

JAMES BATCHELOR & FAMILY

James Batchelor and his descendants worked Taggerty Station and then the smaller Taggerty Farm. MDHS has a few transcribed pages from James' diaries and photos of the family and farm..

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James Batchelor was born in 1832 in Rogate, Sussex to William Batchelor and Sarah nee Lunn. He arrived in Melbourne, aged 21, on 16 January 1854 on board the "Jeanette". His sisters had already arrived in Australia and married in Melbourne. See Appendix I for their details.

James spent time on the Maryborough goldfields with his brother-in-law, William Schlesinger. He searched and found gold himself and traded mostly in chaff and hay with his fellows. See Appendix II – Extracts from James Batchelor's Diary 1854-55 & 1863-1866.

James Batchelor married Mary Ann Beeson (1838 Leicestershire-1914 Taggerty) in 1859 in St Mark's Church of England, Fitzroy¹. Mary arrived 30 Dec 1854 on "Tudor" with her parents William Beeson and Ann nee Fletcher and siblings. (See Appendix III for Mary Ann's family details after arrival in Melbourne and the Beeson Bible).

They lived² and farmed in Heidelberg. James' sisters and husbands gave their addresses as Heidelberg Road on Harriet's marriage certificate.

His diary³ tells how, on the 14th January, 1864, he went to a sale of station properties at Fraser's Auction Rooms in Collins Street, Melbourne where he purchased the rights to four stations at Portland, Mount Martha and Taggerty at prices ranging from £25 to £226.

The inspection of the new properties brought plenty of incidents. On the way to Mount Martha the boat capsized and Batchelor was barely able to scramble ashore, while the ride through the heavy forest to Taggerty was too much for his companion and Batchelor had to finish his exploration alone.....

Batchelor decided to make Taggerty his home, and simply abandoned his claim to the other properties....

After Batchelor's original survey of his new run, he returned to build a slab hut on a new, more picturesque situation. (This hut was eventually replaced by Taggerty House.) His wife and family were then brought⁴ to their new home in a waggonette, travelling through Marysville and then hacking a path through the bush for this was the first vehicle ever to venture along the Acheron.

Extracts from "The Red Gate", G W Noble, 1969 (Alexandra was first called the Red Gate.)

James built a slab hut and "brought up Mary Ann and children for good", to live there in June 1864⁵. They came in a wagonette to Marysville, then James had to make a path to the property as they were the first to travel this way. Others to this area came from the north via Yea.

In 1868 James was in trouble with his mortgage and a sale was advertised for 28th June. He must have been helped by his family as in 1870 the license is in the name of Richard Schlesinger, brother-in-law and in 1871 Mary Anne Batchelor, wife.

When Crown land sales came to the area in the mid-1870s. James chose to forego the large run and to put his efforts into about 1,000 acres around the homestead and river frontage, concentrating on grazing and cheese making. See Appendix IV for details of Taggerty Station and Taggerty Farm.

The hut was eventually replaced by Taggerty house which over the years grew to 22 rooms. The original hut became the cellar.

In 1895 James provided the land on which the church of St Thomas at Buxton was built. His daughter Eliza's wedding in 1906 was the first celebrated in the church.

James died at Taggerty on 10 May 1897 and is buried at Marysville Cemetery.

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Batchelors living at Buxton and at Taggerty on the 1912 Electoral Roll;

Annie Jane, home duties
Christopher John, grazier & wife Lucy May, home duties
Emily, home duties
Ernest, Buxton grazier & wife Zoe Emma, farmer
Henry Richard, farmer
Joseph, Buxton, grazier & wife Gertrude Mary, home duties
Louisa, home duties
Mary Ann, farmer (Matriarch)

Mary Ann Batchelor nee Beeson died in 1914 and is buried with James in Marysville Cemetery.

Her children continued to reside and run the farm til the end of the 1950s when only Henry Richard, Louisa and Emily Batchelor are living in Taggerty. Louisa and sister Emily operated Taggerty House as a Guesthouse for a time in the late 1930s and 1940s.

*Report - Death of James Batchelor
in Alexandra & Yea Standard, 14 May 1897*

Dr Johnson was summoned on Monday morning to attend Mr. J. Batchelor, at his residence, Buxton, but on arrival he found he was too late, as Mr. Batchelor had died just after the messenger left for Alexandra. Dr. Johnson, under the circumstances declined to give a certificate. Deceased was a very, old resident, and at the time of his demise was 64 years of age. Dr. Schleisner⁶, of St. Kilda, who was a relative, of deceased, and had recently been on a visit to him, prescribed for the patient when at Buxton, previous to which he had kept to a prescription prepared for him some six years since. A magisterial inquiry was held, but we have not heard the result of same. The funeral took place on Wednesday, and the remains were interred in the Marysville cemetery. Mr. Carlson conducted the funeral arrangements.

Alexandra & Yea Standard, 27 Nov 1914

OBITUARY

DEATH OF MRS. BATCHELOR.

On the, 1st October, Mrs. James Batchelor, a highly esteemed and respected resident of Taggerty, died at her residence, after a short illness. The deceased was a native of Leicestershire, England, and arrived with her husband in Melbourne on Christmas Day, 1854, by the sailing vessel Tudor.⁷ Mr Batchelor had to cut a track through from Marysville to Taggerty station in the early sixties and settled and successfully worked the fine stretch of country so much admired from the main road to Buxton. At the time of her death she was the oldest resident and, indeed, one of the pioneers of the Taggerty and Buxton districts. The

first vehicle to penetrate these parts was that driven by the late Mr Jas. Batchelor, who died in May, 1897. The late Mrs Batchelor was a lady of sound common sense, with business ability that would be deemed exceptional in a man and very seldom found in a woman. After her husband's death she took the whole management of the property upon herself, with the assistance of her sons and daughters, she managed with great judgment. No matter what were her cares or anxieties, she always had a sunny smile and a stranger to meet her would think that she never had a worry to trouble her. One of the secrets of her success was her power to see a brighter possibility in the future: She was an optimist by temperament and religion. She could see a silver lining in every cloud and her practical religion led her to that faith in God which prompted her often to say "God has brought me through the past and He will not leave me in the future." She was a member of the Church of England and took a deep interest in the little Church at Buxton. If anything had to be done for the church she was the first to express willingness to help: It was a matter of the deepest grief to her if ought happened in church management to cause disagreement. Her residence was always a home for the clergy, who were hospitably entertained by her. She will be greatly missed. There were eleven children born of the marriage, six sons and five daughters - nine of whom are living. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. S. O. Seward, at the family graveside, in the Marysville Cemetery, on Monday, Nov. 2nd. The service was largely attended by relatives and friends. We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family. Kindly reference to the deceased lady was made by the Rev. S. O Seward, at the church on Nov. 8.

