

# ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER No. 133 November 2016

### Searching for 'RAYMOND'

In response to a query to the Orbost & District Historical Society about the origins of 'Raymond' as a name which occurs on a number of streets, hills and creeks in our district, Audrey Van Den Berg went searching.

**Raymond Island, Raymond Falls, Raymond Street (in Orbost, Sale and Stratford), Mount Raymond – who was Raymond? Was there one Raymond who is remembered through this name in Gippsland, or were there several?**

Mary Gilbert, in her printed collection of [Personalities and Stories of the Early Orbost District](#) 1972, presents this statement from John Cameron who had come as a settler to the Snowy River district in the late 1870s, "*Mr Raymond and Mr McLeod stood on top of Raymond Hill and drew lots as to who would take the Snowy River run* [which had been abandoned by the Imlays]. *Raymond drew Marlo which was a blank, and McLeod got the fertile lands of the Snowy River.* Who was this Mr Raymond?

If this event happened, it would have been c.1845 when Archibald McLeod took up the Snowy River lease of c.24,322 acres bounded on the west by the Snowy River, on the east and south by the Bridribb River and on the north by ranges about 15 miles below the Buchan River junction.

However, there is no evidence for a person by the name of 'Raymond' ever having had a run at Marlo, so this

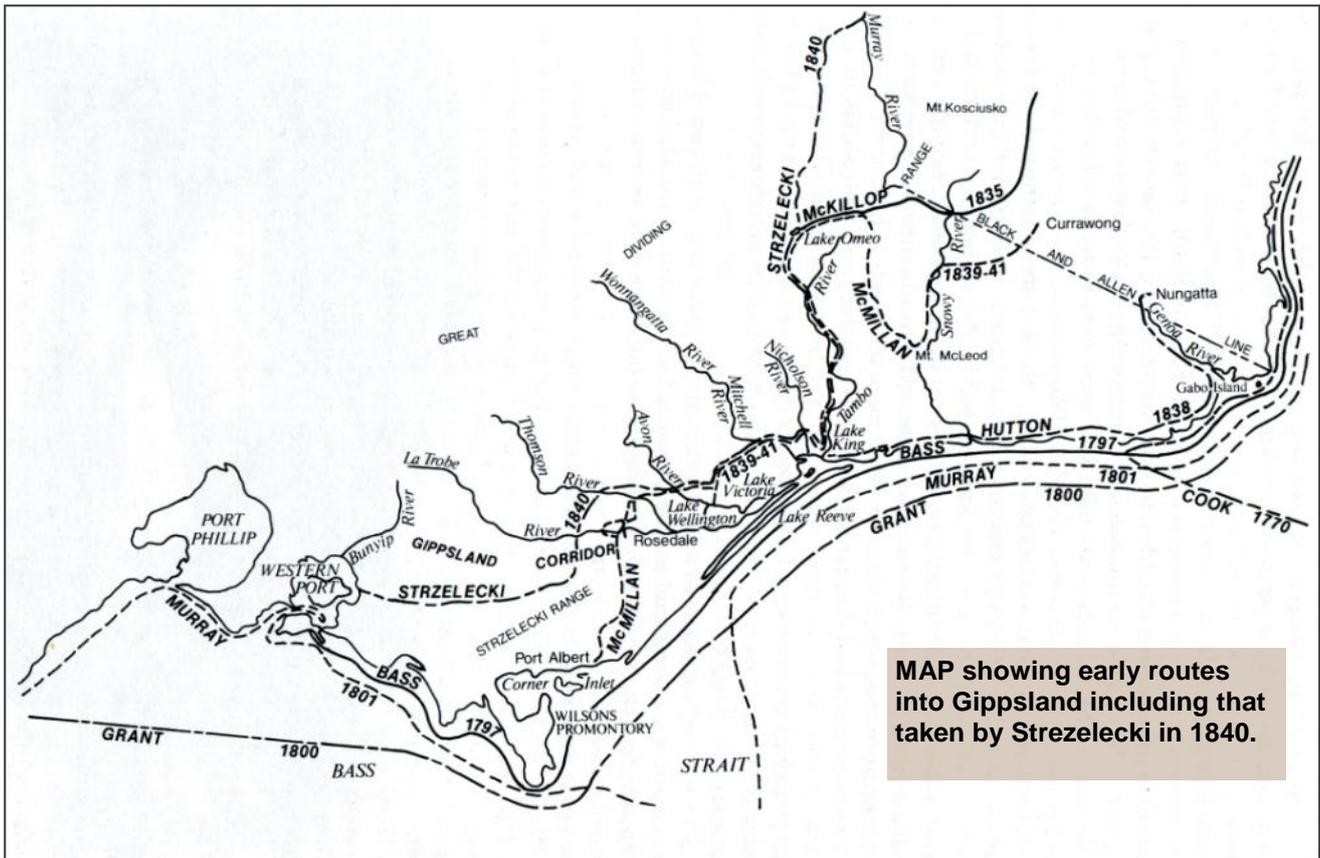
story seems questionable.

