

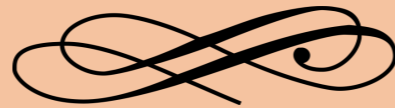
# Dawes Hotel and Accommodation House

(c. 1863 – c. 1869)

Not much is known about the hotel and accommodation house located here, only that around 1862 the site was associated with the name Jessup, and there after it was known as Dawes.

John Pomeroy Dawes, his wife Sarah Stitt and their two infant children moved from South Gippsland to set up a hotel on this site. Much of the details surrounding the family have been lost to time, however, it is clear that Sarah's brother William was especially fond of the family. He even went so far as to place several notices in the Argus newspaper requesting that she write to him as he had not heard from them in some time.

By the time the family's sixth child was born, also named William, her brother had moved into their home and it was he who made the gruelling journey to the Bald Hills Township (now known as Seaton) to register the birth.



With the declining mining activity and subsequent reduction in activity by 1869, the family moved to Walhalla where John Dawes took up mining. He and Sarah had two more children, however, Sarah died after complications from childbirth at the age of 35. Her daughter Sarah was only 12 days old.

John and the family remained in Walhalla. He remarried later and moved to Sydney before spending his final years at Yarrawonga to be with his family and sons until his death in 1903 at the age of 71.

Source: Jeanette & Rudi Paoletti 2013, "McEvoy's Track - Gateway to the Gippsland Goldfields"

"Donnelly's Creek: From rush to ruin of a Gippsland Mountain Goldfield" Luke Steenhuis (re-published by R. Paoletti 2011).

Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints.