

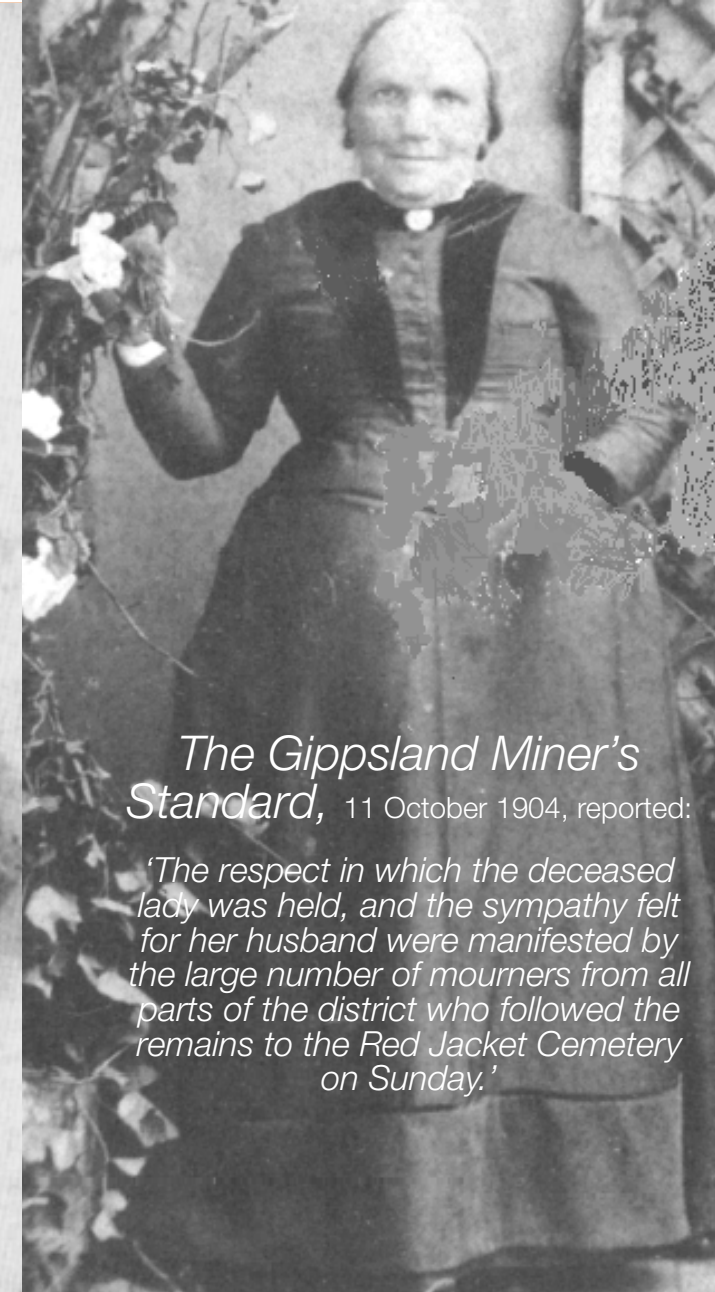
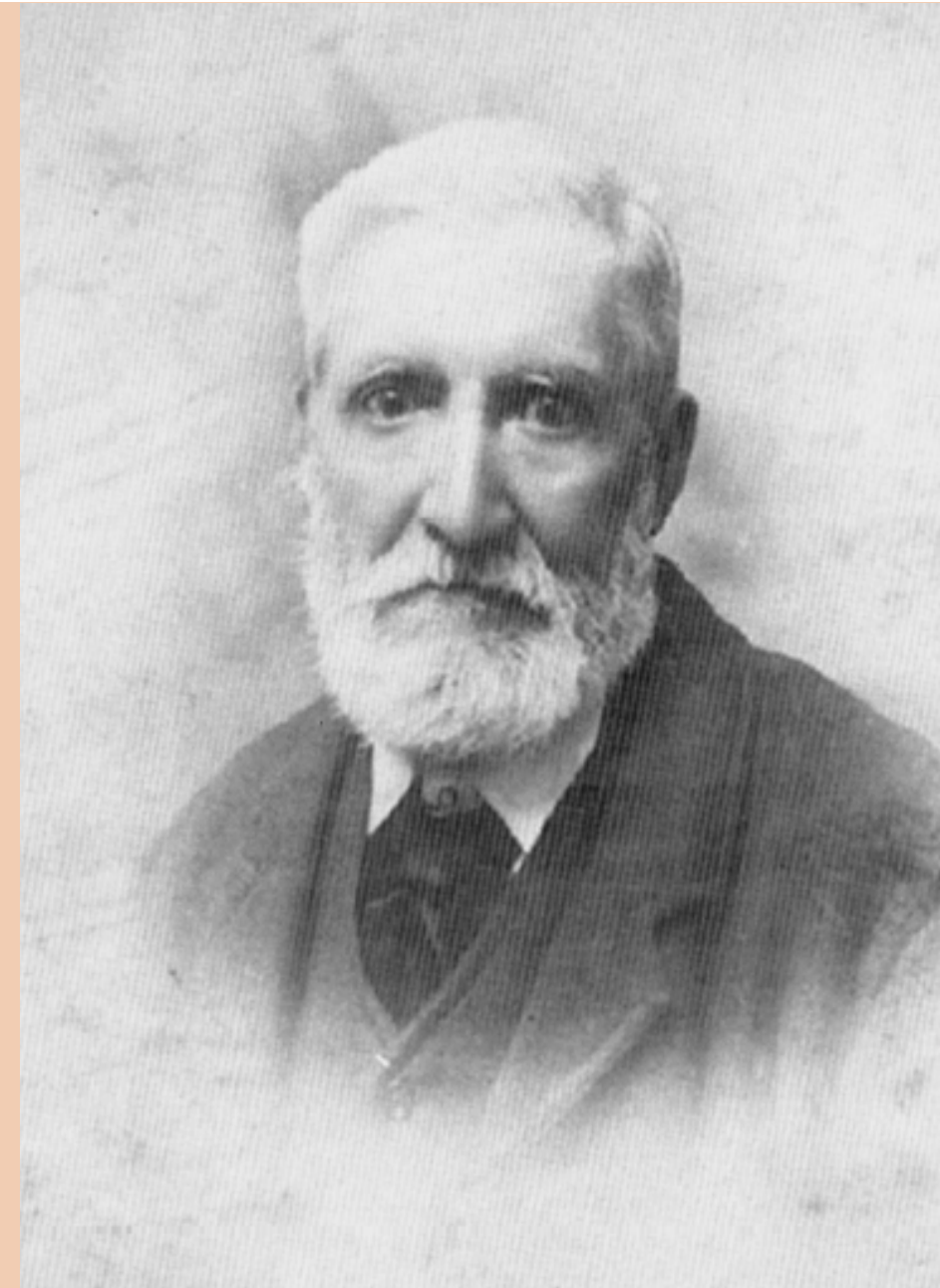
# Imagine a valley of colour and perfume

