

Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.

A Member Society of the G.S.V. Inc.

A.C.N.: A0022862G

We look forward to your past



Newsletter No: 202

Vol. 41 No. 1

February – March 2018



Frankston Beach in 1873, with the pier and village in the background.

Frankston is a seaside suburb of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia, located in the local government area of the City of Frankston. It is 41 km south east of the Melbourne city centre, near the northernmost point of the Mornington Peninsula.. Due to its geographical location, it is often referred to as the " gateway to the Mornington Peninsula". European settlement of Frankston began immediately after the foundation of Melbourne in 1835 as an unofficial fishing village serving the early Melbourne township. The " village at Frankston " was officially established in 1853, after formal land sales took place, and was named following a survey of the area in 1854...

Continued on page 7

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP

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VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au

Group Report.

Hello members and friends, welcome to another year with the Port Phillip Pioneers Group. We hope to offer you some interesting speakers and conversation through the meetings and newsletters. Please let us know what would interest you.

The group is participating in a Family History Expo at Sale, on Saturday, 21st April and we would love to speak to you at this event if you can make it.

Pioneer profiles are still being accepted for Volume 7 so start writing as we need a few to fill the volume. Email to Marilla at marilla-james@bigpond.com when you have it ready.

If you missed the article in a December newspaper the SLV have digitised the classic Sands and McDougall directories. 24 volumes dating from 1862 to 1974. The directories listed every property, householder, trade and business in Melbourne and later all of the state – they were the go-to-guides for more than a century. About seven million records will now go online.

Have a safe and happy 2018. Barb Hawkins, Editor and Vice President.

Correction.

Further research has revealed that the picture of a printing press that appeared in PPPG Newsletter No.197 of February-March 2017 (Vol.40, No.1) could not have been the one that was used in the settlement at Sorrento in 1803. Enquiries to the Perth Public Library resulted in a reply from their Cultural Heritage Officer, Stewart Alger, who advised that the photographed printing press is now housed in the Western Australian Museum. Stewart also contacted Geoff Moor of Vintage Services who provided the following information that he and Peter Marsh of Melbourne had researched:

The printing press was possibly made as early as 1815 or 1816 to a design that had been patented by John Ruthven of Edinburgh, Scotland about 1813. It was originally imported into Van Diemen's Land and later shipped to the Swan River Colony of Western Australia in 1831 by an ex-convict named William Stocker who was in business in Hobart. The press has the number 60 on its brass nameplate.

λ Welcome to the following Member λ

No	Member	Desc. From	Details	Date	Ship or other means
1465	Joan Mavis Howe	a) Joseph and b) Mary Susannah ANDREWS c) Mary Ann ANDREWS	Arr. PPD As above	4 th Oct 1849 As above	<i>Mahomed Shah</i> As above

2018

Meeting Dates

February 10, 2018
May 12
July 14
September 8
November 10

Newsletter Deadlines

January 8
April 9
June 12
August 6
October 8

February – March 2018
April - May
June - July
August - September
October - November

All correspondence for newsletter items must be sent to Barb Hawkins,
email barbh27@bigpond.com

Address at General Meeting on 9 November 2017
Robert Wuchatsch - John Muston a forgotten pioneer

Whilst Robert Wuchatsch and his late wife Gaye were researching Gaye's great great great grandfather John Muston they found in the Birmingham Library revealing letters written in England and Australia between 1829 and 1841 by Muston to his sisters, and his brother in law Joseph James, a Birmingham draper who was married to his sister Mary.

John Muston was born in London in 1800 to William Muston, mercer, and Ann Blakesley. He was apprenticed as a grocer and in 1825 he married Mary Ann Joynes, the daughter of Richard Joynes and Hannah Hood. They lived near Derby where John worked as a grocer selling coffee, and teas imported by the East India Company. It wasn't long before he was insolvent.

Mary Ann's brother Richard Joynes migrated to Van Diemen's Land in 1831 and influenced John Muston to do likewise. Muston sought financial help from Joseph James, describing in his letters the wonderful opportunities in Australia.