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Batchelor Family Photo taken about 1888

(Number in bracket after name is age in 1888)

BACK ROW: William James (25), Ernest (19), Christopher John (15), Joseph (16), Mary Anne (Mother), James (Father), Eliza (13), Anne Jane (28)

FRONT ROW: Louisa (10), Henry Richard (4), Emily (8)

DIED PRIOR TO 1888: Elizabeth Mercy (1863, 1 year), Thomas Henry (1882, 16 years)

James and Mary had the following issue:

1. **Anne Jane Batchelor** (1860 Heidelberg -1948 Alexandra) was a spinster, as per her will in which she left items to her sisters Emily and Louisa. Henry Richard Batchelor asking for probate.
2. **Elizabeth Mercy Batchelor** (1862 Heidelberg-1863 Heidelberg) In his diary James writes "15 June 1864 - Came up from Melbourne to the Creek. Brought up Mary Ann and the children for good." Baby Elizabeth Mercy was left behind, buried in Heidelberg. Folklore tells that James was a hard man because he would not let Mary visit the baby's grave. Considering what would be required to get the young family back to Heidelberg in those early years and the long hours James was probably working on the Station it may have been too big an ask.
3. **William James Batchelor** (1863 Collingwood-1921 Nagambie). In 1909 he married Alexina Alice McNab nee Coulstone, widow. In 1914 William was farming in the Nagambie area.
4. **Thomas Henry Batchelor** (1866 Marysville – 1882 Marysville). Thomas died as the result of a tree falling on his head as he and his brother manoeuvred bullocks to erect a log fence on the farm at Taggerty. Thomas was 15 years old. He is buried in Marysville Cemetery. Initially outside the cemetery boundary as no fences existed. Later Mary Batchelor bought the ground and asked the Cemetery Trust to add it to the cemetery. Folklore tells that the Batchelors chose the site of the cemetery. The cemetery site was included on surveye map by George McDonald in 1866 and appears on all survey maps from that date onwards.

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5. **Ernest Batchelor** (1869-1935 at Buxton⁸). In 1902 Ernest is leasing 26,000 acres at Taggerty. In 1907 he married Zoe Emma Manton. Ernest died at this home in Buxton in 1935. He and Zoe had the following issue –
 - 5.1. **James Ernest Edgar Batchelor** (1910-1993).
 - 5.2. **Henry Arthur Batchelor** (1912-2005) who married his first cousin Evelyn Amelia Francis Manton and after her death 1963, he married Nellie Florence Cheswright nee Whitaker. Arthur was a skilled violin maker. After Ernest's death Arthur ran the property til 1939 when it was sold to the G G Foletta and became Acheron Park. Henry Arthur served in WWII with 20th Light Horse.
 - 5.3. **Lois Mary Batchelor** (1915-1997) who married Derek Reginald Binns and provided access to the pages of James Batchelor's diary in Rev George Edwards' Notes.
6. **Joseph Batchelor** (1872 Alexandra⁹- 1956). In 1909 he married Gertrude Mary Beaver (1873 - 1951, Heidelberg¹⁰) at St James Old Cathedral¹¹.

Joseph had 'Kyuta' next to brother Ernest.

Joseph, Gertrude and their family lived in Heidelberg, for the children's schooling. Electoral rolls from 1922 til 1949 list Joseph as a grazier in Heidelberg, so he probably still had the farm.

Gertrude died in Heidelberg in 1951 and Joseph in 1956.

Joseph and Gertrude had three children:

- 6.1. **Gertrude Nancy Batchelor**(1910, Kew¹² - after 1943),

HEARTLESS MOTORISTS.

Alexandra, Monday. - On Saturday afternoon the three-year old child of Mr. J. Batchelor, of Buxton, got under a three furrow plough while it was in motion, and sustained severe contusions, three broken ribs, and a broken arm .Mr Batchelor, while endeavouring to catch a horse in the paddock to take the child to the doctor in Alexandra, 24 miles away, saw a motor car approaching. He stopped the car, in which were four middle-aged gentlemen, stated the case and asked them if they would convey his little daughter to Alexandra. He offered to pay any reasonable remuneration. They refused, stating that they were going to Thornton. If they had gone to Thornton via Alexandra, instead of along the back road from Taggerty, it would have added about 9 miles to their journey. The only regret residents here have, is that Mr, Batchelor, in his excitement, forgot to take the number of the car.

The Argus, 23 Apr 1913

(Gertrude) Nancy survived and lived on in Heidelberg (1931-1943¹³) working as a clerk.

- 6.2. **Oswald Geoffrey Batchelor** (c1912- 2006, Frankston) married Laura and in 1951 at the time of his mother's death had a daughter, Anne¹⁴. Australian electoral rolls show Geoffrey living in Woodend district as a manager. He retired to

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Blairstown and died in Frankston Hospital aged 94.

- 6.3. **Phyllis Eileen Batchelor** OAM, (1915, Healesville - 1999). For information on Phyllis' musical and artistic life see the separate document on Phyllis Pietruschka nee Batchelor.

7. **Christopher John** aka Jack (1874 Alexandra¹⁵- 1956). In 1908 he married Lucy May Browne in Hawthorn, Victoria. Lucy was from NSW. Jack had land over the road from Taggerty House, next to the Mohican and near the Burchalls. In the late 1920s they moved to 'Baddaginnie'. Euroa. Lucy died in Benalla in 1936, aged 69 and Christopher in Euroa, Victoria in 1956¹⁶.

Their children were:

- 7.1. Ruth Mary Batchelor¹⁷, married Raymond Francis Flanagan in 1938 in St Kilda. She was a pharmacist in Urana, NSW and lived to be 102 years old, dying in Sawtell, NSW in 2011.
- 7.2. Ronald John Batchelor
- 7.3. Myrtle Eileen Batchelor.



Photo of Ruth on her wedding day.

8. **Eliza Batchelor** (1875, Alexandra – 1952, Malvern). Her marriage in 1906 was the first marriage at St Thomas Church¹⁸, Buxton to William Nolan Robertson, widower. William's first wife Ruth Dummelow was 2nd daughter of Frederick Joseph Dummelow and Martha Batchelor, sister of James Batchelor. (see Appendix II – for Martha's details) Eliza and William, an accountant, lived in the Malvern area. William dying in 1950

They had two daughters Grace Mary Struan Robertson and Violet Emily Struan Robertson and a son Edwin John (Jack) Robertson.

9. **Louisa Batchelor** (1878- 4 Jan 1957) a spinster, she lived all of her life at Taggerty House, the family property and is buried in the family grave at Marysville Cemetery. Louisa and sister Emily operated Taggerty House as a Guesthouse in the late 1930s and 40s.
10. **Emily Batchelor** (1881 Alexandra- 13 June 1967, Box Hill) Like her sisters, Anne Jane and Louisa, Emily was a spinster living and helping at Taggerty House, the family farm. In 1963 Emily was living in Box Hill with her brother Henry Richard Batchelor who had retired from farming.
11. **Henry Richard Batchelor** (1884-8 Feb 1966, Mitcham) farmed the Taggerty property with his brothers, retiring to Melbourne in 1960s with his surviving sibling Emily. Henry is buried at Springvale Lawn Cemetery.

