William Philpott
Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer

Anne Jackson
‘The Grand Intercolonial Cricket Match’ played between Victoria and New South Wales, 12, 13, 14 January 1858
Lithograph
(MCCM Collection M469)
Image courtesy of the Melbourne Cricket Club
William Philpott
Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer

Anne Jackson

Malvern Historical Society Inc.
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Jackson, Anne

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Pioneer Victorian First Class Cricketer

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Malvern Historical Society Inc
P.O. Box 184 Malvern VIC 3144
Tel: 0438 515 631
Email: malvernhistorical@yahoo.com
www.vicnet.net.au/~malvern

Stonnington History Centre
Telephone: 03 8290 1360
Email: history@stonnington.vic.gov.au
www.stonnington.vic.gov.au/history
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Introduction

William Philpott (1818-1891) arrived in Melbourne in 1844. By 1845 he was playing cricket for the newly established Melbourne Cricket Club and captained what is now regarded as the inaugural first-class cricket match played in Australia between Victoria and Tasmania in 1851. During his lifetime in Australia his occupations were listed as stock and station agent, wool broker, auctioneer and commission agent. In 1856 he married Rosetta Rucker and built Rosehill in Malvern. The organ he imported from London for his new home, Rosehill, can still be heard in St Stephen’s Church, Richmond. William Philpott returned to England with his family in 1872 to live close to his birthplace in Kent. He died aged 72 in 1891.
Philpott Family in Australia

John Philpott 1776-?

Mary Startup 1780-?

Richard Philpott 1813-1888

Elizabeth Fanny Heath 1832-1912

Mary Ann Philpott 1814-1895

James Damyon 1812-1898

William Philpott 1818-1891

Rosetta Wilhelmina Rucker 1829-1911

Catherine Philpott 1824-1910

Edward Byam Wight 1815-1901

Harold Philpott 1858-1858 (died 8 weeks)

Richard William Philpott 1865-1946
Chapter 1. Journey to Melbourne

William Philpott was born in Kent, England on 24 December 1818 and christened on 24 January 1819 at West Farleigh Church. West Farleigh is a small village south of Maidstone. Although birth records were not available at this time, William’s date of birth is confirmed on his gravestone in the Linton Churchyard. His father John Philpott and mother Mary (nee Startup) married on 26 August 1806 and had ten children eight of whom survived to adulthood.

The 1841 census return shows the Philpott family were farmers living at Ranters Hall, in the village of West Farleigh. John was aged 60 as was his wife Mary. Four of their children were present on the night this census was taken. Richard aged 25 was described as a merchant, William aged 20 a student, Catherine and Suzanna, were both aged 15. There were also two Startup relatives present, Ann aged 60 and Susan aged 50.1

In 1841 Richard Philpott, William’s older brother and two of his sisters, Mary Ann and Catherine travelled to Australia as Assisted Immigrants on the ship Sarah, arriving in Melbourne on 1 January 1842. On the shipping records Mary Ann, aged 28, was listed as a nursing maid, and Catherine, aged 17, as a house maid.2

It appears that Richard established himself as a merchant. Surviving electoral rolls of 1846 and 1849 record his address as Collins Lane, Melbourne. He returned to England in 1851, married in 1853 and remained in England.

Mary Ann Philpott married James Damyon at St James’ Church, Melbourne in January 1843.3 Catherine Philpott married Edward Byam Wight at the same church in 1845.4 Both couples remained in Melbourne and raised families. It is evident that the families associated closely socially and in business matters. William followed his family and arrived in Melbourne on the Abberton in 1844 as
a paying steerage passenger. A diary kept on board by a fellow passenger gives some details of this voyage.

The journey from England took almost four months and there was much dissatisfaction relating to the poor food and appalling water during the journey. Available records do not disclose where William first lived in Melbourne. He is not listed in any directories or electoral rolls until 1856 when he appears as a householder, living in Victoria Parade, Eastern Hill division. From his arrival in 1844 until 1856 there is very little information available about William apart from reports in the newspapers as to his activities as a cricket player, business advertisements and a few diary references.

Initially, he was associated with his brother Richard in business until Richard returned to England in 1851. These business activities included a melting-down establishment on the Yarra River and a shipping agency. Regular advertisements in *The Argus* in 1847 addressed to Settlers and Stockholders advise that the *Messrs Philpott are prepared to melt stock on usual terms*. The office address was Market Square. Stock statistics which were printed monthly show in December 1847 that 300 carcasses were treated by the Messrs Philpott. At the end of 1849 a notice advises that the melting establishments on the banks of the Yarra were being transferred to the Salt Water River (Maribyrnong River) *Messrs Philpott have erected commodius premises at Salt Water River and made extensive arrangements for the coming melting season.*

In May 1851 Richard Philpott *advises that he has disposed of his Melting Establishment on the Salt Water River to Charles Heape who will continue the business from this date as before.*
Between September 1850 and May 1851 advertisements by the Philpott Brothers shipping agents, Market Square, appear regularly in *The Argus*. The advertisements are for freight or passage for the *Swordfish*, a schooner which sailed between Melbourne and Hobart.¹⁰

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1  *UK Census 1841*
2  *PROV Assisted Immigrants from UK 1838-1871*
3  *Port Phillip Gazette 11/1/1843*
4  *Port Phillip Gazette 25/2/1845*
5  *PROV Assisted Immigrants from UK 1838-1871*
6  *SLV Ms 10416 Mundy diary*
7  *The Argus 3/12/1847*
8  *The Argus 21/11/1849*
9  *The Argus 7/5/1851*
10 *The Argus 23/2/1849*
Chapter 2. Cricket

William began to play cricket for the Melbourne Cricket Club in 1845. The MCC archives and contemporary newspaper accounts provide a picture of William and his cricket activities at this time. Cricket matches were reported in *The Argus, Port Phillip Herald* and the *Age*.

William, and his brother Richard, were both members and players for the MCC. Richard was a player from 1842 until 1851 when he returned to England. William played from 1845 until 1856. During this time he captained the first two interstate matches for Victoria—the first match in 1851 against Tasmania, now regarded as the inaugural first-class cricket match in Australia, the second in 1856 against New South Wales. Newspaper reports and the MCC minutes show that William was an active member, often recorded as proposing a motion in the minutes and being appointed to committees within the club. Both brothers served on the Committee of Management and the Committee of Play for the Melbourne Cricket Club during the late 1840’s and early 1850’s.¹

The Australian Cricketer’s Guide 1870-71 supplies the following information:

William Philpott  
Victoria 1850/51 and 1855/56  
Right-hand (?) batsman and wicketkeeper.  
Brother of Richard Philpott (Victoria).  
Born: c.1819 christened 24 January 1819 at West Farleigh, Kent

*About 1845 William Philpott and his brother brought an improved style cricket into operation, the former being the first imported wicket keeper, as well as a good bat, and was soon elected captain of the MCC and up to the time of the increase of population caused by the discovery of gold, was a central figure in popularizing this noble game.*²
The earliest reference to the Philpott brothers playing cricket is found in the leather bound Brighton Cricket Club score book. The first entry in December 1842 records a match against the MCC. Richard Philpott is listed among the players. The next match is noted some years later on the 24 March 1845 and again it was played against the MCC at Brighton. Philpott Snr and Philpott Jnr were listed among the team players. Other entries for that year appear on 6 April and 26 April, both men playing in these matches again when the teams met at Brighton and are listed as Philpott Snr and Philpott Jnr.³

Cricket during this time was a social affair, teams travelling together by bus, coach or steamer, and at the end of play, both teams sitting down for a meal together:

_A first rate dinner provided by the Brighton Club in Crosbie’s best style wound up the days sport._⁴

Reports of the day’s play were written up usually on a Monday in the _Port Phillip Herald_ under the heading _Domestic Intelligence_. The cricket ground for the MCC at this time was at Batman’s Hill (now the site of Southern Cross Station in Spencer Street).

It was over a year later, in September 1846, that an item in the PPH comments that _another effort is being made to establish a cricket club it is hoped it will live longer than its predecessors_. The club during this time reformed annually as the cricket season approached.

