

Site of the Residence and Printing Office of the Jerilderie and Urana Gazette Samuel Gill, Editor and Proprietor

Samuel Gill came from Deniliquin to Jerilderie in 1876 to commence a printing shop. He first commenced printing the newspaper *Jerilderie and Urana Gazette* in September, 1877.

No copies of the *Jerilderie and Urana Gazette* are known to exist, except for an extract retained by the Powell family which recorded the death of Mrs Powell's father, Henry Leek, who died on 21 April, 1880.



Photograph of the buildings in 2007

On Monday, 10 February, 1879 Mr Gill had become aware that something was amiss in the Bank and had taken off for "Carrah Homestead", whereupon a messenger could be sent on to Coree Homestead, and from there on to Deniliquin to inform the police of the happenings in Jerilderie.

Shortly before 2.30pm on that day, and on his way to inspect a racehorse at the Traveller's Rest Hotel stables, Ned Kelly, in company with Trooper Richards and Bank Teller, Mr Edwin Living, knocked on the door of the private residence and printing office of Samuel Gill, which was answered by his wife.

Mrs Gill was aware of the Kelly Gang's presence in Jerilderie, having been warned by Mrs Pride, of the butcher shop behind the residence and facing Powell Street. Samuel Gill, on his way to "Carrah Homestead" had called into Pride's butcher shop and asked Mrs Pride to warn his wife and inform her of his intentions.

When Ned asked for Mr Gill, his wife informed him that he had not returned for his dinner and, knowing who Ned Kelly was, said "I don't know where my husband is; perhaps by this time, he is dead down the creek", to which Ned replied "Look here Mrs Gill, I do not want to injure your husband in any way, I have a statement here which contains a little act of my life, and I want it published by Mr Gill, will you take it?".

Mrs Gill refused to take what has now become famous as the "Jerilderie Letter". Ned appeared somewhat perplexed as to what to do next, until Mr Living offered to take custody of the 58-page manuscript and give it to Mr Gill when he returned, for it to be published.

On handing over the manuscript, Ned said to Mr Living "Mind that you keep your promise and see that they are printed, or you will have to reckon with me next time we meet". Kelly, Richards and Living then walked around to the Traveller's Rest Hotel stables.

However, Mr Living did not give the manuscript to Gill. Rather, he kept it himself, it not re-surfacing until more than 100 years later. A synopsis was printed in the *Argus* on 17 February, 1879, with either the copy made by Mr Hanlon of the Lauriston Hotel, or a further copy made by Mr Living himself, probably being the so-called 'original' that was given into police custody, as demanded.



Photograph of Samuel Skevington, Chemist, 1905 – 1929. The wooden structure in the background was his Chemist shop for several periods during that time.

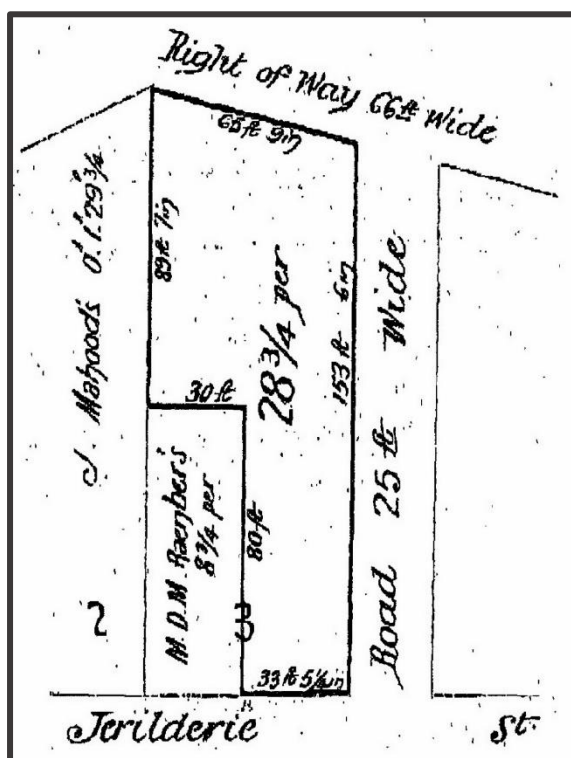
It was also the residence and office of Samuel Gill, editor and proprietor of the Jerilderie and Urana Gazette, where Ned Kelly went to in search of Gill, to find only his wife at home.