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APPENDIX I - James' sisters in Australia

In the 1841 UK census for William and Sarah Batchelor of Rogate, Sussex their family is listed as William 10, James 5 and Martha 8. Other references in family events suggest James had sisters Eliza and Harriett. Being older (Jane) Eliza and Harriett were probably working elsewhere as female servants.

In the 1851 UK census for William and Sarah Batchelor of Rogate, Sussex their family is listed as William 22, pauper, James 18, agr lab.

The sisters who came to Australia:

1. **Jane Ellis Batchelor** born 1822 in Sussex, England arrived in Adelaide from Plymouth, England on board the 'Harry Lorrequer' with sister Martha in December 1849. No trace of Jane has been found in Australia. Could this be Jane Eliza? See Eliza below.
2. **Harriet Batchelor** born 1823 in Sussex, England. Harriet set out in 1853 on board the 'Sacramento' to join her sisters, Martha and Eliza.

Geelong Advertiser 28 Apr 1853

WRECK AT THE HEADS. The Barque Sacramento, Holmes, master, from London, with 250 government immigrants, arrived off the Heads yesterday. At about 3 o'clock a.m. the ship struck upon the Point Lonsdale reef, about one mile from shore and four from the lighthouse. The long-boat, lifeboat, and two smaller boats were immediately hoisted out, and the landing of the immigrants commenced. Some were taken to the shore and others landed temporarily on the reef. The news was brought to Geelong yesterday afternoon, by the Rev. Mr. Lord, chaplain to the Sacramento. When he left the pilot station yesterday morning at nine, the boats were busily engaged in landing the immigrants, but as heavy surf was running the process was necessarily slow, and even if the weather remained favourable, it would occupy the greater portion of yesterday to land them all. The condition of some of the poor creatures; crowding into the boats, many of them in their night dresses only, was truly pitiable. From

the ship's position she is not likely to be got off; and in the meantime the immigrant's luggage and cargo is in jeopardy; indeed, as the weather has since been very squally, the vessel has most likely already gone to pieces. The Rev. Mr. Lord says that the greatest kindness was shown by Captain Preston, Mr. Foy, and the pilots, and also by Mrs. Dodd, who resides near the station. The Sacramento left London on the 22nd December, and was detained by stress of weather in the downs for nearly a month. About ten days after leaving the Surgeon died of an affection of the throat. Several other deaths had occurred, chiefly of infants. On the death of the Surgeon, Mr. Lord acted in his stead, and was so far fortunate that the only one death (an infant) occurred subsequently. Several vessels passed up the Western Channel yesterday, so that the news of the wreck will have reached the Government. Our local emigration agent will proceed overland this morning with supplies of comforts for those who have been landed.

Harriet having survived with her life, but nothing else, went on to marry (Nicholas) William Schlesinger¹⁹ on 25 June 1853 at St Peter's Eastern Hill with her brother-in-law Frederick Joseph Dummelow being one of the witnesses.²⁰ Harriet, Schlesinger and Dummelow all gave their address as Heidelberg Road. James Batchelor refers to William in his diary extracts for 1854. Harriet and William had four surviving children, all born in Collingwood, when they returned to England on board the 'Red Rover' in February 1866²¹. The family was not to return to Australia and Harriet died in 1898 in Kingston, Surrey. Her sister, Elizabeth Lucas nee Batchelor, is living with her in their later years. (Sister Elizabeth did not venture to Australia.)

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3. **Eliza Batchelor** born 1826 in Rogate, Sussex. She married Richard Emil Schlesinger²² in Melbourne in 1851²³. No immigration record has been found for Eliza Batchelor, however a sister Jane Ellis arrived with Martha in South Australia in 1949. The writing up of passenger lists depended on the interpretation of the scribe, often under adverse conditions, so was it Jane Eliza Batchelor, known as Eliza who arrived with Martha.

Eliza's son, Dr Richard Emil Schlesinger was prescribing for James Batchelor in his later years.

Note from Deborah Hun, July 2017. Dr Richard Emil Schlesinger, my great grandfather, was the son of Richard Schlesinger and Eliza Batchelor and so would have been James Batchelor's nephew. He had a medical practice in St Kilda and did some work in various hospitals. My grandfather - also named Richard Schlesinger, was Dr Richard S's son. I believe that Eliza Batchelor's sister did marry Richard Schlesinger's brother, although I thought the first name of the brother was Ferdinand. They were the sons of a merchant in Bradford, Yorkshire, but the father originally hailed from Hamburg.

Research by Judith found - Ferdinand married Esther Ann Slaughter in Melbourne in 1851 and he and Esther, who died 1897, are buried together in Melbourne Cemetery. Checking out the 1841 English census for Hermann Schlesinger father of Richard and Ferdinand there is no Nicholas or William. Nicholas William stated his birth place as West Indies in the 1881 census when he and his family moved back to England.

4. **Martha Batchelor** born c1832 in Sussex, England²⁴, arrived in Adelaide from Plymouth, England on board the 'Harry Lorrequer' with sister Jane Ellis Batchelor in December 1849. Martha married Frederick Joseph Dummelow in 1850 in St James, West Melbourne²⁵. Martha with her four daughters also voyaged to England with the Schlesingers on board the 'Red Rover' in 1866. They returned to Melbourne.

Their daughter, Ruth married William Nolan Robertson in 1886. They had three children – William Macauley Robertson (Rev) 1886-1961, married but no children, George Harold Robertson 1887- , Iris Straun Robertson 1889-1972, spinster and Reginald Travers Robertson 15 Dec 1893 - 1944 Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Canada²⁶. Ruth died in 1903.

In 1906 William Nolan Robertson, widow married his cousin-in-law Eliza Batchelor, daughter of James Batchelor. See this Eliza for details of their marriage.

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Appendix II –

In 1854 James goes to the goldfields near Maryborough. He has a store for trading on his own and with brother-in-law William Schlesinger eg hay, as well as gold searching. He is very interested in the reef mining.²⁷

James Batchelor's Diary²⁸ Extracts 1854-55 & 1863-1866

Loose pages, from Mrs L Binns, grand-daughter of James Batchelor thru James' son Ernest, supplementary to the latter's "Diary" including a sheet with an account with William²⁹ dated 13th July. " where transcribed by Rev George Edwards in his research notes. George's interpretations are in brackets and italics.