In September 1846 a new site for the club ground was chosen at Emerald Hill (near the present Crown Casino on the south side of the Yarra River). With this move the club came into existence. A second set of cricket rules and foundation members were published. In doing this the MCC hoped to convince the Government of the right to use the land to which they had no title.⁵

Matches at this time were arranged for social and recreational purposes with a degree of creativity to compensate for the small number of clubs in existence. Married men played single men.⁶ Whiskered men played non-whiskered men. William was listed as playing for the whiskered team who won the match.⁷ When the Military, Government Officers and University men played the MCC, William played for the Military side.⁸ There was also an alphabetical match with two teams.⁹

Newspapers provide several accounts of the Philpott brothers playing cricket. _The two Philpotts played beautifully, the ease with which they stopped the swiftest ball, their style of handling bat, and their wicket keeping, all were first class. It really does an old cricketer’s heart good to see these brothers in full play._¹⁰
A match in December 1846 between the MCC and the Tradesmen’s Club, which the MCC won, comments: *The bowling too of William Philpott (for an unpracticed hand) excellent.*

In April 1848 the MCC secretary successfully sought permission from Governor Latrobe to fence in and use 10-12 acres of land on the Emerald Hill site. In May 1848 at a Committee of Management meeting, it was proposed by W. Philpott, seconded by Geo. Turnbull, that for the purposes of fencing, turfing, and effectively making the ground fit for next season’s play, a call be made on members to pay in advance their normal subscription of one Guinea. This was carried. William was then voted on to a committee with G. Turnbull and D.S. Campbell to carry this out and for the necessary authorization to proceed.

Both William and Richard were present at the first general meeting held on Saturday 7 October 1848 at Passmore’s Hotel. Twenty-seven members were present. At this meeting both brothers were appointed to a Committee of Management with ten other members. William was also appointed to a Committee of Play for management of the game on the ground. Amongst the 127 members listed were also brothers-in-law James Damyon and Edward Byam Wight and business partner John Watson.

A game planned in November 1849 on St Andrew’s Day at the ground was to set eleven English gentlemen against eleven Scottish gentlemen and the parties selected are known to be the best players in Port Phillip. Messrs Philpott were among the English players selected. An incident the day before this match may have affected William’s performance. He had been fined in court for galloping on a footway and fined 30 shillings.

It was William who moved at a special meeting at the MCC held on 12 January 1850 to send a cricket challenge to Tasmania.

Eleven gentlemen of Port Phillip against eleven gentlemen of Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania), the game to be played at Launceston in the month of April 1850, the motion was carried.

This was the first interstate cricket match to be played in Australia. However it would be another year before it took place. The *Cornwall Chronicle* explains:

*The match arose from a challenge having been sent in February last year by Victoria to the club newly formed in this town, which was then accepted to come off in the March following, and was only then prevented by the*
There are several newspaper and historical accounts of this event in both Tasmania and Victoria. This match is now regarded as the inaugural first class cricket match to be played in Australia.

Arrangements were made for the match to take place on 11 and 12 February 1851. It was also decided the team should have a uniform for the match and it was agreed to adopt the colours red, white, and blue. These remain the MCC club colours today. The team sailed to Launceston on the steamer Shamrock and the players stayed at the Cornwall Hotel. After playing cricket on the first day, one hundred gentlemen from Port Phillip and Van Diemen’s Land sat down to dinner. After dinner there was a ball.

Edmund Finn, a journalist who wrote under the pseudonym Garryowen, describes the scene which occurred after the team’s arrival and the hospitality offered by the residents of Launceston.
Everybody invited everybody, and the difficulty was how to contrive so as to partake of all that was offered. From the time of landing to the time of embarking the same spirit continued—dinners, balls, musical parties, picnics and every description of entertainment was got up to give a hearty welcome to the strangers from Port Phillip.\textsuperscript{19}

The cricket match was played on the Launceston racecourse which is now the headquarters of the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association. The ground was very rough and this could partly explain the low score. Tasmanian bowling was particularly slow and delivered underarm. The bowling of Victoria was swift and delivered in round arm style. The gentlemen from Victoria, on inspecting the ground, expressed their disappointment in its condition. The government of Tasmania expressed their regrets for the ground being in such a rough state, explaining they had only had use of the ground for the past twelve months. The umpires had quite some problem selecting a suitable wicket.\textsuperscript{20}

Tasmania won the toss and invited the Victorians to bat first. Play commenced at 11 o’clock and Messrs Philpott and Cooper opened the batting. In the first innings, Victoria scored 82 runs; the Tasmanians followed, and scored 104. In their second innings Victoria had scored 57 runs, and the Tasmanians commenced their second innings, but approaching darkness compelled its postponement till the following morning. Tasmania came off victors, winning by 2 runs with three remaining wickets. The play was excellent on both sides, and the fielding in particular was first-rate.\textsuperscript{21}

On the day of departure, after another evening of entertainment, the two teams walked arm in arm from the Cornwall Hotel to the wharf preceded by the Launceston Brass Band.

\textit{Mr Philpott in a few brief remarks, thanked the assembled multitude for their unbounded kindness, and especially for the last pleasing demonstration at parting. The Victorians assembled on the deck of the Shamrock echoed the feeling of Mr Philpott with a thrice renewed explosion of cheers - a compliment loudly reciprocated on the shore. The Victorians could have blamed the stormy crossing of Bass Strait, spectators who overflowed on to the field or the lavish hospitality, but they graciously said they had been “well entertained and well beaten.”} \textsuperscript{22}
1 Melbourne Cricket Club Minute Book 1847-1850
2 Australian Cricketers Guide 1870-71, Ray Webster and Ken Williams MCC
3 SLV Ms 8189 Brighton Cricket Club
4 Port Phillip Herald 8/4/1845
5 Batchelder, Alf Pavilions in the Park
6 Port Phillip Herald 8/12/1846
7 Port Phillip Herald 4/11/1847
8 Port Phillip Herald 1/12/1846
9 Port Phillip Herald 7/2/1847
10 Port Phillip Herald 10/11/1846
11 Port Phillip Herald 29/12/1846
12 Melbourne Cricket Club Minute Book 12/5/1848
13 Geelong Advertiser 7/10/1848
14 The Argus 21/11/1849
15 The Argus 20/11/1849
16 Melbourne Cricket Club Minute Book 12/1/1850
17 Cornwall Chronicle 11/12 February 1851
18 Dunstan, Keith. The Paddock That Grew
19 Garryowen. Chronicles of Early Melbourne p.741
20 Launceston Library Ms 159 R.J. Williams. Tasmanian Cricket 1851-1932
21 Launceston Examiner 12/2/1851
22 ibid
Chapter 3. Travelling and more Cricket

In July 1851 an auctioneer advises in *The Argus* that he has received instructions from Richard Philpott, who is *leaving the colony*, to sell by auction at his residence in Market Square many items of furniture, paintings, a piano and 400 volumes of books.¹

Some months later on 3 October 1851 William and Richard went to England via Lima, South America. They were listed as passengers sailing on the *Woodstock* to Sydney and then to Calloa in Lima.² The route they travelled from Lima to London has not been determined, or the reason for the journey, except that Richard returned permanently to England at this time. William had only a short time in England, as he was aboard the *Sydney* steamer which departed London on 31 July 1852 to return to Melbourne.

*The PPH* 20 October 1852 reports *of those returning and shortly expected D.S. Campbell and William Philpott.*³ The *Sydney* arrived in Melbourne on 7 November 1852. D.S. Campbell was a fellow cricketer, influential in choosing the present site of the MCC and President from 1856 -1859.

A shipboard diary of a fellow passenger records that their first night at sea was noteworthy.

> In the evening the wind blew straight in our teeth and continued all night which made the vessel roll and pitch a good deal and in the consequence of it being newly built the water comes in at every crack so that the cabins and salons were very wet and in the worst cases swimming.

The diarist also describes arrival in Melbourne and the large number of ships due to the gold rush then occurring in Victoria.
At 3 we dropped anchor before the town of Melbourne which is two miles up the country but can be plainly seen from the ship. The harbour is filled with ships the number of them I suppose was from 100 to 150, and most of them deserted by their seamen, and there they lay, useless as logs, for want of hands. Vessels are constantly arriving indeed it is said that upwards of 1000 persons arrive daily in the colony, consequently lodging of any description is very rare.  

The day before the Sydney arrived in Port Phillip Bay a first cousin of William’s, John Startup, arrived in Melbourne on board the Admiral. John Startup had married Emily Tolhurst before they arrived in Melbourne from Kent on 6 November 1852. Emily Tolhurst kept a diary, which is in the collection of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. There are several entries in it mentioning William Philpott. The entry on 7th November- the day after her arrival- reads as follows:

After dinner we went up on the roof and very soon saw the Sydney come in, and both John and myself very anxious to know whether Mr Philpott was there, Mr Gilson very kindly sent the Life Boat with John and Mr Roxborough, and there I am happy to say they found him there and well – they did not stay long on deck everything being in great confusion, a most beautiful day, we enjoyed ourselves very much.

Emily obviously had news of William to expect his return and being related by marriage, knew other family members from Kent. The next day she records William Philpott came to our vessel in the afternoon – told us he had made arrangements for us to go to Mr Wights, (William’s sister, Catherine and her husband) where we little thought of going.

