

Creswick March 13th

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The Secy of the Historical Record Society,
Ballarat.

My dear Sir,

As one who has taken a deep and patriotic interest in the history of this wonderful country I would beg leave to become a member of your Society.

I am not aware of the conditions or the amount of entrance fees, but presume as one of the first generation I am eligible.

Speaking to a well known gentleman in Ballarat a day or two ago enent to your Society he said he did^{not} think that the Society would consummate its original intentions, asserting as a reason that there appeared to be an unmistakable lack of patriotism in the average Australian, and that it would soon be a forgotten institution.

To this I instantly objected, adding that the men who were associated with it were men of honor, men of reliability, pioneer hearts and patriotic Australians who had made the history, and intended to preserve the records of their deeds, men whose names would be remembered and carved deep on the scroll of their country's records, ^{fame} when my friend's ^{name} - and all who thought with him - would be smothered amidst the useless scraps in the colossal waste bins of oblivion.

That apparently affected him and he afterwards agreed ~~that~~ the Record Society should be supported and encouraged.

As a lowly fowler of rhymes I have endeavored to keep the flame of patriotism burning in the hearts of my brother Australians, and I contend my dear Sir, that the hour has arrived wherein we should begin to collect and preserve the absorbing, stirring stories of a vanishing past; stories that can be told by the heroic hearts who shared in the struggles