Searching further, I come across the name **William O'Dell Raymond** as the possible source of the 'Raymond' name which occurs elsewhere in Gippsland, although I have not found any evidence so far of his ever having been with McLeod in the Orbost/Snowy River district or of having stood on Mt Raymond with Mr McLeod.

Both Archibald McLeod and William O'Dell Raymond were early squatters during the 1840s which was the earliest days of white settlement in Gippsland.

### **This is what I found out about William O'Dell Raymond and his family.**

William O'Dell Raymond was born c.1810 in Ireland and came to Sydney aboard the *Thames* in 1826 with his parents. He was the second son of a large family. His father James was appointed as Post Master General in N S W and also took up land at Wellington in N S W in c.1830s. William O'Dell managed this property for his father. There were severe droughts in 1939-41 causing great losses of sheep and cattle in N S W. William



initially recommended that the stock be moved northwards to New England. Then, early in 1842, just as he was about to set off, he saw a pamphlet published by Count Strzelecki which glowingly described Gipps Land as a place of “*extensive riches as a pastoral country*” and pointed out a route into it from N S W. Immediately, William decided to bring some of the stock to Gippsland. Within three weeks of reading the pamphlet, he had 8,000 sheep on the way to Gipps Land.

Some years later, in 1853, in response to a request from Latrobe who was Lieu.-Gov. of the Colony of Victoria, William O’Dell Raymond states that he was not the only one who was inspired to come to Gipps Land after reading Strzelecki’s description. The journey of 700 miles took four months.

*The droughts of 1839, 1840, 1841 having caused great losses amongst our stock (sheep and cattle) at Wellington where I had the management of my father’s stations, I had recommended a removal of a portion of the sheep to the northward, and had fully made up my mind for a trip to New England with at least half our sheep. Just at this time, early in 1842, I got in possession of a pamphlet published by Count Strzelecki, giving a description of*

*Gippsland, and pointing out by a chart the route into it. This caused me to immediately arrange for the removal of a portion of our stock to Gippsland, and I had, in three weeks after seeing the work, eight thousand sheep on the road. I, however, had not started when I received information that Mr. Albert Brodrigg had started from Bathurst, with a number of sheep belonging to Mr. Reeve, for the same destination (and I believe upon the same information the Count’s work).*

*I do not deem it required that I should enumerate all the casualties attending upon such a journey (say 700 miles), but suffice it to say that I arrived, after many difficulties, at the Mitchell River, Gippsland, upon the 20th June 1842, after a constant travel of four months, with my stock and working cattle in better condition than when I left Wellington.*

*With regard to that portion of His Excellency’s letter ” If preceded, accompanied, or immediately followed, by whom and when, and the general state of the district around and in advance of me at that*

*period "I beg to state Mr. Curlewis's and Mr. Reeve's sheep preceded me a few weeks. Messrs. Loughnan and Taylor, with sheep, cattle, and horses, joined company with me at Mancroo; Mr. F. Jones at Omeo; and we travelled in company to the Mitchell River. As to the state of the district around and in advance of me at the period of my arrival, I am only able to refer you to a copy of a letter I wrote upon my arrival at Melbourne, at Mr. Parker's request, for the information of Governor Gipps, as the only record of my first observations as to the state of Gippsland upon my arrival.*

*Trusting that it may convey some of the information that Mr. La Trobe is requiring, I now conclude, begging that you will express my best wishes for His Excellency's safe arrival and happy meeting with his friends in Old England, and believe me to be,*

*William O'Dell Raymond*

It is thought that Raymond followed the route that McMillan had found in 1839-41 while attempting to reach Corner Inlet and find pasture for his employer Mr MacAlistair. This track is from Manneroo [Monaro] across the Snowy River north of where McKillops Bridge was eventually built and headed north to Omeo where some squatters had already established runs, then south following the Tambo River to the Bruthen area. Some of the squatters who came with William O'Dell Raymond stayed at Lucknow, some at Lindenow, while William O'Dell Raymond went further on to the Avon River and chose land at what was later to become Stratford in June 1842.

Hence, William O'Dell Raymond became one of the first permanent settlers in Gippsland. His original run was **Stratford** comprising of some 16,000 acres on the banks of the Avon River. From there, he travelled further in Gippsland in search of routes to take his stock to market in Melbourne.