History of the Printing Office, 41 Jerilderie Street, Jerilderie

In 1870, the founder of Jerilderie, Mr John Caractacus Powell, lodged plans for the subdivision of his 1864 land grant, creating Lot 3 of Part Portion 4 which, at the time, included the properties 41 and 43 Jerilderie Street, and the adjacent laneway. The subdivision plan of 1870 also showed a building located on the allotment facing Powell Street, which was Pride's butcher shop.

In August 1871, a Swede by the name of Ralph Powell, the agent for Cobb & Co Coach Lines in Jerilderie, and no relation to the founder of the town, purchased the allotment. At some time between acquisition of the allotment in August 1871 and ten years later when he sold the premises, Powell had the wooden dwelling constructed on 41 Jerilderie Street allotment and, in all probability, during 1876 preparatory to Samuel Gill coming to Jerilderie to commence his *Jerilderie and Urana Gazette*.

Mine host of the Turn Back Jimmy Hotel for the past three years, Charles Raeubar, purchased the wooden dwelling in August 1881 and commenced a jewellery business. The sale to Raeubar necessitated the subdivision of the allotment in rather a strange way.



The sale to Raeubar did not include the butcher shop immediately behind, or north, of his wooden dwelling facing Jerilderie Street, and so Powell created an "L" shaped allotment as the diagram shows, and in February 1883 sold that to Lindsay Pride, the butcher. However, prior to that, in September 1881, and in a display of community spirit, Ralph Powell had subdivided a further section of the allotment on the eastern boundary, to create the lane way. The lane was formally dedicated as a public road in September 1886.

Raeubar sold his house and jewellery store to Messrs J & H Harris in July 1884, and he took over the licence of the Traveller's Rest Hotel, and in the process changing its name to the Albion Hotel.

Apart from the period as a jewellery store, the old wooden building that probably began its life as the residence and printing office of Samuel Gill in 1876, has also served as a chemist shop (Merrington 1898-1902) and again for periods during the term of Samuel Skevington, the resident pharmacist in Jerilderie from 1905 to 1929.

From 1938, 41-43 Jerilderie Street became the residence of various bakers of the town, including Hanna up to 1954, Martin to 1963 and Crimmins from 1963.

In the early 2000's Jerilderie Shire Council received a NSW Government Heritage Grant to re-build the Printery, it being officially opened during the Jerilderie Letter Event, 11 February, 2012.

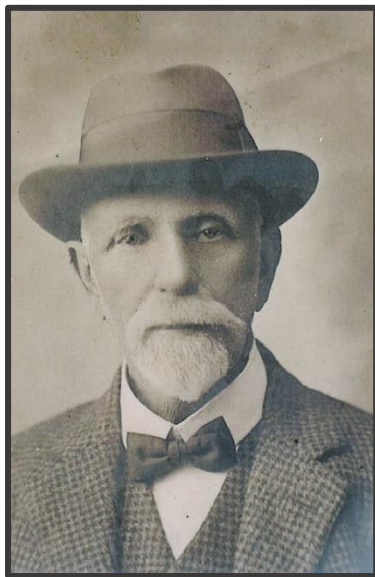


2008 Photograph of the solitary remains of the original Printery





Samuel Gill left Jerilderie for Narrandera in 1880, where he commenced the *Narrandera Argus*, while continuing to produce the *Jerilderie Herald and Urana Gazette*, for a brief period of time.