1854-55

Melbourne, March 30, 1854. "This is the first of James Batchelor Commencement of keeping A Catalogue. It is a wet day. I put down the money that I borrowed from Richard Schlesinger, H (?) Schlesinger, F Dummelow & Martha Dummelow³⁰, when I commenced lodging with Martha I went down in Collingwood Flat to shoe a gentleman. Mr Dummelow's house then went up to William Schlesinger's house and he were gone to Melbourne. Harriett was ill in bed. Martha bought 2 lbs of apples."

(next entry follows without a break in page)

July 3, 1855. In the morning built a chimney then went to the quartz reef. I was talking to a man which is working a claim which I thought of buying a share. He has been to Melbourne for some money. He told me that he saw two men there which had got out of a claim on the same reef he was working 2000 oz of gold after paying all expenses. I then came back and got my dinner then went to wash some stuff but it was very wet indeed there was a flood in Maryboro. William bought some salt beef and half a sheep. He told me he gave 4d for it at first, then he told me that he paid 5d. He went in and tried to court the servant but she spoke very sharp to him. Mr Lewis went to town and he owes me twenty-eight shilings. I am doubtful whether he will come back again or not. Mr Folks asked me to sleep with him but I did not do it. Henry, William's partner, took a heap of washing dirt of mine which I thought a very mean trick of him. I slabbed my tent all over at bottom. I made the first fire in my tent today which I thought it nearly time.

4(th) First thing in the morning went and pitched some stones out of the headings ready for carting, then went to the quartz reef, and then came back and tried some stuff, but saw none that would pay for washing. I then came home and got William's horse to cart some washing dirt to my tom. I was to give him 5/- for the remainder of the day. It was about 4 o'clock when I commenced. I carted 8 load of dirt to my tom but the ground was very heavy and wet. The little horse did draw well. There was a fight with Mr Folks and Lewis's partner. He came in and ordered him out. They then commenced to fight. I have set a loaf of bread but I think it will be heavy for it did not rise at all. I baked a butter pudding under a leg of mutton but has been a long time baking. William sold Mr Lockley a truss of hay for 18/- per cwt. Henry is sleeping with Folks tonight for protection. It has been a nice day. I think I shall lose £1.8.0 which I sold to Mr Lewis 56 lbs potatoes @6 per lb. He is now bolted all at once but I expected it for a day or two before he started, but I am not the only one by a number of people. I could not catch him at last for he kept away from me; "all so" (*also, or all say?*) it is not much. It is too much to lose but it cannot be helped now. I lent William £2.0.0 but he gave it to me again in the evening.

4(th?) In the morning I went to wash some stuff but the tom would not work. I then came back and went to the quartz reef. I asked the old man if he made his mind up whether he would take me in the party for the offer I made or not. He said he would do nothing of the kind if he never sold the share. I told him he

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could please himself, for I would not give a penny more. I went to the post office to see if there was a letter for me but there was not. William received one from Harriett. I baked a loaf but it is heavy, I went to Mr Lewis's house. Mr Folks gave me a glass of old tom. I washed one tom full and got it ready for the next day to work. My head does pain me this evening very much. There was a horse fell down and strained his leg. I went and got half a pound of butter for William. I paid it myself which was 1/6. (*In brackets there follows*) and Anxious inquirer the best way is not to answer the letter at all, but if you wish to keep up a distant acquaintanceship write a few ordinary words. (*end of brackets*)

5(*th?*) It is very wet. I lent William £3.0.0 to send to Harriet, for he told me he had not sent her a penny yet. He sent her five pounds this day. I baked a loaf of bread, a very good one too for a wonder. I went in Mr Lewis's, (*between this and and the next line are the words - "Lord Raglan" - is this meant as the name of Lewis's house or a goldmine?*). There were two gentlemen in there. He told me he had been to prospecting. He told me there was better quartz at the bit bit (*Bet Bet?*³¹) than at Blackman's Lead³² and shallower than here. I told him I would go and have a look at them, and then he asked me if I would take down 3 lbs of quicksilver. I told him I would, but I was not sure whether I should go tomorrow or not for I must start in the morning for it is a long way to go. I then asked him the most he had crushed to the ton. He said from 2 oz to thirty oz. He thought they would average no more than five or six oz to the ton to take the whole reef down. I had a capital fire this evening. (*In brackets there follows*) Jas Batchelor Esqr a rogue thief and a liar. (*end of brackets, Is he referring to the fire?!*) I was taken very bad in my bowels this morning. I took a drop of brandy and a little of salt. I then was better.

(*second sheet: no direct evidence, but seems to follow the above*)

6(*th?*) First thing in the morning William and I put our count to rights. He had put down seventeen shillings for carting a little stuff for me. I asked him how much he would charge for it before he commenced. He told me nothing at all which I valued the work 7/- Then he did swear again like a blagard. I told him he should not throw himself into such passion, for it can be done without that, but he continued on. Little did I think of seeing such a blagard for my brother. I took some gum out of an ironbark tree for I have the dysentery. I then took some of it. Did me good. It made me thirsty. But I am not to drink. I then went to the quartz reef. When I came back I went to washing but got but little gold. We had a thunder shower today. Mr Natley's dog came into my tent and stole one pound of candles but did not eat any of them. Mr Natley brought them in to me in the evening. I thank him for it. I changed my boots for they are wet. I let my billey down and burst the bottom in. Now I have not (*anything?*) to boil my tea in. I tried to clean one which had some boiled (*?oils*) in, but it was a job to do it.

7(*th?*) Changed my shirts and cooked my dinner. I am troubled with the dysentery. I took a Bible out of William's tent to read. He said he got it at Mr Folks'.

8(*th?*) Went to the Bet Bet to look at the quartz reef as I heard they were doing well there. There is plenty of reefs if it is good, I saw none got in them, but they told me there was gold in them. They were black ones, very much burnt. I took some gum which runs out of the ironbark trees for dysentery and it did me good. I bought a nobbler of port wine for I was very weak coming home. I was very tired when I arrived home at my tent, then have to cook for myself which is too bad. There was an engine agoing there for melting the gold out of the quartz. He told me he could melt three ton per day. He gave me a piece of quartz which he had melted.

9(*th?*) First thing went to the quartz reef. There was a hole jumped, there was a row over it. I then went to washing. I agree to keep a man for his labour and not to receive any wages at all. I went to Carisbrook³³ to look at a chaff cutting machine, but it would not do for me, it was not large enough. After went and washed some gold out, but a little. It is a fine day. It looked rainy this evening. I set a loaf, but the man upset it and I was angry with him for it. It is hard to set.

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10(th?) In the evening I set Elliot to washing and I went to the quartz reef. There was a fight over a claim with some German(s?) and a Swede man. Mr Folks went to the quartz reef with me to see the crushing machine (s?) at work. I left him there. I went and washed but got very little. I baked a loaf of bread and made some damper for tea because we had no bread and could not get any. I bought five pounds and a half of salt beef off William at 5d per lb. We had it for supper, and it is very salt, almost too salt to eat. I gave to Mr Folks a piece of sticking plaster to put on his finger, and William wrote a letter for him to Mr Lewis in Melbourne, and told him how the things sold here, which was a great sacrifice thereto.

