

Redenbach's at Tambo Upper, East Gippsland

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DANIEL REDENBACH

Four brothers came to Australia in 1855 and finally settled in Gippsland.

The brothers, Jacob and Daniel took up land at Tambo Upper.

The four formed the Redenbach Band which played at many public gatherings. Daniel had four sons and four daughters.

Mixed farming was carried out on the property and cheese, home cured bacon and butter were produced and sold locally and at Lakes Entrance.

Much of the country had to be cleared and paddocks fenced and drains dug and kept clean to carry surplus water from the gullies.

The four sons worked on the farm after leaving school.

In later years, Mr Redenbach purchased land from Mr Biggs, which gave him a closer outlet to the road.

Hops were also grown on the farm and on many other properties and hop picking time was looked on as a time of fun. Hop-pickers' dances were held in the hall quite often when the picking was in progress.

Ernest Redenbach was a champion athlete, winning a great number of running events. He also held a record at Stawell for hurdling. This record was said never to be broken as the heights of the hurdles were altered after that year.

Arthur Redenbach was a good horseman and entered many events in jumping at local shows.

Reynold Redenbach kept good ponies and won a number of events in bending races and flag races at local sports meetings. He bought the family property and became a councillor for the Bumberrah riding in the Tambo Shire in 1936 and remained in the council until 1973 when he retired.

In 1973 he was awarded the M.B.E. for service to the community. He sold his property to Mr B. Vardy the same year and retired to live in Bairnsdale. He had the distinction of being only the second councillor in the history of the Tambo Shire to serve two consecutive terms as president in 1958-59 and 1959-60 also in 1943-44. It was mainly through his efforts that a bridge was built at Tambo Upper in 1942 to replace the punt.

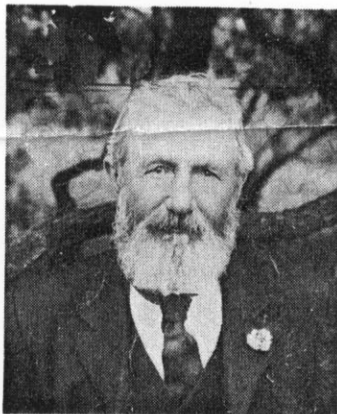
His sisters :— Alexina was sewing mistress at the Tambo Upper school and Annie was sewing mistress at the Swan Reach school.



Daniel



Charlie



Jacob



Phillip

TAMBO UPPER CENTENARY

I have been asked to write a few brief notes on Tambo Upper, and I find it a difficult task, for I was a Bruthen boy.

However, my paternal grandfather worked on the Tambo as early as 1882; my maternal grandfather from before 1870, and we boys rambled its river banks on glorious days of fishing.

I have sometimes thought that Tambo Upper has an ideal situation for a modern city, with an arched bridge joining the east and west divisions, but I am glad it never developed beyond its rural aspect.

Tambo Upper was, because of its farming potential, destined to be an observer. Its east and west eyes observed a whole page of history of the very extensive river navigation comparable to the Swanee River itself. A parade of scows, barges, steamers and paddle-wheelers, with their endless stream of commerce to and from East Gippsland before the advent of good roads and railway. In days when deep water teemed with fish, and old Mr Stirling waited to cross us over on his punt.

I remember him as a dear old character, full of humour and ever ready for a yarn. By way of exchange, he would fill us in with who crossed ahead of us, or what boat had just passed. He ferried thousands across at Tambo Upper, not forgetting the mail coach.

Redenbachs and Galls were old familiars, and incidentally, both of those families provided teachers for our Bruthen school.

Charlie Redenbach and Mary Gall both taught me in my last years there. Old Mr Gall was probably one of the finest teachers ever, and spent most of his teaching life at Tambo Upper. I recall that the old school had a pony

from distant farms.

Wilson homes dominated the height both sides of the river. On the one side dear old couple so familiar as they trod ever so slowly to shop in Bruthen, sitting in their buggy drawn by a heavy old horse.

On the other side, a man of the same name who had been a marine engineer, and built himself a dinky little steam boat named the "Union Jack".

A cousin of mine, the late Mrs Cunningham and her husband 'Frank' kept the Burn Railway Station for many years. She was an aunt to Mrs Albert of Tambo Upper, was her mother who turned the first stone the Bairnsdale-Orbost line.

She was a Mrs Kilmartin, of Mossifac. I sometimes feel that she did a disservice to Tambo Upper, for the coming of the line to mean the end of the river traffic. It meant the cessation of dredging, with consequent silting of the beautiful Tambo Upper could not any longer come down at the Tanjil, Burrabogie and other boats loading and unloading at wharf and Batten's Landing further up could no longer fill my sugar bag with flour from the lovely banks.

I have travelled far since those happy days and line excursions, and I have seen larger rivers, but none to present the wattle and mirrored reaches as seen between Tambo Upper and Swan Reach those days. And what a peaceful picture Tambo Upper still offers where it snugly fits the Tambo Valley.

Space forbids further comment, but I wish success to the celebrations to mark Tambo Upper's centenary, the beginning of which my grandfathers and my father

J.K. Shepherd, R.



"Tanjil" at Tambo Upper Wharf, about 1900.

Four Redenbach brothers arrived in Australia in 1855 from their native land, Germany.

They had heard about our previous gold, and spent about twenty years searching for it from Western Australia to Omeo-Cassilis and southern New South Wales.

In 1875 Jacob and Daniel decided to select land in their own rites, on the Tambo River in Tambo Upper. Jacob, who was naturalised on September 23, 1875, married Alexina Boyd of Broadlands, in 1878 and Daniel later married her sister, Mary. They both reared a family of four boys and four girls.

Jacob named his farm "Rheinhoff". It was heavily timbered country and flats very marshy. As some land was cleared crops of hops and maize were grown, cows were milked by hand and a cheese factory built.

Cheese was sold locally, but quite a lot sold in Melbourne. On November 14, 1902, cheese prices were 8 pence to 8½ pence a pound. It was transported by boat from Redenbach's Landing.

It soon became a mixed farming project. Horses, cattle, and pigs were all bred on the property. The property, after many changes in the 104 years still remains in the Redenbach family.

Jacob Redenbach with other members of the district, worked very hard for the advancement of the community and was secretary of the district committee for some time.

Redenbachs were renowned for their musical talent. They formed the first band in Bairnsdale and in 1876 joined the Bairnsdale municipal band.



The Jacob Redenbach family, of "Rheinhoff", pictured at Tambo Upper — 1905



REYNOLD T. REDENBACH,
Shire President
1943 - 1944
1958 - 1959
1959 - 1960



Mrs A.D. Redenbach (nee Eileen Pendergast) — a fine horsewoman who competed at many shows at Omeo and Bairnsdale. They settled at Tambo Upper.