

King William Street

Fitzroy



Port Phillip Settlement

Graziers in Tasmania, in seeking large areas of land for their sheep, heard about the good conditions available along the southern coast of the mainland, and Batman and Fawkner independently arrived in the Yarra River in August 1835. The new area was given the name Port Phillip District.

The settling of Port Phillip was not permitted by the NSW Legislative Council until 1836, however numbers of settlers arrived in large numbers from its early days.

Stump removal and rough street-making began in 1840 but little progress was made in improving public areas for 10 years.

Lack of drainage and road surfaces caused continual problems for road users and property owners alike, and only gradually through the 1840's was any work done at improving conditions. In one of the last actions affecting Port Phillip, the NSW Legislative Council in 1850 introduced a bill to 'enforce the paving, flagging, macadamising, levelling, draining and sewerage' of all sub-divisional private streets and alleyways in Melbourne. However there was little public money for such a venture.

After years of lobbying and many protests for independence from NSW, the Separation Bill finally passed through British Parliament in 1850. On 1st July 1851 the Victorian Legislative Council was declared.

Fitzroy

Time-line

- Municipal District of Melbourne (Fitzroy Ward) from 1839 to 1863.
- Borough of Melbourne from 1863 to 1870
- Town from 1870 to 1878
- City from 1878 to 1994
- Incorporated as Langridge Ward in City of Yarra 1994

Fitzroy was the first suburb to have land sold via Public Land Sales by Tender in April/May 1839 in blocks of about 25 acres. The sales were held in Sydney, and costs averaged about £7 per acre. It was expected that the blocks would be bought by towns-people who wanted to build villas, (large homes surrounded by extensive grounds) but following the original purchases, lots were sub-divided into ever-decreasing small blocks and a broad variety of buildings erected. The area now covered by Fitzroy and parts of Collingwood was known then as Newtown.

Fitzroy was named after the Governor of NSW Sir Charles Fitzroy. Eight of Fitzroy's streets were named after members of the Melbourne Corporation, but King William Street and Hanover Street had European origins. (Refer to "The Chronicles of Early Melbourne", 1835 to 1852 by 'Garryowen' in the Fitzroy Library History Room).

King William Street

On 13th February 1839 **Thomas Walker** purchased Portion 70 of the Port Phillip District in the parish of Jika Jika of 28 acres for approximately £200. Portion 70 is that area bounded Nicholson and Young Streets, and south of Hanover Street to north of Moor Street (see Map 1). On 17th May 1839, Thomas Walker sold Portion 70 to **Robert Saunders Webb** for £560 who proceeded to divide it into 61 sales of small lots.

In December 1849 Webb sold the block of land described as Lots 13 and 14 of Section 3 on the north-east corner of King William and Fitzroy Streets. The purchaser was **Jane Briggs** described on the title as 'widow' on 2nd May 1850 for £36 6s and 8p. 30th November 1854 "list of Property, Fitzroy Ward (City of Melbourne) VPRS 3182, Roll 3 (attached) shows all buildings in King William Street at that date. Brick houses and shops existed at the corners of King William and Brunswick and King William and Fitzroy streets, but in King William Street building appeared to be limited to 2 wooden houses, one each side of the street. Jane Briggs died on 10th May 1871 and in her Will, left her estate to her 8 children. In the inventory and personal estate of her Will, the land described above contained "...two weatherboard and one stone cottage thereon erected..." The site had a value of £500.

Jane Briggs Estate was managed by executors before it was sold to **William Bestwick** on 5th August 1871 for £600. No details of this person have yet been found. It was sold again on 2nd September 1874 to **Patrick Donohoe**, (gentleman) again for £600. Melbourne City Council rate records show that in 1885, rates were first charged on an unidentified building (number 69 King William street), and on two, 6 room brick houses on the site, numbers 77 and 79. In 1886 rates were charged on numbers 75, 77 and 79, with numbers 69 to 73 on Gibson's Woodyard. In 1889 rates were levied on all six brick buildings, although numbers 69 and 71 were not occupied. The rate books show that the rateable value for the total site was £50 from 1886 to 1889, reducing to a low of £26 between 1897 and 1901 in the depression, and not returning to £50 until 1917. In 1929 the rateable value was set separately on the six houses averaging £65.

Also in December 1849, **Robert Saunders Webb** sold Lot 12 immediately at the rear of Lot 13, and fronting Fitzroy Street to **Isaac Sewell** for £18-3-4. The land was sold a further six times until in 1899 it was purchased by **Patrick Donohoe** who combined the three lots to become a single block. As construction of the six brick terrace houses was completed between 1885 and 1889, the addition of Lot 12 added 36 feet or 11 metres to the depth of the total site in 1899. Copy of the original Torrens Title by Patrick Donohoe is attached.

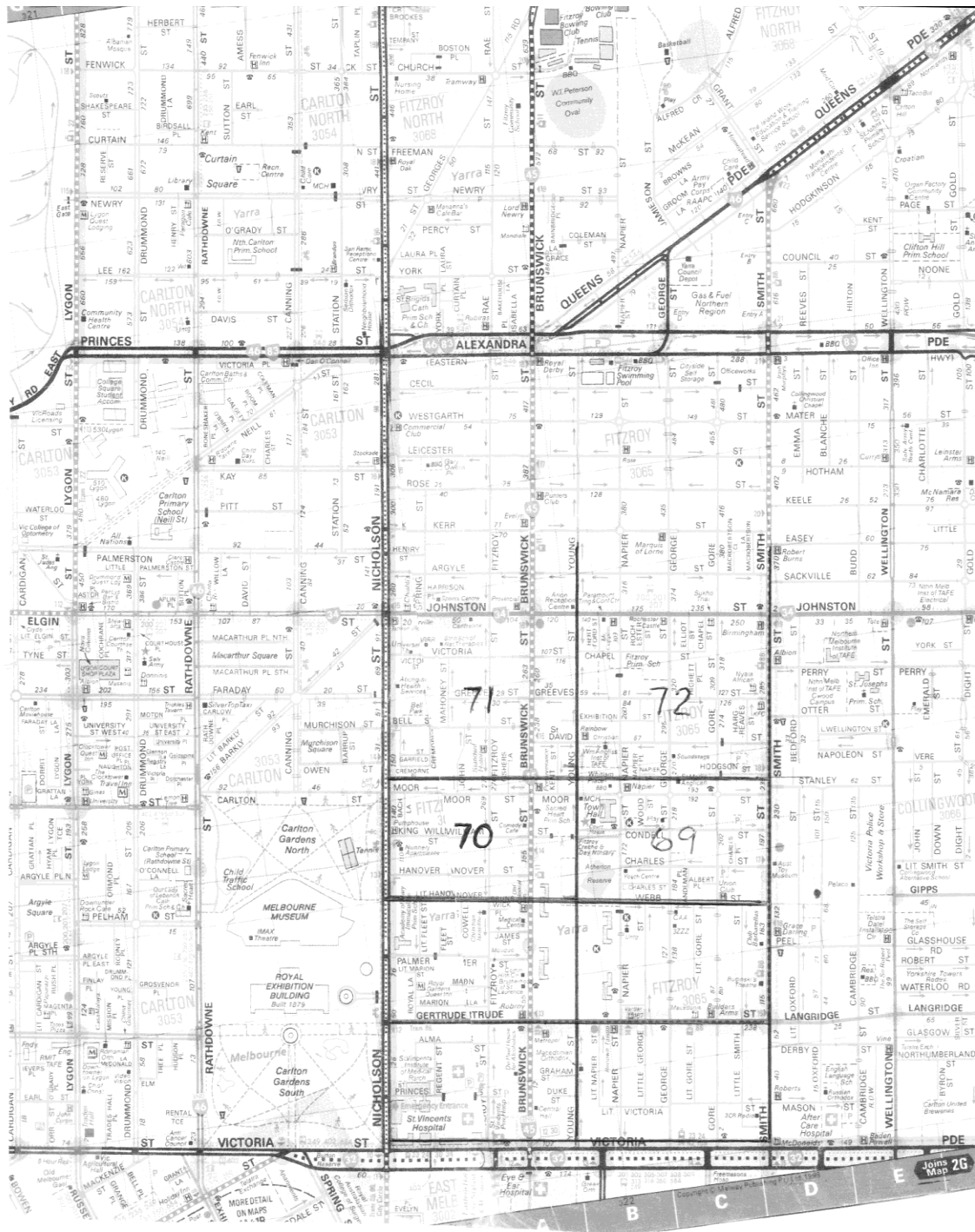
Patrick Donohoe died on 2nd July 1900 and left his estate to his two sons and husband of his daughter. The estate included many properties in Fitzroy and elsewhere in Melbourne, one of which was "...69/79 King William Street, 6 houses..." and valued at £3150.

Search of the land in the Land Titles Office show that there were many Mortgages taken over this block of land, particularly Portion 12, between 1852 and 1879.

The property was sold a further 11 times until in 1957 the land was divided so that each of the 6

houses became individual properties. Each of the properties has been sold several times since that time.

King William Street is named after King William IV of England, (1765 to 1837) the penultimate monarch of the House of Hanover. At the time of his death he was survived by eight of his ten illegitimate children (with the actress Dorothea Jordan) none of whom was eligible to succeed him as King. He was succeeded by his niece Victoria.



Map 1

Parish of Jika Jika, District of Port Phillip
 Lot 70 Purchased 13th February 1839 by Thomas Walker

Entered in the Register Book



Vol. 2737 Fol. 547362

VICTORIA.

Certificate of Title,

UNDER THE "TRANSFER OF LAND ACT 1890."

ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE.
Not to be dealt with outside the Titles Office.

Patrick Donohoe of No. 320 George Street Fitzroy in
the County of Bourke Gentleman is _____
now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee-simple, subject to the Encumbrances
notified hereunder in All that piece of Land, delineated and colored
red on the Map in the margin, containing one rood and one
perch or thereabouts being part of Crown Pasture Parcel
at Fitzroy Parish of Joka Joka County of Bourke _____

Dated the *thirteenth* day of *November* One thousand eight
hundred and ninety-nine.