The diary continues with a record of first days in the new surroundings.

Tuesday 9th A fine morning. William came to our ship for us to go with him staid while I packed the things together – got to Mr Wights about 3 o’clock, was received very affectionately indeed by Mrs Wight, found her very much altered, very thin and pale, they seem to have everything very nice. The next day John and William went into town and Emily staid in and enjoyed the company of Mrs Wight very much telling her all about the people at Farleigh.

Thursday the 11th Mr & Mrs Damyon (William’s sister Mary Ann and husband) came early in the morning, they also seemed pleased to see their
cousins from old England, the Box was opened that we brought out for Mrs Wight and Mrs Damyon and it was very amusing to see them looking and enjoying the different things that were sent-staid indoors all day-John went with William to see Mr Mickle – Mrs Damyon staid all night

A few days later Emily and John went to stay with the Damyons at their newly established home at Glenferrie.

It would appear from this diary that having returned to Melbourne, William was looking about for opportunities for business. Emily says in her diary on 20th November, William came here with Mr Damyon, staid till Monday. William and John thinking of opening a store at the diggings, and leaving me here for a time. It is not clear when John left for the goldfields as diary entries became irregular.

Saturday 8 January 1853 William promised to go to Fryers Creek the week after next – imagine how delighted I feel, still no letters from John which makes me feel uneasy.

On 14 January 1853 William accompanied Emily and the Pryor family to Fryers Creek to meet up with her husband. The journey took two days. Emily’s description of the first evening of the journey describes the beginning of her adventure:

That night I shall never forget – gave me a little idea of bush life [after a distance of 10 miles travel the party had stopped at Mr Peel’s home, the owner of the horse and dray transporting their goods] they had only two rooms- Mrs Peel had a very nice supper provided for us roast mutton and potatoes and cold plum pudding — all sat down together Bullock driver and all— of course as bed time drew near, I began to wonder where we were all to sleep- for we had not been there long before William made one of the party. Mr Peel kindly gave us his part of the bed so Mrs Peel. Mrs Pryor and her little boy with myself all slept in one bed- William and Pryor slept on the floor in the other room—Peel, his son and the bullock driver slept out in a sheet- this was the beginning of our first days trip to the diggings.

William remained a week on the diggings but the store established by John not doing a great deal of business, he departed for Melbourne. Emily and John returned to Melbourne at the end of August 1853 and the diary entries end in September.

On his return to Melbourne, William resumed playing cricket. In November 1853 a match played between the MCC and the Marylebone Cricket Club led to this newspaper comment on William.
We do not like to appear invidious but we may be excused on the present occasion if we particularly allude to the play of Mr William Philpott who taking his stand at the wicket made a point of stumping out all who gave him the ghost of a chance. It is to such players as him that we must look to for genuine cricket here and as long as he takes the field we have no fear that this truly manly game will lack the support it deserves.10

In 1854 the MCC moved to its present location. The first general meeting at the new site was held on 30 September 1854. The new pavilion had been built, with accommodation for dining sixty persons, a bar and two dressing rooms.

About twenty gentlemen sat down to an excellent cold luncheon, provided by the purveyor to the club, Mr Lee, after which a ballot for new members was taken. Twenty three gentlemen were admitted into the club, which now numbers nearly two hundred and thirty members.11

Once the day’s business was out of the way Messrs Philpott and Cavenagh organized their teams and in front of three to five hundred spectators, William Philpott and G.F. Gorton opened the batting. They scored 12 and 22 respectively, each falling to the bowling of McKenzie.12

Later in the year, in November 1854, William was listed as playing in a MCC match against Geelong. This appears to be the only match in which he was listed for that year.13

1 The Argus 17/7/1851
2 Shipping Gazette 25/10/1851
3 Port Phillip Herald 20/10/1852
4 Mannering, T.S. Diary, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, New Zealand
5 RHSV Tolhurst Diary Ms 000031
6 ibid
7 ibid
8 ibid
9 ibid
10 Port Phillip Herald 21/11/1853
11 The Argus 30/9/1854
12 Batchelder, Alf Pavilions in the Park
13 The Argus 23/11/1854
Chapter 4. Business Matters

By May 1853 William was advertising as a land agent with an office in Collins Street at the entrance of Dalmahoy Campbell’s Office. He continued here until he moved to his own premises at 18 Collins Street West in 1854.¹

The following advertisement, inserted in The Argus newspaper several times during June and July 1854 reads:

To the Settlers in the Districts of Port Phillip and New South Wales.  
Gentlemen  
I beg to announce that I have taken offices situated in the most central part of Collins Street Melbourne No 18 West and that I am prepared to effect Sales on Commission of Stations, Stock and Real Estate. Having for several years been associated with my brother Mr Richard Philpott, the first person to introduce and establish Melting in this district; I trust that my name may be to the Settlers generally not unknown, and that my previous career in this colony will in some measure entitle me to their confidence.  
I am gentlemen your obedient servant  
William Philpott  
Melbourne 18 Collins Street West  
1st June 1854 ²

William used these offices until he purchased the Hall of Commerce in Collins Street and began business there in January 1856.

As well as running a business from 18 Collins Street, William was elected a Director of the Melbourne and Hobsons Bay Railway Company. He was voted in at a general meeting of shareholders to become one of four Directors in December 1854. He held this position until April 1856 before resigning.³
William also had a share in a wine and spirit store in Collins Street. In 1855 he was implicated in a court case in the Supreme Court. The charge was against James Fawcett for an attempt of arson, which terminated in a verdict of Not Guilty. The lengthy reporting of the case and witnesses interviewed give information of this business venture. Richard Cooper in partnership with William occupied a store at the rear of 26 Collins Street. On the floor above were wholesale drapers Fawcett and Company, where a lit candle had been discovered burning after closing time and put out before a fire took hold. Cooper when examined as a witness stated: I have a share in one half of the profits in our store. I pay £365 a year for the store on a lease of 3 years. We have been advertising lately that we are selling off stock and retiring. Mr William Philpott is my only partner. We had about £2500 worth of stock on the premises on the date of the fire. I have no share in the capital. I manage for Philpott on a salary of half the profits.

Although the stock is not described another witness tells of having a glass of brandy and water at Coopers. The Directory of 1855 confirms Cooper at a wine and spirit store at 26 Collins Street.

In March 1856 Cooper and Philpott surrendered the lease of the property for £500 to Bligh the owner.

Another source of information about William Philpott during this period is found in the Lyall diaries.

William Lyall (1821-1888) was an early Melbourne horse and cattle breeder. The firm of Bakewell, Mickle and Lyall, which formed in 1857, held many properties in Victoria. Lyall owned a property called Harewood House at Tooradin, Westernport. He kept diaries throughout his life, which are now in the State Library of Victoria. In them he notes transactions and comments about Richard and William Philpott whom he used for business dealings. As these diaries contain information and observations about the Philpott brothers they are included here at some length. Lyall’s comments in a letter to his business partner imply that Richard was more competent in business matters than William.

The first diary begins on Saturday 11 February 1854:

Mrs Lyall and self started for the station at 9 o’clock arrived at Tooradin at 4 o’clock. Mr Mickle and Mr Philpott arrived at 10 o’clock Mr Mickle’s jig had broken down on road. Sunday 12 February Messrs Mickle Philpott and self at Yallock went over part of the middle run found the cattle poor from
want of water and looking badly. Instructed Philpott to purchase should it be put up for sale all the clear land on the middle run below the road also all the clear land on top of the run in all about 1000 acres.\(^7\)

Lyall at this time was organizing his business affairs prior to his departure with his family to Scotland for a year or so. An entry on 18 February reads *We have also left with Mr Philpott seven hundred pounds to be placed to our credit in the Bank of Victoria to meet land purchases.*\(^8\) Richard Philpott, who had returned to England in 1851, was acting as an agent in London. Two business letters from him survive amongst the Lyall papers. His address was Abchurch Lane London (in Central London near the Thames River). There is mention of his being selected at a Chamber of Commerce meeting as a wool broker in London.\(^9\) An account at the back of Lyall’s diary refers to R. Philpott cash £49.2.8. Lyall’s ledger 1853-1867 has entries during this time referring to shipment of wool, cash sent for horses, rental from property in Melbourne, insurance matters and purchase of gas shares.

A letter to William Philpott in Melbourne 8 August 1855 reads as follows:

*I expect I will take you by surprise when I tell you I have taken my passage in the new ship S.S. Beemah and will sail on 12 September. I have arranged with Richard to advance me money to pay passage he will draw on you at 90 days for the amount. I suppose it will be £600. I shall want to rent a house and garden and land somewhere near St. Kilda or Brighton perhaps you would be kind enough to look out for me – I have no news of any importance to send you only that our people are very disconcerted at not hearing from you. I will give you the particulars when you arrive. Remember me to all old friends and believe me my dear Sir.*\(^10\)

A copy of a letter in Lyall’s letter book to one of his business partners, which is not headed, makes critical comments of William. It is dated 7 January 1856 a week after Lyall and his family arrived back in Melbourne.

