

ORBOST HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

P.O. BOX 284 ORBOST VIC 3888

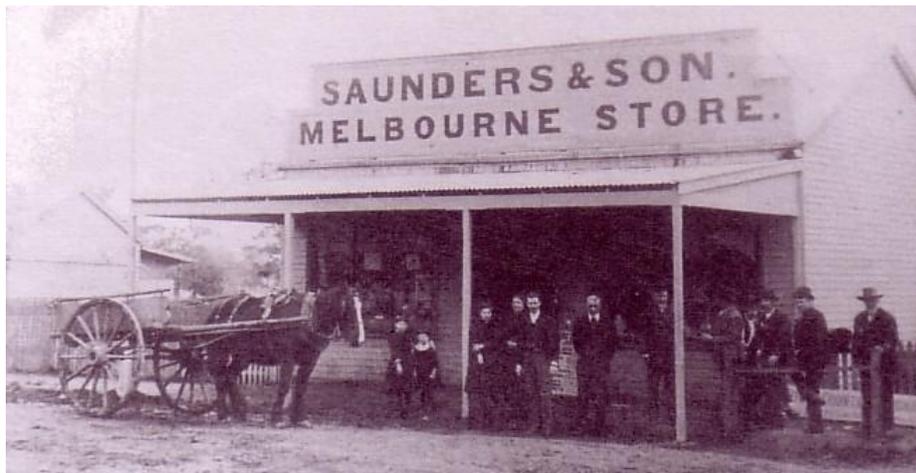


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NEWSLETTER

THE SAUNDERS FAMILY

This month's Newsletter features the family of Mr Thomas Frederick SAUNDERS and his wife Lucy Beard (nee SCOTT).



'Snowy River Mail' – November 22, 1900.

MR. SAUNDERS' NEW STORE

A building that is undoubtedly a credit to the district is now almost completed; we refer to Mr. Saunders' new store in Nicholson-street, Orbost. It is a large, substantial and imposing building, the cost of which, including fittings, has amounted to a trifle over 800 pounds. Expense has not been spared in its construction, and nothing has been left undone to ensure its durability, ample provision having been made for draining the land and for guarding the foundations against the ravages of insect pests. Mr. Saunders extensive experience of large establishments in Victoria and other colonies has enabled him to determine to a nicety the kind of building best suited for the carrying on of an important and successful business; perhaps, therefore, it is not surprising that he designed the building himself and had it carried out under his own supervision. Several commercial men

from Melbourne have expressed the opinion that for the purposes of a general store the building is the best equipped one in Gippsland. Whether it is so or not we cannot say, but we can say that it is admirably adapted to fulfil requirements. It has a frontage of 60 feet and a depth of 38, and seems to be fitted up with the latest improvements and with every conceivable convenience. The principal portion, which has a frontage of 45 feet, has two entrances and is provided with everything necessary for showing goods to advantage. The show windows, which are specially fitted up, contain plate glass mirrors and other requisites for making a brilliant display. There are on the south side of the shop numerous shelves for drapery, plenty near the centre for clothing, and attractive glass cases for the effective display of the millinery. A good deal of space is allotted for ironmongery, and there are two beautiful show cases for cutlery, jewellery, pipes and fancy goods, while a fine upright cedar case is provided for fancy glassware and electroplated ware. On the western wall

are a large number of shelves for crockery, china-ware and glassware, while for the grocery department ample space is provided on the north side of the largest portion of the building. An office is placed in a convenient corner, and the bulk store room, which forms part of the northern side of the building, is provided with a sliding door, which should be very handy. There is a landing platform at the back of the building, and a few yards away is the stable. The store is well ventilated, and admits plenty of light in the daytime. The workmanship of the building is excellent and reflects great credit upon Messrs. Pleydell and Shortell, but more particularly upon Mr. Shortell, who did the most important part of the work. A word of praise is also due to the painters, Messrs. W. A. Gluth and Jas. Beattie. It may be mentioned that although Mr. Saunders has removed his stock from the old shop, the new one is not quite finished, some work that will enhance its appearance somewhat remaining still to be done. Those who inspect the building will see that in its equipment several features new to Orbost have been introduced, while they will be forcibly struck with one thing, viz., that Mr. Saunders has strong faith in the stability of the prosperity of the district.



Saunders Family at Orbost 1888-89
Arthur and Agnes and their children, Beatrice, Cyril, Hilda and Vera

INFORMATION FROM ORBOST HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S BIOGRAPHICAL INDEX:

SAUNDERS & Son

Storekeepers – 1891-2, 1893-4, 1895-96, 1897-98
– Wise's Victoria P.O. Directory.

SAUNDERS, Arthur Scott

b. 1864, d. 3-12-1913 (49), Orbost, bur. Orbost cemetery. Son of Thomas Frederick SAUNDERS and Lucy Beard SCOTT. He was a Storekeeper at Orbost, a member of the early Show Committees, a Rechabite in 1893, and was a member of the Board of Guardians of the Church of England from 1894 to 1913 where he served as secretary and treasurer of the Board.