Edward Donohoe
Assistant Registrar of Titles.

ENCUMBRANCES REFERRED TO



CANCELLED



The Measurements are in Feet and Inches.



T02737-362-1-1

Anecdotes of the Street from Records

Many articles on events that have occurred in King William Street can be found in the web site <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> with 'king william street fitzroy' as the search prompt. Some of the more interesting findings are presented below.

From The Melbourne Morning Herald, August 30 1852

Unreserved sale of 104 building allotments being sub-division of portion of suburban Section 70 and known as Webb's Paddock. (see Plan of Subdivision)

FRANCIS AND COHEN

Are instructed by the proprietor to sell by public auction on the ground, Collingwood, (facing the Government Road). This day 30th inst at 1 o'clock precisely.

Details are given of all 104 allotments facing onto King William, Hanover and Little Brunswick (later Fitzroy) streets, followed by;

The auctioneers, although inclined to bring more fully through the medium of the press this splendid property before the attention of the public, feel themselves restrained from doing so, inasmuch as the property is so well known to the whole of the inhabitants of Melbourne, that any further notice than the mere announcement of sale is deemed would be superfluous.

Suffice it to say that the actual neighbourhood is such an one as to give every guarantee of the respectability of the adjoining properties; comprised as they are, of the residences of Messrs. Watson and Wight, Guthrie, Furiado, Bear and Others.

Independently of the situation of these allotments, another advantage is possessed by them, that to each and every one the benefit of a right-of-way of from 12 to 15 feet is attached, thus securing the whole frontage for building on.

From The Argus, Monday 16th July 1855 (in reporting of a meeting of the Melbourne Council on that day)

REFUSAL OF MONEY BY GOVERNMENT

The following letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Mayor was read by the Town Clerk:-

"Colonial Secretary's Office,

5th July, 1855.

"Sir, - In answer to your Worship's letter of the 15th ult., applying for a payment of a further installment of the sum voted for the improvement of Fitzroy Ward, I am directed by the Governor to express his regret that he is unable to comply with the wishes of the Corporation. Your Worship is aware that the Legislative Council has refused to provide sufficient funds to give effect to its own votes, and the Government has no money on hand to expend on such public works. I am further to inform your Worship that his Excellency does not feel that he would be

justified in borrowing any money beyond what may be required to meet the exigencies of the public service.

"I have &c.,

"William C. Haines."

KING WILLIAM STREET

Councillor Groom moved –

"That application be made to the Executive Government to proclaim King William Street in Fitzroy Ward, a public street of the city."

The motion was agreed to.

From The Argus, September 18 1855

Sales by Auction

P. Davis and Co will sell by auction, on the ground, King William street Collingwood, near the Carlton Gardens, on Thursday 20th inst. At one o'clock,

One splendid building site, situated in Portion No. 70, Jika Jika, having a frontage of 29 feet to King William street, by a depth of 100 feet, with a right-of-way of 15 feet in the rear.

The property is well enclosed with a good fence, and to parties requiring a building site the present offers s favourable opportunity.

Title – Unexceptionable.

Terms of Sale

From The Argus, November 12 1855

WANTED a Young Lady to reside with another; terms moderate. Apply first bluestone detached cottage, opposite Scotland Yard Store, King William street, Brunswick street, Collingwood.

From The Argus, April 21 1858

To THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS

Sir, I observe in your daily issues a notice by the Corporation of Melbourne requesting information in case of any infringement of sanitary regulations of this city; and as I have been a summer and intend to be a winter resident in King William Street, I cannot refrain from asking you to insert a few remarks on the shameful neglect that the street suffers at the hands of the Corporation. King William Street (I speak particularly of that portion between Nicholson and Brunswick Streets) would, if metalled, kerbed and channelled, be on an equality with any of our principal streets for healthiness, but it is allowed to remain left in its primitive state, and by far the poorer portion of it is thus rendered almost impassable, even during the summer months, due to the continual presence of water and mud; and what sort of an appearance it will present in the winter you can imagine.

If our finances are too crippled at present to afford metalling, surely kerbing and channelling might be accomplished before winter in order to affect some slight improvement. It would at all events suggest a visit by the sanitary officers to some of the yards of the properties in that portion of the street between Fitzroy and Brunswick Streets, as I am convinced that water and filth is allowed to flow therefrom, without any regard to health or welfare of the local inhabitants of King William Street.

A RESIDENT.

From The Argus, November 23 1858

FITZROY MUNICIPALITY – TENDERS are invited for the following work:-

Metalling Brunswick street, from Victoria parade to Reilly street

Metalling Gertrude street from Nicholson street to Smith street

Forming and metalling King William street

Constructing 16 cube-crossings throughout the municipality.

Specifications to be seen at the Surveyor's office, FitzRoy Municipal Chambers, where separate tenders for each of the above works are to be left, addressed, "Chairman of Public Works Committee," by Wednesday, the 24th inst, at 4 pm.

Wm. J Gilchrist, Town Clerk.

From The Argus, November 23 1858

21 Victoria, No 59

Sewerage and Water Commission

Secretary's Office, October 16, 1858.

Notice to the OWNERS OF TENEMENTS. In the several streets enumerated at the foot, and Private Streets, Courts, Lanes and Alleys opening thereto.- The main pipes in the said streets being laid down, the owners of all tenements situated as under are hereby required, on or before the last day of December next, to CAUSE SERVICE-PIPES to be LAID, so as to supply water from the main-pipe within such premises.

F. J. BURY,

Secretary to the Commissioner of Sewerage and Water Supply.

Nicholson street from Victoria parade to Moor street

Fitzroy street do do

Brunswick street do do

Young street do do

Napier street do do

George street do do

Gore street do do

Smith street (west side) do do

Moor street

Condell street
Charlotte street
Webb street
Gertrude street
King William street
Hanover street
Palmer street
Princess street
Regent street

From The Herald, February 28 1860

Freehold Stone Houses, King William street Collingwood

By Order of the Mortgagee.

Jas Henderson and Co has received instructions to sell by public auction, by order of the Mortgagee, at Morton's Hotel Bourke street west, on Tuesday 6th March at one o'clock.

In separable lots, four, two storied houses, situated in King William street Collingwood The property is most faithfully built of bluestone, walls 21 inches thick and stuccoed, slate roofs etc, all the building material and fastenings of the best description, having been built personally by the owner as an investment, the whole having a frontage of 69 feet to King William street by 100 feet in depth.

Lot 1 "Two storied house, No 41 King William street, containing dining and drawing rooms, three bedrooms above, kitchen and servants room, sheds and outhouses with yard 70 feet in depth, and right-of-way 14 feet wide at rear

(Lots 2, No 43 King William street, Lot 3, No 45 King William street, and Lot 4, No 47 King William street similarly described)

In the event of the property not being sold in lots, the whole will be offered in one lot. The Auctioneers beg to draw the attention of capitalists to the above investment. The houses are all let to reputable tenants and will yield a handsome rate of interest, being situated in a fashionable locality between Nicholson street and Brunswick street, and are never unoccupied.

This property being so faithfully and substantially built, requires but little, if any, repairs; and as the mortgagee is determined to sell, the terms will be made to suit every class of capitalists.

Applications to inspect, and terms, can be obtained from the Auctioneers; and for particulars of title (which is perfectly correct), apply to Messrs HORNE, PARTON and HELLINGS, Solicitors, 28 Queen street.

From The Herald, July 8 1871

SATURDAY JULY 15

FITZROY

On the Ground

Corner Fitzroy and King William Streets

To Capitalists, Members of Building Societies, and Others

C.J. and T. Ham have received instructions from the executor of the late Mrs. Jane Briggs to

SELL by PUBLIC AUCTION, on the ground, corner of King William and Fitzroy streets,

Fitzroy, on Saturday July 15, at four o'clock.

All that piece of land, having a frontage of 101 ft. to King William street by a depth of 72ft. 8in.

along Fitzroy street, on which are erected a

STONE COTTAGE

Containing four rooms, let at 12s per week, and

2 WEATHERBOARD COTTAGES,

Let at 14s per week.

The auctioneers would draw special attention to this sale. It is well known that cottages and tradesmen's residences are in great demand in this neighbourhood, and any person desirous of a good and safe investment would do well to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Title Perfect

From The Argus, March 9 1874

LOCKING PASSENGERS IN RAILWAY CARRIAGES

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS

Sir, - I beg of you to use your influence in trying to abolish the system of locking passengers in the carriages on our Victorian railways. I, along with Mrs. Wray and the six "Nightingales", could have easily escaped after the great crash had taken place at Spencer-street on Tuesday; but as the birds couldn't fly out the windows at once, we were compelled to sit for several minutes enveloped in steam and dust. Our special thanks are due to the Hon. G. Verdon for unlocking the doors and allowing us egress at such a critical moment.

I remain, Sir, Yours Sincerely, W. B. Wray 61 King William street, Fitzroy.

From The Argus, March 9 1874

Funeral Notices

The Friends of Mr WILLIAM ANDERSON are invited to follow the remains of his late beloved wife to the place of Interment, the Kew Cemetery. The funeral will move from his residence, No 69 King William street Fitzroy, THIS DAY (Monday), 9th inst., at one o'clock precisely.

EDWARD WARWICK, undertaker, 10 Derby street, Collingwood

From The Argus, May 5 1882

CASUALTIES AND OFFENCES.

The driver of a milk cart, named Henry Hinksman, aged 35 years, living at Perry street Collingwood, was accidentally killed by being run over near the corner of King William and Fitzroy streets yesterday afternoon. Shortly after 2pm., Hinksman was delivering milk in King William street Fitzroy, and after serving one of his customers he attempted to jump into the cart with the milk can in his hand, when the horse suddenly started, and he was thrown down and the wheel passed over his body. He was picked up in an insensible condition, and removed to the Melbourne Hospital, where life was found to be extinct. An inquest will be held.

