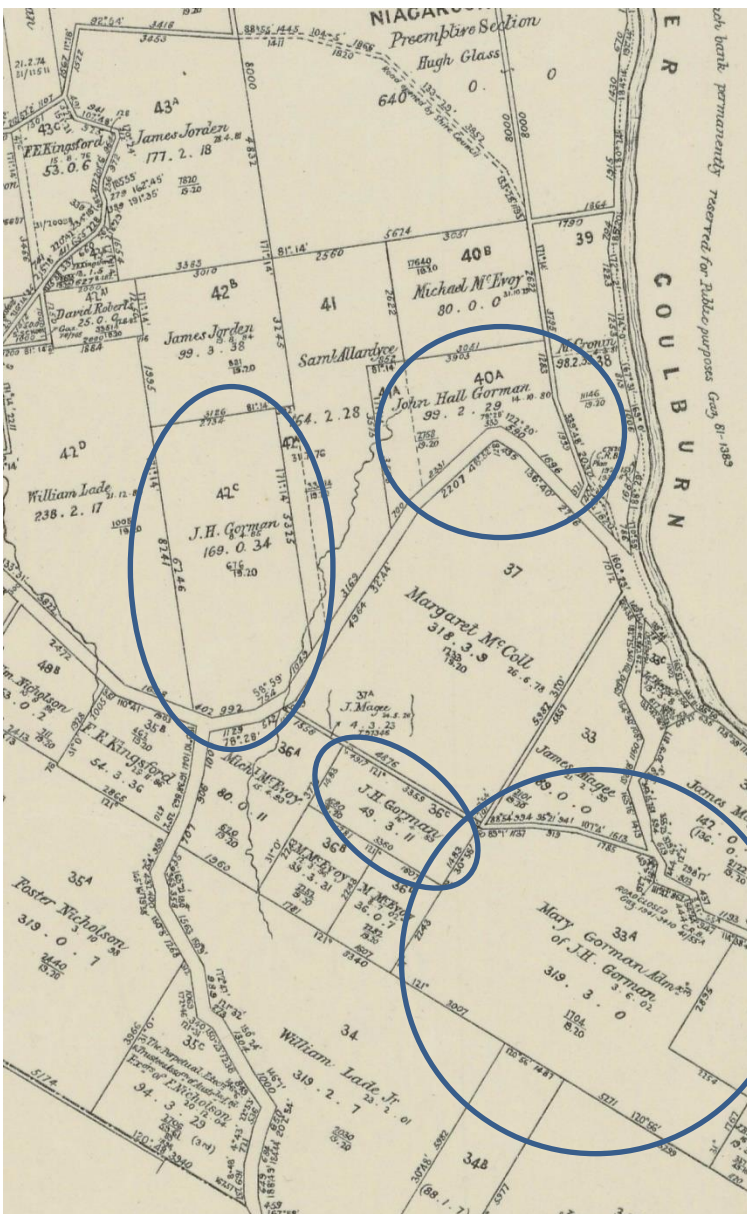


Gorman Family of Acheron

The Gorman's owned over 600 acres north of Acheron, the home property being 'Hillside'. The eldest son married William Lawlor's eldest daughter.

John Hall Gorman (1849, Glasgow - 1900, Alexandra), whose parents were Ann nee Hall and Thomas Gorman, was first reported at Thornton as the servant of George Christie. During the record flood of 1870¹ when the waters of the Goulburn entered George's house two attempts at crossing the flooded river were made. On the second attempt George Christie on his horse with the youngest child reached the far bank, Mrs Christie on her horse in the turbulent waters fell off and was swept away, while John stripped off his outer clothes and with the 12 year old daughter struck out bravely. John almost reached the bank when the girl lost hold and was swept away. Sadly the weight of the saturated clothes of the ladies dragged them down and they were swept into a current in the river and drowned.