Goods required for setting up a business travelled with John, Mary Ann, their son John jnr, and John's nephew William, on their voyage to Australia on the *Cygnets*. They arrived in Hobart in December 1834, Joseph James having financed all the goods, valued close to £2,000.

Muston took a 7year lease on a house and shop and went into a partnership with Richard Joynes. Their business never flourished.

Letters sent to Joseph James list goods he wants sent out whilst also criticizing the quality of drapery etc that he had for sale. He argued that the citizens would not purchase inferior goods. He sent orders through James for shoes, a coffee roaster, and linen. The shoes he said later were of inferior quality.

Perhaps he was not a good business man. He blamed everyone else for his problems and eventually there was a falling out with Joynes.

In 1836 Muston met William Roadknight who was organising shipping sheep to the Port Phillip District. Muston became interested and organised for Roadknight to buy some sheep for him. It took some months to sell his business and in mid-1837 he arrived in Port Phillip on the *Sea Witch* with his sheep. Roadknight settled along the Barwon River in the Barrabool Hills whilst John squatted at nearby Gnarwarre.

He returned briefly to Hobart as his wife Mary Ann was ill. They were not happily married and a letter to Joseph James at that time revealed more financial and personal problems. Joseph was upset because he was owed a lot of money, and Muston always had an excuse for his inability to repay him. Roadknight had failed to pay a large debt to Muston and worst of all Mary Ann had had a sexual encounter with Roadknight.

Muston had no farming experience but did succeed in shipping bales of wool to England over the next few years.

In 1839 he was required to vacate his run as the government wanted to sell it. On the property were three slab and thatch huts, four acres of grain plus potatoes and tobacco.

John moved to the Portland Bay area on a property he called Muston's Creek Run or Rugbymeade (named after Rugby in Warwickshire where his parents were born) of 30,000 acres of fine sheep land. Here he had all the same problems as well as being in an area with hostile aborigines.

Wool prices dropped. John wrote on 1st January 1841 what appears to be his last letter to Joseph James. He mentioned the high cost of wages, flour etc, the problems with the aborigines stealing sheep and the poor returns for wool. He referred to 28 acres of land he bought in Richmond which had been divided into half acre allotments. He didn't mention he had done well financially from the sale of land he had in Lonsdale St. Nor did he mention he had a mistress, Janet Millar.

Muston put Rugbymeade on the market and moved to Richmond where Janet was living. George A Robinson, the Aboriginal Protector visited Rugbymeade in April 1841 and described the sheep as 'scabby' - 'He has one hut, tolerably decent ... and a miserable hovel....'

Mary Ann Muston had remained in Hobart with her son John jnr. but in 1842 she moved to Port Phillip where she later ran a confectionary shop. She wrote to Joseph James telling him his money would never be repaid, and that her husband had a mistress with whom he had two children. John was declared bankrupt in 1842 owing Joseph over £4,000.

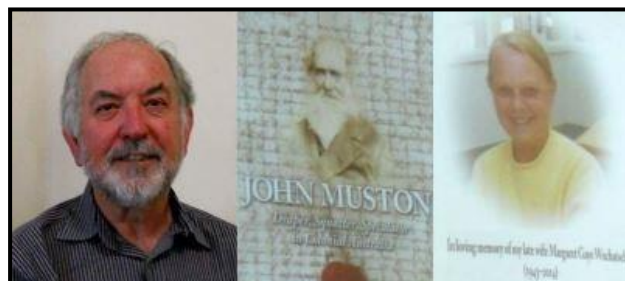
In 1846 John and Janet shifted to Sydney where they married in 1848, a month after Mary Ann had died. They had ten surviving children but sadly John turned his back on his family in England and his first son John jnr.

John jnr was trained as a tailor by his uncle Richard Joynes and eventually set up his own business in Melbourne. In 1848, he married Jane Goodfellow and they had 2 children.

John Muston died in 1876 in Sydney. He had dabbled in commerce but a salaried position as an accountant enabled him to become financially secure. He never repaid his debt to Joseph James.

Muston was selective in what he wrote in his letters but Robert Wuchatsch's book about him makes very interesting reading.