From The Argus, January 27 1883

News

About half-past one o'clock this morning a fire broke out in a two-roomed cottage, occupied by Mr. William Baker, at the rear of No. 80 King William street, Fitzroy. The furniture and building are almost entirely destroyed, and it is believed that the loss is not covered by insurance. Mr. Thomas Duggan is the owner of the house, and Mrs. Baker estimates her loss at between 150 and 200. The fire was extinguished by the local brigades, who were promptly in attendance, and the origin of it is unknown, as the occupants went to bed at 12 o'clock leaving everything apparently safe.

From Fitzroy City Press, December 15 1883

FITZROY COUNCIL MEETING

Cr. Phipps presented a petition from the Hon. W Bates, Mr. Fergie, and other residents in Nicholson Street asking for a lamp near King William Street. He could assure the Council that the prayer of the pre-deserved their utmost consideration. At a certain spot there was a house the inmates of which were engaged in a traffic which should fill every man with disgust, and the surrounding residents were pained beyond description at the sights which they were compelled to witness. To the credit of the magistrates and police it could be said that what had once been the worst spot in Fitzroy such as portions of Napier, Webb, Gertrude and Little Napier streets and Victoria Parade, were now comparatively free from such denizens. It was a great pity therefore that in Nicholson Street, which should be the finest street in Fitzroy, residents had to complain as they had done to him that they were continually disturbed by enquiries for certain characters and their house besides having to witness heartrending scenes as often took place there. The house and its inmates were infamous spots and he hoped the Mayor would use his authority as chief magistrate to have the cancer burst up and an end put to the baleful practices which were almost openly proclaimed. The police had no power to act in the matter, and he could inform the Council that already the place had been visited by a detective, but from some cause or other, that officer complained that the visit had been bungled, and that he could not secure a conviction. It was not a case of common prostitution, but of wholesale procurement, for which the registry office and the public nominaries were being used. He himself had visited the place in conjunction with the city officer, and had seen quite enough to convince him of the accuracy of

the neighbours' reports. He could vouch for the fact that girls were brought to the place from registry offices and boarding schools, and then drugged and ruined. For the sake of humanity he asked the Mayor to call a meeting of magistrates so that they could use their authority to put an end to it. He could promise him of plenty of assistance, as the Commissioner of Customs was already moving in the matter, and would help in obtaining convicting proof.

Cr. Britten said he could see no reference to the main subject of Cr. Phipps remarks in the petition. It only asked for a lamp. It would cost £17 for the first year, and £8 a year afterwards, and it was a question whether such a well-lighted street required anything additional.

Ultimately the lamp was referred to the Public Works Committee, and the Mayor promised to enquire into the other matter.

From The Argus, July 17 1884

Lectures, Sermons, Soirees, &c.

A lecture on "The Women of India" will be delivered in the Jubilee Hall, King William street Fitzroy, This Evening (Thursday, July 17), at half-past 7 o'clock, by Mrs. Brown, wife of Rev. Richd. Brown, of Madras. Collection in aid of mission schools in India.

From The Argus, September 16 1884

PARTNER WANTED, with capital, good BUSINESS; 10 to 100 per cent guaranteed. Principals only. Apply 80 King William street Fitzroy.

From The Argus, March 9 1885

FIRES

At a quarter past 11 on Sunday morning, Mrs. Matilda Hardy, of 42 King William street Fitzroy, left her little boy asleep in an upstairs bedroom whilst she was busy downstairs. Soon afterwards she was told that smoke was issuing from the windows, and on reaching the room she found that a box of linen was on fire. She at once threw it out of the window and also extinguished a fire in the bedclothes, which had just ignited. The little boy who had caused the fire by playing with matches, was found hiding away in a cupboard.

From The Argus, June 15 1886

PROSECUTION UNDER THE LICENSING ACT

At the Fitzroy Court, on Monday, Dominick Norris, licensee of the Curlew Hotel, at the corner of Fitzroy and King William streets, was charged under the 85th section of the Licensing Act with having altered the name of the hotel without obtaining permission to do so from the Licensing Court, as required under this section. Inspector Daly said that this was the first charge which had been laid under the section, and, as the defendant was applying to the Licensing Court for the necessary permission, asked that the case should be adjourned with the view of its withdrawal if the court granted the application to allow the name. The charge was accordingly adjourned for seven days.

From Fitzroy City Press, July 31 1886

THE MADDING CROWD

BY MARY ANN 11

The Very Rev. John Alexander Dowie has not ceased to trouble Fitzroy, and probably will not until a more lucrative appointment or that feat which all must obey, calls him elsewhere. His latest exploits and those of his henchmen and female adorers in trying to make the drink traffic as obnoxious as possible, have not met with entire approval either for the trade or those for whom benefit the crusade has been commenced. A friend of mine tells me that Mr. Norrie, who has lately erected the splendid Curlew Hotel at the corner of Fitzroy and King William streets has been the recipient of a visit from the crowd, and not content with trying to dissuade his customers from patronising him, they smashed an ornamental and expensive pane of glass. With genuine Dowie philosophy, they refused to pay for the damage, and seemed to expect the landlord to feel honoured enough by their presence. The probability is that some of them will figure in the police court before long, as a reminder that even the service of the Lord must be conducted on the lines of fair play. There is a limit to all endurance, and I think this is pushing business a little too far. I am no more anxious than they are to see men give way to excesses in drink, but I think most people with any sense of justice will say that owners of licensed houses have a right to object to the tactics of the Dowie crowd. There is a right way and a wrong way of doing anything, and a very bad and irritating one has been adopted in this instance.

From Fitzroy City Press, August 11 1886

THE BIJOU OF FITZROY

THE CURLEW HOTEL

CORNER OF

**KING WILLIAM AND FITZROY
STREETS**

**BEST BRANDS OF WINES, SPIRITS, AND
ALES KEPT**

D.NORRIS
PROPRIETOR

From Fitzroy City Press, November 31 1886

PUBLIC NOTICES

The Misses Hyams, of 14 King William Street, Fitzroy, will hold their Annual Juvenile Fancy Dress Ball in the Masonic Hall, Collins street, on December 14th.

From The Argus, January 7 1887

HOTEL OUTRAGE

At the Fitzroy police court yesterday, two young men named Condron and Carr, were summoned for assaulting Dominick Norris, landlord of the Curlew Hotel, King William street. Two other men named Burt and Shann, had also been engaged in the affair, but as they are both in the hospital suffering from wounds inflicted in or arising out of the fray, the police did not proceed against them. It appears that Condron had been refused drink at the hotel on a previous Sunday when he swore that he would make it "hot" for the landlord. On the following Tuesday night, Condron, in company with the other three men, drove up in a lorry to the hotel and demanded a drink; but as they seemed all intoxicated, the landlady refused to serve them. One of the men grabbed her by the wrist and dragged her about, when she screamed for her husband, who bundled the fellows out. Condron who seemed to be the leader, as the landlord was about to enter his house again, sprang on his back, belaboured him on the face with the handle of a glass door broken in the scuffle, and, with the aid of others mentioned, threw him down and kicked him, his face being covered with blood. Norris, who is a powerful man ultimately shook off his assailants and Shann, in driving hurriedly away in the lorry, ran up against a verandah, when he damaged property to the value of £50, and got his leg so severely injured that he had to be taken to the hospital. A majority of the bench fined Condron 40s, 21s costs, or 14 days; and Carr 20s, 21s costs, or 7 days. It was announced however that the minority of the magistrates were for more severe penalties.

From The Argus, May 21 1887

The Messenger Boy

When you beat a small boy of this colony for quickness of apprehension it will be necessary to get up early in the morning.

One of these alert young chaps rang the bell of a boarding house in King William street Fitzroy, the other morning. He had a heavy carpet bag in his hand. When the servant appeared he said-

“Does Algernon Fitz Smythe live here?”

“Don’t know anybody of that name-”

“He’s an actor I believe.”

“No-one by the name of Smythe boarding here.”

“Sure?”

“Stay, though. A new boarder came last night. Don’t know his name, perhaps he’s the one you want.”

“I don’t want him, but maybe he wants this carpet bag. Heard the woman that sent it say something about his being a play actor.”

“He looks like an actor, rolls up his eyes and walks as though it was hard work to drag his feet along.”

“’Tis he! But hold on. I can tell (kneels down and throws the carpet bag wide open). Aha! Look at these toggs. Lago, Tin Soldier or something of that sort. And see here. A photograph of a young lady, with, ‘Undying Love of Amelia’ written on the back. His last mash. Of course he’s an actor. And here – washerwoman’s bill unreceipted. You can bet your boots he’s an actor. Trot him out.”

The new boarder was trotted out, and proved to be Algernon Fitz Smythe, actor, and owner of the carpet bag.

“Can’t fool me.” Said the small boy with a wink as he disappeared down the street.

From The Argus, March 9 1888

PROPERTIES FOR SALE FITZROY

KING WILLIAM STREET, adjoining Ballarat Hotel at the corner of Brunswick street – land, having a frontage of 67ft. 1in. by a depth of 110ft., on which is erected a cottage containing five rooms, &c. in good repair.

This is about the only block of land available in this street, and is suitable for a terrace of four houses.

From The Argus, April 4 1888

DROWNED IN THE YARRA

A man who has since been identified as Daniel Maher, a labourer, of 4 King William street Fitzroy, was seen to throw himself into the Yarra, near Brander’s Ferry, between 1 and 2 o’clock yesterday afternoon. Constable Byres searched the river with drags, and succeeded in finding the body at half-past four o’clock. It was placed in the morgue, where an inquest will be held.

From The Argus, July 19 1888

Election Notices

FITZROY MUNICIPAL ELECTION.
WEST WARD
Mr. W. MONCTON
Will Address the Ratepayers
Of the Above Ward
At the
BALLARAT HOTEL,
Corner of
Brunswick and King William streets, Fitzroy,
On
FRIDAY,
JULY 20.
Chair to be taken at 8 p. m.