It begins:

*Philpott re land value, the last bill is not yet paid but Philpott thinks he will have most of the money by the time it is due. I have not been much assisted by Mr Philpott in my valuation although he has been exceedingly attentive he has never offered me any information about your affairs and I have had to ask everything.*

The letter continues with details about the company account. His observations as to William are then recorded.
But you will have one advantage in having me for an agent I will ACT Philpott shows me that he did in October last send you £1000 and Mr Sims money in full. I mistrust him about his commission if he charges us in the same way we will not have much to thank him for. I hardly understand him he appears all attention to what does not concern him the railway for instance and quite neglects those who would willingly pay for his services I feel William is not Richard although I believe he is alright. Philpott has to give me £750 a/c Mickle and Bakewell I shall not be able to send you papers with this ship as Philpott is rather slow about giving them up."
Chapter 5. Mount Ararat Station

William also had a country property where he bred cattle and horses. This property was called Mt. Ararat No. 2. William was registered as leasing Mt. Ararat No. 2 Station from October 1855 until August 1870.¹

This large pastoral property consisted of 16,000 acres and was 6 miles east of Pakenham. The first licence for the property in 1844 had been taken out by his brother Richard, brother-in-law Edward Byam Wight and John Watson.² It was reputed to have the largest fenced grazing paddock in Victoria.³

A return of livestock kept by William on 14 March 1857 shows he had 150 horses and 50 cattle on the property.⁴

In 1870 the lease was transferred to John Startup, a first cousin of the Philpotts, who had arrived with his family in Melbourne in 1852. The homestead on the property was called Oaklands, the address now being Bald Hill Road, Nar Nar Goon South.

The Cardinia Shire Heritage Study has identified properties and gardens in the area and provides the following history.

John Startup, first owner of the Oaklands farm complex, was an early district settler from Kent in England. In 1870, he acquired the lease of the Mt. Ararat Pre-emptive Right of 640 acres, formerly part of Mt. Ararat No.2 Station of 16,000 acres. The PR property was leased previously by S. Clutterbuck and William Philpott.

In 1869 Startup purchased the Oaklands site in Crown Allotment 73, Parish of Nar Nar Goon, north-east of the PR block and fronting on to what is now Bald Hill Road. He paid £336 for the allotment and immediately took out a mortgage. During the 1860’s -70’s, 5 acres is thought to have been divided
from the freehold for one of Startup’s son’s marital home and a wattle and daub house built there. This is called Shady Oaks and is thought to be the oldest house in the district.

Startup’s interest in the block is indicated even earlier on an 1867 map. John Startup’s station with home and cultivation paddocks is shown on Crown Allotment 73 with his stockyard over the road in what became Crown Allotment 76, also owned by Startup.

The Bald Hill property was rated to Startup for the first time in 1875, the year the mortgage was discharged. Startup also owned Crown Allotments 68 and 71 previously owned by Philpott.

Older buildings in the present Oaklands farm complex, including a shed of hand made bricks and a wattle and daub building may date from the period Startup had his house there. Startup was a well known district farmer and a foundation member of the Berwick Road Board. He died in the early 1900’s and his wife in 1918. 

__________________________________________________________

1 PROV VPRS 5920 Pastoral Run Papers 847
2 Billis and Kenyon Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip p.248
3 In The Wake Of The Pack Tracks Chap.23 p. 125
4 PROV VPRS 5920 Pastoral Run Papers 847
5 Butler, Graeme Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1998
Chapter 6. Hall of Commerce

1856 was an eventful year for William. It was the year he married Rosetta Rucker and purchased 20 acres of land in Malvern and built Rosehill. He became owner and occupier of the Hall of Commerce in Collins Street. During this year he also captained a much publicized cricket match between Victoria and New South Wales.

The City of Melbourne rate books from 1857 to 1869 list William as owner and occupier of the Hall of Commerce, 48 Collins Street West, which is described as a large room, store room and auction room and 23 offices and cellar. The rates were £1500 per annum.¹

The Sands and McDougall directories list him in 1856 as a land and estate agent, in
1857 as a stock and station agent and woolbroker, and in 1858 as auctioneer, stock and estate agent, woolbroker and merchant.

When William began business in the Hall of Commerce, he placed several advertisements in the paper.

To Merchants, Auctioneers, and the Trade in General. The Sale Room of the Hall of Commerce on and after 1 January 1856 will be open for auction sales on the principles of the Auction Mart of London. Scale of charges obtained and engagement entered into with William Philpott 18 Collins Street West.²

The Chamber of Commerce, which formed in 1851, was a tenant in the Hall of Commerce. In November and December 1855 meetings reported in The Argus refer to correspondence with Philpott and in January 1856 a report stated the present Board and Secretary’s room was rented for £200 per annum. After negotiation with William, meetings were held free of charge in the auction room. The minute book shows William Philpott elected to the Chamber of Commerce as member 99 at the weekly meeting on 3 December 1856.³

Share broking at this time was a sideline to auctioneering, real estate or gold broking. The call room for the stock exchange between 1862 and 1884 was situated in the Hall of Commerce, Collins Street, Melbourne. It was not here but under the verandah of the building that a good deal of Melbourne share transactions took place. So much so that it was customary to speak not of stock exchange business, but of business under the verandah.⁴
In 1856 when William opened for business in the Hall of Commerce, there were regular advertisements for auctions, sales and rentals of property in the paper. On 26 April William inserted two letters in The Argus—one addressed to the Merchants of Melbourne and the second one to the Settlers of Victoria and New South Wales. These letters were placed as advertisements and continued several times a week throughout May. To the Merchants he wrote: *I have this day established an Auction Business in those spacious premises known as the Public Sale Rooms in the Hall of Commerce, where I propose holding periodical Sales of Merchandise, especially of Foreign and Colonial Produce.* He states that there is protection for valuable goods and good lighting for exhibition and expresses the hope of patronage due to his own long establishment in the colony.  

The second letter to the Settlers informs that the Public Sale Rooms in the Hall of Commerce for the purpose of conducting the sale of stock, stations and real estate by public auction was open for business. *The central position of the building in Collins Street and the extent to which the hall is made available to the public as a general resort for meeting I beg to assure you that your interests whenever committed to my charge will receive my utmost care.*

During 1860 fewer advertisements appear, and by 1862 advertisements refer to William Philpott Importer. These auction notices advertise tea from China. Advertisements appear from March 1861 until January 1865.

The rate books show that by 1865 all the offices were rented out. By 1868 William is no longer listed as an occupier, but still owns the property. In 1870 William is still listed as the owner of the Hall of Commerce and it does not change ownership until 1874 when Robert Jeffrey is rated as owner of the property. William and family had by then returned to England.

A clue to the decrease in business activity may be seen in a letter found in the Hobart Mercury in 1867. This article informs the reason Mr Philpott wished to sell up and return to England was that one of his hands was almost paralysed and his general health was bad. This will be detailed further in the next chapter.

It would also appear that 1856 was the last year that William played cricket. He captained a cricket match between Victoria and New South Wales. This was the result of a challenge issued by the MCC late in 1855 to play any eleven in the Australian colonies. After discussion, New South Wales decided to accept the challenge and play was fixed for the 27 March 1856.
It was the first big match played at the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the earliest first class match for which admission was charged. William was one of 5 players selected from the MCC to represent Victoria. Other players came from Richmond, Geelong, and Emerald Hill clubs.

The match is described in the history of the MCG:

*The homely look of the N.S.W. players, plus the dear, old under-arm style of their star bowler, McKone, caused great amusement amongst the spectators. Betting, of course was one of the chief attractions of cricket at this time and the books were giving 2/1 on Victoria. At the start each team nominated an umpire, and these gentlemen tossed for the choice of innings. Victoria’s umpire won the toss and at once the Sydney men objected. They said this idea of tossing was absurd. It was accepted everywhere that visitors always had the choice whether or not to bat first. The Victorian captain, Mr Philpott, politely agreed; even so, the N.S.W. captain, George Gilbert, sent him in to bat.*

William scored five, and in the second innings was run out for eleven. The match ended with a victory for the New South Wales team.

*The Sydney Morning Herald* a few days later reported the Grand Cricket Match in several columns. New South Wales won the match by three wickets.

The gate money amounted to £60. The cost of admission was one shilling, and ladies were admitted free. The attendance was estimated at 5000.