Samuel Gill
(photo courtesy of Robin Childs)

In 1884, he sold the newspaper, surfacing again in 1893 as publisher of the *Warragul News*. The following year he was listed as publisher of the *Richmond Australian* in Melbourne.

By 1898 Samuel Gill was back in the Gippsland area as publisher of the *Rosedale Courier*, and from there he went into partnership in the *Morwell and Mirboo Gazette*.

In late 1913 Samuel and his son Norman purchased the *Seymour Express*; the father operating the Seymour paper while the son continued with publishing the *Mirboo and Yinnar Gazette*.

In 1917 Norman Gill, became a partner in the *Box Hill Reporter*, which his father edited until his retirement in 1925. Samuel Gill died at Burnley, Victoria on 10 November 1928.

On 17 January 1879, the *Corowa Free Press* reproduced an editorial that had been written by Samuel Gill and published in his *Jerilderie and Urana Gazette* on 11 January 1879.

The following is a copy, in full, of that editorial.

Jerilderie Without Protection

When will the police authorities learn to do justice in Jerilderie? This week the town has been left entirely without protection, - one of the constables being away on duty; the other sent on a wild goose chase after the Kellys, to watch the Murray at Tocumwal, to see that they do not cross the river at that town and enter New South Wales. The usual monthly small debts court takes place on Tuesday next, but as the Acting-clerk of Petty Sessions has been ordered out, there is now no authorised person in Jerilderie to issue summons, and the consequence is that the court will have to be postponed. We have heard that there are several persons waiting to take out summonses, but they cannot do so owing to the absence of Senior-Constable Devine. Mr Superintendent Brown was well aware of this fact, still he allows Devine to proceed to Tocumwal when he is urgently required here. We suppose the convenience of the townspeople never troubles the head of the police force. One would have thought that the town would have been better protected now that there is a dangerous gang of outlaws at large who could, with impunity, visit Jerilderie and carry off every shilling, without being interfered with by the police. In fact, were the bushrangers to visit this part they would be going away from the police. Thanks to the people in and around Jerilderie being a peaceable and law-abiding class we are not afraid of any alarm on that score; but when we see such a large amount of property exposed to the depredations of those who are inclined to be dishonest, and the great inducement which is held out for people to commit crime, we certainly think that an egregious error has been made by those who were instrumental in depriving us of our police protection. We also hear it stated that, notwithstanding all the police stationed at Tocumwal, the Kellys could cross unperceived 200 yards below the township, and thus enter New South Wales under the very nose of the police, and march straight across to the Murrumbidgee without the police knowing that they had crossed the border. Would it not have been more prudent and judicious on the part of the authorities to have concentrated all their forces in the small towns, so as to protect life and property from the four desperadoes who are a terror to Victoria? Had Euroa been better protected the bank robbery might have been averted, and the gang, or at least some of them, captured. If the Kellys got to know, and they appear to be well acquainted with the movements of the police, what is to prevent them paying a visit to all such undefended towns, and stop them carrying off what booty they think proper? Surely it must be madness to afford such facilities, as at present exists here, for the outlaws to see Jerilderie. We heard on reliable authority that four such men answering the description of the Kellys were seen riding in the direction of the Thurrowa Hotel, six weeks ago, but when they got within half a mile of the hotel, seeing a number of horses outside, they changed their course, and galloped off in another direction. It is not twelve months since Hart and Byrne were in Jerilderie, and sold some horses in the town, and one of them was in the bank, where he cashed a bank draft for £20, and the teller by mistake gave him £21, but Hart had not the honesty, on discovering the mistake, to return the pound. When we are acquainted with these facts, it is no wonder we are alarmed when we are deprived of what little protection we had. Should this information come to the ears of Mr Superintendent Brown, it is to be hoped he will rectify the mistake (we call it an error in judgement), and at once see that a sufficient number of constables are stationed in Jerilderie to protect life and property, and thus put an end to the fears which are now entertained should the Kelly gang visit us."