From Fitzroy City Press, January 4 1889

FOR SALE

**SASHES, COUNTERS AND TIMBER
GIBSON'S WOODYARD**

73 KING WILLIAM STREET

From The Argus, January 21 1889

A SHOOTING AFFRAY

A serious shooting affray took place early on Saturday morning in King William street Fitzroy, which fortunately did not terminate fatally. From what can be learned a man named James Taylor, who had been drinking rather heavily during the night, visited the Curlew Hotel in King William street, near closing time. He had a glass of ale and indicated to the landlord, Mr Carroll, who was a new-comer, that he was a detective. As Taylor was rather noisy, Mr Carroll put him out. At about midnight the landlord had occasion to go out of his house for a few moments. On returning, he was confronted at his door by Taylor, who drew his revolver and presented it at his head. Carroll was taken aback at this conduct, and surrendered to the man. As, however, it appeared that the revolver was not a very good one, Carroll suddenly seized Taylor and knocked him over. The latter then replied by striking the former on the face with the weapon. By this time Mrs. Carroll was attracted by the noise made, and opening the door, admitted her husband into the premises.

The scuffle that ensued attracted the attention of a few young men, among whom was a fish hawker named Richard Langridge. Taylor, who was very much the worse for drink, got into a quarrel with this man. The result of the altercation was that Langridge, who is stronger in

physique than Taylor, dealt him a severe blow, and seeing a revolver glisten in his opponent's hand, immediately fled. Taylor then deliberately fired, but by a fortunate circumstance the shot did not strike Mr Langridge. Mr Edward Apps, jun., the under-taker, happened to be standing on the opposite side of the street, and gave chase to Taylor. Langridge, seeing that he had assistance, abandoned his flight and joined Mr Apps. Both of them ran their man down at the intersection of Brunswick and King William streets, and the revolver was taken from his hands. Shortly afterwards Constable Hogan came on the scene, and the prisoner was handed to his charge. The officer examined the weapon and found it to be a small six-chambered revolver, loaded in five chambers, one of which had recently been discharged. It had a double action, but the spring of the trigger was defective. The only means by which the revolver could be used was by drawing the hammer and letting it drop, and this in a great measure accounts for the random shot which was fired. When Taylor was asked why he used the weapon, he stated that he decided to punish the man who had maltreated him, and that he believed Langridge to be that person. As he was very drunk, no further notice was taken of his statement. Taylor gave his calling as that of a labourer.

From Fitzroy City Press, March 15 1889

**THE LONDON
PAWNBROKING
ESTABLISHMENT**

CORNER OF
BRUNSWICK AND KING WILLIAM
STREETS
FITZROY

JOHN WOOD

For many years Manager of the above
Establishment, desires to announce that
He has purchased from the Adminis-
trator of the late

MRS. C. PEARL
THE GOODWILL AND STOCK-IN-TRADE
OF THE BUSINESS

Which will in future be carried on by him

Great Clearing Sale
NOW ON

Numerous bargains will be offered so as to
Reduce the Very Extensive and
Valued Stock

A Large Selection of Jewellery and

Unredeemed Pledges

Money Advanced at the Lowest Rates of
Interest

From The Argus, May 21 1889

HOTEL PROSECUTIONS

At the Fitzroy Court on Monday Emelia Carroll, licensee of the Curlew Club Hotel, corner of King William and Fitzroy streets, was proceeded against for selling spurious liquor contrary to the act. Mr. Watson, inspector of the excise department, had found a bottle labeled DKJZ exposed for sale on the shelf, the liquor in which contained 33 per cent of added water. The defence was that a bottle bearing the label DKJZ, and containing gin mixed with sodawater for the defendant's husband's private use had been inadvertently left on the bar shelf. Mr. Smith, an expert, however, stated that there was no sodawater mixed with the spirit. A fine of £20, with £2 2s. costs was imposed.

From The Argus, December 24 1889

THE CHILD ABANDONEMENT CASE AT FITZROY

The adjourned inquest on the body of the infant child which was alleged to have been abandoned under peculiar circumstances in King William street Fitzroy on the 9th inst., was resumed at the Melbourne morgue yesterday by Dr. Youl, the city coroner. Sub-inspector Gray was present on behalf of the Crown, and Mr. Lyons appeared for Mrs. Parry, at whose house the infant had been left. Mrs. Marion Clarke, the deputy-registrar at South Fitzroy, deposed that Mrs. Parry had registered the deaths of six children during the year. Mrs. Parry stated that during the year about 15 children had passed through her house. Five or six died, and the rest were adopted or taken away by their mothers. She had taken children from persons without asking their names or addresses. The jury found that the child died from improper feeding, and added a rider that they were of opinion that such places as those kept by Mrs. Parry should be placed under proper supervision, and that a record should be kept of all confinements that occurred in these houses.

From The Traralgon Record, August 24 1890

A MISER'S ESTATE. ROMANCE OF THE EASTERN MARKET

There is a weird glamour of romance in connection of the estate of George Knight, which figures among those with regard to which letters of administration have been granted. Knight was a familiar figure in the city. For a number of years he had carried on business as a chiropodist in the Eastern Market, and he also took up his stand frequently at the corner of Russell and Bourke

streets, and supplemented his means of living by running an open air show, of which the moon and the telescope were the accessories. He died on 11th July, and the members of his family were able to get at the bottom of what had long been a mystery to them. Knight was lucky enough to make some thousands as a result of some transaction in the boom days, but after the smash he represented to his family that the whole of his money had been lost. They believed his story in spite of a custom which Knight developed of retiring at strange hours into a little room at his house in King William street, and locking and barring the door. Frequently they heard the chink of money, but attached no particular importance to it, their impression being that the old man was merely gloating over a shilling or two that he was hoarding. The utmost they hoped to find upon making a search in the little room after Knight's death were a few pounds. Instead of this an astonishing find was made under the flooring of the room of no less a sum than £8162, exactly the amount by which Knight had benefited through his boom transaction. In the first place he had banked the money, but had afterwards withdrawn it secretly. The result is, therefore, that his family has unexpectedly found themselves wealthy people. The only debts left by Knight were £2 2 shillings for medical attendance, and 2 pounds due to a tradesman. In addition to the £8162 found under the flooring the estate includes £640 realty. The only beneficiaries in the estate are Mrs. Knight and her daughter, Mary Matilda.

From The Argus, October 1 1890

BURGLARIES AND THEFTS AT FITZROY

The premises of Mr. J Rosman, tailor, Brunswick street Fitzroy, were entered by thieves, and tweeds and clothing valued at £200 were stolen some time between half-past 11 on Monday evening and half-past 5 yesterday morning. The thieves effected an entrance by opening the front door by means of skeleton keys. A horse and cart were also stolen from Mr. Joseph Thomas, of 69 King William street, and presumably used by the thieves to carry away the plunder from the shop of Mr. Rosman. The horse and cart have not yet been found. Mr. Rosman lives at 77 King William street.

From The Argus, April 22 1901

Mr. J. G. Burt, the oldest remaining pioneer of the eight hours movement, died yesterday afternoon at the residence of his daughter in King William street. He was 93 years of age, and it is a coincidence that he should have passed away on the anniversary of Eight Hours Day. Mr. Burt sat in the Assembly for some years as member for North Melbourne, and was a prominent supporter of the temperance movement. The funeral is fixed for Tuesday at 2 p.m.

From The Argus, February 21 1902

LAWLESS RUFFIANS

At the Fitzroy Court on Tuesday, the notorious Samuel Crush, with a record of 20 prior

convictions, Arthur Collis another noted criminal with seven previous convictions, and William Allen were charged with riotous behaviour. Crush was further charged with assaulting William Edwards. Allen was also charged with assaulting Edwards, and Collie was charged with assaulting Victor Defrue and Thomas McGregor.

The evidence showed that about half past 6 on the evening of the 8th inst., the accused with three others entered the Curlew Hotel at the intersection of King William and Fitzroy streets and Collis ordered drinks for all his companions, which he refused to pay for. Victor Defrue, son of the licensee asked for payment, and insisted on being paid. Collis thereupon struck him a blow on the face which felled him. Thomas McGregor then went to Mr Defrue's assistance and was knocked down by Collis. William Edwards, a miner, hearing the disturbance in the hotel, entered to ascertain the cause, and just as he did so Allen struck him a violent blow on the face, and then attempted to kick him. Whilst Edwards was avoiding the kick he was dealt a heavy blow by Crush.

The accused and their companions then made a hasty retreat. They were followed and were observed to enter a dining room in Brunswick street where Constable Arrowsmith arrested Collis and Allen, while Crush escaped by the back door. He was arrested by the Collingwood police on the following day on another charge. The accused on oath denied the charges of assaults. On the first charge they were each fined 10s., in default three months imprisonment. On the two charges of assault Collis was fined £10, in default three months imprisonment; and Crush and Allen were each fined £5 in default six weeks imprisonment.

From The Argus, March 22 1905

Funeral Notices

The Friends of the late Mr. GEORGE BEST are respectfully invited to follow the remains of his late daughter Cessie to the place of interment, the Melbourne General Cemetery.

The funeral will move from the residence of Mr. Gamble, 36 King William street Fitzroy THIS DAY, Monday 30th inst. At 3 o'clock punctually.

GEORGE APPS, undertaker, 165 Fitzroy street Fitzroy.

From The Argus, November 23 1905

BURGLAR AT AN HOTEL

Some time between a quarter to 12 on Tuesday and 6am yesterday, the St Andrews Hotel at the corner of Nicholson and King William streets, Fitzroy, was broken into and a gold medal valued at 2 and about 2 in silver and coppers, stolen. The burglar gained an entrance in breaking a pane of glass in the parlour window and then pushed back the fastener and raised up the window. The medal and money were abstracted from the cash register in the bar. There was inscribed on the medal "H. W. Hill, St. Andrew billiard tournament 1905." None of the inmates of the hotel was awakened by the robber.

From The Argus, May 19 1913

**RAID AT FITZROY
ALLEGED GAMBLING DEN
TWENTY FOUR ARRESTS
LIQUOR AND DELICACIES SEIZED**

At half-past 7 o'clock last evening, six cabs, containing 25 detectives and 19 constables, all in plain clothes, drove out of the yard at the Russell street police barracks, with the object of closing like a net on a dilapidated wooden house at No. 41 King William street Fitzroy. In Russell street the cabs separated, and after making a detour of Eastern Hill, so as to allay suspicions as to the place the 44 police intended visiting, four of the cabs turned at a gallop down King William street, while the two others went as far as Moor street, Fitzroy. The ultimate happenings led to 24 men and women being locked-up at the Fitzroy police station, charged under the gaming laws.