Later in that year, in November, *The Argus* reported a match between the MCC and the County of Bourke. This appears to have been one of the last matches in which William played. He is recorded as opening the batting with Hotham but no comment is made of his play. The report of the match concluded. *It must be considered by all cricketers who were fortunate to witness the match as one of the finest matches yet seen in the colony.*

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1. *The City of Melbourne Rate Books 1845-1900*
2. *The Argus 14/12/1855*
3. *SLV Ms 10917 Melbourne Chamber of Commerce Account Book 1851-1870*
4. *Hall, A.R. The Stock Exchange of Melbourne and the Victorian Economy 1852-1900*
5  The Argus 28/4/1856
6  ibid
7  The Argus 18/7/1862
8  The City of Melbourne Rate Books 1845-1900
9  Hobart Mercury 26/7/1867
10 Batchelder, Alf.  Pavilions In The Park
11 Webster, Ray. First Class Cricket In Australia, p.5
12 Port Phillip Herald 26/3/1856
13 Sydney Morning Herald 1/4/1856
14 Dunstan, Keith. The Paddock That Grew p.17
15 The Argus 24/11/1856
Chapter 7. Rosehill in Malvern

In a letter to his brother Andrew in July 1856, William Lyall mentions in a paragraph of social news *William Philpott is to marry Miss Rucker.*¹

In 1856 William purchased 20 acres of land at what is now the southeast corner at the intersection of Glenferrie and Toorak Road, Malvern. He purchased this land at the time of his marriage to Rosetta Rucker.

Their marriage certificate shows William was 36 and Rosetta 26 years of age when they married at St Andrews Church Brighton on 17 August 1856.²

Rosetta Rucker was the daughter of William Frederick Augustus Rucker and Rebecca Greaves who married in 1820 in London. Rosetta was born in London in November 1829. Her parents emigrated to Tasmania in 1835. Rucker began as a wine merchant in Hobart. In 1837 they arrived in Port Phillip where Rucker established one of Melbourne’s first stores and a year later Melbourne’s first bank.³

Correspondence of Charles Swanston, Managing Director of the Derwent Bank, Hobart to George Mercer in Edinburgh on 1 May 1838 comments: *At Melbourne I have established an ‘Agency’ to the Derwent and placed it under a Mr Rucker—he finds abundance of employment for money but until I see how the Agency is likely to effect us here I shall not supply the agent with friends to any considerable amount.*⁴

The author has made contact with descendants of the Rucker family and they have provided photographs of Rosetta and her father William Rucker. Notes written during a conversation included information handed down several generations that Rosetta was *the plainest thing.*

Rucker went bankrupt in 1842-43 as did many others in Melbourne during this period, but he managed to re-establish himself financially. Quite a deal has been
written about Rucker by Edmund Finn, a contemporary journalist, who wrote *Chronicles of Early Melbourne* under the pseudonym Garryowen.

At the time of Rosetta’s marriage to William, the title deed of Rosehill, which was the name of the property, refers to contemplation of marriage. This term indicates the possibility that Rucker provided or made some contribution towards the purchase of Rosehill for his only daughter.$^5$

The Malvern Rate book 7 April 1856 describes *a brick house in erection* on the site of Portion 20, Parish of Prahran. In 1857 William Philpott was described as the owner and occupier of a brick house of 9 rooms, outhouses and a gardener’s house of two rooms.$^6$

Directories of the time list William Philpott as living at Rosehill, Gardiners Creek Road, (later Toorak Road) Toorak between 1859-1873. Two children were born
during the period William and Rosetta lived at Rosehill. Harold was born in 1858 and died at 8 weeks of age. He was buried in the St Kilda cemetery. Another son, Richard William, was born in 1865 and lived until he was 81 years when he died in England.\(^7\)

William and Ann Pryor lived in the gardener’s cottage on the Rosehill estate. The couple had been sponsored by William as bounty migrants arriving in Melbourne from Plymouth in 1848. It seems that Pryor worked as a general labourer for

![Bluestone Chapel, Mayfield Avenue, Malvern](image)

Robin Brown 2010

Philpott. He accompanied William Philpott to the goldfields in 1852 and after a period on the goldfields returned to his employment in 1854.\(^8\)

When William and Rosetta first came to Malvern to live there was no church in the area.
The Surveyor-General had set apart an allotment of 5 acres (north east corner of Glenferrie Road and High Street) on Malvern Hill within the Gardiner District for public purposes. The activity of the Board of Commissioners for National Education resulted in a grant of land for a Day School under the Denominational system being obtained in 1857. A letter written from the Public Lands Office Melbourne in August 1857 records Trustees of the land set apart at Gardiner as a site for a Church of England School. The Governor appointed Colin Campbell, James Damyon and Edward Charsley as trustees of the land and building commenced immediately.9

On 9 May 1858 the new school building was licensed for church purposes. Fortunately a record survives in papers in the Public Record Office of a School Inspector’s report on the first visit to the school on the afternoon of 20 May 1858. Present were 22 pupils with a total of 57 on the roll. Remarks were written under seven headings and noted the building was a good newly erected Brick Schoolroom used as a place of worship with good organization and discipline and that the Master appears to understand his business.10

It is evident the schoolroom was put to good use and served also as a place of worship for the growing town of Gardiner and a place where the Gardiner Road Board met. This school building was located to the rear of the existing church hall of St George’s Anglican Church, Glenferrie Road, Malvern.

William is not mentioned as attending the first meeting held in the schoolroom on 10 July 1861 to consider the building of a church. However, he is named in the Diocese News at a meeting the following year.

In December 1862 a public meeting was held in the local Schoolroom in Malvern to discuss building a church in the area.

A public meeting was held at Malvern Schoolroom on Monday evening the 7th instant, with a view to the erection of a church in the locality, which is now rapidly becoming a place of favourite residence. The meeting was well attended, and all appeared to take a warm and hearty interest in the proceedings, pledging themselves to use their best efforts to collect subscriptions, which without any canvass having been made, have amounted to nearly £350. Mr Shaw, Mr Charsley, Mr Philpott and several other parishioners addressed the meeting.11

William also owned land north of the school hall and in 1865 sold one and a half acres to the church for £67.13.12 This was necessary as the area to the south of the
schoolroom had been reserved for police barracks. Philpott was also elected onto the Church Building Committee at this time.

The foundation stone of the church was not laid until December 1865. Building was slow as money was short. The nave of St George’s Church was opened in September 1869.\textsuperscript{13}

William and Rosetta had been living at Rosehill for nine years when in 1865 he ordered an organ from London. This organ from J.W. Walker was shipped to Melbourne for his personal use. It was a high quality instrument from one of the prestigious organ builders in England. It was a three manual instrument and the fact it has survived today in practically original condition is an indication of quality of workmanship.\textsuperscript{14} It was referred to as the \textit{largest and best of its kind in the colony} and today is of international significance.\textsuperscript{15}

A copy of the page from the Walker cashbook reads as follows: Philpott Esq. Melbourne Australia No. 776.
The details of the Great Organ, Pedal Organ, Couplers, Swell Organ, and Choir Organ are then listed. The packing instructions were also detailed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Great Organ, CC to G-</th>
<th>Swell Organ, CC to G-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Octave...</td>
<td>1. Octave...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Open Diapason...</td>
<td>2. Open Diapason...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Gamba...</td>
<td>3. Stopped Diapason...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Stopped Diapason...</td>
<td>4. Principal...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Principal...</td>
<td>5. Mixture...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Swell...</td>
<td>6. Mixture...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Cymbals...</td>
<td>7. Mixture...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Flutes...</td>
<td>8. Mixture...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Trumpet...</td>
<td>9. Componem...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Trumpet...</td>
<td>10. Conv.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pedal Organ, Comp...</th>
<th>Swell Organ, Comp...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Open Diapason...</td>
<td>1. Harmonique...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Open Diapason...</td>
<td>3. Stopped Diapason...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Pedal...</td>
<td>4. Concert...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Pedal...</td>
<td>5. Flageolet...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Pedal...</td>
<td>6. Flageolet...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Couplers**
- Swell to Great
- Great to Swell
- Great to Pedal
- Choir to Pedal
- Swell to Pedal

**Summary**
- Great Organ: 672
- Choir: 200
- Swell: 1784
- Pedal: 20
- Couplers: 5

Enclousd in a Green Oak Case with Horn speaking pipes of Spotted Nut conforming, corners, stands 16 ft high, 15 in wide and 11 ft 6 in deep, the whole of the metal 1865. These are made of fine spotted Nut...
Enclosed in a Screen Oak Case with Front speaking Pipes of Spotted Metal ornamental arrangement stands 16ft. high, 6ft 6 in. wide and 11 ft. 6 in. deep. The whole of the Metal Pipes are made of spotted metal - The whole carefully packed in stout packing cases lined with tin. The whole made of best materials and workmanship delivered complete at the East India Docks for estimate nett £670.

