

## John Grierson 2nd Newspaper Articles

*Many of the reports in the Evelyn Observer were written by an author writing under the pseudonym MERNDA. He clearly was a long established resident of Diamond Valley or the Plenty. In an article about a rail trip to Warrnambool, he mentions that he is a relative of Mrs Mary Thomas of Rosedale (ie, from the Grierson side). We see (analysing a few articles) that he was a pupil at Mernda, lived at Mernda, and had a brother Jack, and his wife came from Rosebrook, near Port Fairy. I think it is elsewhere reported that he was Walter Thomas, son of Janet Grierson. Walter's second wife Jane (or Jean) was the daughter of David Thomas and Mary (Grierson).*

### Evelyn Observer and Bourke East Record, 13 Oct 1905

There died at Preston on Friday, 27th September, **John Grierson**, one of the oldest if not the oldest colonist in Victoria. He arrived here in the year 1839, and resided for many years in the Diamond Creek and Plenty districts. In the early days, in conjunction with his brother-in-law, the late Mr Moses Thomas, of Morang, he held the site on which the township of Diamond Creek stands, and the country up to what is popularly known as the Doctor's Gully (but the proper name of which is Stevenson's Gully), as a cattle station, but the life not suiting Mr Thomas the partnership was dissolved and the station with 200 head of cattle sold for £300. The deceased then tried his hand at farming, and was in charge of the late Mr Flintoff's property at Greensborough for some time, the late Mr Michael McLaughlin being on the farm at the same time. When gold was first discovered Grierson, in company with his former partner and others, made his way to the diggings, some of his mates being names at one time well known in the districts above mentioned, among the lot being the late Thomas Rowe, of Greenvale, James Edgar, of Melbourne, Peter Hunter, of the Plenty, and Richard Lovelock, of Melbourne, all of whom are now dead. In 1851 Grierson came to reside on the Plenty, living there for some 14 years, mostly being in the employ of Mr Moses Thomas. The rush to Woods Point then attracted his attention, and being by nature of a wandering disposition, he found his way to the Point and for over twenty years he passed his life working in the ranges, finally coming to work on a station at Pakenham, where about six years ago he was struck with paralysis and taken to the Melbourne Hospital, from which place he was taken to his son's residence at Preston Reservoir, where he, after being bedridden for nearly 6 years, quietly passed away on the 29th ult. His remains were interred at the Coburg Cemetery on the 1st inst., the Rev. Mr Salloway officiating at the grave. The deceased had had rare opportunities of doing well, but being of a roving nature he failed to take advantage of them. Peace to his remains! Another one of the old sturdy stock that came in the early days to open up our country gone to his rest. Grierson had reached the ripe old age of 86 years, and leaves two sons and two daughters to mourn his death.