

RED M 107

TEN DAY TRIP - FRANK WALKER

HISTORICAL NOTES ON  
MOUNT VICTORIA

COMPILED BY J. MANKEY



Mankey, J. et alii

1. Historical Notes on Mount Victoria.
2. ~~Note by H. Selkirk on the origin of the name.~~

Early History of Mount Victoria  
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ONE TREE HILL. Probably so named by early carriers. The tree is said to have stood near Mr W.P. Matthew's Smithy. Date uncertain when it was cut down, or by whom, but the tree was supposed to have been destroyed in the seventies.

xx OLD TOLL HOUSE. Built about 1832. Abolished, with all others on the Western Road, about 1870 or 1871. The old house adjoining the Toll gate was at first in use as a roadside Inn, and then became a butcher's shop erected by a Mr Shephers, about 1861 - 1863.

MOUNT PIDDINGTON. So named by local people in honor of W.R. Piddington, who owned much land in Mount Victoria.

OLD ROYAL HOTEL. Built prior to the opening of the Railway to Mt Victoria, about 1860. Demolished in 1914.

RAILWAY to MT VICTORIA. Opened in 1868.

ROAD to MT WILSON. Opened 1870 - 1.

KANIMBLA VALLEY. Named from two aboriginal legendary chiefs, "Kanim" and "Beula".

xx St PETER'S CHURCH. Erected 1876. First Rector, the Rev. R. Payne.

xx HARTLEY VILLAGE. Established soon after the opening of Mitchell's Road, in 1832.

Oldest living residents. J.W. BERGROFER, arrived 1874. J. WILSON 1884. LANFRANCHI Family, 1876 (or thereabouts)

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL. Established..... (?) but prior to 1877, which is the date on the building attached to the present school. The first school must have been opened before the completion of the line to Mount Victoria, as Mr Wilson, senior, states that the navvies' children attended it. Name of first teacher not available. First Teacher in 1877 building, was Mr Hulme.

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F. Walker.

(Above information compiled by Mr J. Mankey, Headmaster of Mount Victoria Public School)

xx *Negatives of these in my possession.*



ONE TREE HILL.

XX

Mount Pindilton

OLD ROYAL HOTEL.

RAILWAY to MT VICTORIA.

ROAD to MT WILSON.

KAMIBEA VALLEY.

St. Peter's Church.

HARTLEY VILLAGE.

Of test subjects

E. H. J. K. A. R.

Mount Victoria Public School

Picture  
many when  
volume  
received from  
W. Walker  
Juls  
1946



"Leicester" Mount Victoria



"Convict Rock Markings" - Close up view



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*Explorers' Memorial Pavilion, Mt. York. Erected 1913.*



*A Giant Gum - Mt. Victoria*



*Sydney Road, n. Mt. Victoria*



*View from Leicester Verandah.*











*Old Toll House, Bathurst Road, Mt. Victoria*



*"Pine Tree Avenue" Mt. Victoria.*



*Old Roadside Inn, Mt. Victoria*

8 [blank]





*St. John's Ch. of England. Mt. Victoria.  
(Erected. 1871)*



*"Pulpit Rock" nr. Mt. Victoria*



*Old Stable. Mt. Victoria*



*St. John's Ch. of England. Mt. Victoria*

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JENOIAN CAVES





JENOLAN CAVES.



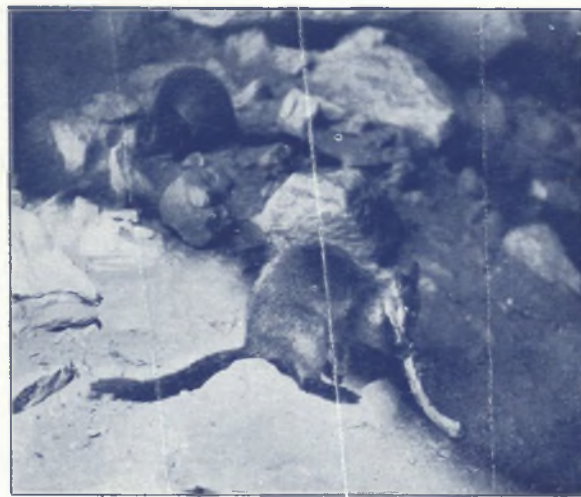
JENOLAN CAVES HOUSE.

JENOLAN CAVES.