11(th?) First in the morning I went to the reef. The man had sold one of our puddling tubs for one pound. I gave him one shilling for selling it for me. He was using the other tub that was there. He told me that Chips had sold two claims for three hundred pounds including wind sail and rope. When I came back I went to washing. We cleared up all our stuff which we had against the (?water). We then went and took some water out of a hole ready to take the headings out. I tried them, and turned out about one penny weight to the tub. I took Mr Folks bucket for it was larger than my own, for drawing the water out of the hole. I gave Elliot one shilling and sixpence to buy him some tobacco, for he told me that his head did ache for want of it so I took compassion on him. I saw my cask at the next tent which I had missed. I bought two pounds of beef at 9 pence per lb.

12(th?) First went to the quartz reef. The man asked me if I had made my mind up about the reef. I told him I did not know. I then came home and Elliot to draw the water out of the hole, but it is a troublesome job to do. I washed six tubs of stuff and got about two pennyweight of gold. We had a shower of rain this evening. I bought 5lbs of (?mutton) of William at 6d per lb. I borrowed Mr Folks' cradle to cradle a tub or two of stuff, but he did not like to lend it. I sold a tub for eighteen shillings to a man unknown to me. He told me that someone had stolen his in the night.

13(th?) First thing in the morning I went down the hole to (?lower) a hole in the centre for the bucket to (?dive). I got wet. I then went to the quartz reef. I came back and went drawing stuff out of the hole, but got in an awful mess of mud. I tried two (?) . . . I turned out about half a pennyweight to the tub. I received a letter from Richard. He told me he could not get a chaff cutter in Melbourne under £18, an English one, and he is keeping the Northcote Arms Hotel, for his tenant have left it.

Sheet 4 consists of notes of two accounts, both dated 13th, so am putting them here.

Maryboro		13 of July 1855		
13	Dr Jas Batchelor	to Wm Schlesinger		£ s d
	Salt beef	5½ lbs @ 5d per lb		2 2½
	Mutton	5 do 6 " "		<u>2 6</u>
				4 8½
July the 13 1855				
	Dr Wm Schlesinger	to James Batchelor		12 19 1½
	half hundred of flour	at £ 7.0.0 per bag		<u>1 15 0</u>
				14 14 1½
				<u>4 8½</u>
				14 9 5-

(Sheet 3: continues on from 13th above)

and sister Martha has come from ?? to pay them a visit. Mr Folks borrowed a handful of bran for his (?hand ?horse). I made a damper for our tea. It was a good one.

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15(th?) (? I baked a cake) but it is heavy, a leg of mutton for our dinner with a pudding under it. I wrote a letter to Dummelow.

16(th?) First thing in the morning went and tried to get my shovel out of a hole (?which) I left in on Saturday night, but could not get it out. I then went to the quartz reef to see some quartz tried and they turned out about three ozs to the bucket, which was a sample of a reef. I then came back and cleared up my store ready for sale and put some palings under it. I sold one bushel and a half of oats at eighteen shillings per bushel. Mr Lockley did not pay me because I had no change (*chains*) for him. He brought my (?...) back but took it again. Butcher.

17(th?) First thing in the morning went to the quartz reef, then went to see another reef with the gentleman which has a crushing machine. His brother went to Castlemaine. I posted a letter to Dummelow. Mr Folks told me that Lewis had another summons out for him and it was stuck on the door of the public house. I had the dysentery very bad in the morning. I took some brandy and some gum out of the ironbark tree, and it did me good. I sold half a bushel of oats at nine shillings.

18(th?) First thing in the morning went to the Elma³⁴ to see if there was a good place to fix a puddling machine, but I saw no place on account of being a bad place to get out the dirt from the holes, I saw some Chinese surfacing as I went along. It is wet. I advertised three ton of hay for sale which cost me two and sixpence for thirty words, for every word over thirty one penny each. I have the dysentery. I am very thirsty but dare not drink, and to live on dry toast. William brought my dray home and the head and tail board was lost and (?he) took a belly band for it. I took one pound five shillings in my pocket to buy a pair of (. .? . .) but could not see any to suit me. Mr Natley took his small tent to the Elma.

19(th?) Went to the quartz reef in the morning. The old man told me that he could not get a case fit to make a cradle. I then told him that I knew where there was a cradle for sale and a good one which the owner paid four pounds for. I told him that it belonged to a Jew. He told me that Jews ask as much again as they intend to take. William Schlesinger is gone with Mr Folks somewhere, but where I do not know. Mr Baker lost his horses from Adelaide³⁵ lead. He found them this morning. He told me that he thought they were stolen but it was not the case. He said it was awful to hear the complaints he had heard on these diggings. Mr Jones has come back to his old shop again. I bought two pounds of beef steak off him this evening, but they were very tough indeed. I washed about two pennyweight of gold in the tub today. It has been a fine day. I asked a gentleman if he did want any hay. He told me he was going to (? *dinsey hill*³⁶). He told me there was plenty of surfacing there.

20(th?) In the morning went and puddled two tubs ready to cradle in the afternoon. I then went to the quartz reef. I saw a new puddling machine. The man told me it required two men to work it properly. He said he puddled eighty buckets yesterday and he got two pennyweight of gold. I then went to the hole which I am shepherding, then came home, got my dinner. There was a man came to my tent with oranges. He gave me one. He told me he came out under the same company as I came out under. He told me they were bankrupted. There was a man came to look at my hay. He said he would come again tomorrow. He told me that he only paid sixteen shillings per bushel for oats and good ones too and he said that they were to be bought for thirteen. I am baking a loaf of bread. It is a fine day. I washed about three penny weight of gold.

21(th?) In the morning went awashing then went to the quartz reef. There was a man told me he could make a pennyweight of gold weigh half an ounce. I came back and got my dinner then went awashing. I got altogether today three pennyweights. The man did not come after the hay. It has been a fine day. William is not come back yet. Henry told me he had a nugget in his hand which weighed one hundred and sixty ozs. I lent my pick to my neighbour. I have heavy bread again, which is nothing new to (?me).

22(th?) Washed my shirts. I am very bad in my inside. It is a fine day. Mr Lockley bought quarter of an hundred of chaff at thirty eight shillings per cwt. He took the hay which it was in. He has got three of my

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bags now. He told me he was going to remove his tent to the Elma, and Mr Natley's brother was ill and he was with him there. There was a man came in to me in the evening and asked me if I wanted a mate. I told him not at present as I was shepherding a hole at the quartz reef. When I begin to sink I shall want two or three. I gave him a nobbler of brandy and he told me it was good.