Wife: Agnes Louisa Stuart MORRIS, b. 1862, d. 26-11-1938 (76), East Malvern, bur. Orbost cemetery. Daughter of David Rhys MORRIS and Louisa Sutton STOCKS. She sold the business in 1919 to Mr J H V DALE. She left Orbost with her two daughters for East Malvern in April 1927.

Family: Beatrice Louisa; Cyril (unm.); Vera Constance Sophia (unm.); Hilda (Mrs Edward John WEBSTER).



Cyril and Vera



Hilda

Children of Arthur and Agnes Saunders

- Arthur S. Storekeeper – 1899-1900 Wise's Victoria P.O. Directory.
- Arthur S. Storekeeper – 1901 Victoria Towns Directory.
- Arthur Scott Storekeeper, Orbost – 1903 Electoral Roll.
- Agnes Louisa Home duties, Orbost – 1903 Electoral Roll.
- Arthur S. Storekeeper – 1910 Country Directory.
- Arthur Scott Storekeeper, Orbost – 1912 Electoral Roll.
- Agnes Louisa Home duties, Orbost – 1912 Electoral Roll.
- Agnes L. S. 1921 Country Directory.
- Agnes L. S. 1925 Country Directory.

SAUNDERS, Beatrice Louisa

d. 7-3-1899 (4 mths.), bur. Orbost cemetery. Daughter of Arthur Scott SAUNDERS and Agnes Louisa Stuart MORRIS.

SAUNDERS, Cyril

d. 26-8-1952 (57), Bete Bolong Rd., bur. Orbost cemetery. Son of Arthur Scott SAUNDERS and Agnes Louisa Stuart MORRIS.

SAUNDERS, Thomas Frederick

d. Dec 1925 (87), Murrumbeena, bur. 17-12-1925, Orbost cemetery. Son of Edward SAUNDERS and Sarah Ann COWLEY. He came to Orbost in the 1880s and started a General Store which was carried on in later years by his son, Arthur. He sold his butchering business to George Ponting MORGAN on 30-4-1900. He was a member of the early Agricultural Show Committees - 1893.

Wife: Lucy Beard SCOTT, b. Ipswich, England, d. 20-11-1924 (84), Orbost, bur. Orbost cemetery. Daughter of John SCOTT and Catherine BEARD. She arrived in Victoria in 1857 on the ship "Undaunted". She spent some years at Sale and 33 years at Orbost.

Family: Arthur Scott (b. 1864); Florence Mary (Mrs George BROOM); Sydney; Frederick; Lucy; Alice; Mabel; John.

Thomas Frederick Independent means, Orbost - 1912 Electoral Roll.

Lucy Beard Home duties, Orbost - 1912 Electoral Roll.

Thos. F. 1921 Country Directory.
Thos. F. 1925 Country Directory.

SAUNDERS, Vera Constance Sophia

d. 28-12-1967 (70), East Malvern, bur. Orbest cemetery. Daughter of Arthur Scott SAUNDERS and Agnes Louisa Stuart MORRIS. Spinster.



Frederick, Arthur & John



Sydney

**Sons of Thomas and
Lucy Saunders**

NOTES PROVIDED BY MARGARET SMITH:

The History of Saunders Store

Saunders General Store was opened in 1900, overlapping part of Mensland and Coultons.

The "Melbourne Store" refers to it being a branch of their Melbourne store.

The shop was burnt down in the early 1930's.

Lorraine Coulton's grandmother Miss Lillian Harding (later Mrs Harry Cameron) worked there as manageress from 1916-17.

Mr Archie Rodwell built/renovated a store on the site in 19 along with many other shops in Nicholson St.

For many years tea rooms operated there. Was it one big shop, or divided into two?

Bob Gall was there when the fire occurred in the early 1930s.

Danny Bryce was there in 1937 for how long?

Mrs Coad; the Robinson sisters (Phyllis, Val and Mavis) operated 'The Robin Café' from 1944-47 - Lyle Stephenson was their baker.

Mrs Kettle & family were there from 1947-56?

At some time after that the store was divided into two, and the left side was a hairdressing business with many different operators:

Mr Platt and daughter Jean; Judy Macalister (after Kettles); Joe Mastrolombo 1967; Val Millar was the ladies hairdresser.

On the right hand side it was the Water Trust office with secretary Mick Spink and his children Pattie and John. Then it was a Ladies Fashion store which Mr Karooz opened in 1965. Lois Herbert was manager from 1966-68, then Barbara Bowie until Coulton's extended?

Coulton's opened for business on the left side in 1967 and extended into the right side in 19 and Extended backwards in 1989.

'Snowy River Mail' – Saturday, March 11, 1899.

We regret to have to record the death of the youngest child of Mr. A. S. Saunders, of this town. At the end of last week the little girl appeared to be recover-

ing from an attack of diarrhoea, which she had for some days, but a change for the worse set in with the result that death ensued on Tuesday morning. The funeral took place on Wednesday, the Rev. T. D. Reynolds conducting the burial service.

'Snowy River Mail' – Friday, December 5, 1913.

