

# Crawford's Accommodation House (1864 – c.1867) and Harpers Creek Settlement.

## HARPER'S CREEK.

### Matlock Road.

Cronin, Michael, miner  
Cronin, Timothy, do.  
O'Leary, William, do.  
Cavanagh, John, do.  
Plenis, James, do.  
Young, William, do.  
Spiers, John, do.  
Colters, Daniel, engineer  
Munroe, John, miner  
Telby, John, do.  
Cranie, Samuel, do.  
Melson, John, do.  
Jolly Sailors' Gold-Mining Company; J.  
H. Percy, manager, High street, Matlock  
Bee-Bee Creek Gold-Mining Company  
(Registered), Matlock; manager, Henry  
Kennegiesser  
Hit or Miss Gold-Mining Company's  
Office; John Verling, manager, Matlock  
Comet Gold-Mining Company's Lease,  
Jordan st.; manager, C. Reinhardt,  
Matlock  
Dermott, Dr., public vaccinator, Jordan  
st., Matlock

*Extract taken from Butler's Directory, 1866.*

**An accommodation house was opened by Samuel Crawford at this location sometime around 1864 during the frenzy of gold mining activity that led to the establishment of Matlock as a town.**

In 1867 when a new road was constructed resembling today's main Woods Point Road alignment, the accommodation house was described as being at 'the junction of the Matlock and Woods Point Roads.'

About 1km to the south east, a gold reef named 'Belmont' was opened up on the headwaters of Harpers Creek. A small settlement of some dozen or so miners' huts existed near the reef in 1865. This short-lived community became known as 'Harpers Creek'. A rough bridle track linked Jordan Street, Matlock to Harpers Creek.

Two more accommodation houses (Croy's and Davidson's Halfway House) existed along the old track (now Tinger Spur) between here and Woods Point in 1865 to 1866.

There is some evidence to suggest that this site was still used for residential purposes until the 1890s or even later.

#### Source and Images:

Luke Steenhuis Historian and Author, 'Ghost Towns of the Mountain Goldfields, 1999'

Rudi Paoletti, Historian & Author 'Gold for the Taking, A Pictorial History of the Heyday of the Walhalla-Wood's Point Gold Belt, 2007'

West Gippsland Relic, Mining and Heritage Protection Inc.([www.westgippslandinc.com.au](http://www.westgippslandinc.com.au))

<sup>1</sup> Butler's Directory: A general directory of the Woods Point and Gippsland region, depicting local businesses, professions, settlement site names and local advertising, similar to a current day white/yellow pages directory.

<sup>2</sup> do. means ditto