

ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

P.O. BOX 284 ORBOST VIC 3888



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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2007

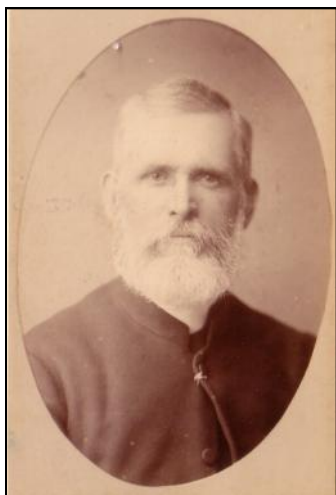
NOTES ON THE HISTORY OF ORBOST PART 4

Compiled by Margaret Carlyon, Traralgon - 29/4/1963

These notes, on the History of Orbost, have been divided into a series of articles which will be used over several Newsletters. This is the fourth of a five part series.

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORBOST CHURCHES

St. James Church of England's first clergyman was Rev. W. G. Hindley, who visited Orbost occasionally from Bairnsdale and the services



Mr. Robert Martin - First Church of England clergyman stationed at Orbost - 1884-1891

were held at the Station Home, property of Sir W. G. Clarke. However, the real beginning of Church life in the Orbost district or Snowy River district, as it was then called, is bound up with the name of Mr Robert Martin, who was appointed by Bishop Moorhouse of Melbourne, to be Stipendiary Reader in charge of the district in 1885. Prior to that, Mr Martin, a retired sea captain, had unofficially conducted services in all sorts of places, where a congregation could be

gathered together, though his business officially was that of a fire insurance agent.



Orbost's First Church of England dedicated on 6th March 1892 and Rectory

Mr James Cameron, fostered the developing Church, not only by allowing his barn at Lochiel Park to be used for Church services but also by making a home there for Mr Martin over a period of years, until a small Vicarage was built on the spot where the present church stands. From Mr Cameron's barn the church migrated to the school building erected in the main street and thence after a short time to the Mechanics Hall, built in 1887. Mr Martin left Orbost for Paynesville in 1890 and was succeeded by an ordained Priest in 1891 in the person of Rev. D. Ross Hewton.

On 6th March, 1892, when the first Church of St James, Orbost, was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. T. Goe, Bishop of Melbourne, the first Confirmation service was also held. The foundation of a new church was laid on 1st October 1927 and the

present building was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. George Harvard Cranswick, D.D., Bishop of Gippsland, on 21st July, 1928.



**St James' Church of England, Orbost
Foundation stone laid 1st October 1927**

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Roman Catholic Church was erected in 1902, the priest at that time, being Rev. Father Sennitt. The first wedding celebrated was the marriage of Mr and Mrs Ted Clifford of McLeod Street, Orbost, in 1908. Prior to that date Mass was held in the home of Mr W. Ross of Bendoc Park, and later in the old Mechanics Hall, once every three months by Rev. Father O'Donoghue. The Catholic School was opened in 1923 in charge of Sister Moira and Sister Lucy. The Convent was built in 1927 as a Presbytery and was occupied by Rev. Father Gavan then Parish Priest. It was later converted to the Convent.

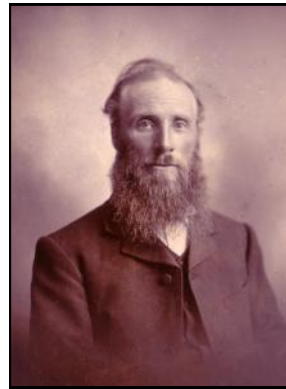


**St Colman's Roman Catholic Church built in 1902 and
former Presbytery, later Convent built in 1927**



St Colman's Roman Catholic Church, Orbost

ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



**Rev. Alex (Sandy) Morton
Presbyterian Minister at
Orbost 1893-1904**

Was commenced in Orbost in the year 1885, when the Rev. Charles Attwood was settled into the pastoral Charge. Mr Attwood, held services in the old Mechanics Institute. Rev. Murdoch was the next minister, inducted in 1890. During his ministry the Manse was built. In 1892, Rev. Thomas Tait, M.A. succeeded, followed by Rev. Alex Morton. The present church was opened on 9th January

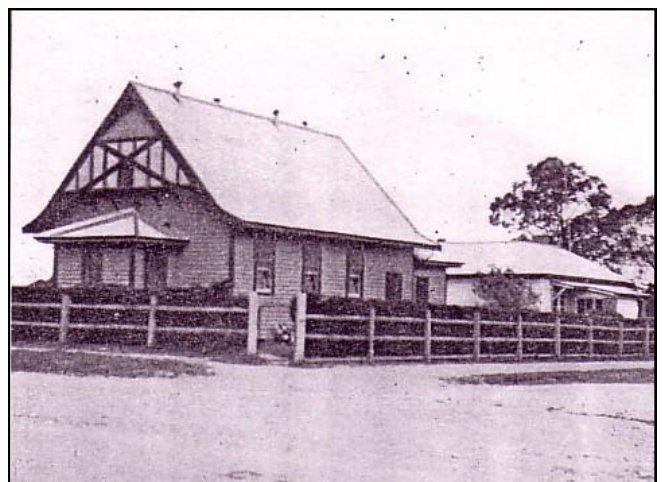
1898. First Communion service was held on July 17th, 1892.



**St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Opened 9th January 1898, built by Mr R. P. Cameron**

METHODIST CHURCH

April 1910, the Rev. R. E. Hooper became the first minister of the Orbost Methodist Church. The first services were held in the local hall, and later at the school, but in January 1911, the Church was opened.



**Orbost Methodist Church
Opened in 1911, built by Mr R. P. Cameron
Now a private residence on the corner of Gladstone
and Gordon Streets**