John married Mary Wood (1852, Indented Head, Geelong - 1931, Alexandra) in 1871 in Alexandra. In 1874 John Hall Gorman applied for several lots totally 196 acres in Acheron. 'Hillside' with the house and out-buildings were on Lot 40c on the main road. In 1895 he acquired 378 acres at Taggerty from George Hall. (Riversdale?) Was George a relative of John's mother?



Lands department survey map prepared in 1934 of the lands south of the Goulburn river at Acheron.

In 1898 typhoid fever broke out in the district and the Gorman family were infected.

The Argus, 5 May 1898

THE TYPHOID EPIDEMIC.

ALEXANDRA, Wednesday.

A second death has occurred in the local hospital from typhoid fever, the patient having died only 20 hours after admission. The disease made its appearance here some months ago, and although many have been attacked by it, only two deaths have occurred so far. Extreme precautions have been taken by the local health officer against it spreading.

One of those deaths was David Gorman, the 21 year old son of Mary and John, who died at the beginning of February 1898. "Several other members of Mr. Gorman's family are also suffering from the same disease, and thanks to the kind services of Mr. A. Dobson, a tent has been erected in the grounds of the local hospital, where they are being treated by Dr. Johnson, and, we are pleased to state, so far are progressing favourably."

Then two years later on 13 February 1900 John Hall Gorman died² in Alexandra hospital from typhoid fever. He was buried in Alexandra Cemetery like his son. There was another outbreak of typhoid fever in the district in 1906.

Alexandra & Yea Standard, 23 Feb 1900

OBITUARIES.

THE LATE J. H. GORMAN.

On the 13th inst the community was shocked by the terrible suddenness of the death of Mr. John Gorman, who for a period of 30 years or upwards had resided in our midst and had, by numberless good actions, rendered himself a most estimable citizen. The late Mr. Gorman in his youth, had a passion for the sea, and eventually found his way into the Royal Navy. During his career as a blue-jacket he saw active service in the China sea and on the coast of South America, receiving as compensation many wounds, the scars of which he bore to the time of his death. Tiring of the discipline on board a man-o-war Mr. Gorman sailed for Australia and joined the late Mr. George Christie in farming operations at Whittlesea about the year 1864. Mr. Christie removed to Alexandra, or rather to Thornton, about 1867, and Mr. Gorman followed his master. After working for some time in this district

with Mr. Christie, the deceased solicited land in Whanregarwen, and added to it by degrees until he became possessed of a fairly good sized holding. During the great flood of '70 he rewarded his employer by rescuing one of his children from a watery grave, exhibiting great pluck on the occasion. Shortly after selecting his homestead he married and reared up a family of which any man might be proud, the elder boys of whom set a bright example to those of our gallant Colonial youth who are now fighting our battles in South Africa by joining the local detachment of mounted rifles, and exhibiting excellent qualities of discipline and military ardour. The deceased after a short visit to the old country some years ago settled down on his property, and continued there to the day before his death, which resulted from typhoid fever, from which disease he lost a son a short time ago.

Alexandra & Yea Standard, 24 April 1931

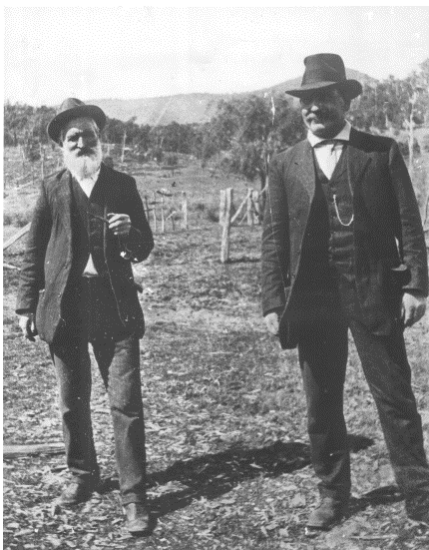
A District Pioneer Passes.