23(th?) Colony of Victoria. No. 198. £1. District in which issued Avoca. Date 23 July 1855. Miner's Right Issued to James Batchelor under the provisions of the act of the Governor (*in*) Council 18 Victoria No. 97, to be in force until 22 July 1856³⁷. Not transferable. The Miner's Right was taken out at Maryboro. William came back from the reef and he said they are going on Wednesday. Next he came and told me all about it, which they intended to keep from me. He wrote some papers out for me. I gave him a nobbler of brandy. The Jew came and told me that he wanted his cradle. Next day I then asked him where he was going to, he would not tell me. It has been a wet day. I sold one hundred and a half of hay and a pair of boots. He owe me for the boots and one shilling for the hay, which altogether came to seventeen shillings. I went to the quartz reef.

1854-55 (6)

1855 July 30 James Batchelor, things which belong to James Batchelor and what was paid for.

tent, long tom and cradle	£2.2.0	30/-	£ 6.12.0
		3.0.0.	
sugar and tea	11/-	& 1.10.0	2.1.0
two bottles of brandy	1.16.0		
tubs			
bucket, shovel and axe	10/-		
and dishes and picks	12/-		
	5/-		
	9/-		
	11/-		2.7.0
camp oven	16/-		16/-
baking dish	4/-		4/-
bread (?) meat	10/-		10/-
. . .? . . beef steaks and ??			4/6
flour, butter and . .? . .			2.0.0
carbonate soda			(?)
hops			10
beef steaks 4lbs bread			4/6
bread and butter			3/-
mutton and candles			4/6
bread, candles and salt			1/9
bread, candles and pick(?)			4/6
2 bread, butter and candles and . .? . .			4/3
bread and meat			6/9
potatoes, gimlet,..?.., candles			8/3
peck(?), butter, meat and candles			6/6
bread			1/6
goods			15/-
goods			2/9
goods			6/-
goods			4/6

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goods flour	2.0.0
goods	1.12.10
goods	8/4
goods	6/6
goods	<u>5/-</u>
goods	5/8
goods	4/-
goods	2/6
goods	4/6
goods	5/-
goods	1/-
goods	2/6
goods	5/-
goods	(?) 1/-
goods	6/-
goods	2/6
goods	3/2
goods	3/6
goods	<u>7/2</u>

Money I gave to Elliot

for tobacco 30 (<i>th</i>)	9d
	1/8
	3
a pair of shoes	16/-
for tobacco	1/6
Do.	1/6
	1/6
	6d
	1/6
For a pipe	5/6
	1/6
For a shirt	<u>7/-</u>
	39/-

Rev George Edwards has hand written in the section above:

The writing is not always beside the figures. These goods are just a guess as to likely amounts.

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More Pages from James Batchelor's Diary

Extract from 1863, 1864, 1866 *Almost a decade after the first pages, these pages in Rev George Edward's writing were found in the Taggerty Folder with other information on James Batchelor.*

During this time James is renting and living on a paddock in Heidelberg, then he moves to Taggerty.

- 1863 Jan ? Paid Prost, Kohler rent
June 22 " " " " , 3 months
Aug 24 " " " " , 2 months for my paddock
Dec 30 " " " " , 3 months
- 1864 Feb 18 While in town went to see Prost, Kohler & Co-agent:
Went there so we couldn't see him.
Feb 19 I went to Prost, Kohler & Co. Gave them 6 months notice if he did not accept
Fowler for a tenant.
Mar 1 Went to Town, Gave Prost, Kohler & Co notice to leave in 6 months time from 1st
March 1864. I told him that Mr Coal (*Cole?*) will call and see him about taking
the paddock off him.
Mar 4 Went to Town. Went to Prost, Kohler & Co to see if he had taken Mr Coal's offer
for the paddock.
Mar 17 Went out to the creek³⁸. Prost, Kohler & Co sent out a clerk (*didn't say where*)
Mar 25 Went to town. Paid Prost, Kohler & Co 35.5.6 for rent.
Apr 30 Mr S Coal agreed to take the paddock off my hands at the end of May
May 5 Went to Town. Saw Mr Samuel Coal. He agreed to pay my rent from the first of
this month providing I gave him my customers, which I agreed to.
June 15 Came up from Melbourne to the Creek. Brought up Mary Ann and the children
for good. (= *to the Taggerty Run*)
Aug 15 Miss Kate McMartain's brother to be married "up at the Goulburn".
Aug 17 Prost, Kohler have given up the Agency.
Aug 20 "up at the Goulburn 20 miles from Yea".
(*? Alexandra – or one of the squatting stations?*)
Aug 31³⁹ Batchelor travelled by coach⁴⁰ from 'Taggerty' as far as Yea, then walked as far
as King Parrot Creek to meet employees with cattle. Left employee at the punt
to walk to Yea.
Sept 6 Mr Coal paid me £35 on account of rent of paddock at Heidelberg, leaving £72
...?...
- 1864 Sept 16 Returning to Taggerty, stayed at Reddy Creek Hotel
Sept 17 Paid hotelkeeper for employee's stay there.
Sept 19 Went to spot where Mr Delany had looked out for a house on the "Acron"
(*Acheron*) and decided to put house there instead of where it was. (*no clue given
of either house locality*).
Sept 21 The Bullock driver came up.⁴¹
Sept 22 The bullock ?team dry camped at the Acheron⁴² all day.
Sept 23 Batchelor went to meet the bullock dray "at the punt" & "paid 1/6 at the punt
for the dray going over it"
(*George's thoughts - The only "punt" or "ford" I've read of is shown on an early
plan of "Acheron", of which I know nothing. There was (at some stage) a ford on
the Acheron River near the present bridge – downstream a little. The only punt*

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I've read off was 'Sloan's' at or near present day Molesworth. I have no date at hand for it. Did Batchelor go that far? Also on early plans not with me at present there were two fords on the Acheron River – one was called the "upper ford" and the other the "lower ford" – from memory in the 1840s – but check.)

Oct 5 Went to Prost Kohler & Co to settle for the paddock of Mr M..?.. which I rented from them in Heidelberg. Gave them cheque for the balance after deducting the fences and taxes.

1866 June 16 Sowed the oats opposite the Black's Camp.
(if this refers to the original Aboriginal Settlement close to the Taggerty Run Homestead area – or even the subsequent settlement on the Mohican Squatting run nearer Buxton – neither settlement existed any more, as the Aborigines had been transferred to "Coranderrk" at Healesville in 1863 – unless some few remained behind.)

This loose sheet was in Jas Batchelor's Diary, in the possession of granddaughter Lois Binns in the 1970s. Copy is in the Latrobe Library – Rev George Edwards.