Contributed by Jan Hanslow - PPPG Member no 1057



EDMUND STEEL of POINT HENRY and JAN JUC.

Edmund Steel, who sometimes appears in records as Edward Steele, was born about 1789 in England, the son of James Steel and Jane, nee Bulpit. He married Maria Thatcher on 30 September 1811 at Newbury, Berkshire and they had about eight children.

Edmund was described as a farm labourer, ploughman and malster when he was tried on 27 December 1830 for machine breaking and sentenced to life in prison. His involvement as a machine breaker in the Swing Riots has been recorded elsewhere by Jill Chambers of Hertfordshire, England and Geoffrey B. Sharman of King's Meadows, Tasmania.

Edmund was transported to Van Diemens Land on board the "*Eliza*" and was assigned to work for Robert Taylor at Macquarie River. He committed no further offences and was given a free pardon on 24 April 1837.

In 1834 Edmund applied to have his wife and children brought out to Van Diemen's Land. Though he apparently gained approval for this it is thought that his wife refused to come out to Australia.

Edmund Steel was described as a widower when he married Martha Saunders at Launceston 13 November 1837. Martha was the widow of William Saunders, a blacksmith who had come out to Australia in 1832 with his family to work for the Van Diemen's Land Company at Circular Head. When William drowned there in 1835 Martha moved to Launceston with their three children, William, James and Emily.

Edmund and Mary had two further children, Sampson (or Samuel) (c1838) and Martha (c1841). It is not known what became of Sampson but Martha was married in 1863 to Samuel McWilliam, the founder of McWilliam's Wines.

Little is known of the family from 1837 until their appearance in the Geelong area in the early 1840s. Martha's son, William Saunders married Mary Booth at Geelong on 19 March 1841, and Edmund Steel was in partnership with Mary's father, William Booth until a notice appeared in the "*Geelong Advertiser*" of 11 April 1842 that the partnership between Edmund Steel and William Booth had been dissolved on 6 April 1842.

In "*Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip*" Billis & Kenyon list Edmond Steele (sic) at Point Henry from 1841-47 and Saunders and M. Steel in County Grant in 1844-45. However they mistakenly identify M. Steel as the Michael Steel who was at 'Steel's Horse Station,' Darraweitguim from 1840 onwards. Saunders and M. Steel would have been the young William Saunders and his mother, Martha Steel, wife of Edmund. Their station was located just south of present day Torquay.

It was at this station in September 1844 that a group of aboriginals from the Cape Otway area killed James Saunders, Martha's second son. Following this, Edmund Steel, who had been at the Point Henry property, apparently moved to this station and the remaining Saunders moved to Point Henry where William Saunders held numerous blocks of land up until his death in 1876.



On a map engraved by Thomas Ham the following station-holders appear:

STEELE - A Return of Station Holders prepared in August 1845 by Crown Lands Commissioner E. B. Addis, lists Edmund Steel at 'South Beach' Station which consisted of about 2,000 acres and held about 12 cattle and 800 sheep. Edmund Steel is thought to have sold his 'South Beach' Station to Elias Harding about 1847. Billis & Kenyon list Elias Harding at 'South Beach', Saltwater Creek, near Bream Creek from 1841-60. However 'South Beach' and 'Saltwater Creek' were probably two different stations and the August 1845 Return by Commissioner Addis shows Harding at 'Salt Marsh' which consisted of about 2,000 acres and ran 1 horse and 140 cattle. Also, there were two or three stations in this area called 'South Beach.'

THOMSON - Dr. Alexander Thomson, described as being at 'Thomson's Cattle Station' at Bream or Thomson's Creek from 1840-50. Described in August 1845 by Commissioner Addis as 'Thomson's Station', covering 20 miles and running 17 horses, 140 cattle and 1,200 sheep.