1865 by Cheque on the 11th August £300
Bill due on 8th November 370
£670 16

It is not known who assembled the organ upon its arrival but there were several organ builders in Melbourne at this time.

An article by John Henwood on nineteenth century pipe organs comments that William was unusual for the period in owning two pipe organs. He also owned a John Courcelle organ of six stops in his private chapel. It is probable William was an organist although an amateur one. No evidence has been found to indicate he played as a church organist. There is a notation in a Church of England Messenger that he composed a number of pieces of church music.17

Keyboard Walker Organ in St Stephen’s Church, Richmond
John Maidment

On 13 March 1869, the Age newspaper reports:

A party of ladies and gentlemen, musical amateurs, visited the residence of Mr Philpott at Toorak yesterday afternoon for the purpose of hearing a performance on the really fine Church organ erected in that gentleman’s music room there. The instrument is undoubtedly the largest and best of its kind in the colony and yesterday its points and qualities were displayed to the fullest by Mr G.R. Pringle organist at St. Francis church played several compositions of Sebastian Bach.
Although not mentioned in this article, advertisements for the sale of Rosehill and the organ had already been placed in *The Argus*.\(^{18}\)

Two years before this recital, Pringle the organist was aware that Philpott was looking to sell the organ. In a letter to the Town Hall Organ Committee of Hobart in July 1867, Pringle stated that the organ was in his hands for sale at the price of £850. He knew that it was similar to one the committee had enquired about ordering from Walker in London for £700. Walker had replied to the committee that costs had increased and the price was now £805.\(^{19}\) A week later Pringle wrote again stating *that the reason Philpott desired to sell the instrument was that one of his hands was almost paralysed, and his general health so bad that as soon as he can sell his station property he wanted to return to England.* Philpott required £400 deposit which the committee did not have. A resolution was passed to raise more money and order the organ from England.\(^{20}\)

It is evident that in 1869 William was selling up his property and investments.

In February 1869 Gemmell and Tuckett auctioneers advertised in *The Argus* that they had received instructions from William Philpott to sell 5 lots of land on 2 March.
Lot 1 A well known and central city premise in Elizabeth Street between Flinders Street and Flinders Lane. Described as a two storey bluestone building with a slate roof.

Lot 2 20 acres of paddock fronting Toorak Road. Admirably suited for villa units.

Lot 3 A pretty building allotment at head of above paddock of 3 and ¾ acres

Lot 4 One acre of land near Chapel Street Bridge with 115 feet frontage to Yarra River

Lot 5 A building allotment in Williamstown with 60 feet to the Esplanade.21

A few months earlier, in September 1868, he had sold 18 blocks of land on the Malvern Hill Estate at a loss. William, it appears, had speculated in land, buying blocks in the Malvern Hill Estate on the west side of Glenferrie Road between Malvern and Toorak Road. Records show that William purchased up to twenty-six blocks of land in this estate between 1858 and 1865. He resold them from 1868 until 1876. Not all purchase prices are listed.22

On 22 February 1869, the first of many auction notices for his Rosehill property, including his organs recently acquired and shipped from England, were advertised in the newspapers.

The auction notice is reproduced in full as the description gives much detail of the layout of the property. Unfortunately no photograph of the property has been located.

The advertisement begins with the sale of the larger organ:

The finest organ in the Southern Hemisphere. It was built by JW Walker of London. The instrument has three complete manual organs—compass from CC to G in alto, 56 notes, and an independent pedal organ of two complete stops — compass from CCC to F tenor, 30 notes. Is enclosed in a screen oak case with front speaking pipes of spotted metal ornamentally arranged stands 16 feet high, 6 feet 6 inches wide and 11 feet 6 inches deep. The whole of the metal pipes are spotted metal.

Also Smaller organ of six stops, by Courcelle, of London, a remarkably choice and delicately-toned instrument, and suitable for moderate sized church or chapel.
The auctioneers have also been favoured by Mr Philpott to offer at a subsequent date, unless previously disposed of privately, his beautifully-situated private residence.

“Rose Hill” Toorak consisting of 20 acres of land, situated at the corner of Gardiners Creek (Toorak) and Glenferrie Road, having a frontage to the former of about 1,300 feet, and to the latter 700 feet or thereabouts. There are two acres in vines in full bearing, fruit, flower and vegetable gardens. The remaining land is in shrubbery, planted with every variety of rare and handsome lawn trees. The house of brick with slate roof, has on the ground floor dining and drawing rooms, storeroom, butler’s pantry, with drawers and shelving complete, and communicating with the dining rooms; kitchen with water laid on, servant’s hall, laundry, servant’s room and lumber room. Upstairs are large well ventilated bedrooms with eastern aspect, dressing or bachelor’s rooms, good mixed bedroom, W.C., and bathroom with water laid on by force pump. Underneath are two cool airy cellars, fitted with bins and wine presses. The outer and inside walls are all 14 inch work. The present house, although quite large enough for the requirements of a moderate sized family, is capable of much enlargement according to the original plan. The range of offices is complete, and built with surpassing care, every possible attention having been paid to the selection of the material, workmanship, and drainage. Next to the kitchen is a large coal shed, brewhouse of ample dimensions, coach-house, dairy (with shelves), harness room, seed and fruit loft above same, three stalled stables and loose box adjoining the foregoing are all brick paved and carefully drained cow lodge and drafting yards. Apart stands a most substantial bluestone building, with slate roof, which may be appropriately termed a private chapel, with large ecclesiastically finished ceiling; there are two dormitories. The property is within easy access of the railway station, cars running regularly to and from every train.

The Walker organ was purchased by St Stephen’s Church, Richmond for £650. It was erected in the organ gallery at St Stephen’s by George Fincham, a local organ builder, for £40. A Church newspaper describes the event:

A Tea Meeting was held on April 28th to celebrate the opening of the new organ. About 700 persons sat down to tea tables. Mr P.C. Plaisted, a pupil of Mr Geo. Cooper organist to the Queen, has been appointed organist and played a number of voluntaries on this occasion in a most masterly manner.
The organ was moved to its present position in the South Aisle in 1875 and is still there and in use today.

The records of St Stephen’s Church are in the Australian Manuscripts Collection of the State Library of Victoria.

In the original subscribers list of 1849, W. Philpott and R. Philpott are recorded as subscribing £1.10.0 each. Apart from that initial contribution their names do not appear again. No pew rents, no signatures on testimonials, no further contributions. D.S. Campbell- a fellow cricketer- was Treasurer 1849-1854 and this may explain their initial contribution. The original Bevington organ in St Stephen’s was obtained and paid for by D.S. Campbell.\(^{25}\)

John Henwood in an article on Australia’s 19\(^{th}\) century pipe organs comments:

> Despite the large number of instruments by J.W. Walker of London found in New South Wales, the best example is in Victoria at St. Stephen’s Anglican Church Richmond. Dr. Francis Jackson, then organist of York Minster, who played the organ in 1978, said a Walker of this quality is rare in the United Kingdom. Built in 1865, the instrument of three manuals and 26 speaking stops was originally made for the residence of William Philpott in Melbourne. Little is known of Philpott, but he was unusual for the period in owning two pipe organs.\(^{26}\)

The John Courcelle organ which would have been ordered in the early 1860’s also from London after several different homes, is now in the Slavic Baptist Church, Tooronga Road, Malvern.\(^{27}\)
Courcelle Organ, Slavic Baptist Church,
Tooronga Road, Malvern
John Maidment
It appears that Rosehill was not sold at the time of the auction, and the family continued to live there until they returned to England in 1872. In February 1872 a detailed list of household furniture, carpets, plated ware, china and cutlery and including a superior semi grand piano were advertised to sell by auction at the rooms of C.J. Ham in Melbourne by William Philpott who is leaving for Europe.28

Rosehill continued to be advertised for sale two years later, in December 1874, in January and twice in February 1875. In May 1879 Auctioneers Gemmell and Tuckett under instruction from Thomas Cumming began advertising weekly until the end of July with an auction sale on 30 July 1879. In June 1881 the same auctioneers once again advertised Rosehill for sale.29

The Gardiner Road Board minute books 1856-1879 have a letter from E. Yencken, agent for William Philpott, requesting that a reduction may be made on the assessment of Mr Philpott’s property. The rate reduction was not allowed.30