MR A. S. SAUNDERS

With much regret we have to state that Mr Saunders, who was reported to be in a very critical state last week, expired on Wednesday night. His condition had been very serious from the first, but the strenuous efforts made by his medical adviser and relatives, together with a sound constitution, enabled him to hold out for a long time, and hopes of his recovery was sometimes entertained.

The improvement, however, seem to be long in coming and the system of course was gradually weakened and on Wednesday afternoon it was realised that the end was near. Mr Saunders had recovered consciousness at intervals and was able to recognise members of his family. After a desperate fight with the disease he breathed his last at about half past



Alice, Mabel & Lucy - daughters of Thomas & Lucy

eleven on Wednesday night.

Mr Saunders was a very old resident of the town, having arrived here in 1888. After battling through the disastrous seasons of 1890 and 1893 he had established a very successful business and for many years had taken a leading part in every kind of public movement. He was chiefly instrumental in founding the local branch of the A.O.F., was a president of the Progress Association of earlier times, and president of the railway league. He was a strong supporter of St. James's Church, and a member of the Board of Guardians. He was a member of the Mechanics Institute committee and one of the most valued members of the Agricultural Society, largely contributing both as a worker and exhibitor to the annual shows. Latterly, he had given cordial assistance to the Hospital movement, and was chairman of the provisional committee. As a matter of fact the deceased was one who was always ready to take a hand in advancing any movement that was of the good of the community and when he did connect himself with anything there was no more persistent and reliable worker, his business experience rendering his services of special value.

Mr Saunders was born at Mordialloc in 1864 and spent his schooldays in Sale. His father and mother

still survive him and are residents of Orbost. Mrs Broom of Orbost is his eldest sister and there are three other sisters and two brothers living elsewhere. He leaves a widow, one son and two daughters for whom there has been a general expression of sympathy.

The funeral will leave his late residence this afternoon at half past three o'clock.

LETTER FROM THE COUNCIL

A letter to the following effect has been sent to the widow:—

Shire Hall, December 4th, 1913.

Mrs A. S. Saunders, Orbost.

Dear Madam, — I have the honour by direction of the President of the Shire of Orbost (Cr. S. J. Lynn) to convey to you and the members of your family the sincere sympathy and condolences of the whole Council in the very sad bereavement you have sustained by the death of your husband, Mr Arthur Scott Saunders.

The late Mr Saunders was highly esteemed as an energetic townsman, who had the welfare of his district at heart, and my Council deeply deplores the loss of such a public spirited and highly respected citizen. — I am, &c, Nelson Wellington, Shire Secretary.



Arthur Scott Saunders
1864-1913



Agnes Louisa Saunders
(nee MORRIS)
1862-1938

'Snowy River Mail' – Friday, December 5, 1913.

FUNERAL NOTICE

The friends of the late Mr ARTHUR SCOTT SAUNDERS are respectfully invited to follow his remains to their last resting-place, the Orbost General Cemetery.

The Funeral will leave his late residence TO-DAY, Friday, 5th December, at 3.30 p.m.

H. and D. WILLIAMS, Undertakers.

A.O.F., COURT CROAJINGOLONG

No. 7664

The Members of the above Court and the Order in general are requested to follow the remains of their late Brother ARTHUR SCOTT SAUNDERS to the Orbost General Cemetery.

The Funeral will leave his late residence on FRIDAY, 5th December, at 3.30 p.m.

W. A. GLUTH, Secretary.

'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday evening, November 26, 1924.

Death of Mrs Saunders

We regret to record the death of Mrs Saunders, who passed away last Thursday at the age of 84. The deceased lady had been an invalid for a good many years, and seriously ill for three months before her death.

Mrs Saunders was born in Ipswich (Eng.), and arrived in Victoria in 1857 by the ship, Undaunted, in command of Captain Franklin. She was a colonist for 67 years, and a resident for many years of Gippsland. She spent some years at Sale, and 33 years in Orbost.

The deceased lady was well-known and highly respected. She leaves a widower and family of sons and daughters. One of her sons was the late Mr A. S. Saunders, a very prominent and successful businessman of Orbost for many years.

The remains were interred in the Orbost Cemetery, the Rev W. G. Backhouse, conducting the burial service.

'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday evening, December 16, 1925.

A former well-known resident of this district passed away in the metropolis a few days ago. We refer to Mr. Saunders, who came to Orbost in the eighties and started a general store, the business of which was carried on in later years with conspicuous success by his son. Mr Saunders, who had a very strong constitution had reached an advanced age. His remains will be interred in the Orbost Cemetery to-morrow.

'Snowy River Mail' – Wednesday evening, November 30, 1938.

OBITUARY

MRS. AGNES LOUISA STEWART SAUNDERS

After a long illness Mrs. Saunders passed away at her home in Melbourne on Saturday evening at the age of 76.

Deceased was well known in this district, her late husband having been in business here for many years.

The funeral was held at Orbost on Monday morning, a large cortege following from St. James' Church of England. Rev. J. D. Sansom officiated at the graveside.

There were four in family, viz.- Vera, Hilda (Mrs. Webster), Beatrice (decd.) and Cyril.