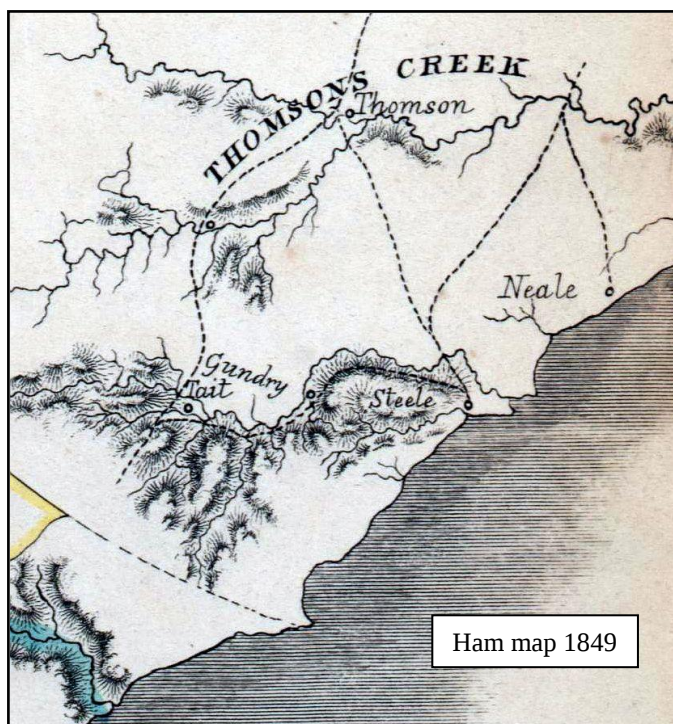
NOTICE.

THIS is to give notice that I will not be answerable for any debts that William Booth may contract, as the partnership has been dissolved.
EDMUND STEEL.
Corio, 8th April, 1842.

GUNDRY - Joseph Gundry and brothers, described as being at 'Ironbark Forest' with John Kiddle from 1844 to 1852 and then on their own from 1852 onwards. In 1845 it was described as covering 9 miles and running 1 horse, 90 cattle and 700 sheep.

TAIT - Henry Tait and widow, described as being at Spring Creek from 1841 to 1865 onwards. Described in 1845 as 'Spring Station' covering 6 miles and running 70 cattle.

NEALE - Thought to have been the William Neil, described by Billis and Kenyon as being at 'South Beach' (or 'Burt-buc-guar-yup') Station, Port Addis from October 1841. Ownership was transferred to Rob. Zealley in December 1851 and held by him until December 1869. The 1845 Return by Commissioner Addis lists William Neil at 'South Beach', covering 3 miles and running 1 horse, 8 cattle, and 600 sheep.



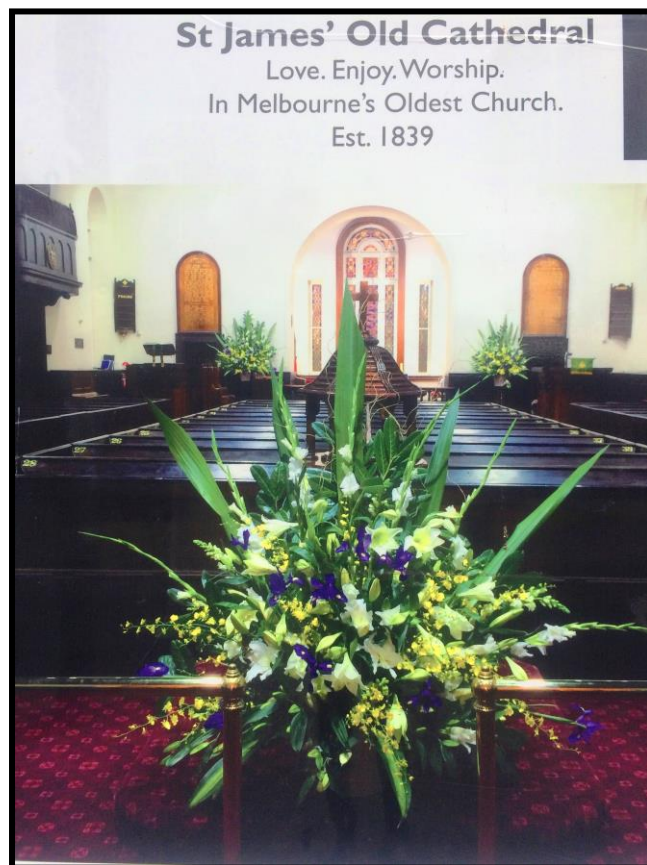
Edmund Steel, his second wife Mary, and their two children sailed for London in 1847 per "**Bombay**." They returned to Victoria the following year on the "**Adelaide**" in company with children from Edmund's first marriage. Little is known about what they did after arriving but Edmund's wife Martha was described as an overseer when she died on 1 June 1851 at Timboon, Camperdown and was buried in the Saunders family grave in the Eastern Cemetery in Geelong.