The property was finally divided in 1888 when it became The Great Toorak Estate and carved into 105 blocks of land. Mayfield Avenue and Chesterfield Avenue were created at this time. It is also probable that Rosehill and other outbuildings were then demolished. Bluestone footings and handmade bricks found on the north side of Mayfield Avenue some years ago by a resident would position Rosehill on or near a building called Chesterfield which was built in 1891. The Bluestone Chapel sat neatly within the boundaries of Lot 92 and this is perhaps the reason it remains today. During its history it has had many uses, a harness room, a dairy and a Sunday School. St Margaret’s School, who owned the property during the 1920’s, used it as a dining room and assembly hall.31

1 Davis Lyall, Mary William Lyall of Harewood
2 Registry of Births Marriages and Deaths. Melbourne Victoria
3 Lemon, Andrew The Northcote Side of the River 1983
4 SLV Mercer Collection Ms 13166 Box 3827/4
5 R-G Memorial 40:470 settlement
6 Malvern Rate Books 1856
7 Registry of Births Marriages and Deaths. Melbourne Victoria
8 Pryor, Geoff Pryor Family History
9 Cooper, JB History of Malvern
| 10 | PROV VPRS 885/000003 School Inspector Reports 1851-59 |
| 11 | The Church Gazette 16/12/1863 |
| 12 | Denner P. and Lewis J. School of Architecture, University of Melbourne  MS copy St George’s Malvern 1968 |
| 13 | The Church Gazette 1/12/1865, 4/11/1869 |
| 14 | Henwood, John Starting to Preserve The Stops |
| 15 | The Argus 9/3/1869 |
| 16 | Walker Order Book 5/8/1865 p.23 |
| 17 | Henwood John Starting to Preserve The Stops |
| 18 | The Argus 22/2/1869 |
| 19 | Hobart Mercury 18/7/1867 |
| 20 | Hobart Mercury 26/7/1867 |
| 21 | The Argus 20/2/ 1869 |
| 23 | The Argus 9/3/1869 |
| 24 | Church of England Messenger  20/5/1869 p.7 |
| 25 | SLV Ms 10880 St Stephen’s Church Richmond Vestry Minutes and Financial Papers |
| 26 | Henwood John Starting To Preserve The Stops |
| 27 | Maidment John Organ Historical Trust of Australia |
| 28 | The Argus 7/2/1872 |
| 29 | The Argus 7/2/1872 |
| 30 | The Argus 28/11/1874, 27/1/1875, 28/5/1879, 25/6/1881 |
| 31 | Edwards, R & Jackson A Mayfield Centre 1963-1988 |
Chapter 8. Return to England

William, Rosetta and son Richard William left Melbourne on board the *Suffolk* bound for London in February 1872. It is not known where the family lived upon arrival in England. A diary reference dated 1876 by Lyall’s sister notes: *In London we met again our old colonial friends the two Mr Bakewells and the two Mr Philpotts.*

It appears that William took over a farm which had been run by his brother Thomas, who had died in 1880 at Linton, Kent. The will of Thomas Philpott was proved at the principal registry by Richard Philpott of Bromley Common, merchant, and William Philpott of Newport Lodge, Beulah Road, Tunbridge Wells, Gentleman.

The 1881 Kent census shows William and Rosetta Philpott living at Linton. William was 62 and Rosetta was 51. William’s occupation was given as farmer of 140 acres employing 14 labourers and three boys. The Linton directory of 1882 lists William Philpott as a *farmer, hop & fruit grower Linton Hill Farm.*

On 17 December 1888 William added a codicil to a will he had made in 1878. Rosetta had inherited, under the terms of her father’s will, a share of her father’s property in Australia to equal value of his whole estate (W.F.A. Rucker died in 1882). William limits her interest of his estate to a life interest only and appoints his son Richard William as executor of his will. It is in the original will that mention is made of his books. *I give and bequeath to Rosetta Wilhelmina Philpott my wife the copyright of all my books published and unpublished to possess and use according to her discretion trusting that she will not lease or give any rights in the same with or without consideration to any publishers not even in one subject but not imposing on those any legal restriction.* While a search of the British Library catalogue has failed to find any books or manuscripts given his interest in organ music it is possible that the books referred to were connected with music.
The 1891 census shows William and Rosetta and their son Richard William living at Toke Place, Linton, with two servants.

William died on 4 November 1891 aged 72 years at Toke Place Linton. His son was present at the time of his death.\(^6\)

The Kentish Express records his death on 7 November 1891 William Philpott late of West Farleigh, Kent in his 73rd year. Australian Papers please copy.

This was done on 12 December in The Argus On the 4th—at Toke Place, Linton, Kent William Philpott formerly of Melbourne aged 72 years.

The Linton Church magazine 7 November 1891 noted the death of William Philpott, aged 72.

*The parish has lost a good friend by the death we record above. Kind and generous, and a liberal Churchman, he in life preferred to do what he*
could in secret. *Go and do thou likewise.* William is buried in the Linton churchyard.

Some years later his son Richard William married Jessie Marion Philpott, daughter of Richard Philpott. The marriage is recorded in *The Times* newspaper on 19 April 1894. The marriage took place in Brenchley, Kent. Again Australian papers were asked to copy this announcement.
Rosetta remained at Linton on the farm. She is listed in the 1899 directory as Mrs William Philpott farmer and hop grower Toke Place.\textsuperscript{8}

Richard William Philpott had obtained a MA at Cambridge University and became a schoolteacher.\textsuperscript{9}

He moved to the Isle of Wight, Hampshire where he became headmaster of Little Appley Preparatory School from 1897-1929.

Rosetta moved to the Isle of Wight presumably to be near her only family, and died there in 1911.\textsuperscript{10}

Richard William and Jessie had five children born between 1896 and 1903. The Philpott family history has been compiled by several Philpott descendants. It states: \textit{Tragically three of these children died of tuberculosis and the other two never married.}\textsuperscript{11}

The Kent County Council Archives replying to my enquiry advised: \textit{William Philpott turned out to be somewhat of an enigma. I could not trace his name in any of our archives, local studies or periodical indexes. There is none of his publications on the Kent County Council library catalogue, and nothing on the British Library index that would tie in.}

\begin{enumerate}
\item PROV Outward Passengers to Interstate, UK, NZ, and Foreign Ports 1852-1876
\item SLV Ms 10014 Lyall correspondence Mickle Old Diaries p.22/23
\item Registry of Deaths UK 1880
\item UK census 1881
\item GRO Will 4/12/1891
\item Registry of Deaths UK 1891
\item Linton Church Parish Magazine December 1891
\item Linton Directory UK 1899
\item Cambridge University Alumni Record
\item GRO Registry of Deaths 1911
\item Gschneidinger, Max Philpott Family History 2006
\end{enumerate}
Chapter 9. Family Kinships

Richard Philpott (1813-1888)

Richard was christened at the West Farleigh Church in 1813. He was six years older than his brother William.

Richard came to Australia aged 25 with his two sisters Mary Ann and Catherine, arriving on 1 January 1842.\(^1\)

He established himself as a merchant in the city of Melbourne and is listed in the electoral rolls of 1846 in Collins Lane and Flinders Lane, and in 1849 in Little Lonsdale Street. The 1851 Electoral Roll also records him having freehold property in William Street Melbourne. His cricket activities and business pursuits have already been described. Memorials executed at that time identify many partnerships and leases.\(^2\)

Richard returned to England and married Fanny Heath in 1853.\(^3\) His business address in London is recorded in 1865 on the Walker organ order for his brother to be shipped to Melbourne and correspondence to William Lyall dated 1876. Lyall had a higher opinion of Richard’s business acumen than his brother William which he states in a letter.\(^4\) Richard and Fanny lived at Bromley Common, Kent, where four of their six children were born dating from 1858.

Richard died in 1888 at Brenchly, Kent. Fanny died in 1912.\(^5\)

Mary Ann Philpott (1814-1895)

Mary Ann was christened at West Farleigh Church in 1814. She travelled to Australia in 1841 with her brother Richard and her sister, Catherine.\(^6\)
Mary Ann married James Damyon at St James’ Church Melbourne in 1843. James Damyon was also listed as arriving in Melbourne on the Sarah on 1 January 1842.

James Damyon and Richard Philpott purchased 60 acres of land in 1843 at Glenferrie. A conveyance dated October 1843 shows Richard Philpott and James Damyon paid £300 for 60 acres of land in the Parish of Prahran. Five years later a release of this property was signed to James Damyon for payment of £400. A description of the location of this land is included.

All that portion of land being portion number twenty one in the Parish of Prahran in the County of Bourke in the District of Port Phillip and the Colony of New South Wales and containing sixty acres more or less and bounded on South by a line bearing West seventeen chains dividing it from a road on the West by a road one chain wide bearing North thirty four chains on the North by Kooyong Koot Creek and on the East by portion number twenty two being a line bearing south thirty six chains forty four links and which portion of land is known as Glenferrie together with the farmhouse and other buildings now standing and being thereon.
Emily Tolhurst’s diary also describes how she first met the Damyons at the Wight’s house and then went to Glenferrie the home of James and Mary Ann Damyon at that time.