Taggerty Feby 6/69. Dear Richard, you gave me the few sheep left, but I am to go over to the Mohican and get my 300 sheep, for they are not on this station, and what few is left I have no protection. When any man can go on the run and take what he pleases without giving notice, for all they have to do is to put some of their own sheep over there, take all they come across. If you will let the station to me I will give you the half of the money I make on it. Yours faithfully Jas Batchelor.

See Appendix IV for information which will explain this note.

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APPENDIX III – Mary Ann Beeson’s Family and the Family Bible.

MDHS holds an old rebound large Bible belonging to the Beeson Family, which was donated after the 2009 fire along with Phyllis Batchelor’s paintings, being delivered by Max Pietruschka, the son of Phyllis Pietruschka nee Batchelor. See Taggerty Folder for the document on Phyllis Batchelor OAM and her life.

Mary Anne Beeson married James Batchelor in 1859 in St Mark’s Church of England, Fitzroy.

Mary Ann Beeson was born c1842 to William Beeson and Ann nee Fletcher, who married in 1840 in Leicestershire. A daughter Mercy died in UK before they left for Melbourne. The family arrived in Melbourne on board the 'Tudor' on 30 December 1854. William Beeson⁴³ 43 Agr Lab; Anne 37 (both can read & write) Mary 10, Charlotte 8, Christopher 3 and went to Glenroy.

Disaster struck with Anne dying of dysentery on 23 April 1855 in Moonee Ponds and then William dying on 13 May 1855 and Christopher on 17 May 1855 in Essendon⁴⁴. (Death records in the Taggerty Folder with the Batchelor files.) Daughter Mary went on to marry James Batchelor in 1859, but no record of Charlotte has been found in Australian marriage and death records.

The Bible was published by James Semple Bible Publishers, 32 N Albion Street, Glasgow. Bibles with coloured titlepages like the MDHS Bible were produced from 1800.⁴⁵

Immigrants like the Beesons would have treasured a Bible to bring with them to the new country. Bibles of this size would be expensive and father William being an agricultural labourer would not have had much spare cash. Perhaps friends and family contributed to buy the Bible. An inscription would be expected on the frontispages and most families wrote the details of their marriage and the children’s birthdates and sadly death dates over a number of generations.

Frontispages with family details have been lost when the Bible was rebound by 'Apollo Moon' with the old panels integrated into the new cover. The book is in extremely good condition.

Mary Ann Batchelor nee Beeson had a deep religious faith as recorded in her Obituary:

Extract from Alexandra & Yea Standard, 27 Nov 1914

..... She was an optimist by temperament and religion. She could see a silver lining in every cloud and her practical religion led her to that faith in God which prompted her often to say "God has brought me through the past and He will not leave me in the future." She was a member of the Church of England and took a deep interest in the little Church at Buxton.

Her residence was always a home for the clergy.....

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APPENDIX IV – Taggerty Station and later Taggerty Farm

In early Victoria squatters occupied land by payment of grazing licence fees. The licences were transferrable and so details of licences and transfers appeared in the newspapers.

In February 1846 Mrs Elizabeth Watson applied for 50,000 acres in the mountains north east of Melbourne and called it Taggerty.

Port Phillip Gazette and Settler's Journal Monday 13 Nov 1848,
From details of runs.
No. 183.

Elisabeth Watson
Name of run.-. Taggerty
Estimated acres: 50,000 acres
Estimated grazing capabilities.. .800 head of cattle, 5,000 sheep.
Commencing half way between Major Davidson's station and the junction of Taggerty and the Acheron, and extending on that side of the Acheron 5 miles, including the whole of the Taggerty at present known; this run is situated completely in the ranges.

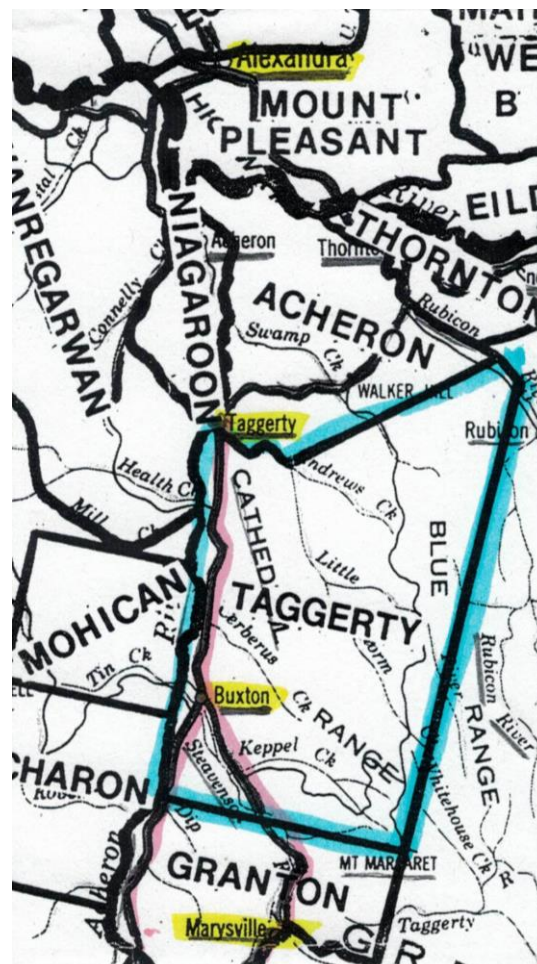
The Argus 22 Jan 1850 reported the transfer of Taggerty Run from Elizabeth Watson & Cameron to Henry Johnson. Life was not easy in these early days with only minimal tracks to Melbourne via Yea and land to be cleared. Henry Johnson forfeited the run in October 1863⁴⁶ and the rights to the run were auctioned in January 1864, being bought by James Batchelor. ⁴⁷

James built a slab hut and bought his wife and young family to live there in June 1864⁴⁸. In 1868 James was in trouble with his mortgage and a sale was advertised for 28th June. He must have been helped by his family as in 1870 the license is in the name of Richard Schlesinger, brother-in-law and in 1871 Mary Anne Batchelor, wife.

Leader (Melbourne) 17 October 1868,
PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT. ;
In the Insolvent Estate of James Batchelor.

TAGGERTY STATION.

R. GOLDSBROUGH & Co. have been instructed by Edward Courtney, Esq., official assignee (with the consent of the mortgagees), to offer for positive sale, at their wool warehouses,- on Tuesday, the 3rd November, at three o'clock, the Taggerty Station,
Situate in the Gisborne district, about 80 miles from Melbourne, containing an area of 60,000 acres of well grassed country, together with 10,000 SHEEP, CATTLE and HORSES.



from Rev George Edwards' Map of the Squatter's Stations superimposed on a 20th century map.

The IMPROVEMENTS are all first-rate, and comprise a six-roomed house, store, kitchen and servants' rooms, men's huts, large garden, stocked with superior fruit trees, stabling, shedding, outbuildings, cultivation paddocks, wool shed fitted with press and all the necessary appliances.

