

Reminiscences of J. P. Murray, Esq., J.P.

As narrated before the Australian Historical Record Society, in the City Hall, Ballarat, Aug. 25th. 1899.

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Reported by Mr. W. Coulthard, Recording Secretary of the Society.

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Mr. J. P. Murray J.P. was born at Sanday, in the Orkney Islands_ to the North of Scotland, on 14th. of Nov. 1833, his father being engaged in the occupation of a Farmer. The educational facilities within his reach were scanty, and at the age of 10 years he commenced work as an assistant on the farm. A few years later, he recollects saying to his father, (when referring to the over-crowded state of his native land.) "Let's get away from here, there are too many people here altogether." Whether this suggestion influenced his father or not was not stated, but, at any rate, the Murray family shortly afterwards left the land of their forefathers, and embarked on board the ship "Manchester" which arrived at Geelong on January 12th. 1849, when the subject of these reminiscences was but 15 years of age.