One of the sons from his first marriage, also named Edmund Steel went to the Californian goldfields for a few years.

Edmund Steel died on 22 June 1865 at Chapel Street, Richmond, Victoria and was buried on 24 June 1865 at the Melbourne General Cemetery.

Contributed by Alexander Romanov-Hughes
PPPG Member No. 52

St James' Old Cathedral Annual Pioneer Service November 5 2017



Professor Peter Sherlock, Vice Chancellor, University of Divinity, gave the sermon which was an interesting and excellent presentation of the life and times of Rev. Adam Compton Thomson (1800-1859) Incumbent 1841-1850 and who also presided at the opening of St James' Church 175 years ago (2nd October 1842).

Professor Sherlock is a cultural and religious historian with particular interests in early modern Europe and Australia. His research focusses on memory, especially the commemoration of the dead in monuments, and on gender roles and representations in the Christian church. His current projects include a history of the monuments of Westminster Abbey, and a theological history of the ordination of women in the Anglican Church c.1860-2015.

A special thanks was also acknowledged that a group of volunteers have transcribed all of the baptism, marriage and funeral records of both St James Old Cathedral and St John's La Trobe Street into searchable sets of databases.

Contributed by Beverly Jacobson
PPPG Member 1403

FRANKSTON FISH COMPANY.

**Frankston and Somerville Standard,
Saturday 15 February 1930 p 6 Article.**

.....Many of the fishermen reached Rosebud, Sandringham, Port Arlington and Queenscliff in quest of fish and it was no uncommon feat to sail from Frankston up the Yarra to Melbourne with fish, and come back with supplies, which consisted mainly of flour.

These excursions to the Yarra stopped when Thomas and James Wren commenced running a cart to Melbourne with fish. They sold out to the Frankston Fish Company in 1867. This company consisted of (1) Messrs Henry Prosser, who arrived in Victoria in 1844, and carried fish from Hastings to Frankston, before joining the company; (2) James Crosskell an American from Rhodes, who came to Frankston in 1859; he was also an extensive land owner; (3) John Dixon Box, born in Tasmania, 1840, and worked with Wren Bros., fish dealers, Melbourne. Later he bought Frankston's first bakery from Crosskell and Ritchie; (4) Phillip Renouf, born at Jersey Island, arrived in Adelaide in 1863. He carried fish from Frankston to Hastings before joining the company; (5) Thomas Ritchie (senior), born at the Isle of Man. He came to Frankston in 1852, owned Frankston's first bakery, which was under Frankston House. He built Frankston and Osborne houses. Osborne house was originally called "Ballacrane." This fish company was begun in 1867 to supply Melbourne with fish.

Farewell to the last sturdy pioneer.

DEATH of James Crosskell - An old pioneer.

On the evening, 21st January 1916, Mr. James Crosskell, one of the last of the early pioneers, passed away aged 84 years. He was born on Rhode Island, USA, and came to Australia after hearing of the gold rush. After working for some years for Wren Bros, he bought their business, and took in with him his brother-in-law (the late Mr. H. R Prosser) and the late Mr. T. Ritchie; later on, Mr. J. D. Box and the late Mr. P. Renouf joined the firm. The Company was known as the Frankston Fish Co. (Crosskell, Ritchie and Co.) Mr. Crosskell still visited the different fishing places, and ran the fish up to Melbourne, while his partners attended to the sale. Their place of business was in the old market which stood on the site of the present Flinders Street station. As trade grew the boat had to be relinquished; and fish carts were used. Most of the old residents of Frankston will remember the fish carts and their three horses, and later, the wagons that ran through from Hastings to Melbourne in time for the 5 a.m. market. These vehicles were driven by the partners themselves, who at that period led a very strenuous life.

