

ORBOST & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY Inc.

P.O. BOX 284 ORBOST VIC 3888



President:	Heather Terrell
Vice President:	Noreen Thomson
Secretary/Treasurer:	May Leatch
Collection Management:	May Leatch, Lynn Craig, Lois Crisp, Audrey Van Den Berg
HNEG representative:	Audrey Van Den Berg
Publicity:	Heather Terrell, May Leatch
Newsletter Production:	Carrol Preston and Noreen Thomson

NEWSLETTER 180 - November 2024

The TOMLINSON Family of Orbost—PART 2

ARTHUR JAMES AND JESSIE TOMLINSON

After travelling from Maldon, ARTHUR JAMES AND JESSIE (nee Scott) TOMLINSON, with seven children (Lettice, John, William, Agnes, Edina, Lucy and Dorothy, (Mary was born in Orbost) by horse drawn conveyance, first to Orbost and then by row-boat to Tabbara, the Tomlinson family pitched a tent at Tabbara, near Brodribb, Victoria, at the top of a ridge, in 1887. Their immediate landholder neighbours were the Richardsons and Johnstons.

Arthur Tomlinson was the youngest of 12 children who arrived in Australia from England in about c.1854 with his parents and eight younger children. He first settled in Maldon, Victoria, to work the gold mines, then found employment on the railways.

In 1889 a survey of 88 lots for the **new township of Tabbara**, east of Orbost were put up for sale in 1890. Less than half of the lots were sold and even less were settled. Although the township of Tabbara was designed around a wharf on the Brodribb River to serve as a transport route, it was expected that the railway would come through from Melbourne to New South Wales and possibly pass through Tabbara. However this did not eventuate and Tabbara never settled into a township.

The Tomlinsons farmed the land at Tabbara but found the soil very poor with granite outcrops scattered over the acreage. To support his family, Arthur found employment at the Boulder Gold Mine at Errinundra, east of Orbost. His role was as engineer and manager.

Arthur married **Jessie Scott** in Maldon, on 1 April 1872. Jessie was born in Dundee, Angus, Scotland in 1849. She was a well loved and respected family member and passed away peacefully at her daughter, Agnes' (Mrs. W. Pardew) home on 15 November 1914 at the age of 65 years and is buried in the Orbost cemetery.

After Jessie died, Arthur took up residence in Orbost at '**Orotava' Boarding House**', which was operated by his three unmarried daughters, Lucy, Dorothy and Mary. '**Orotava**' still stands and is a private residence. Arthur James Tomlinson died at '**Orotava**' in 1920, aged 72 years and was buried in the Orbost cemetery. [Note: '**Orotava House**' was established by the Cottman family who named it '**Orotava**' after the Orient Line ship on which the family had come to Australia in c.1890].

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28.

ERNEST WATT & CO. will sell for
A. Tomlinson, Esq., Brodribb River,
on above date, at 2 p.m.,
8 superior Milking Cows and Calves,
14 2-year-old Heifers and Steers,
14 Yearlings.

Snowy River Mail (Orbost): 21 October 1893



Arthur James TOMLINSON
(1848–1920)



Jessie TOMLINSON (nee Scott)
(1849–1914)

Fog fever has been rampant, several of the hands being quite disabled. Some of them have gone to their homes in Orbost; others are staying here, and a few are trying to battle it out on the ground. The mine manager, Mr. Tomlinson, was at one time in a very dangerous condition, and a special messenger was sent into Orbost for advice and medicine. The sun in fine weather is only visible in the camp between two and three hours a day, consequently everything is reeking with damp in this heavy jungle.

*At the Boulder Gold Mine at Errinundra, near Orbost.
Bairnsdale Advertiser: 13 June 1898*

LETTICE (Lettie) TOMLINSON And the Richardsons of Orbost

LETTICE TOMLINSON, first born of Arthur and Jessie, married Albert Eli Richardson in Maldon, Victoria, in 1896, uniting two pioneering families of Orbost district.

Lettice was born in Maldon in 1873, and came to Orbost with her family in 1887, settling at Tabbara, east of Orbost. One of the neighbouring landholders to settle were the Richardson family.

Lettice Richardson died in 1942 at Pumpkin Point (Bete Bolong) near Orbost, at the age of 68 years.

Albert Eli Richardson was born in Ballarat, Victoria, in 1861. Albert came to the Orbost district in 1881, and joined his brothers, Harry, Allan and Mark, in milling operations in the area surveyed for the township of Tabbara is about six miles up from the junction of the Snowy and Brodribb rivers. The Richardsons soon established a reputation for the high quality of their timber, mostly Mahogany. At the time, river traffic to and from Orbost was fairly heavy, goods being transhipped from schooners at Marlo and 30 barges which were poled to Orbost.

Approximately 1900, a move was made to Bete Bolong where the brothers had earlier selected land along the Snowy River frontage, and where Albert cultivated maize until he was 80.