In August 1842, he and Albert Brodribb, William Pearson, and an Aboriginal man from the Wellington

district tried to find a better land route to Melbourne. They had provisions for 10 days but the trip took 18 days and they nearly starved.

In 1843, William was one of a party of about 15 men headed by John Reeve who set out to explore the Lakes. They named various landmarks along the way, and the small island near Paynesville became **Raymond Island**. [Note: this appears to be the first use of the name 'Raymond' as a place name in Gippsland].

In 1844, he again brought cattle from the Manneroo [Monaro] and tried for a different route than the difficult Omeo/Tambo River Track. At Jacob's Creek, some stockmen asked him to show them the way to Gippsland via Gelantipy and Buchan offering him £1/0/0 per week.

The party of 10 men went along the banks of the Snowy River for 40 km to Suggan Buggan descending Black Mountain to Gelantipy and then on to Buchan. One of the party tried unsuccessfully to reach the lakes but another was successful in reaching the Bruthen area. The group camped at Bruthen for nine days then went down the Nicholson to Swan Reach where there were supplies. This new route was more direct and became more popular than the track via Omeo.

In 1848, William O'Dell Raymond took up more land, this time 64,000 acres on the banks of Lake Wellington, calling his run **Strathfieldsaye**. Here he built a homestead which survives as one of the oldest homes in Gippsland. In the 1849 Squatters Directory of Occupants of Crown Lands of Port Phillip, Raymond is noted as having 18,000 sheep and 1,000 cattle on Strathfieldsaye.



NAME OF OCCUPANT.	COMMISSIONER'S DISTRICT.	NAME OF RUN.	ESTIMATED AREA, IN ACRES.	ESTIMATED GRADING CAPABILITIES.	
				CATTLE.	SHEEP.
Raleigh, Joseph .. ..	Western Port	Sutton Grange .. ..	46,200	..	10,000
" Joseph .. ..	Wimmera	Morton's Plains .. ..	142,720	1,000or	10,000
" Joseph .. ..	Murray	Noo-rilim .. ..	44,320	..	8,000
Raymond, W. Odell .. ..	Gipps Land	Stratford .. ..	16,000	..	6,000
" W. Odell ...	Do	Strathfieldsaye .. ..	64,000	1,000or	18,000

Another association with William O'Dell Raymond was the Shakespeare Hotel in Stratford. It may have been built by Raymond but this is not certain. Like many of the early pubs, it provided accommodation, food and drink and stabling, and was also used for church services, marriages and community meetings. Sadly, it was demolished in the 1960s, but the photo below still exists.

In 1856, William O'Dell Raymond sold or transferred Strathfieldsaye and relocated to Strathlodden on the banks of the Lodden River. He died aged 48 in 1859 in London where he had gone for medical treatment. [Although I also found references to his death at Lodden, Victoria].

Were there other notable 'Raymonds' who could have

inspired the use of the name elsewhere in Gippsland?

**Samuel Raymond**, born 1808 in Limerick, Ireland, was an older brother of William O'Dell Raymond and has an association with the early days of the Port Phillip Settlement. He worked as a barrister in the Port Phillip district. I found a reference which states that Samuel joined John Reeve in a surveying trip from Port Albert east of the Tarra River in 1841.

Certainly, these early pastoralists, explorers, surveyors, and Government officials all knew of each other, and the pool of early place names used throughout Gippsland reflects this.



**LEFT:**  
Shakespeare Hotel at Stratford. After becoming derelict, it was finally demolished in the 1960s.

**BELOW left and right:**  
Present day memorials at the location of the Shakespeare Hotel at Stratford.



## CONCLUSION

There can be little doubt that **Raymond Streets in Sale and in Stratford** relate to **William O'Dell Raymond**. There is also no doubt that **Raymond Island** was named in his honour by his friend John Reeve during their 1843 exploration. It is likely [but not certain] that Raymond Creek Falls, Raymond Creek and Mt Raymond were also named in his honour, although these are more distant from William's area of operation in Gippsland.

I have found no evidence so far that William O'Dell Raymond ever came to the Orbost/Snowy River district or was the 'Mr Raymond' who is supposed to have stood on Raymond Hill with Mr McLeod. After reading the many articles and books which have been written about the early days of Gippsland, I concluded that absolute accuracy is very difficult to achieve without access to original sources [if they exist]. For instance, in searching the history of William O'Dell Raymond, I came across several contradictions.

I read *Rest Dearest Mother*, 1990 by Marilyn Alana Watson. This book had information about Raymond but is mainly about Ellen Kennedy (1817-90) and her descendants. Ellen is reported to have had an association with William O'Dell Raymond and also a daughter by him. I would like to read *Recollections of an Australian Squatter*, 1883 by Brodribb, a name well-known here with the Brodribb River.