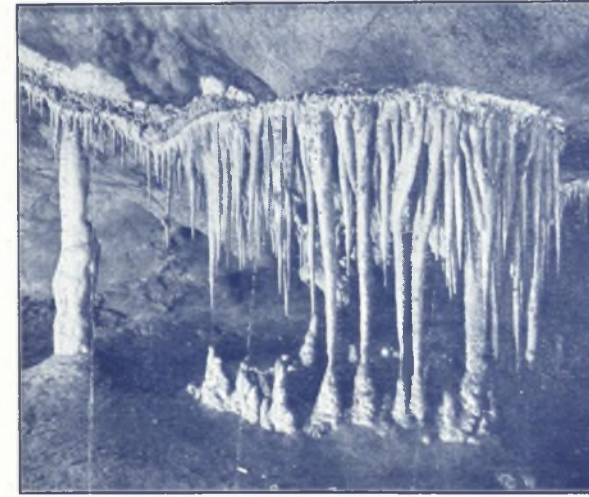
THE BLUE LAKE.

JENOLAN CAVES.



A ROCK WALLABY.

JENOLAN CAVES.



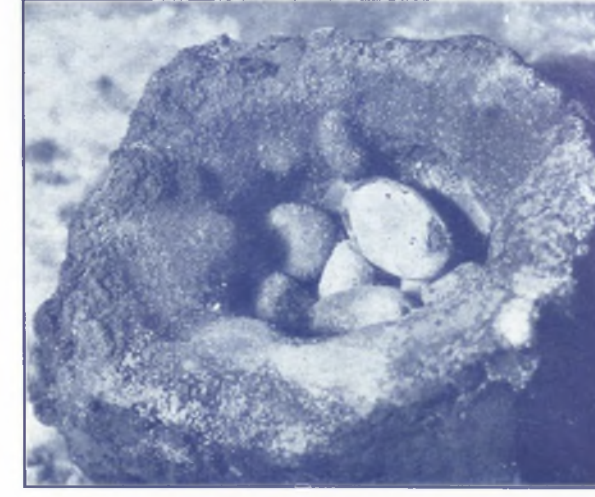
NELLIE'S GROTTO.

JENOLAN CAVES.



THE GRAND ARCH.

JENOLAN CAVES.



THE BIRD'S NEST.



TELEPHONE—CITY 4945.

Box 11, G.P.O.

JSC/LF



SL 9564—2

N.S.W. GOVERNMENT TOURIST BUREAU,  
CHALLIS HOUSE, SYDNEY.

5th December, 1921.

Dear Sir,

I desire to acknowledge with very great pleasure your letter of appreciation regarding your visit to Jenolan Caves.

It is all the more pleasing that an encomium should come from such an authoritative source. It will be passed along to the various officers concerned and I am sure appreciated by them very much.

Yours faithfully,

*J. P. Cormack*

Acting Director.

Frank Walker, Esq.,  
Box 2308, G.P.O.,  
Sydney.

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M 500

A Ten Day Trip to Mount Victoria, and the  
Jenolan Caves.

Wednesday, November 23 rd. to Friday, . December 2nd,

nn---- 1 9 2 1. ----

*by Frank Walker*

Wednesday, Novr. 23, - Left Chatswood, 10.50 a.m. train. Train for Mount Victoria left Central Station at 11.55. Pleasant journey, cool day. Arrived M.V. at 3.30 p.m., and were met at station by Mr J.W. Berghofer, who drove A. to our accomodation house. Very pleased with our quarters. Afternoon tea on arrival. The house is situated on a hill, between two valleys, with beautiful views from the verandah and rooms. Two houses form the establishment, and as there were no other visitors in our portion we had the building to ourselves, with use of sitting room. After tea paid a visit to Mr Berghofer, and spent a pleasant evening. Returned home about nine, and read for an hour. Weather cool and like rain.

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Thursday, November 24. - Made acquaintance with other boarders, A nice lot of people. Were particularly attracted to a young married couple on their honeymoon, and parted with them, a day or two later, with great regret. Visited "Mitchell's Bridge", on the old Victoria Pass, in company with Mr & Mrs Norrie, the friends referred to above. Inspected some old relics of the convict days, and had afternoon tea on the site of the old encampment. Weather fine and hot. Returned about six, and spent a quiet evening at home.

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A letter to the Hon. Sec. of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst.

and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities.

I am, Sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

Very truly yours,

Wm. H. Hunt, Secretary of the Interior.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst.

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THE MINARET, LUCAS CAVE, JENOLAN.