Albert Eli Richardson died in 1951 at "Kurrajong", Bete Bolong, near Orbost, at the age of 91 years.



Lettice Richardson
(nee TOMLINSON)
(1873—1942)



Albert Eli RICHARDSON
(1861—1951)

WILLIAM THOMAS TOMLINSON Son of Arthur and Jessie Tomlinson

William Thomas Tomlinson was the third child of Arthur and Jessie Tomlinson and was born in Maldon, Victoria in 1877. He moved to New Zealand and worked on the Tramways. He married a widow named Jean in 1907 in New Zealand. William Thomas Tomlinson died in 1957, at the age of 80 years, in Wellington, New Zealand.

AGNES ANN TOMLINSON And the Pardews of Orbost

Agnes Ann Tomlinson was the fourth child of Arthur and Jessie Tomlinson. She was born in Maldon, Victoria on 28 March 1879, and travelled to Tabbara, Orbost with her family at the age of 7 years. She married William Edward Pardew in Orbost in 1906, uniting two pioneering families.

Agnes was a very energetic worker within the Orbost district. Her main interests were the Red Cross and St. James Church of England. She was also a foundation member of the Orbost Country Women's Association (CWA).

Agnes Ann Pardew died in 1956 in Orbost, at the age of 77 years. She is buried in the Orbost cemetery.

William Edward Pardew was born in New Zealand in 1864. He was a pioneer of Orbost and district, in the true sense of the word. As the head of the well-known Pardew family, he directed the destinies of the partnership, Pardew Bros., which was devoted to the pastoral and grazing industry.

In 1907, he was stricken down with pneumonia influenza, from the effects he never recovered. In his prime he was a man of powerful physique, and many are the tales of his energy in his work.

William Edward Pardew died in 1935 in Orbost, at the age of 70 years.



Marriage of Agnes Ann Tomlinson and William Edward Pardew—28/8/1906—Orbost.

Back Row (l to r): Albert Richardson, Mary Pardew (married Frederick Evans), **William Ernest Pardew (bridegroom)**, **Agnes Ann Tomlinson (bride)**, Dorothy Margaret Alice Tomlinson (bridesmaid), Arthur Henry Pardew (brother of the bridegroom), Lucy Tomlinson (sister of the bride).

Left hand front: Lettice Richardson (nee Tomlinson), thought to be holding Grace Richardson (McKeown), Jessie Tomlinson (mother of the bride), Mrs. E.J. Pardew (mother of the bridegroom), Mary Martha Tomlinson (kneeling), and Arthur James Tomlinson (father of the bride).

EDINA JESSIE TOMLINSON
Daughter of Arthur and Jessie TOMLINSON

Edina Jessie Tomlinson was born in 1881 in Maldon, Victoria and came to Orbost as a child with her family, in 1887, settling at Tabbara, near Orbost.

Edina married Archibald George Evans in 1908 in Orbost, Victoria. She lived at Blackwood Park, Lima East from circa 1915. Her husband was well-known as a breeder and judge of red poll cattle.

Edina possessed a kind nature, and was always considerate of others. She was very well liked among her family and friends.

Edina Jessie Evans died on 13 December 1940 at her home at Lima East, after an illness of two days, at the age of 59 years. She lays at rest in the Moorngag cemetery.



Lucy Ellen TOMLINSON
1883—1962

LUCY ELLEN TOMLINSON
Unmarried daughter of Arthur and Jessie Tomlinson

Lucy Ellen Tomlinson was born on 27 September 1883 in Maldon, Victoria. She travelled to Tabbara, near Orbost, with her family, as a young child. She resided in Orbost until 6 months before her death in 1962, having relocated to Bairnsdale where she died.

Lucy was the main and longest standing manager of 'Orotava' Boarding House which was on the corner of Forest Road and Clarke Street, Orbost.

She was a devoted worker for the church she loved, St. James Church of England, but failing health forced her retirement from this work some years before her death.

Lucy Ellen Tomlinson died on 23 October 1962 and lays at rest in the Orbost cemetery.



Dorothy Margaret Alice
TOMLINSON
1888—1966

DOROTHY MARGARET ALICE TOMLINSON
Unmarried daughter of Arthur and Jessie Tomlinson

Dorothy Margaret Alice Tomlinson was born on 4 April 1888 in Maldon, Victoria. She travelled to Tabbara, near Orbost, with her family, as a young child.

Dorothy resided in Orbost, assisting with the operation of 'Orotava', the family Boarding House, until the mid 1920s when she moved to Sandringham, Victoria and held employment in sales. She then spent some time in Warracknabeal, where, while observing a fire in a motor works, she was struck by a piece of an exploding gas cylinder causing a compound fracture of the leg.

She then spent some time in Donald, in the Wimmera district working as a draper.

Dorothy Margaret Alice Tomlinson died on 4 February 1966 at Bundoora, Victoria and lays at rest in Melbourne.

OROTAVA

Superior Private Accommodation for
Visitors to Orbost and Permanent
Boarders.
Three loose-box stable and coach house
to let.

