

John Grierson (1820-1905) Gen 3

Evelyn Observer and Bourke East Record 9 Jan 1914

MERNDA.

MEMORIES OF STATE SCHOOL 488, MERNDNA.

(By ONE OF THE FIRST SCHOLARS. )

In the latter end of the year 1851, the late Moses Thomas, of Mayfield, who had purchased the farm on the Plenty still occupied by members of his family, having a family of young children growing up and being a man highly educated himself, started an agitation to have a Government school established in what was then known as Morang. In his efforts he was ably assisted by the local residents, among others there being Messrs Peter Hunter, Patrick Nelson (father of the late Ex-Cr Nelson, also of Mr Patrick Nelson, of Doreen), Robert Charles, of Carome, John Grierson, of Yan Yean, Elward Steele, Thomas Rowe, and a number whose names I have forgotten. The result of their efforts were that a temporary school was established in the barn at Carome. Mr Thomas Noble, the first Government teacher, settled in the district early in 1853, and steps were taken to have school erected. This was built on the site of the present school on two acres of land given by Mr Thomas for school purposes. Mr Thomas then headed a list with £25, to which the late John Wilton, J.P., of Wilton Vale, added another £25, and in a short time funds were in hand to build a teacher's residence with school. attached. Prior to this, Mr Kantie, of the Education Department, attended a public meeting convened for the purpose, and the first school board, under the name of the Board of Patrons, was duly elected. Mr Moses Thomas was the first Chairman and Correspondent --a position he held until he died in 1878, a period of 25 years. Messrs J. Wilton, R. Charles, Peter Hunter, John Grierson, P. Nelson, and Thomas Rowe. were the first School Committee.

[much about SS488 follows]