No. 41 King William street Fitzroy, has been under police surveillance for nearly eight weeks past. It is alleged by the detectives that certain city wine shop proprietors have been in the habit of sending customers well known to them to the place on Sundays. Four weeks ago two police informers and a probationary constable were admitted to the assembly, which usually consisted chiefly of Italian, Frenchmen, and other foreigners. The identity of the constable and the informers was unknown to the visitors. They asserted in their nightly reports to the Criminal Investigation Office that they joined in the various card games and Italian bowls, which deprived them of most of their money given them by the Police department to cover their expenses in their spying crusade. They also alleged in their reports of the nightly happenings there that women, young and old, wearing hats and dresses so elaborately trimmed as to palpably indicate their desire to distinguish themselves, joined in the games side by side with the men, nearly all of whom carried loaded revolvers and daggers.

The latter allegation prompted the police who played a part in last night's raid to take no risks. When they left the Russell street barracks every one of them carried loaded revolvers in their hip pockets and handcuffs ready for any emergency. A few minutes before 8 o'clock the cabs arrived simultaneously at the back and front entrance to the house in King William street a high galvanized iron fence hid the place from view, as the ramshackle rooms are down in a hollow in a large block of ground, with enclosures for the game of Italian bowls in the front and at the side. The front gate was unlocked and Detective Armstrong was the first to enter. With his revolver ready in his hand he rushed from the front gate to the back gate, which he unbolted. A few seconds later the 44 detectives and police were at the three doors of the cottage, crowding in upon the greatly surprised men, who were seated around two long tables in a long room. Two women were amongst the gathering. Two others, a mother and her daughter, were in the kitchen washing dishes. They were so shocked at the suddenness of the police invasion that half a dozen plates fell to the floor, and smashed into small pieces.

The tables in the long room were littered with cards but the players made no opposition to the entry of the police. One of them shouted something in Italian but every door was blocked and every means of escape were cut off by the raiders, some of whom still held their revolvers in their hands as a mute warning of what might happen if necessary. Thus the gathering submitted

quietly to the inevitable. They were mustered in two rows then driven in cabs to the Fitzroy police station, where the lockup-keeper was engaged until after 11 o'clock entering up their names and charges.

At one end of the room where the card playing was in progress was a table piled high with liquor of every description. Included were 40 bottles of lager beer, three demijohns of wine, 19 empty wine flagons, 9 full bottles of wine, a bottle of whiskey, 13 bottles of cordials, siphons of sodawater, bowes of cigars, 54 glasses, pewter pots and other drinking vessels, liquors, bottles of rum and 83 empty bottles. In a box alongside the table were hundreds of capsules off lager beer bottles. In the one bedroom on the premises were found 100 revolver cartridges on the mantelpiece, while under the pillow at the head of the bed was a six-chambered loaded revolver. In the larder were the remains of the tea just recently partaken by the company. This included boiled chicken, macaroni soup, boiled ham, and other delicacies. Everything was confiscated by the police, the house being placed in charge of three constables pending police court proceedings.

When searched at the police station, various sums of money up to £4 were found on most of the prisoners. Only 1 was discovered in the house. Antonio Nessi, a wineshop proprietor in the city had the largest sum in his pocket, £30 in gold and silver. Frank Bontiglio, aged 30 years, had nine charges placed against him. They alleged that he was the keeper of a common gaming house between April 26 and May 16. The other men and women arrested were charged with having been found in a gaming house, and they gave their names as follows. Nicholas Nikola, 42, modeler; Louis Angelo, 32, oyster opener; Ambrose Rossi, 48, tailor; Giovani Duconi, 53, modeler; De Leeart Salvatore, 41, cook; Claude App, 25, drover; Thomas Mahan, 27, hairdresser; Emile Burger, 36, waiter; Mario Rosetti, 25, waiter; Louis Martin, 39, boilermaker (who said he was on a visit from Broken Hill); A Ro..., 37, labourer; George Griggs, 35, carpenter; Philip Weinberg, 62, agent; Antonio Nessi, wineshop keeper; Victor Marocci, 32, wineshop keeper; Murette Vincent, 40; May Clayden, 26, bar maid; Maggie Dell, 42, domestic; Eileen Dell, 19, domestic; Francis Slater, 19 domestic; Frederick Latter, 27, labourer; Robert Matatia, 50; and Att. Mathieson, 30. They will appear before the Fitzroy Court this morning.

From The Argus, May 20 1913

FOREIGNERS AND DAGGERS

To; The Editor

Sir, In The Argus today appears an account of how 44 Melbourne police, armed with revolvers, arrested 19 men and five women in King William street Fitzroy. The arrested persons are represented as "nearly all of whom carried loaded revolvers and daggers" and they are further represented as being Italians, Frenchmen, and other foreigners. Without attempting to trench upon a case which is still sub-judice, we beg leave, as Melbourne citizens of foreign birth, to say in general terms, that the Italian and French residents of Melbourne do not carry daggers, no more than the British born. The laws of Italy against the knife or dagger are more stringent than any of our laws in Australia in that respect.

We ask you to insert this, in order to prevent an unfair reflection upon the Italian and French

residents of Melbourne who are law-abiding and peaceable.

Yours etc,

AMEDIO VASSALO, LEON MOUREAU, CIPRIANO RUBIRA, HECTOR SCOLARI.

From The Argus, May 29 1915

A YOUNG WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE

Melbourne, May 26.

Dulcie Comfort, a young woman living in King William street, was charged at the Fitzroy Court today with having procured Elsie Coutts for improper purposes. Mr. W. Paul appeared for Comfort.

Elsie Coutts (23) stated that after leaving her parents home she met a man in Gertrude street about 9.30 pm on May 4. This man took her to a house in King William street, where misconduct took place that night. This man forced the witness to take a glass of wine, and as soon as she did so she became silly and senseless. The next thing she remembered was waking up in bed in the same house next morning. There was a man in the room with her and they were seen by Comfort. The witness had a conversation with the woman and stayed in the house for a week. During that time the witness saw different men, and handed portion of the money she received to Comfort. One night after being told by Comfort to go out she met a man in the street, who eventually took her to a Salvation Army Home.

To Mr. Paul – She did not know why she did not run away from Comfort's house, though she had opportunities for doing so.

The hearing of the case has not concluded.

From The Argus, October 19 1920

A WATCHMAN WHO OWNS FIFTEEN HOUSES UNSUCCESSFUL APPEAL AGAINST SENTENCE

John Kelly, a night watchman, in the General Sessions on Friday before Judge Woinatski, appealed against two sentences of three months imprisonment for having in his possession goods believed to have been stolen, and also housebreaking instruments.

Cross-examined by Mr. Gorman (who appeared for the Crown), the appellant submitted that he owned fifteen houses. He had three houses in King William street Fitzroy, worth £1500, and producing a rental of between £140 and £150; three in Fitzroy street, worth £1000, bringing in £2 to £2/5/0 a week; four in Collingwood worth about £1200; one in Moor street, Fitzroy, worth £400; and two in Palmer street, worth £1000. He had been an estate agent, and collected rents for people. Two years ago he had only five houses, and eighteen months ago he did not have as much as £500. Now he was the registered proprietor of fifteen houses, worth over £5000. When he was arrested in Fitzroy on July 27 by Plain-Clothed Constables J.R. McFarlane and Dunn, of Fitzroy, appellant had £72 in his pockets, which represented his rentals and wages for five weeks.

Appellant, for whom Mr. T. C. Brennan appeared, stated that he had not included his income

from his houses in his income tax returns. He had not received any legacies during the last two years.

His Honour dismissed the appeal.

From The Argus, November 9 1922

**MOTHERHOOD ASSOCIATION
IMPOSITION ALLEGED
Women Collectors Fined**

For more than two hours yesterday the Carlton Court was occupied in hearing cases against three women in connection with the collection of money which was supposed to be for women's charities. Messrs Clyne (chairman) and Bright, J.P.'s were on the bench.

Margaret Veilgaard, of King William street Fitzroy, was charged with having imposed, on August 19, upon Mabel George by means of false verbal representations, and also of having obtained the sums of 1 shilling and 2 shillings from Gordon Tite and Israel Feinberg on September 14 by means of false verbal representations. Alice Hunter and Ellen Eliza Gordon ere charged with having assisted Veilgaard. Mr. J. Barnett appeared for Veilgaard and Hunter, and Mr. W. Manchester for Gordon. Sergeant Cronin prosecuted.

Mabel George, of Maidstone, said that Veilgaard had asked for donations for the "Melbourne Women's Institute". She gave 2/6 for which she received a printed receipt. Veilgaard had told that she was an authorized collector. She afterwards became suspicious and complained to the police. Plain-clothes Constable Wagener said that he interviewed Hunter, who made a written statement, in which she said that Mrs. Veilgaard suggested the formation of a Women's Institute. She (Hunter) had obtained printed receipt books and issued some to Veilgaard and one to each of three other women, who later returned the books without having made any collections. Their books were handed to Veilgaard, who deducted 7/6 commission from each 26 shillings she collected. No accounts were kept of any money collected or dispersed. Mrs. Veilgaard told the police that she had given up collecting for Mrs. Hunter's institute, and was now collecting for the "Motherhood Association". She said that Mrs. Hunter was the collector and organizer for the institute.

For the defence Margaret Veilgaard said that no minute books were kept or meetings held. She handed whatever money she collected, less commission, to Hunter. She had collected about 20 pounds. Her receipt books were never audited.

Alice Hunter said that she had dispersed whatever money was handed to her. She had recently given away for charitable purposes 300 pound of her own money. There were no other members of the institute besides herself and Veilgaard.

Several persons gave evidence that they had received money from Hunter.

In the case against Helen Gordon, police stated that the organisation with which she was connected was called the "Motherhood Association" which purported to have as its object the sustenance of dependents of fallen soldiers. She had authorized Veilgaard to collect on behalf of the association. No evidence was called for the defence.