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Friday, November 25. - A. drove to Mount York, with Mr Berghofer, F. walked, cutting out the four miles in 50 minutes. Inspected the Explorers' Pavilion, erected by the Blue Mountain Centenary Committee, in 1913, also other memorials in this locality. Had afternoon tea, by the aid of the evergreen "William can". Large refreshment room in course of erection. Weather perfect, though a thick haze interfered with the view from the summit of the mount. The red "gum tops" greatly admired, presenting a gorgeous spectacle when lit up by the rays of the sun. Returned home in same order, and spent the evening with games of cards.

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Saturday, November 26. - Spent a <sup>leisure</sup> morning. Walked to Mount Piddington in afternoon. Overtaken by severe thunderstorm. Lightning very vivid, and thunder peals terrific. Some damage done in the town by lightning. Quiet evening with books. Mr & Mrs Norrie returned home this afternoon, We missed them very much, but hope to meet them again.

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Sunday, November 27. - Church in morning. (St Peter's, Anglican) This is a quaint little stone building, erected about 1871. The church was only about half-filled, but this was a large congregation, compared to average attendances. Walked to "Pulpit Rock" - (an appropriate place on a Sunday) - and enjoyed the magnificent view of the Kanimbla Valley, from this spot. Visited the Zig\_zag, which leads to the Bushrangers' Cave, but did not venture all the way down. A howling Westerly gale blowing, which calmed down at sunset. Church in evening,

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Friday, November 12. - A drove to Mount Fort, west of Portland.  
 E. walked out with the cow along in 10 minutes. Reached the  
 "Pavilion" Pavilion, erected by the Blue Mountain Conservancy Dis-  
 trict, in 1911, also other buildings in this locality. Had coffee  
 and saw, by the side of the stream, "William's" - a large water-  
 wheel used in course of erection. Another building, though a thick  
 haze interfered with the view from the summit of the mountain. The  
 road "from here" greatly enlarged, presenting a gorgeous spectacle  
 when lit up by the rays of the sun. Returned home in same order  
 and spent the evening with family at cards.

Saturday, November 13. - Spent a pleasant morning. Walked to Mount  
 Washington in afternoon. Overlooked by several thunderstorms. Light-  
 ning very vivid, and thunder quite terrific. Some damage done in  
 the town by lightning. Spent evening with books. In a Mrs. Harris  
 returned home this afternoon. We missed them very much, but hope  
 to meet them again.

Sunday, November 14. - Church in morning. The service, Anglican, was  
 in a quaint little stone building, erected about 1870. The church  
 was only about half-filled, but there was a large congregation, com-  
 pared to average attendance. Walked to "Little Rock" - an appro-  
 priate place on a Sunday - and enjoyed the magnificent view of  
 the Klamath Valley, from this spot. Visited the Big sag, which  
 leads to the "Bathhouse". Cave, but did not venture all the way  
 down. A passing westerly gale blowing, which caused down at sundown.  
 Church in evening.



DEVIL'S COACH HOUSE  
FROM IMPERIAL CAVE

Jenolan Caves.







(3)

Monday, November 28. - Visited public school in morning, and F. addressed the children on "Norfolk Island". Went for a walk in afternoon along the Sydney road, and visited the little local cemetery. Freda Berghofer buried here, August 17, 1917. Spent the evening with Mr Berghofer and family. Home about 9.30.

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Tuesday, November 29. - Mr Berghofer drove A. to "Soldier's Pinch", a historic spot on the Sydney road, whilst F. walked. Here we made tea and had a pleasant chat over old times. Returned home and spent a quiet evening.

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Wednesday, November 30. - Left our kind hostess about 12.30, and went to lunch at the Hotel Mount Victoria, joining the party who were proceeding to the caves that day. At 2 p.m. we were all safely aboard, our car being a powerful 6-cylinder "Hudson", with "disc" wheels. We got away first, and soon outdistanced the others, travelling at an average pace of 35 miles an hour. The day was bright and sunny, and the views, as the journey proceeded, were beautiful in the extreme. After passing the half-way house, the tire of one of the front wheels gradually subsided, and before we had pulled up, the rear wheel on the same side went out <sup>of</sup> business. There were plenty of willing workers and in a very short time we were ready for the road again. In the meantime the other two cars had caught up & passed us, not without some good natured banter from the passengers as they glided past. We were soon within easy distance of the caves and at the 31st mile stone, commenced the five mile descent which

Monday, November 12. - Visited the school at New York, and I, and  
of the children on "Hort's Island". Went to the school  
along the beach, and visited the little school. The  
children were very happy. Spent the evening at the  
Berger and family. Home about 11.30.  
Tuesday, November 13. - Mr. Berger drove to "Hort's Island".  
A historic spot on the beach, where the first house was  
seen and had a pleasant chat over the island. Home and  
spent a quiet evening.

