

J.M. Meek

Reminiscences - Strange but True Stories about Gold

In the early forties Messrs Elliott & Lang had established themselves in business in Melbourne as Butchers, Storekeepers & Government Contractors. The firm came from Tasmania & Mr. Wm Elliott (the leading Partner) came to that Colony in the first Emigrant Ship that left England for that Place -

Mr. Elliott on his arrival in Hobart being by occupation a Carpenter & Builder was offered by the Tasmanian Government the position of Municipal Overseer - over the Council who were employed in the Government Yard of that Place he subsequently married a Miss Lang the sister of his future partner.

When going up Collins Street he met a man whom he had previously known in Hobart as a Council working in the lumber room.

To whom he put the question - as to what brought him to Melbourne knowing that Mr. Elliott knew all about his antecedents - he answered him thus I hope you won't split on me Sir. If my mates have suffered a good deal of hardship since we left - to their side we have all been living on Wallaby for the last six months and have brought over a boat-load of Kangaroo Skins to try & sell if we can.

I have told you the truth Sir & I hope you will take no further notice of my being here - Mr. Elliott answered thus - You having told me the truth of your position I will not inform against you but will render you what assistance I can under the circumstances and as you say your boat is loaded with the Kangaroo Skins I will sell them for you and furnish you with what provisions you require but I should very much like you to tell me the whole truth of your escape from the Island and of how you arrived here. Shortly after you left Hobart I was transferred from the [unclear] to George's Head on the Tamar River & I [unclear] with my mates who are now [unclear]