Mr. Manchester submitted that the Court had no jurisdiction, and that the information was faulty. He produced a number of letters praising Gordon for her charitable work. The letters were stated to be from Dr. Maloney, MHR State member of Parliament, and the Returned Soldiers League. One letter from Mr. Tunncliffe expressed approval of the proposal to form the association provided that it was conducted under the Government municipal, or religious supervision.

Veilgaard was fined £3, in default three months imprisonment, on each of the three charges, and Hunter and Gordon were each fined £5, in default three months imprisonment.

From The Argus, August 23 1924

SHOOTING AT FITZROY

Detectives Making Inquiries

In the casualty ward at the Melbourne Hospital on Thursday night, Stanley Gordon Adams, aged 19 years of King William street Fitzroy, informed Senior Constable Cornish, of the night police motor patrol, that as he was walking along Bell street Fitzroy, he heard a shot and felt a stinging pain in the side. After treatment Adams was taken to his home in a police motor car. Yesterday he underwent an X-ray examination to locate a bullet, which, it was believed, had entered his leg.

Inquiries made by the police disclosed that shortly before 11 o'clock on Thursday night there was an altercation between members of two "pushes" at the corner of Brunswick and Gertrude streets. Fitzroy residents of the neighbourhood have informed the police that they heard one shot fired. The superintendent of the criminal investigation branch (Mr. L. F. Potter) instructed Detective-sergeant Hawkins and Detectives Gooden and Madin to make inquiries into the shooting. They are working with Senior constable Tebbs, of Fitzroy.

From Brisbane Courier Mail, February 14 1931

COUNTERFEITERS SENTENCED

Melbourne, February 13

Three persons, a man and two women, who had pleaded guilty, or had been found guilty, of charges relating to the making of counterfeit coins, were sentenced by Judge Macindoe in General Sessions today. Agnes Jackson (50), boarding-housekeeper, of King William street Fitzroy on charges of having conspired to make counterfeit coins, and with having had counterfeit coins in her possession, was released on bond to come up for sentence when called upon. Charles Richard Wilson (33), labourer, was sentenced to three years imprisonment on

three counts relating to the making of counterfeit coins; and Lila Jenkins (28), typist, of Richmond, who was convicted last August for having made counterfeit coins, and was released on a bond, was sentenced to terms of imprisonment aggregating two years.

From The Argus, February 6 1934

SHEARERS DEATH

William Flannery, aged 49 years, labourer, of Fitzroy was charged at the Court yesterday with having murdered Lawrence Hurst, aged 40 years, shearer, of King William street Fitzroy on February 2.

Senior detective Lee said that it is alleged that Flannery and Hurst were in a house in King William street Fitzroy on Friday night. Flannery, it was alleged asked Hurst for some money and when Hurst refused, Flannery struck him. The two men left the house shortly afterwards and Flannery again struck Hurst. Hurst fell and his head struck the roadway causing cerebral compression and a fractured skull. Hurst had died in the Melbourne Hospital yesterday morning without having regained consciousness. It was alleged that there were two witnesses of the assault.

The accused was remanded by Mr. Hauser PM to the City Court on February 10.

From The Argus, September 18 1934

IN PROHIBITED HOURS

Abraham Aarons, licensee of the St. Andrews Hotel, corner of Nicholson street and King William street, Fitzroy, was charged at the Fitzroy Court on Monday with having allowed persons without lawful excuse upon the licensed premises in prohibited hours. Senior Constable Mudie said that at 8.40 pm on September 1 that he and other police went to the hotel and found two men and two women on the premises. Aaron was fined £10 in default distress, and four persons found on the premises were each fined £2 in default distress.

From The Argus, June 29 1936

HOTEL MANAGER WOUNDED

Bandits Fire Shots

ENCOUNTER IN STREET

Demand for Money Resisted

Dodging and ducking, Mr. Duncan Moodie, aged 40 years, manager of St Andrews Hotel, corner of Nicholson and King William streets, Fitzroy, ran across Nicholson street opposite the Exhibition Gardens on Saturday night, as three bandits who had tried to rob him fired a fusillade of shots. One bullet struck Mr. Moodie in the left heel inflicting a wound for which he was treated at St Vincent's Hospital. The bandits rode away on bicycles. No report of the crime was issued by the police publicity bureau yesterday afternoon.

Three men were standing in the shadow of a large Moreton Bay fig tree in the gardens as Mr. Moodie walked along Carlton street after having visited his brother. "I was about to cross Nicholson street to the hotel" said Mr. Moodie yesterday, "when one of the men said "Come here Moodie. We want to talk to you. We are the police". I walked over to them and said "What is the matter?" I noticed then that they all had scarves drawn up round the lower part of their faces. A tall man who was standing back a little said "Let him have it" and the two short men produced automatic pistols and the other man a nickel-plated revolver. "Before I could do anything" continued Mr. Moodie, "one of the short men pressed a pistol to my head, and the other short man pressed a revolver to my stomach. I said "Look out, you do not want to play with those toys". The man who was holding the revolver to my head said "Come on, give it to us". I said "I have nothing". Immediately the man drew his pistol back and struck me across the mouth with it. "I felt certain then that they would steal the money I was carrying and shoot me to give them a chance to escape on their bicycles, which I saw lying under the tree. I punched the man on the jaw with all my force and I think he fell. Then I turned and ran across Nicholson street".

Bullet in Door

"A shot was fired" said Mr. Moodie, and then I felt another shot pass my head as I crossed the tram line. I felt a slight stinging pain in the heel as if a third shot struck me. By this time I had reached the residential entrance of the hotel. Hearing the shooting, the women inside had locked the door and I could not enter. As I was bending low with my hands behind my back to protect my head and heart, another bullet embedded itself in the door just above my head. A man who had taken refuge on the opposite side of King William street told me to shelter behind a telegraph post on the hotel side. Two more shots were fired as I stood behind it".

A pedestrian saw the bandits riding their bicycles through the gardens to Grattan street. It is believed that they then escaped in a motor car. The bullet which struck the door was apparently a 22 caliber. A police wireless patrol searched the district.

At St Vincent's Hospital the bullet which had entered the heel and lodged near the front of the foot was extracted. An X-ray of the foot will be made today.

From The Argus, June 23 1936

MINISTER AND WELFARE OFFICER RESIST POLICE IN HOUSE

The Reverend Father Frank Coaldrake and Mr G Bishop, Welfare Officer of Brotherhood of St Lawrence, yesterday intervened by nailing up the door of a house occupied by Mr Stanley De Campo, his wife and seven children at 28 King William street Fitzroy, when the police

endeavoured to execute a Court order for the eviction of a family for non-payment of rent. Father Coaldrake said they intervened to see justice done to De Campo, who was a satisfactory tenant, and was a good citizen, and to focus public notice on the injustice of a law that allows a man to be thrown out of his home although paying his rent regularly.

Five uniformed Constables later went to the De Campo home and broke in through a window, following which Coaldrake and Bishop, who tried to prevent their entry, were ejected by the police who then removed the family's belongings from the house.

There were several struggles between Father Coaldrake and Bishop and the police. Father Coaldrake had to be ejected twice, and gave up physical resistance after sustaining a cut over the eye, and having his trousers torn.

The eviction order was against the tenant, not against the occupier, De Campo, who was a sub-tenant paying rent regularly.

Until a home can be found, the De Campo family is being lodged at the Mission House of the Brotherhood of Saint Lawrence. De Campo is a returned soldier from the last war.

From The Argus, June 29 1936

GOVERNMENT CRITICISED ON HOUSING DELAY

The adjournment of the Legislative Assembly was moved by Mr Tunnecliffe (Lab Collingwood) yesterday to discuss the eviction of the De Campo family from a house at 28 King William street, Fitzroy, last week. The motion was framed in such a way that it criticized the Government "for delay in implementing a comprehensive housing scheme for the purpose of relieving overcrowding in the industrial suburbs and avoiding the necessity for the eviction of sub-tenants, who had no protection under Commonwealth regulations."

When the two hours for the debate had expired the Premier opposed an extension, and the Government survived the motion to adjourn the house, which would have been tantamount to taking the business out of the hands of the Government, by the narrow majority of two votes.

Nr Tunnecliffe said that members were aware of what had taken place in his electorate in the last few days. Many old houses, probably the majority in one portion, were either released to tenants or "dummy" tenants, and they sub-let rooms at 5 shillings, 15 shillings, 20 shillings and even more per week. As a result the tenant or "dummy" tenant was able to derive a very considerable income by sub-letting these places, which, owing to their proximity to the city, were very desirable from a working class point of view. He wished, he said, not to cause injury to anyone in this matter, but there had grown up in Fitzroy a system whereby individuals were put in as tenants of houses, and these people made every effort to secure sub-tenants at very high rentals for a room, or a room with a kitchenette, or a room leading off a balcony. These sub-tenants had no rights. They could appeal to the Fair Rents Court, but unfortunately they very rarely got what was considered a fair deal, because they could be ejected by the tenant. They therefore hesitated

to approach the Courts.

When any of these sub-tenants were members of the military forces they could not be ejected. In the case of the De Campo family, they were sub-tenants occupying five rooms for a rental of 22/6 a week. Another tenant paid 12/6 a week for one room. The tenant disappeared in some way, and notice was served on the sub-tenants. The one who was paying 12/6 a week vacated the premises. Mr De Campo found it impossible to find another house and called in the assistance of the Brotherhood of St Lawrence. The police, he said had shown the greatest forbearance in this matter from beginning to end. He arranged for a member of the staff of the Prices Commission to see the Rev Father Coaldrake and others interested in this case, and he (Mr Tunnecliffe) understood that this officer had given some advice which had immediately acted upon. It was now possible that this particular family would be reinstated in their home, probably some time this week or early next week. That was due to the fact that the father was a former member of the military forces, and the son, now aged about 19, was still under the jurisdiction of the military. Because of that the military authorities had the power to reinstate him in his home, and the son would, of course, take the family with him. The Brotherhood, however, felt that this position would arise again and again in the future. Mr Macfarlan, Attorney-General said that in order to bring this matter to the house Mr Tunnecliffe had to drag into the motion an alleged delay in the housing scheme. During the war, labour and materials could not be obtained because Canberra would not release them. If there had been delay in the housing scheme that was the real reason for it. He agreed that the conditions outlined by Mr Tunnecliffe existed in Fitzroy and in other areas. The government was anxious to get rid of these conditions as soon as possible.