Wednesday, November 14. - Left our kind house about 11.30, and  
went to lunch at the Hotel Mount Victoria. Joining the party who  
were proceeding to the caves that day. At 2 P.M. we were all  
safely seated, our car being a powerful "Cylinder" "Landon", with  
"glass" wheels. We got away first, and soon outdistanced the others,  
traveling at an average pace of 25 miles an hour. The day was  
bright and sunny, and the view, as the journey proceeded, was beau-  
tiful in the extreme. After passing the half-way house, the line of  
one of the front wheels gradually subsided, and before we had reached  
up, the rear wheel on the same side went out business. There were  
plenty of willing workers and in a very short time we were ready for  
the road again. In the meantime the other two cars had caught up &  
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as they glided past. We were soon within easy distance of the caves  
and as the first mile stone, commenced the five mile descent which



# JENOLAN CAVES



Mystery Cave



Madonna Cave



Stalactites



Esther Cave.



Agas Mc Cave



Marguerite Cave





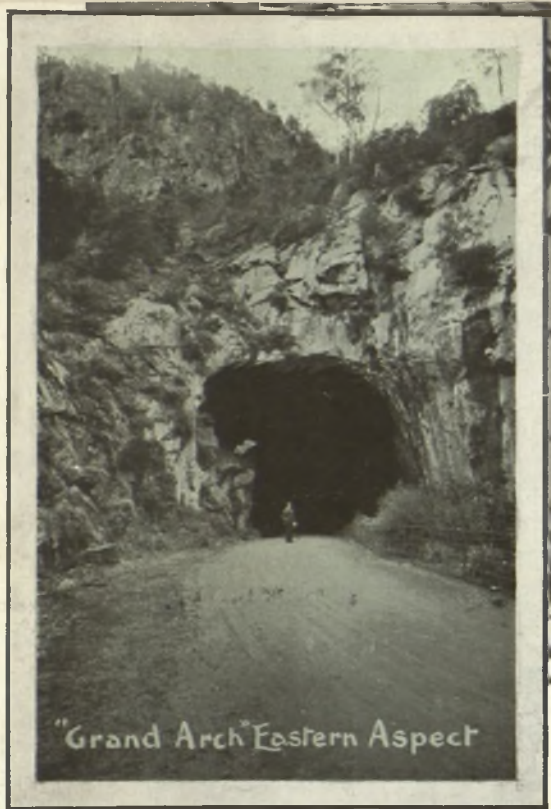
leads direct to the Caves. As the car traversed the numerous bends, the views were enchanting, the drop from the summit to the level of the Cave House being nearly 2000 feet. The journey finished with a dash through the Grand Arch, whose roof towered some 200 feet over our heads, and the next moment the car had come to a halt alongside the Cave House, a beautifully finished, and commodious building of three stories, set in a deep gorge, with towering mountains on every side. Here we found a superbly furnished, and up-to-date hotel, lit with the electric light and containing every luxury that could be found in any similar city institution. Afternoon tea was served in the spacious dining-room, after which a short walk was taken in the immediate vicinity. The surroundings of this beautiful building are enchanting, embowered as it is with many fine specimens of imported, and indigenous trees. Shady walks, and romantic nooks abound everywhere, until the eye is bewildered with the wealth of beauty that is to be seen on every hand.

At 6 p.m. we sat down to a luxurious repast, and an hour and a half later the loud clanging of a bell proclaimed that the time had come for our first Cave inspection. In company with a group of about 20 other visitors, and headed by a guide, we commenced the ascent of a long flight of steps leading out from the Grand Arch, and were soon within the entrance of the Nettle & Arch Cave. Then we descended many feet underground, by a series of flights of steps, the guide pausing every now and then to throw his electric search-light upon some wonderful limestone formation, explaining the curiosity as he proceeded. By this time some hundreds of steps had been traversed,

inside of the cave. As the car reached the number one bench,  
 the cave floor was excavated, the cave from the level of  
 the cave floor being nearly 100 feet. The journey finished with  
 a dash through the wind Arch, whose foot reached about 300 feet over  
 our heads, and the next moment the car had come to a halt. The  
 cave house, a beautiful building, and completely finished at  
 three stories, set in a deep gorge, with towering mountains on every  
 side. Here we found a superbly furnished, and up-to-date hotel, lit  
 with the electric light and containing every luxury that could be  
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 the spacious dining-room, after which a short walk was taken to the  
 immediate vicinity. The surroundings of this beautiful building are  
 enchanting, especially as it is with many fine specimens of limestone  
 and indigenous trees, many water, and fantastic rocks around every-  
 where. Until the eye is bewildered with the wealth of beauty that is  
 to be seen on every hand.