Thursday 11th (November 1852) Mr and Mrs Damyon came early in the morning, they also seemed pleased to see their cousins from Old England, the Box was opened that was brought out for Mr and Mrs D. and it was very amusing to see them looking and enjoying the different things that were sent.

Saturday 13th Went home with Mrs Damyon to Glenferrie, which is a very pretty place about 5 miles from Melbourne, rode here in a dray not a very comfortable thing to ride in, but here we must not study our comforts, but get what we can, the roads are very rough, I think I ought not call them roads, for there are stumps of old trees in all directions, the land here is very sandy.\(^{10}\)

The Damyons lived at Glenferrie until the 1850s and then moved to Williams Road, Toorak.

James was also recorded as being present at the funeral of the French Consul in 1859 Monsieur le Comte Lionel de Moreton de Chabrillan.\(^{11}\)

Mary Ann Damyon died on 6 June 1895 and James three years later. They are both buried in the St Kilda cemetery.\(^{12}\)
The obituary notice on 8 February 1898 notes:

By the death of the late Mr James Damyon of Toorak, whose obituary notice appeared in The Argus yesterday, another of the pioneer colonists of the early 40's has been removed. The deceased gentleman who was in his eighty sixth year arrived in the colony in 1841 having chartered a vessel in England, in which he brought a varied cargo of merchandise. With this substantial asset he started business with the late Mr Richard Philpott and as an addition to their enterprise, they opened a boiling down establishment on the Saltwater River. The partnership was carried on successfully for many years, until Mr Damyon retired and joined the late Mr Mullaly, who died a week before his late partner, as Customs agents. Owing to his long residence in Russia, and his intimate acquaintance with the language, the deceased gentleman was appointed Russian Consul, which position he held some years prior to his death, which was considerably hastened by being accidentally run over a few weeks ago by a lorry. Deceased married a daughter of Mr R. Philpott by whom he had nine children seven of whom are still living.13

The article is incorrect in that Mary Ann was a sister not daughter of Richard Philpott.

Descendants of James and Mary Ann Damyon settled in Argentina, where they farmed successfully and still live today. The Damyon Family History has been researched and recorded.14

Catherine Philpott (1824-1910)

Catherine was christened at West Farleigh Church on 16 May 1824. She came to Australia with her brother Richard and her sister Mary Ann, arriving on 1 January 1842.

Catherine married Edward Byam Wight at St James’ Church Melbourne on 22 February 1845.15 Edward had arrived in Melbourne in 1841. He was in partnership with his brother-in-law Richard Philpott and John Watson in several business enterprises. He also ran a melting establishment initially on the Yarra. In December 1843 John Watson and Edward Byam Wight had a boiling down works below Batmans Hill. By 1845 operating almost a little town there were 50 employees. Feeding a host of pigs on the refuse, the business expanded into tanning, meat and hide curing, oil extraction and barrel cooping.16
In November 1849 the melting establishment was moved to Saltwater River (Maribyrnong River). Shortly after the move was completed there were huge floods which caused much damage: *Watson and Wight’s monster iron boiling vat floated from its foundations.*

Wight also had a lease on a run at Mt Ararat, No. 2 of 16,000 acres. The licence was taken out in 1844 with Richard Philpott and John Watson.

A diary in the RHSV provides some information about Catherine and Edward.

Samuel Henry Clutterbuck arrived in Melbourne in 1850 and called on Edward Wight. His entry for 26 February notes that he called on Wight of the firm Watson and Wight, *who were very kind and asked me to dinner the day following after which we went to a concert at the Mechanics Hall.*

Further entries describe riding out to the boiling down establishment which was about three miles from Wight’s house on the Saltwater River. He noted they have also a mould candle and soap factory attached also realizing huge profits. A picnic he attended in Heidelberg with them was very agreeable. This description gives a glimpse of Catherine’s character.
We had also a picnic to Heidelberg, a large party and very agreeable, winding up with music and dancing at Mr Wight’s house in the evening. Of Mrs Wight’s kindness nothing too high can be said, a sensible and unaffected lady I have the greatest obligation. She made me stay there my last week in Melbourne.  

In May 1850 Clutterbuck rode to Mt Ararat Creek Station with Wight’s brother and a Government surveyor.

Fred Wight and myself and Mr Smythe a government surveyor set out for the bush on 25th. The day following arrived at Wight’s place, Mt. Ararat Western Port and after a good nights rest and a bottle of wine of which good natured Mrs Wight gave us a dozen, to break me in before settling in to the Tea Tree. He notes the habitation consisted of one hut in which they slept and a nice garden of about an acre. It appears he was considering leasing the property, which he did in 1854.

In September 1853 he married Charlotte Burrell. Guests included Mr and Mrs Wight, her governess and Mr Philpott.

Edward and Catherine Wight initially lived in Nicholson Street Fitzroy until 1853. They then moved to a house which they named The Ridge in Footscray Road, Kensington. The land extended from Epsom Road to the Saltwater River, a three rail fence enclosed a paddock known as Wight’s Paddock and was used for cricket matches and sports.
Edward Byam Wight died in 1900. His will lists substantial land and share holdings.\textsuperscript{22} His estate was divided and sold on the death of his wife Catherine in 1910. During his lifetime Wight held many positions in the community. He was a Director of Victorian Life and General Insurance Company, Director of the Bank of Victoria, and Co-Founder of the Essendon-Melbourne Railway Company.

In 1860 Wight built a two storey brick house at Queenscliff opposite the Royal Hotel which was called The Ridge and spent much of his time there. During the 1870s he served as Mayor of Essendon. Catherine and Edward had nine children, three of whom are known to have descendants today. The Wight Family History has been researched and recorded.\textsuperscript{23}

\begin{enumerate}
\item \textit{PROV Assisted Immigrants from UK 1838-1871}
\item \textit{R-G memorials: H: 964 mortgage, M: 922 surrender of lease, M: 432 lease, B: 708 conveyance}
\item \textit{The Times 19/4/1894}
\end{enumerate}
4 SLV Ms 10014 Lyall Correspondence p.52
5 Gschneidinger, Max Philpott Family History 2006
6 PROV Assisted Immigrants from UK 1838-1871
7 Port Phillip Gazette 11/1/1843
8 PROV Assisted Immigrants from UK 1838-1871
9 R-G memorial B: 708 Conveyance by Release, H: 650 Release
10 RHSV Tolhurst Diary Ms 000031
11 The Argus 1/1/1859
12 The Argus 10/6/1895 & 7/2/1898
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15 Port Phillip Gazette 25/2/1845
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18 In The Wake of the Pack Tracks, History of the Shire of Berwick Chapter 1 1982
19 RHSV Clutterbuck, SH Diary p.30
20 ibid p.37
21 SLV Ms 9661 MSB 73 Notes from Diary of EB Wight by Rev. JW Briggs
22 PROV 76:418 Will Wight EB
23 Gschneidinger, Max Philpott Family History 2006
Postscript

I first came across William Philpott when asked to write a short history of the Mayfield Centre, Malvern. The bluestone chapel within the Mayfield Centre complex was the only remaining building of the Rosehill Estate built by William in 1856.

A staff education and training centre for the health sector occupied the site in Mayfield Avenue, Malvern from 1963 until 1995 when it moved to larger premises. The bluestone chapel became a private residence at this time.

There is no personal material available about William, only a few diary references and newspaper entries which allow some of his footprints to be discovered.

Photos have been located of his wife Rosetta, his sisters Catherine and Mary Ann and his brothers in law Edward and James.

Contact has been made with several branches of the Philpott, Damyon and Wight families in search of descendants and to find a photo of William Philpott. No image has been found to date.

To quote an email received recently from a Martyn Philpott in Kent who picked up links through the website of the Stonnington History Centre when searching for information about William Philpott -

He is a bit of a mystery within the family here too as his Australian exploits seem to be secret here more so than in Australia.

Perhaps his epitaph in The Linton Church Magazine he in life preferred to do what he could in secret is worth considering.

Anne Jackson 2011
Footnote abbreviations and Bibliography

Abbreviations

GRO  General Registry Office United Kingdom
MCC  Melbourne Cricket Club
MCG  Melbourne Cricket Ground
MHS  Malvern Historical Society
PPG  Port Phillip Gazette
PPH  Port Phillip Herald
RHSV  Royal Historical Society of Victoria
PROV  Public Record Office Victoria
SLV  State Library of Victoria

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