

Dand Journal  
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# History

## under

### fire

• **DANDENONG**  
House in the old  
days.

**AS demolishers don protective gum-boots and dust coats to clear away the fire rubble from one of Dandenong's oldest landmarks, Dandenong House, Foster St., public opinion still runs riot about the boarding house's origin.**

Since the fire Mrs Lola Marsh, family historian for the Andrews family, a leading Keysborough family, after hours of research has unearthed the actual builder of Dandenong House.

It was her late grandfather Mr James Fenton Andrews.

On Friday, Mrs Marsh, who lives in Ann St., Dandenong, told The Journal:

"The land was bought from the Orgill family about 1910, and on April 13, 1911, an advertisement appeared in the South Bourke and Mornington Journal (The Journal): 'Cook wanted, must be good, for Dandenong House'... evidence the boarding house was then fully operational.

"On May 11, 1911, in council notes, Mrs Marsh found a request from Mr J. F.

Andrews to repair the road and footpath outside the boarding house.

"A further request was for a first class lamp at the station because of accidents there."

Mrs Marsh was intrigued by the picturesque description she found in a report of the opening of Dandenong House which read:

"Dandenong House, the palatial edifice at the entrance to the Dandenong Railway Station, erected by Mr Fenton Andrews, is getting into working order and boarders are being taken.

"The furnishings and fittings are being rapidly completed.

"There are smoking rooms and ladies rooms, also conveniences, leaving nothing to be desired.

"The dimensions of the dining room 40ft. by 30ft. deserves special word."

Mrs Marsh also found a first advertisement in the South Bourke which appeared on Thursday, May 18, 1911.

#### 'COMFORT'

It read: "Dandenong House, near the Railway Station, J. F. Andrews (Proprietor), begs to announce that the above establishment is now ready for boarders and the accommodation of the general public.

"The comfort of patrons is guaranteed, large and well ventilated bedrooms, first rate meals provided.

"Every attention paid to

the requirements of visitors and commercial travellers.

"A trial is most respectfully solicited."

On June 22, 1911, also in the South Bourke, there was a report of a cyclone and high gale force winds at Dandenong when the roof of Dandenong House was blown off and landed in a paddock where the Masonic Hall is now sited.

The report stated:

"The palatial structure recently erected by Mr Fenton Andrews was damaged and a staff of men repaired it next day.

"Dandenong House was built to cater for families who were travelling to the Wonthaggi mines which had been recently opened."

#### POLL

In her delving back through the pages of history Mrs Marsh found the cattle market was in main street and this was going to be moved to where it is today.

A referendum was held on April 24, 1912. The then south riding of the shire was for the motion but the centre riding voted against the move so Dandenong House was leased after this and Mrs Marsh's late grandfather went back to his farm in Chapel Rd, Keysborough.

He eighth child, George Thomas Andrews became the shire's last president and the first Mayor of Dandenong.

Mrs Marsh said Mr Fenton Andrews was born at Diamond Hill, Dandenong, in 1862. His mother, Clara, was also born in Victoria at Yarra Yarra in 1843 so six generations of the family today live in and around Dandenong.

DANDENONG  
HOUSE  
FOSTER ST DANDENONG