Mrs. Mary Gorman, who died on April 7th, was born at Geelong, and came to the Alexandra district with Mr. and Mrs. S. Allardyce about the year 1867. She was at "Riversdale" during the big flood of 1870. She was married to the late John Hall Gorman on October 2, 1871, and went to live on the farm (now occupied by her son William) and never

left. Her husband died on February 13, 1900, and a son, David, on January 29, 1898. She leaves a family of six - Jane (Mrs. Drage), of Renmark; James, Taggerty; Jessie (Mrs. Webb), Wagga; Alexander, Taggerty; Florence (Mrs. Smith), Yarra Junction; and William, Alexandra. There are 18 grand children and 14 great grand-children. Mrs. Gorman was 78 years of age.

Mary and John Gorman's children:

1. **(John) James Gorman** (1875, Alexandra - 1943, Taggerty, buried Alexandra Cemetery) became the manager of the family farms at Taggerty with his father's sudden death in 1900. In 1907 he married **Mary Ann Josephine Lawlor** (1878, Lilydale - 1965, Alexandra, buried with her husband). They had no children but brought up Mary's niece³ Rita Margaret Lawlor (c1910 - 1999, Hobart, Tas). In 1934 Rita was librarian one day a week at the library in the Taggerty Hall. She married Donald Thomas Kitchener, Taggerty forest officer, in Alexandra in 1935. Her exact connection to the Lawlors could not be found.



On the left William Lawlor & son in law John James Gorman.

On the right: Mrs Gorman

Note: photos from Graham Eddy's scans.



Alexandra Standard, 22 Oct 1943

Death of Mr. John James Gorman. Quite a gloom was cast over the. Alexandra district on Thursday of last week when it became known that Mr. J. J. Gorman, of Taggerty, had passed away. Although his health had not been of the best of recent years his death came as a great shock to the whole of the community because

at the time of his passing he was getting wood to boil the water for the Hospital ball that was to have been held at Taggerty on the Friday night, Oct. 15. The late Mr. Gorman, who was 67 years of age, was well and favourably known throughout the whole of the shire. He officiated as Master of Ceremonies at many

functions, and his services to judge a waltzing competition at ball or dance were often sought after.

The late Mr. Gorman was an outstanding figure at the annual Hospital ball at Taggerty. With his wife as secretary of the function, and he as M.C., through their efforts they have raised many pounds for that institution, and the assemblage that was anticipated at this year's function was expected to be exceptionally large. However, as a mark of respect the function was postponed.

The deceased was born at "Cathcart," Alexandra. He was a member of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, and with Messrs. A. E. Saunders, and W. H. Whiting often attended the reunion of the "old boys." He followed farming pursuits at Taggerty up till recently, when he sold his farm, and he and his wife lived in retirement in the township of Taggerty.

The service and the funeral at the Alexandra cemetery on Saturday last, were very largely attended - 39 cars following in the cortege. The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful (included in the number was a wreath from the committee of the Alexandra District Hospital). The Rev. J. A. Rawson conducted the services at the Presbyterian church and at the graveside. Mr. A. E. Howell had charge of the funeral arrangements. The coffin-bearers were Messrs. P. Kerr, H. Barker, A. C. Ure, F. Walker, K. Andrews, W. Lister. Pall-bearers were A. Robertson, C. Wightman, S. Hewitt, L. Williamson, G. Moir, D. T. Kitchener, W. Whiting.

Taggerty has lost a worthy citizen, and the sympathy of the whole of the district goes to the sorrowing wife in her sad loss.

*Mary Ann nee Lawlor and
John James Gorman in later*



2. **Jane/Jean Gorman** (1872, Alexandra -1953, Renmark, NSW) married Sidney Herbert Drage. They had 8 children including a daughter **Florence Amy Drage** who in 1922 married **Peter Kerr** (1889, Alexandra-1961, Taggerty). Peter was the third generation son called Peter to live in the district.

3. **David Gorman** (1877, Alexandra-1898, Alexandra) died aged 21 from typhoid.