Up to the outbreak of war and for some time afterward the relationship of landlord and tenant in Victoria was controlled by the Landlord and Tenant Act, but the Federal Government had now taken the matter out of the hands of the State. In the De Campo case the Government had made an order compelling the family to leave, and if there was any remedy it rested with the Federal Government. He had no doubt that when the State got back to its own law this matter would have to be gone into, and whatever amendments were necessary in our State law would be made.

“STAGE MANAGEMENT”

There has been a good deal of stage management about the De Campo case, Mr Macfarlan said. He did not wish to say anything about the Rev Father Coaldrake or the brotherhood, who were doing good work. Mr Holland (Lab. Flemington); he is looking at you. (Father Coaldrake was in one of the public galleries during the debate.)

Mr Macfarlan: I do not care who is looking at me.

In order to find out what had occurred he had obtained a report from the police, Mr Macfarlane said. He read this report to the House, in which it was stated that when the police got to the house in King William street about 10am on Friday last they saw that Pressmen and Press photographers were in attendance.

“That was no accident” Mr Macfarlan said. “That was organised.”

The report also stated that at the time the actual eviction, Pressmen and Press photographers were

again present, and that when the police entered the premises Mr De Campo was standing in the kitchen with tears streaming down his face. He said to the police sergeant; "I hope you don't blame me for this, as I had nothing to do with it."

Mr Macfarlan also said that the Premier and himself had had a long interview with Father Coaldrake on the previous day, and Father Coaldrake had asked them if they would communicate with Canberra and ask the Federal Government would hold an enquiry into the practices of some agents and some tenants. The Premier has agreed to do that, and a telegram had been sent that morning. They were now awaiting an answer from Canberra.

Mr Zwar (UAP Heidelberg) said that it was pleasing to find the Rev Father Coaldrake taking the action that he had done.

From The Argus, October 9 1945

MAN CHARGED WITH FITZROY MURDER

An Italian has been charged with the murder of Guiseppe Vasace, 40, who was killed in a brawl in a house in King William street, Fitzroy, on Sunday night. Police found £229 in notes, a loaded pistol and a winning betting ticket for about £200 in the clothes of the deceased.

Late last night two more Italians were being questioned at the detective office, Russell st.

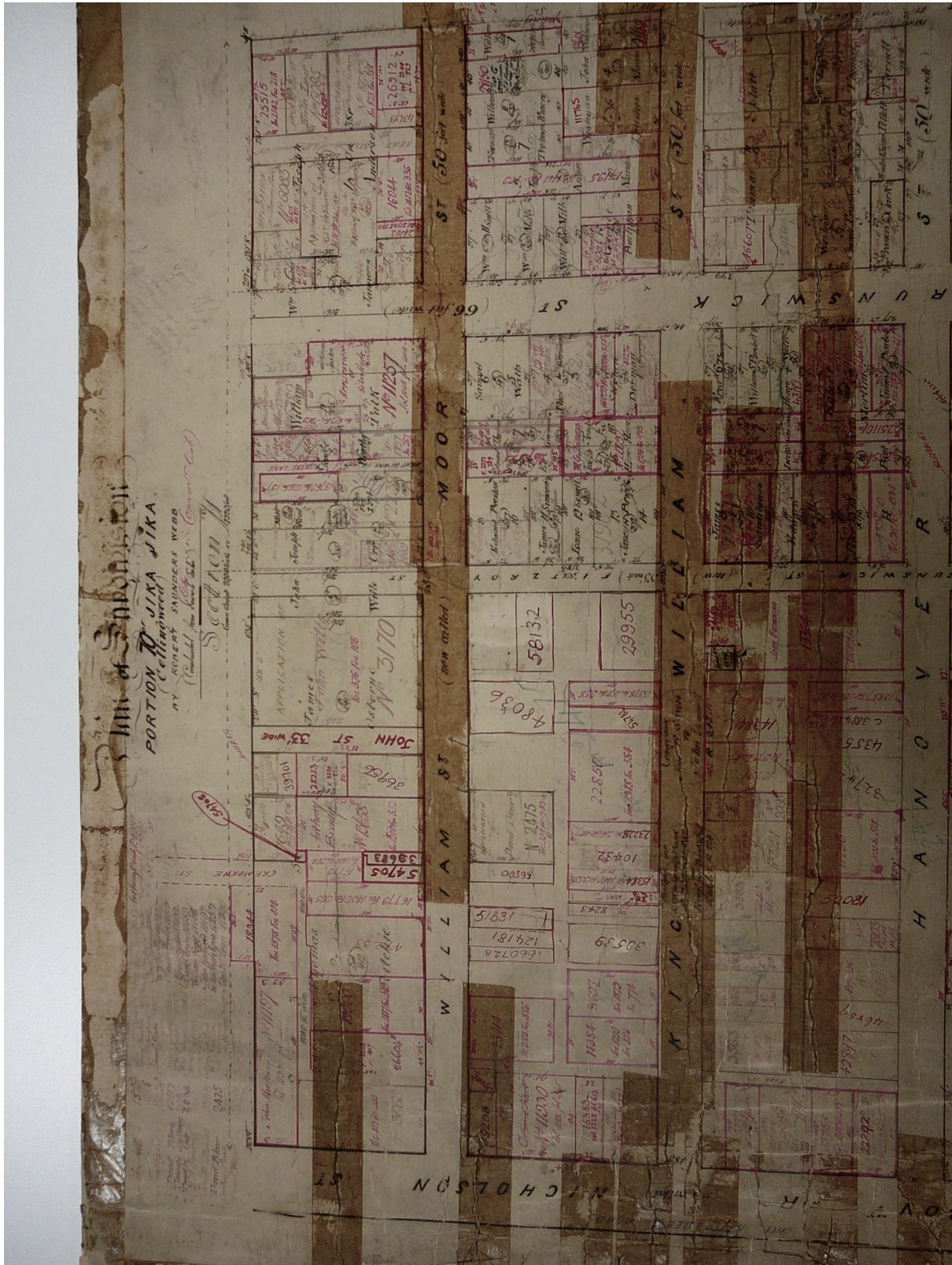
The man charged with murder is Michele Scriba, 26, labourer, of Peel street North Melbourne. He appeared before the City Court yesterday and was remanded to October 15.

From The West Australian, October 31 1945

MURDER FINDING MAN STABBED 91 TIMES

Three Italians For Trial

Melbourne Oct 30 – A finding of murder against three Italians was recorded by the Coroner (Mr. Maxwick) today after an inquest into the fatal stabbing of Guiseppe Versace (40), labourer, of Peel street North Melbourne, at a house in King William street Fitzroy on October 7. The men who will stand trial are; Michele Scriva (26), labourer, of Peel street North Melbourne, Domenico Demarte (28), labourer, of Leveson street North Melbourne and Domenico Pezzimenti, fruit shop employee, of Centre Road Bentleigh. Dr. R. J. Wright-Smith, Government Pathologist, said Versace had been stabbed 91 times in the body and head including 46 times in the chest. Some of the wounds had been inflicted after death. Mr. Marwick said he felt confident that a prima-facie case of murder had been made against each Italian. It was difficult to treat the evidence relating to one person without reference to all the facts. He could not believe that Versace, a powerful man, and armed with a revolver, could have been overpowered by one man.



Land ownership Portion 70 Jika Jika (c 1852)

King William Street Facades of numbers 69 to 79

No 69 Hope House –

No 71 Dove House –

No 73 Anchor House – various, including a rental house in Dublin

No 75 Mountjoy House – a hamlet, a castle and a prison all in Ireland. Charles Blount, 8th Earl of Mountjoy (1563-1606), Lord Deputy of Ireland under Elizabeth 1st

No 77 Fitzroy House –



Sir Charles Augustus FitzRoy (1796-1858), governor-general of Australia, was born on 10 June 1796

No 79 Grattan House – Irish family name first recorded in 1300's in Tipperary

Several of the façade titles have an Irish origin or connection.

Owners of Crown Portion 70

Thomas Walker (1804 – 1886) *Businessman and Philanthropist*

Bought 13th February 1839 sold 17 May 1839 for approx £200

Thomas Walker was born in Leith, Scotland in 1804 and came to Sydney where, in 1822 he joined the firm of W Walker and Company, general merchants. He was made a Magistrate in 1835, and in 1837 rode overland to Port Phillip. He published an account of his experiences *A Month in the Bush of Australia* in 1838. He purchased substantial acreage of land in the District including four blocks in Bourke Street and Crown Portions 49 and 70 in the Parish of Jika Jika, District of Port Phillip when that land became available for development, in 1839.

In 1843 he was elected one of the representatives of Port Phillip in the first elected New South Wales Legislative Council, and in January 1845 he was one of the six members of the Council who signed a petition that Port Phillip should be made into a separate colony.

His financial affairs prospered and he invested wisely. He died in 1886 leaving a large fortune including the founding of the Thomas Walker Convalescent Hospital in Concord West (Sydney) and assisting in the founding of the Dame Eadith Walker Convalescent Hospital for men.

Robert Saunders Webb (1811 - 1855) *Administrative Official*

Bought 17 May 1839 sold 5 May 1850 for £560

Robert Webb was born in England and journeyed to New South Wales (Sydney) in 1827 as a 16 year old. He obtained a post as a Controller Clerk in the Customs Department, Sydney in 1829. He married Ann Fisher in 1834, and in September 1836 he was appointed Principal Customs Officer for the Port Phillip District. He came to the Port Phillip district with his wife Ann, one child and two female servants and initially lived in a 'shabby, comfortless, weatherboarded cabin' belonging to John Fawkner behind where the Customs House now stands and on the alignment of Flinders Lane. The population of the town at that time was about 1500. In early 1837 he agreed to act as the district's first Postmaster, a task carried out from his residence. He built a house for his family on the south west corner of Lot 70 in Newtown (Fitzroy) given the name of 'Uxbridge' by a later owner William Bates, and also as Sub-Treasurer of the Port Phillip District. He quickly became a central figure in early Melbourne society, and served on several committees.

