

Spirits in the house

Maguire's Hotel c.1860's

Situated along the original alignment of McEvoy's Track, this hotel would have provided refreshments for the footsore travellers to the Jordan Goldfields, and miners of the nearby Blackwall mine.



The McGuires kept a bark shanty situated between Mount Useful and the Aberfeldy River on the route to the Jordan goldfields. A pair of weary travellers overtaken by nightfall arrived at the shanty one evening, only to find McGuire tucked in his bed. No argument could induce McGuire to get out of bed, so the door was sent crashing into the room causing a raucous uproar.



The row finally ceased when the traveller introduced the irate shanty keeper to his companion, the Warden, and McGuire swore on his soul that there wasn't any kind of spirits in the house. After using some threats, McGuire produced a half bottle of gin, which apparently a kind hearted packer had given him that evening. Meanwhile Mrs. McGuire, deaf as a beetle, came hobbling out of another room with some glasses and a bottle of brandy.



According to an A.B Ainsworth's Map of the mining district of Woods Point and Black River from 1879; this site was already abandoned by this time.

Source: Jeanette and Rudi Paoletti "McEvoy's Track- The gateway to the Gippsland Goldfields"