The members took a keen interest in Frankston itself. They started the first bakery and butchery in the

township; they were among the original shareholders of the "Mornington Standard" Newspaper Co., and they held large interests in a brick works that flourished near the landslip in the boom time. After the boom the firm was dissolved, and Mr. Crosskell returned to the sea, and even visited Western Australia. He remained at this for some years, but his health failed, and he retired, living quietly until his death. He was twice married, and left issue by both marriages.

He joined the Frankston I.O.R. in 1871, and at the time of his death was the oldest Rechabite on the Mornington Peninsula. For many years the meetings of the local Tent were held in his house, and at different periods he held most of the offices in the Order. He joined the Frankston Methodist Church in 1869, and continued a member till his death. He was also the oldest trustee of the church. Although Mr. Crosskell made no boast of his religious beliefs, he lived a life consistent with his profession. He was a good neighbor, generous, helpful and kind. No one ever appealed to him in vain. He was a man of great determination, and when he made up his mind no power on earth could make him change it.

His last hours were quiet and peaceful, and he gradually slipped his earthly cable and trimmed his sails to the breezes of the unseen world. He was almost the last - if not the last - of the sturdy pioneers, and Frankston is the poorer through his death. He left behind him an unsullied name, and his descendants can ever regard with pride and affection the memory of their sturdy and upright ancestor.

Hopes of a "lucky turn in fortune's wheel" are entertained by Mr. James Crosskell, an old Victorian pioneer, and father-in-law of Mr. C. Gray, secretary of the Melbourne Trades ' Hall ' Council. Mr. J. Crosskell has been residing at Frankston for the past sixty years. He was for some years a partner in the firm of Crosskell, Ritchie & Co., auctioneers, at the old fish market in Flinders-street. A few months ago, a firm of private inquiry agents made inquiries respecting Mr. Crosskell's antecedents in America, and seem to be quite satisfied that he is the only surviving brother of an iron master, who died in France, and left property believed to be worth about three quarters of a million sterling. The family is naturally awaiting the result of the inquiries, with great interest.

Kalgoolie Miner, Friday 2nd.February 1912.

Contributed by Michael Grogan
PPPG Member 1332

Michael suggests we should all read

EARLY HISTOIIY OF FRANKSTON (By Don. Charlwood) Frankston Standard 5 October 1949, page 13.

(just type this into google and it will come up, such an interesting read, and written when Don was thirteen).

The previous article stirred an interest in **Frankston** here is some of what I found. Ed. From Wikipedia.

from the page one....

Frank Liardet settled in the Frankston area in 1847, after taking out a 300-acre depasturing license for land that is now the Frankston locality of Karingal. During this time, Liardet built the first wooden house in the Frankston area—which would later become part of his Ballam Park estate after the formal land sales of 1854. Prior to settling in the area, Liardet had also worked on the cattle run of the first Postmaster of the Port Phillip District, Captain Benjamin Baxter, which was located over what are now the City of Frankston suburbs of Langwarrin and Langwarrin South. By the time Liardet had taken out his depasturing license for the Frankston area in 1847 an unofficial fishing village was also developing around its foreshore.

Considering Frank Liardet's early presence in the Frankston area, and his connections to the early mail services of Melbourne, it is plausible that "Frank's Town" became nomenclature for describing the area and its unofficial village. As a consequence, it is possible that the name of "Frankston" was further adapted from it when officially naming the village for its formal land sales in 1854.

However, in a letter to the editor of *The Argus* newspaper (published on 30 May 1916) a member of the Liardet family said that this was in fact not true. In the letter was excerpts of correspondence between the Liardet family and the Victorian state Department of Lands and Survey which refuted the theory. Instead, it puts forward the theory that Frankston was named after the Irish-born settler Charles Franks; who was the first European to be killed by Indigenous Australians in Melbourne.