The water supply is abundant, the run being traversed and intersected by the Acheron and Taggerty Creeks.

The run is COMPLETELY fenced in and subdivided into convenient paddocks, all in thorough working order.

As possession will be given to the buyer forthwith, a considerable sum will be immediately available to

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him from the present clip of wool.
The run is capable of carrying nearly double the number of stock, without any additional outlay for improvements.

Further particulars, as to the breed, age and sexes of the sheep, and the correct numbers of the cattle and horses, will appear in future advertisement.
Terms liberal at sale.
Melbourne, 16th October, 1878.

Battling sheep and cattle duffers, adverse weather and wool prices James continued to farm the large run til Crown land sales came to the area in the mid-1870s. James chose to forego the large run and to put his efforts into about 1,000 acres around the homestead and river frontage, concentrating on grazing and cheese making.

Leader (Melbourne) 25 May 1878,
Settlement on the Upper Goulburn
Concluding Paper from our travelling correspondent
(Section re Taggerty Farm)

.....Mr. Batchellor's farm is reached at a point twelve miles from Marysville and fifteen miles from Alexandra. This farm, which is 1000 acres in extent, consists of the homestead and purchased land connected to Taggerty station, the leased-run of which Mr. Batchellor formerly held. The station was originally devoted to the keeping of sheep, but since dispensing with the run the proprietor has carried on cheese making and grazing. About 100 acres of the farm consists of river flats, and the remainder of low hills formerly bearing a heavy peppermint forest. The whole of the trees have been rung, and the grass thereby very much improved, while the flats have been cultivated and

sown with grasses. The razing department of the farm is carried on after the manner common to the district, with the addition of some blood stock breeding, while the chief industry is the cheesemaking. The number of cows milked varies according to the season, the present number being 100head, and the yield of the dairy is about fourteen tons of cheese per annum. The cheese has hitherto been made upon the principle of heating the milk with warmed whey, this process involving a great deal of trouble; but Mr. Batchellor has purchased and has in his dairy, although not yet in working order, one of Woodman and Anderson's patent cheese vats of the kind described in The Leader about three months ago. With this really first-class cheesemaking plant properly fitted up, the proprietor expects to greatly reduce the labor and expense connected with the industry.

Taggerty House end up with 22-rooms and the hut was used as a cellar. After James death his wife and his children - Richard, Louisa, Emily and Annie continued to operate the dairy farm with the cheese and butter factory. Produce was exported overseas in the 1900s.
In the 1930s and 40s Taggerty House offered guest house accommodation.

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Rev George Edwards in his book, "Making Tracks" – in the beginning comments;

When I lived at Marysville and had occasion to visit Alexandra; I noticed an old two storeyed timber dwelling, close to the Acheron River on my left, and I asked about it and was told it was an old home of the Batchelor family, and that two old ladies, members of the family lived (or had lived) there. Whether that was so, I can't say, but it is in the area of the Taggerty squatting run. The Health Creek (the "Creek" Batchelor spoke?) is close by and the Cathedral mount is on the east, where the road rises.

ENDNOTES

-
- ¹ From ancestry family tree – GSV reference
 - ² From children's birthplaces and mention of a rented paddock at Heidelberg in 1863 - 66 diary extracts
 - ³ Gerald W Noble accessed James Diary, through his daughters, when he wrote his history of early Alexandra – "The Red Gate" in 1969.
 - ⁴ MDHS Diary Extracts February 1865
 - ⁵ See Appendix II pages from James Diary.
 - ⁶ This is nephew Dr Richard Emil Schlesinger.
 - ⁷ Mary Ann Beeson, aged 10 arrived with her parents on the Tudor in 1854.
 - ⁸ See newspaper report
 - ⁹ Vic BMD reg no 6517
 - ¹⁰ From funeral notice in The Age, 24 July 1951.
 - ¹¹ Vic BMD reg no 2619R
 - ¹² Only child found in Vic BMD records possibly others
 - ¹³ From Australian Electoral Rolls
 - ¹⁴ From death notices in The Age & Argus, 24 July 1951
 - ¹⁵ Vic BMD reg no 13223
 - ¹⁶ 1954 Electoral Roll Christopher John Batchelor is registered in Euroa.
 - ¹⁷ Ruth was born "Taggerty", Glenferrie Road, Kew
 - ¹⁸ The Batchelors had given the land for the church.
 - ¹⁹ Nicholas William Schlesinger and Richard Emil Schlesinger appear related, see email notes under Eliza.
 - ²⁰ Vic BMD Reg No 28870
 - ²¹ PROV Outward Passengers
 - ²² No evidence has been found to show the Schlesingers were brothers. Perhaps they were cousins.
 - ²³ Vic BMD Reg No 5689
 - ²⁴ 1841 UK census with her family
 - ²⁵ Vic BMD Reg No
 - ²⁶ A photo of Moose Jaw was found amongst the MDHS family album collection for Harry Robertson and Mary Eliza Barton. Does this show a family connection?
 - ²⁷ George's comments are in italics, endnote information researched by Judith Vimpani in 2017.
 - ²⁸ MDHS had a large book compiled by James family which contains his Diaries. This was lost in the 2009 fire and only the two extracts transcribed here now exist.
 - ²⁹ Brother-in-law William Schlesinger
 - ³⁰ James sister Martha married Joseph Dummelow, while sister Eliza married Richard Schlesinger
 - ³¹ Bet Bet Creek north of Maryborough towards Dunolly.
 - ³² Two gold nuggets were found in Blackman's Lead just south of Maryborough city centre. In 1854 a 360 oz nugget and in June 1855 a 833oz nugget.
 - ³³ Carisbrook is east of Maryborough
 - ³⁴ Alma is a gold settlement northwest of Maryborough
 - ³⁵ Six kms south west of Maryborough, this lead was discovered Jan 1855 by South Australians, hence the name.
 - ³⁶ Daisy Hill, is south of Maryborough became a very rich goldfield.

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³⁷ Miner's Licences were compulsory from September 1851.

³⁸ 'the creek' looks like James term for Taggerty Run see also June 15 - JV

³⁹ Entries for Aug 31 & Sept 6 added later to original transcription.

⁴⁰ Query that a coach ran from Taggerty to Yea - JV

⁴¹ George suggests this is related to cattle entry Aug31. JV- I think a herd of cattle is different to a bullock dray which would have mostly likely included goods. James always refers to travel from Melb as 'came up'.

⁴² Acheron original name for Taggerty area.

⁴³ As 'Breeson'

⁴⁴ Death certificates attached.

⁴⁵ Information from the web by Alan Boyd

⁴⁶ Johnson already had the Eglinton Run further north and he and his family farmed part of this land for more than a century – G W Noble.

⁴⁷ Alexandra & District, Lloyd, Brian E, 2006

⁴⁸ See Appendix II pages from James Diary.