Alexandra & Yea Standard, 4 Feb 1898

We regret having to record the death of Mr. David Gorman, second son of Mr. John Gorman, of *Riversdale*, who succumbed, after a short illness, to an attack of typhoid fever early on Saturday morning last. The deceased was a fine, promising youth of twenty-one

years of age, and had for some time been engaged at the local butter factory.

He had been a member of the Victorian Mounted Rifles for some years, in the ranks of which he gained the good opinion of the officer who commanded the detachment for his soldierly bearing, regular attendance on

parade, and strict obedience to orders at all times. He was a good shot, and a steady and smart young soldier, quick and ready to do what he was ordered in and out of camp, and esteemed for his kind and good qualities by officers of the regiment and comrades in the ranks. No one outside of his own family will more regret to learn of the death of Dave Gorman than Captain McLeish, who is in command of the F company, in which the deceased served so long, and whom the captain held in the highest esteem. The circumstances connected with his death necessitated a hasty burial, otherwise we feel sure Captain McLeish would have seen that

the deceased was laid to rest with military honors. This is the first death of a member of the Alexandra detachment of mounted rifles we have had to record since the establishment of the corps, and we hope it will be a long time before we have such another duty thrust on us.

Several other members of Mr. Gorman's family are also suffering from the same disease, and thanks to the kind services of Mr. A. Dobson, a tent has been erected in the grounds of the local hospital, where they are being treated by Dr. Johnson, and, we are pleased to state, so far are progressing favourably.

3. **Jessie Muriel Gorman** (1879, Alexandra - 1954, Henty NSW). In 1905 she married William Webb (1873, Taggerty - 1954, Wagga Wagga, NSW). William's parents were Annie nee Kingston (c1843, Limerick, Ireland - 1902 Alexandra) and George Webb (c1843, Wiltshire, England - 1918, Alexandra). They moved away from the district with their children Anne M, William J, Dorothy J and George A being born in Seymour. About 1919 they went to the Wagga district and farmed at Yarragundry.



Sisters - Jesse Muriel & Florence Amy



Alexandra Standard, 2 Apr 1954

DEATH OF FORMER TAGGERTY RESIDENT.

The many friends of Mr. William Webb, of Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, received a great shock when they heard of his sudden death in Warburton Hospital on 20th inst. The late Mr. Webb was born at Taggerty on 21st June, 1874. He was married in Alexandra in 1905 to Miss Jessie Gorman, and they went to reside at Seymour. Mr. Webb then

took up land at Wagga in 1915, and still took an active interest in his farm until the time of his death. He leaves a widow and family of two sons, William and George, of Wagga, and two daughters, Anne (Mrs. G. Hayes, Henty, N.S.W.), and Dorothy (Mrs. G. Montgomery, Wagga), 17 grand-children and two great-grand-children, to mourn their loss. The funeral took place at Wagga Wagga on the

22nd March. Two brothers, Mr. Ernest Webb, of Taggerty, and Mr. Thomas Webb, of Bomaderry, N.S.W., survive the deceased.

Note: William Webb was the eldest brother of Thomas John Webb who briefly married Jessie's sister Florence May Gorman to give her baby legitimacy and then absconded to Canada to return much later to NSW. See Florence's entry here.

Alexandra Standard, 16 July 1954

Mrs. JESSIE WEBB. The death occurred in Henty Hospital on 30th June of Mrs. Jessie Webb, of Yarragundry, via Wagga, New South Wales, aged 74. She was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Gorman, of Alexandra, and widow of the late Mr. William Webb, who pre-deceased her on March 20th of this year. With her late husband she went to the Wagga district 35 years ago, and carried on farming pursuits at Yarragundry. She took an active part in all district affairs, and was organist for her church until failing eyesight forced her to relinquish it a few months ago. Messrs. Alex Gorman, of Taggerty, and William Gorman, of Alexandra, are brothers of the deceased.