Charles Franks arrived in Melbourne aboard the *Champion* from Van Diemens Land in 1836 and made a squatter's claim to land on the western side of Port Phillip near Mount Cottrel (northeast of what is now the Melbourne outer-western suburb of Wyndham Vale). Franks' land neighboured that of the early Melbourne explorer and surveyor John Helder Wedge, which was managed by his nephew Charles Wedge —

prior to him gaining a pre-emptive right to land license of his own for the Frankston area. The correspondence

with the Department of Lands and Survey states that, at the time of surveying the area for the land sales of 1854, the name "Frankston" was probably suggested to honour the Wedge's deceased former neighbour.

Another theory—that has become folklore—is that Frankston was named after a pub named "Frank Stone's Hotel". In 1929 the author Don Charlwood, a student of Frankston High School at the time, compiled a history of Frankston using both local records and oral sources supporting the theory (published in *The Frankston Somerville Standard* newspaper on 8 February 1930).

The pub to which Charlwood refers was originally named the Cannanuke Inn and was the first permanent building in the Frankston area. It was built by the pre-emptive Frankston settler James Davey in the 1840s. The Victorian Heritage Database states that it was located on the present site of the Frankston Mechanics' Institute; at 1 Plowman Place in the Frankston Central Business District (CBD). According to Charlwood, it was purchased by a "Mr. Stone" in the early-1850s who, after the birth of his son, "Frank", renamed it "Frank Stone's Hotel" and around which the village developed and also had its name adapted from for its formal land sales in 1854.

As there appear to be no licensing records for the Cannanuke Inn, it is difficult to determine if this is in fact true. However, Charlwood does mention that Stone had purchased the Cannanuke Inn from "a man named Standing". Licensing records state that Benjamin Standing was the owner of the Frankston Hotel from 1857 to 1860. Also, according to the terms of his pre-emptive right to land licence, Davey did not have the right to sell or sub-let the Cannanuke Inn. It is therefore unlikely that Stone purchased or leased the Cannanuke Inn from Davey or Standing before the formal land sales for Frankston in 1854 - and after which the name "Frankston" was already in use.

A more recent theory, put forward by the author and historian Michael Jones in his local history book *Frankston: Resort to City* (published in 1989), is that Frankston was named after the heroic British army general Sir Thomas Hart Franks. The theory is strengthened by the fact that a number of places near Frankston also have names that are derived or adapted from those of British army generals and statesmen (such as Cranbourne, Hastings, Lyndhurst, Mornington and Pakenham). Jones states that the Surveyor General of Victoria from 1853 to 1858, Sir Andrew Clarke, named all of these places.

Do you have a story that might be of interest to our readers, I found this one intriguing, thanks Michael for sparking the interest, and there is much more to the story I could not fit in.

PORT PHILLIP PIONEERS GROUP INC – MEETINGS

Venue:	Wesley Hall. St. Andrew's Uniting Church, cnr Burke and Malvern Rds, Gardiner. Public Transport : Right on the route of the No 72 tram and only a short walk from the Gardiner Railway Station. Melways Reference : Map 59 H7.
Entry:	\$2.00.
Doors Open:	1.30 pm. Sign in. Time to browse notice board, borrow library books, and chat.
Meeting Starts:	2.00 pm.
Guest Speaker:	2.30 pm.
Afternoon Tea:	4.00 pm. Refreshments provided.
Next Meeting:	Saturday: 10 February 2018
Speaker:	Speaker: Susan Grant. Topic: “Government Residence Melbourne 1837” – The Story of the Painting.

Upcoming Meetings:

Saturday, 12 May 2018

AGM

Speaker:

Topic:

Saturday, 14 July 2018

Speaker & Topic: TBA.

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PPPG ENewsletter

If there are any members who would prefer to receive their PPPG Newsletter via email rather than by post, please contact Susan Grant at grantsv@bigpond.net.au.

Unless we hear from you, we will continue to send your newsletter via Australia Post.

**“All articles and information contained in this Newsletter
are accepted in good faith and the Port Phillip Pioneers Group Inc.
takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy contained therein.”**