Snowy River Mail (Orbost): February 1916

**CHEAPER DRESSMAKING
AND RENOVATING**
EVERYTHING FOR CHILDREN
AND GROWN UPS.
GIVE US A TRIAL.
THE SISTERS, "OROTAVA",
Opposite Butter Factory.

Snowy River Mail (Orbost): May 1933



Mary Martha TOMLINSON
1890—1931

MARY MARTHA TOMLINSON
Unmarried daughter of Arthur and Jessie Tomlinson

Mary Martha Tomlinson was born in 1890 at Orbost, Victoria. Mary was the youngest child of Arthur and Jessie.

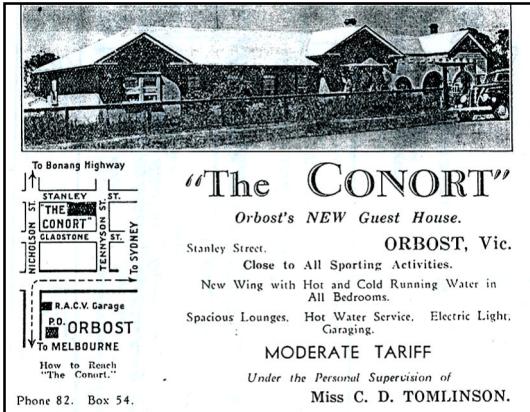
At the age of 13 years, Mary wrote her Will, leaving all her worldly goods to individual family members. She also left instructions, "Please fly the Peace flag on my grave."

Mary Martha Tomlinson died on 15 June 1931 at Kew, Melbourne.

It has been difficult to find dates and facts of the family homes which also operated as guest houses, later known as the 'Orotava' and the 'Conort' both of which operated as Boarding or Guest Houses. However, two of John and Wilhelmina Tomlinson's granddaughters have given us as much as they had and could remember, so family lore prevails in some cases.



According to family ... the original home on the cnr. Stanley and Tennyson Sts. Orbost



The Tomlinson's home, 'The Conort', 52–54 Stanley Street, Orbost (corner of Tennyson Street) - c1942

NOTE:

'Conort' still exists (2024) in Stanley Street, Orbost where it retains much of its impressive shape and size.

These days, it is the headquarters of Moogji Aboriginal Council.

Dr. Harold Lindsay McCay (Bill) arrived in Orbost due to the need of a second doctor. Before coming to Orbost in October, 1946, Dr. McCay had served in the Second World War. When he first arrived in the town, he practiced from a room at "The Conort". After four months he moved his practice to Ruskin Street in February 1947.

As described by Faye Marr (nee Tomlinson, granddaughter of John Scott and Wilhelmina Tomlinson) - April 2024

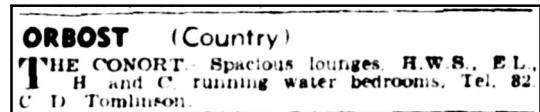
The 'CONORT' is situated on the corner of Stanley and Tennyson Streets, Orbost. It was thought to have been built in the 1920's, by the Tomlinsons.

'Conort' was a very 'grand' house even at a lesser size it is today. It was situated on a large block which Wilhelmina's family (the Murray's) had also built homes on, facing Gladstone Street.

After John Scott Tomlinson died in 1939, the family sold his general produce store in Nicholson Street, Orbost and extended 'Conort' so as to establish a Boarding House enabling John's widow, Wilhelmina and daughter, Connie to earn an income.

The original 'Conort' had family bedrooms down one side of the building. There was a large hallway with arches that had heavy curtains tied at the side, from the grand entrance and porch. A very large lounge area was on the other side of the hallway. It had a bow window with a box seat on which 'coffee table picture books' were laid out. There was a pianola in the room with lots of rolls to be played.

A very large kitchen and dining room were situated at the back of the house. An outside toilet was a fair way down the path, and the scent of thyme in the garden could be smelt as you came to and from.



Argus (Melbourne): 27 December 1939

Tomlinson family lore has it that 'The Conort' was called as such because there was a saying within the family that when a task needed to be done, they would say "Connie ought to ..." which was adjusted to "Conort".

I can find no other evidence as to why it was named as such.

Editor



John and Wilhelmina Tomlinson (and unknown) at the entrance to 'The Conort' c1938.

Thank you to Noreen Thomson for sharing the journey of collection and discovery of the Tomlinson family of Orbost.

Thank you to Faye Marr (John Scott Tomlinson's granddaughter) for bringing to our attention the huge input the Tomlinson family had in the development of Orbost in the earlier years.

Thank you to Lorraine Coulton for steering us in the direction of contact for Enid Kay.

Thank you to Enid Kay (friend of Connie's) for holding the Connie Tomlinson estate for 27 years. This information including photos, paperwork and personal writings.

Thank you to Pam Sundstrum for sharing more photos and information on her grandparents, John Scott and Wilhelmina Tomlinson.