At 6 p.m. we set down to a luxurious supper, and an  
 hour and a half later the lady clanging of a bell proclaimed that  
 the time had come for our first cave inspection. In company with a  
 group of about 10 other visitors, and headed by a guide, we commenced  
 the ascent of a long flight of steps leading out from the wind Arch.  
 and were soon within the entrance of the Hebble & Arch Cave. Then we  
 descended many feet underground, by a series of flights of steps, the  
 guide passing every now and then to throw his electric search-light  
 upon some wonderful limestone formation, explaining the curiosity as  
 he proceeded. By this time some hundreds of steps had been traversed,





and all sense of direction had fled. Sometimes we were hundreds of feet below the spot where we entered the Cave, and later on we had traversed devious passages which led us to almost an equal distance above it. The effect of the electric lights on the curious "shawl formations", with their varied colours was indescribable, and the flash and glitter of the crystals which showed out on every hand made up a Fairyland which delighted the eye and intoxicated the senses.

The inspection came to an end in about an hour and a half, & the party at last emerged into the open air, and made its way back to the Cave House, with appetites made keen by the unusual exertion.

... ..

Thursday, December 1st.

Our objective for the morning was the "Right Imperial Cave", and here more wonders were awaiting our inspection. Some hundreds of steps had to be negotiated, but the coolness of the atmosphere in these great underground chambers helped to mitigate the fatigue that the climbing involved, and frequent rests here and there soon enabled the weakest member of the party to recuperate. From one particular spot we descended about 70 steps, almost perpendicular, and found ourselves on the banks of the mysterious "underground river", which flows silently along through unknown passages and at last reaches the outer air. Again the wonderful beauty of the giant stalagmites arrested the eye, and one enormous specimen, over 30 feet in height, had, we were told, taken over thirteen million years to reach its present stage of perfection.

After the return to the house the remainder of the morning was devoted to walks abroad, the beauty of the foliage in the great natural canyon, with flowers in bloom, and the song of birds on every hand, making up a scene that will never be forgotten.

In the afternoon the "Lucas Cave" was inspected, and here again words are inadequate to describe the beauties that every forward step seemed to produce. The great "Cathedral chamber" with its natural window, cunningly lit up with electricity, and glowing in colour was an entrancing object, and evoked loud manifestations of pleasure and delight from the party. A huge mass of tumbled rocks in one portion of the Cave looked as if it had only come to rest a short time before, but as a matter of fact, thousands of years had elapsed since the great slide had taken place, and no danger was to be appre-







hended that a further fall might take place.



*The Cave House. Jenolan.*

The evening was spent in the large Social Hall of the establishment, when dancing and music made the time pass very pleasantly until it was late enough to think of retiring.

.... .

Friday, December 2nd.

At 10 o'clock a general exodus of visitors took place the party requiring three large motor cars for their transport to Mount Victoria. We had seats in the leading car, and very soon we were breasting the five mile rise leading from the caves. As the car turned the numerous corners entrancing views of the surrounding country were afforded, the deep ravines, backed by range upon range of mountains in all shades of blue and green, making up a picture that will live in the memory for all time.

When some ten or twelve miles had been traversed the rain, which had been threatening to fall for some time, set in at last, and a halt was made whilst the hood was adjusted. This gave the other car immediately behind us a chance to get ahead, so we were now second in the procession. We drew up at Hampton for morning tea, and never did home-made bread and butter, supplemented by delicious jam and honey taste so sweet. The drive had sharpened all appetites, and every one did gull justice to the meal.

On again once more, and soon familiar landmarks began to make themselves apparent. We passed close to Mount Blaxland, that curiously shaped peak, on the banks of the Cox River, where Blaxland and party in the year 1813 stood to view the landscape over after their toilsome and perilous journey from the Nepean. A way had at last been found across the great barrier that for upwards of a quarter of a century had successfully defied all efforts to scale it, and now the secrets of the great Western plains were soon to be discovered.

Hartley, with its ruined buildings, and general air of neglect and decay was soon passed, and ere long the new Victoria Pass was traversed, and the magnificent scenery fully admired. The journey ended at the Hotel Mount Victoria, in good time for lunch, which, by arrangement, we partook of at our former quarters.

The four o'clock train to Sydney took us aboard, and after a quick run the metropolis was reached, and a delightful trip, crowded as it was with memories glad and pleasant, came to its close.

December, 1921.

F. Walker