4. **Alexander Gordon Gorman** (1883, Alexandra - 1958, Alexandra). He married Mabel Augusta Victoria Anstis in 1913. They lived in Alexandra. He was a carrier.

Shepparton Advertiser, 20 Nov 1913

Miss Mabel Augusta Victoria Anstis (daughter of Mr Henry Anstis, farmer, of Congupna) was yesterday married at the residence to Mr Alexander Gordon Gorman (son of the late Mr John H Gorman, farmer, of Alexandra). The ceremony was performed by the Rev W A Millikan of the Methodist Church; Miss Florence A Anstis (one of the bride's sisters) was bridesmaid; and Mr Alfred W Gorman (bridegroom's brother) best man. After the ceremony a sumptuous breakfast was partaken of, the Rev Mr Millikan presiding, only relatives and intimate friends being present. The happy couple left by the evening train for Melbourne. The wedding presents were many; and some days previously the congregation of the Methodist Church at Congupna entertained the bride at a kitchen social, when she was provided with a complete kitchen.



5. **(Florence) May Gorman** (1888 Alexandra, - 1960 Yarra Junction, Vic) When it was found she was pregnant by Thomas John Webb (c1881- unknown) brother of William Webb who married Jessie Gorman and whose father had the farm across the road they were immediately married on 21 March 1906 but Thomas deserted her three weeks later and during the divorce proceedings it was discovered that Thomas had run away to Canada.

Baby, **Alma May Webb** (July 1906, Alexandra - 1974, Healesville) married Clyde David Lowe in 1933, had a daughter who died at 15 years and a son. Alma died a widow in 1974 in Healesville.



The Age, 18 April 1914

ANOTHER MATRIMONIAL MISTAKE HUSBAND DESERTS IN THREE WEEKS.

Florence May Webb, 24, of Alexandra. sought divorce from Thomas John Webb, 31, of Alexandra, on the ground of desertion. Mr. Gregory represented petitioner. Petitioner said she was married on 21st March, 1906. They went to reside at witness's mother's house. About three weeks after marriage respondent said he was going to Taggerty to do some farming for his father, which would last for about a week. After that he would take a farm and they could live together. He went away, and she had not seen or heard of him since. She asked his brother George

where he was, and George said he had "gone droving."

Mr. Gregory: On 20th April an advertisement appeared in the Melbourne newspapers in which respondent said he would not be responsible for his wife's debt.

His Honor: Has he ever written to you or sent you money

Witness: No, I took a warrant out for his arrest, but it was never executed There is one child of the marriage.

His honor: Petitioner appears to have taken every reasonable means to find her husband, and has failed. A decree nisi will be granted. The petitioner being given custody of the child.

After the divorce Florence Amy Webb married Sydney Smith (1894, Cudgewa, Vic - 1970, Yarra Junction) in 1915. They lived in Yarra Junction and had 2 daughters. She died in 1960 in Yarra Junction.

6. **(Alfred) William Gorman** (1892 Alexandra- 1967, Healesville), grazier. He married Margaret Elizabeth Ralston (1898, Euroa - 2000, Alexandra) in 1924 in Euroa. They came to live in Alexandra where William was a labourer, possibly assisting on the family farms.

The Argus, 5 Jan 1925

GORMAN—RALSTON.—

On the 8th December, at the Presbyterian Church, Euroa, Alfred William Gorman, to Margaret Elizabeth, eldest daughter of Councillor and Mrs. R. Ralston. (Present address, Cathcart, Alexandra.)

They had sons Robert William Gorman (1929-1992), a carrier/heavy hauler who established his family in the Alexandra district and David James Gorman (1932, Mansfield -2000) a shire employee who established his family in Yea.

ENDNOTES

¹ The Argus, 20 Sep 1870 & Inquiry Mt Alexander Mail 21 Sep 1870

² Death registration in hand.

³ Rita and Donald's marriage registry entry is in hand. Rita's parents are listed as unknown.