, at Derrimut.

20 September 1859 – William Jnr dies – convulsions.

7 August, 1860 – Elizabeth born, at Derrimut.

October 1860 – advertisement appears for sale of property known as Red-Hill, Truganina – 68 acres approx. Not known if WSW purchased it with Wake.

8 March 1861 – Annie born, at Derrimut.

6 November 1862 – Jessie born, in Hobart.

23 August 1864 – Fred born, at Derrimut.

1865 – Buys Lot 31A 99 acres of land at Hastings from T. Cross.

April 1866 - sells sheep at markets - in farming partnership with John Wake at Red Hill Farm, Truganina.

June 1866 – John Wake dies aged 33.

3 September 1866 – Jane born, at Truganina, Derrimut.

January 1867 - Sale of cattle & horses at Red Hill Farm, Truganina, by auction on the farm.

June 1867 - Clearing sale of farm stock, implements etc on the farm.

September 1867 - Wake-Wilson partnership formally dissolved.

11 April 1868 – Alberta born, birth not registered.

1868 – William S Wilson, Corn merchant, 243 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne – Sands Directory. Unconfirmed if it is our WSW. Not long after he is working as a butcher at this stage, in Hawthorn. Laurie & Mike have a note in the Wilson Family History, in Remembrances of the Wilsons, by Nancy Black (nee Boulter): “Eliza was living with John & Agnes at Mornington whilst her husband was working in Melbourne.” This seems very likely, as both JBW & WSW had an interest in Tuerong, the property at Moorooduc.

21 July 1869 – Adelaide born, Brunswick

1869 – Begins making illicit spirits with Frederick Harrison. Harrison is the ‘front man’, Wilson stays in the background as he is a family man. Harrison is unmarried. Business expands, supplying hotels in Melbourne, and country towns with adulterated spirits.

12 August 1870 – Eliza writes to William saying she is too unwell to join him in Melbourne.

30 August 1870 - Eliza dies. Doctor gives hepatitis as cause of death. WSW says later he was at Schnapper Point 'until August' – court report Harrison v. Uggles.

21 November 1870 - Police raid Harrison & Co - WSW arrested in possession of illegal still. 3 shops – 110, 112, 114 Spencer Street involved, 110 being a wine & spirits store, 112 a storage area and 114 where the distilling took place. (Pictured is 110 c.1881-86 SLV)



29 November 1870 - WSW charged, tried & sentenced for being in possession of an illegal still. £300 or 12 months in prison. Harrison received same sentence plus another £300 pounds or 12 months for having illicit spirits in his possession. WSW is 49 years old.

6 December 1870 - Harrison appealed, lost, & was therefore allowed the second appeal in accordance with judge's ruling, ie only had to pay first fine/serve sentence.

3 April 1871 - Insolvent Court heard commencement of Harrison v. Uggles. Harrison claimed Mrs Uggles (hotel licensee) owed him a debt, Mrs Uggles disputed, claiming that the goods sold were illegal. WSW called as witness, brought from gaol as he had been unable to pay the fine. Presumed to have served the whole 12 month sentence. Am attempting to confirm length of sentence & where it was served.

August 1871 - Harrison declares himself bankrupt.

April 1872 - McKay v. Bell. Bell in partnership with McKay in Phoenix Brewery, brought in Harrison to 'collect debts', Harrison banks money collected into Bell's private account. Obvious that Harrison & Bell are defrauding McKay. Judge rules that a receiver be appointed - but would not recommend Bell, the defendant, as receiver.

August 1874 – Murder at Schnapper Point, John & Agnes Wilson give evidence.

May 1879 – John Bowman Wilson becomes insolvent.

1882 – Daughter Elizabeth marries James Boulter. James is a runaway from the British Navy.

1880s - There is a story told that he forbade his daughter Annie's marriage on her wedding day, as the groom had got drunk on their wedding eve. Annie reported to have run away & was found waist deep in water somewhere – never quite right in the head after that incident, so it was said. In hindsight, we think she may have been born with a mental disability, and it has been suggested that her father had that in mind when he forbade the marriage – perhaps he always had misgivings about the prospective groom.



1883 – Daughter Alberta is drowned while drawing water. She is 15 years old. Inquest gives a finding of 'accidental drowning'. Father's occupation noted as 'sheep farmer'.

Post 1883 - Some time after Alberta's death, WSW selects land. Purchases a block for himself, and each of his surviving children except Jane.

1886 - WSW & James Boulter joint licensees of Golden Age Hotel, King Street, Melbourne (pictured, c.1960) - SLV



November 1886 – WSW fined for Sunday trading.

December 1886 – WSW & Edwin Wilson buy Tuerong from JBW. WSW gives occupation as Hay & Corn Merchant.

1887 – Daughter Margaret marries John Niven, who is also in the hotel business.

1888 - WSW is licensee of Victoria Hotel, 207 Hoddle Street.

December 1888 - WSW sells license of Victoria Hotel to Henry Evans.

28 Dec 1889 – Daughter Jessie marries William Ison. He has recently arrived from England (1887), family legend says to help install new printing press for Argus newspaper.

1894 – Son Fred leaves home to seek his fortune in West Australia.

1895 - Niece Rosalie Wilson responds to a letter from her uncle, exhorting him to be ready to meet his maker. Rosalie had been converted/saved 11 years earlier and is very strong in her faith. Refers to his 'misfortunes this last year'.

1900 – Son Frederick returns from WA, obtains Crown Grant of Lot 74A 100 acres at Hastings. Occupation given as farmer of Perth WA. Returns to WA, never to be heard from again.

1900 – WSW obtains Crown Grant of Lots 44 & 47 Hastings (319 acres) which is finalised two weeks before his death.

1901 – WSW dies at the age of 80, leaving his land to Jane, who had never received a block of land in her own right as did the others.

Questions still to be resolved:

Can we find proof that he worked for Clarke of Rockbank?

Did he & Wake own or lease Red Hill Farm?

Who looked after WSW's children while he was in gaol?

Where did WSW live when he got out of gaol?

When did he apply for & obtain the land in Hastings?