Webb's Customs responsibilities included the payment of all salaries to public officers for Port Phillip, the granting of pasture licenses, granting of auctioneers and publicans licenses and receiving and accounting for all revenue derivable from any source. He refused to sign a bond or security for the handling of the Sub Treasurers responsibilities, and his Sub Treasurer role was taken by another person in December 1839. Webb served as the collector of customs until January 1845 when he was investigated over the possible use of public monies in making land purchases, and after some months of a serious illness and taking leave including a recuperative

journey by sea to Sydney, “he was removed from office as a consequence of some mismanagement of accounts which reflected more on his mode of book-keeping than his integrity.” (Chronicles of early Melbourne).

Webb purchased Crown Portion 70 from Thomas Walker in 1839 and sub-divided it into 160 Lots which were sold over a period of years. He retained a large lot at the south west corner of Portion 70 on Nicholson Street on the south side of Hanover Street, and had a house constructed. Webb’s daughter Annie is thought to be the first white girl born in Melbourne in December 1836. The 1841 Census for the District of Port Phillip list 10 persons living in the Webb stone and brick house; 4 children under 14, 1 under 21, and 5 adults. Domestic servants numbered 4. Melbourne City Council Land Valuation records show that he was living in a 6 room house with kitchen, stables, outhouses and garden in 1943 with a value of £70.

By 1947 while retaining ownership of the house, it was rented to a Mr Stewart, and had a value of £60. R S Webb is recorded on the Electoral List in Gipps Ward from 9 September 1845 until 13 April 1847.

Robert Webb died in England in 1855. One son, Thomas Prout Webb studied Law in England and returned to Melbourne becoming an eminent Victorian lawyer. Robert Webb’s wife and son were sketchers and water colourists. Ann Webb (wife) died at sea on board ‘True Briton’ en route London to Melbourne in September 1862 age 47. Her descendants retain one of her sketch books.

Owners of Lots 13 and 14 Portion 70

Jane Briggs (1801 – 1871) Widow

Bought 26 Aug 1851 (36p), sold by executors 5 August 1871 for £600

Jane xxxx was born in England and married Joseph Briggs of Leeds Yorkshire. She lived at more than one address in Fitzroy Street advertising for a female servant and nursemaid in 1853 when she lived near Victoria Parade. She died on 10th May 1871 just one day after making her final Will. At that time she was living at 164 Fitzroy Street Fitzroy (at the corner of King William Street) and owned the property on which was located ‘two weatherboard cottages and one stone cottage containing four rooms’. Following her death the properties were sold and, with the exception of some personal items, the proceeds distributed equally among her 8 children who lived at that time in New Zealand (2), Bendigo, Carlton (2), Fitzroy and Leeds Yorkshire (2). She is buried in Melbourne General Cemetery.

William Bestwick (1813 – 1886)

Bought 5 Aug 1871 sold 2 September 1874 for £600

William Bestwick travelled to Australia on the ‘Great Britain’ in 1869 with his wife Sarah. At the time of purchasing the King William Street property, he lived at 57 Hanover Street, and although of little education, at the time of his death from cancer, he owned in addition to this property in King William Street three properties in Brunswick Street and one in Hanover Street.

Patrick Donohoe (1838 – 1900) Gentleman

Bought 2 September 1874 transferred to executors 23 August 1900 for £3150

Lot 12 was incorporated with Lots 13 and 14 in 1899.

Patrick Donohoe arrived in Australia on the ship *Royal Dane* in August 1864 with his wife Brigid, a sister and a young son. He is mentioned in the 1864 edition of Sands and McDougall as living at the Coach and Horses Hotel in Gore Street, then at several different addresses in both Gore and George Streets Fitzroy. He lived at 220 George Street between 1870 and 1882, and was residing at 320 George Street, Fitzroy when he died owning 6 properties in the east of Melbourne. Council rate books show that rates were first charged on three terrace houses in King William Street (current numbers 75, 77 and 79) in 1885 and a further three (69, 71 and 73) in 1886. In accordance with his Will, the single King William Street property was transferred to three executors; sons William Patrick Donohoe draper of Warrnambool and Patrick Henry Donohoe harness maker of Kew, and Denis Patrick Mackey MMBW employee East Melbourne. (possibly a son-in-law)

James Oliver Wood Music Warehouseman

Transferred 16 July 1901 sold 11 July 1906

There are several possible James Wood's who purchased the property, including one who lived in Gore Street (1886-1891) or Rushall Crescent (1891).

James Woods Grocer

Bought 11 July 1906 sold 11 March 1915

James Woods, grocer operated in King Street Melbourne in 1889-1891.

Charles Benjamin Rossiter (1865 – 1942)

Bought 11 March 1915 sold 28 May 1917

Born in Melbourne 11 October 1865, fourth child (father same name). Died 16 November 1942 also in Melbourne. Lived on Numeralla Estate, South Gippsland.

William Joseph (b1884) and Alice May Barber Farmers

Bought 28 May 1917 sold 28 May 1917

William born Bridgewater Victoria in 1884, married Alice May Crosswell in 1904 in Melbourne. They were on the Electoral roll at Boolarra in 1914 as graziers. They moved often but were always on electoral rolls as farmers or graziers. Died on dates unknown. Note that they bought and sold this property on the same day.

Mary Brocklebank (1864 - 1948)

Bought 28 May 1917 sold 29 July 1921

Nothing has been found of this person.

Albert Arthur Richardson (1888 - 1958)

Bought 29 July 1921 sold 9 August 1921

Nothing has been found of this person.

Reginald Horace Hill (1879 - 1941) *Medical practitioner*

Bought 9 August 1921 sold 18 November 1924

Nothing has been found of this person.

Uscher Richardson (1884 – 1938) *Financier*

Bought 18 November 1924 transferred to executors 24 December 1938

Uscher Richardson died while the owner of several properties which, with exception of King William street, were auctioned in May 1940. His estate was valued at £80,000 and was left to his widow and children. The King William street property was transferred to two persons with the same surname, possibly his brothers (see below).

Louis Richardson (1873 - 1921) *Surgeon Dentist*

Arnold Richardson (1898 - 1973) *Physician and Surgeon*

Transferred 24 December 1938 sold 23 May 1941

Nothing has been found of these persons.

Ross Gray Smith *Solicitor*

Herbert Manlins Mogensen (1881 - 1925) *Public Accountant*

Bought 23 May 1941 sold 15 September 1949

Nothing has been found of these persons.

Owners of Lot 12 Portion 70

Isaac Sewell (died 1877) *Licensed Grocer*

Bought 9 April 1852 sold 30 April 1852

He was the owner of the property for only 21 days. He was a licensed grocer in Lonsdale Street in 1870

Henry White *Builder*

Bought 30 April 1852 with mortgage to John McKillop

John McKillop *Farmer*

Took possession 9 May 1855 sold 16 July 1856

Alexander Cameron

Bought 16 July 1856 sold 22 May 1857

Albert Durer Weston *Builder*

Bought 22 May 1857 defaults on mortgage to Catherine MacKinnon

Catherine MacKinnon *Widow*
assumes ownership, sold 27 November 1860

Charles Jutson
Bought 27 November 1860 sold 22 April 1869

He was living at 142 (now 264) Fitzroy Street and immediately north of the property owned by Jane Briggs in 1865 when he purchased Lot 12

William Patrick Corcoran *Hotel Keeper*
Bought 21 April 1869 (65p), died 6 July 1875

Colonial Bank of Australasia
assumes ownership 6 July 1875, sold 18 December 1879

Wilhelmina Vorweg (1810 - 1892) *Widow*
Bought 18 December 1879, died 2 June 1892

Arrived in Australia in 1848 married to Traugott Vorweg. She was the mother of Mrs Bertha Waumbach, Mrs Elizabeth Wiegmann and Mrs Krull (Melbourne) and Traugott Vorweg of Malmesbury. Lived at 250 Fitzroy Street when she died. At Probate, her assets were listed as £868.

Elizabeth Weigmann
assumes ownership 24 July 1899 sold 24 July 1899

Daughter of Wilhelmina Vorweg, lived at 64 Fitzroy Street in 1875, listed as 'basketmaker'

Patrick Donohoe (1838 – 1900) *Gentleman*
Bought 24 July 1899 and incorporated it with Lots 13 and 14
See details of this owner above.

Owner of combined Lots 12, 13 and 14

Charles Alfred Ford (1897 - 1975) *Clerk*
Bought 15 September 1949 sold 1960
Lot formally sub-divided into 6 individual lots on 12 September 1957

This man is described by a current owner/occupier in King William Street as being 'a real gentleman and always impeccably dressed'. He lived at number 73 with his mother Therese and rented out the other five houses, one at least is rumoured to have been a brothel.

Owners of King William Street number 77

Ginese Triaca *Modeller*

Bought 1960, sold 1969

He was born in Bagni di Lucca, Italy c1880 and with his parents and two brothers emigrated initially to Wellington, New Zealand before relocating to Australia in 1904. The family owned and operated well-known restaurants including Café Latino in Exhibition Street. In 1930 Ginese directed plays spoken in Italian at the Dante Alighieri Society, and in 1936 was the Secretary of the Fascist Society. He lived at 77 King William Street from 1931 as a tenant and purchased the house in 1960. In later years he managed a company which manufactured manequins for shop windows in a building at number 88 King William Street.

Domenico Panzitta *Modeller*

Bought 1969 sold 1980

An employee of Ginese Triaca in the mannequin factory in King William Street.

Keith and Claire Nailer

Bought 1980 sold 2000

Timothy and Anne Palmer *Media Representative*

Bought 2000 sold 7 November 2004

Peter Woods *Engineer*, and Margaret Woods *Administrator*

Bought 7 November 2004