Violet Town aka. 'Jolly's' c.1862 - 1920's

**'Violet Town', also known as 'Jolly's', is thought to have derived from the many fields of violets planted by Mrs. Jolly in the settlement. The violets filled the entire valley with their distinctive colour and perfume.**

The settlement comprised of a few buildings spread across both banks of the Jordan River. But despite the misleading title, it never became a town. Regardless of this technical note the little kingdom was a landmark in the district for many years.

Although not the only permanent residents of the valley, Violet Town was founded by George and Mary Jolly. The Jolly's leased six acres of land and established a farmlet growing fruit



*The Gippsland Miner's Standard*, 11 October 1904, reported:

*'The respect in which the deceased lady was held, and the sympathy felt for her husband were manifested by the large number of mourners from all parts of the district who followed the remains to the Red Jacket Cemetery on Sunday.'*

In 1910 the Richardson family, who took over the settlement shortly before Mr. Jolly's death, recounted their impressions of Violet Town:

*"It was a nice bright place. Fruits of all kinds, vegetables, our own cows and a Post Office Loose Bag. The miners and fossickers come for their mail and bought fruit and vegetables' was a large house, plenty of room and good furniture. Beautiful rosewood dining suits and gigantic sideboards; the counter and tall stools in the big room that was the shop in former days. At the back of the house was a big stone oven where our mother baked the bread"*

Photos: George and Mary Jolly. From Paoletti, R., 2007, 'Gold for the Taking: A Pictorial History of the Heyday of the Walhalla - Wood's Point gold belt: 1860's-1960's'

trees and vegetables. The settlement had a small store, butchery, bakery, blacksmiths and slaughterhouse which supplied residents with basic essentials.

In 1868 George Jolly was recorded as the publican and by 1871 one of their huts was being used as a temporary school house. Although small in stature and described as "only as big as a tuppence" Mary Jolly assisted her husband by taking on numerous duties. This enabled George to branch out into other occupations such as running butcher shops in Blue Jacket, Red Jacket and Aberfeldy. He was

also mining director for the Gippsland Mining Board. In 1904 Mary suffered a stroke which left her bedridden for eight months before her death. She is buried at the Red Jacket Cemetery marked by a large headstone, one of only a few larger monuments in the cemetery.

After the loss of his wife Mr. Jolly moved to Melbourne with one of their sons. A glass maker, butcher, storekeeper, innkeeper, blacksmith, baker, miner and many other things besides George died aged 84 on March 1st 1913. He was buried at South Yarra many miles from his beloved wife.



Photo: Jolly's Store

Source: Rodgers, J.G., 1998, 'Jericho on the Jordan: a Gippsland Goldfields History'

Take nothing but photographs, leave nothing but footprints

