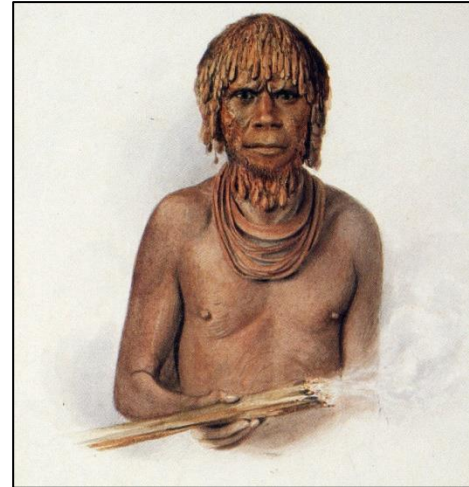


**Private GEORGE (JOP) IRA SELLERS SN 19646 WW1 1914 -1920**



**Mannalargenna** 1770 -1835 (at right)  
Wore-Ter-Moe - Te-Yen-Ner *daughter*  
1797- 1847 - & *George Briggs*  
**Dolly Dalrymple Mountgarrett Briggs**  
1812- 1864 & *Thomas Johnson snr (14 child.*  
Thomas Johnson jnr 1834-1911 ( 4<sup>th</sup> of 14  
Ann Elizabeth (Annie Isabel 6<sup>th</sup> of 8) (nee  
Johnson) married George Thomas Sellers  
George Ira Sellers  
1892 – 1963 (aged 71) 3<sup>rd</sup> of 13  
children.

SELLERS Well-known Scottsdale  
Blacksmith family at 13 Eleanor St.  
Cottage still there.



Dedication for my mother's (Fay Ralph nee Johnstone) maternal Uncle -

I am Barbara Rees from Launceston and after researching my great Uncle, would have loved to have known him—he comes across as being resilient and good with people, a good team member and leader even (a quality of many anzacs).

George (Jop) Ira Sellers (born 6 July 1892 at Sheffield TAS) – Descendant of Mannalargenna--an elder of the Plangermaireener nation in what is now the Ben Lomond area of north-eastern Tasmania.

His mother Annie Elizabeth (Annie Isobel) Johnson is a Granddaughter of Dolly Dalrymple Briggs (1812) well-known Pioneer and Granddaughter of Mannalargenna (above). Dalrymple Mountgarret Briggs - "Dolly Dalrymple", the first living descendant born of aboriginal/white ancestry in Tasmania. Dolly, husband Thomas Johnson and Dolly's mother Woretemoeteyenner and seven children moved to the Mersey region in 1845 and Johnson, pardoned again, took over the tenancy of the Frogmore estate. Prospering in the new district, he purchased 500 acres (202.3 ha) south-west of Frogmore, where he built the family home, **Sherwood Hall**. He became the owner of two hotels (the Native Youth Inn at Sherwood and the Dalrymple Inn at Ballahoo), a coalmine (the Alfred colliery) and a timber exporting business. The family became one of the largest landholders in the district and was well respected. Dalrymple was said to be devoutly religious. She died on 1 December 1864 at Latrobe aged 52, survived by her husband and ten of her fourteen children. In 1865 the widower married a younger woman Marie Emma Bourne. He died on 3 December 1867. **(Sherwood Hall is a Historic Tourist site on Bell's parade, Latrobe and open to the public)**

4<sup>th</sup> Child of 14 of Thomas and Dolly Johnson was also named Thomas Johnson ( who had 8 children).

**Annie Elizabeth Johnson (Annie Isabel ) (Thomas jnr's 6<sup>th</sup> child )-**

(George Sellers jnr's mother married George Thomas Sellers at Sheffield. The Sellers family had come out from Glarrie Horn, Scotland, and settled at Westbury- blacksmith. The family moved to Scottsdale running the Blacksmith business and raised all their children there. (Some descendants spell the name Sellars)



George's father and next of kin, George Thomas Sellers is pictured on the right with some of George's siblings at the Black Smith's Scottsdale.

- 1 Elsie Maud "Dot"
- 2 Vera "Jinny"
- 3 George Ira "Jop" ( 6 July 1892 – 1963 aged 71) no children**
- 4 Sydney Allan "Ginger"
- 5 Vernon Alfred "Bandy"
- 6 Earle Hartuol "Nigger" year of birth 1896
- 7 Harold Thomas "Foley" P10551974 SN 1709 DOB 26 May 1899
- 8 Theodore Quinton "Ike"
- 9 Myrtle Anne "Bid"
- 10 Eric Llewellyn "Jack"
- 11 Keith Donald 19 SEP "Nugget" 1907- d.
- 12 Joan Elizabeth Margaret "Sooky"
- 13 Edna Dulcie "Ginger Meggs" (my maternal grandmother) issue 11 children**

### **Personal Particulars -**

Methodist Blacksmith

Dark complexion; Brown eyes; Brown Hair.

5'9" 11.7 Stone

Private: People: P10536276

Service Number - 19646

Place of Birth - Sheffield TAS

**20<sup>th</sup> February 1917 Place of Enlistment - Scottsdale TAS Age 24 years 7months**

Next of Kin - (Father) SELLERS George Thomas

Conflict - WW1 - 1914 – 1920

1023540 citation - NAA: B2455, SELLERS GEORGE IRA item barcode 8078784

**23<sup>rd</sup> July 1919 Returned on board HT MAIN honourable discharge**



Father George T Sellers at the left, George Sellers behind cart at the Scottsdale home. With Siblings



George Sellers bottom centre along with brothers Foley, Vernon and Earle playing for Scottsdale Football Club

**Private Army Medical Corps (AIF)**  
**AIF WW1**

## World War 1 Service

26 Nov 1917: **Involvement** Private, SN 19646, **Army Medical Corps (AIF)** **Report**

26 Nov 1917: **Embarked** Private, SN 19646, **Army Medical Corps (AIF)**, SS Indarra, Melbourne **Report**

**George Sellers** was sent, on 12<sup>th</sup> November 1917, to **Reinfs A.A.M.C. Claremont Australia Army Military Camp** for training.

AAMCClaremont

When thousands of troops enlisted in the First World War, a camp was immediately established at Brighton in southern Tasmania, but lack of water was a problem. After the first contingent of troops left in October 1914, the main training camp was moved to Triffetts Point, Claremont, on what is now substantially the Cadbury Estate, Cadbury Factory and Claremont Golf Club.



*Men and Horses Windermere Bay Claremont Camp*

26<sup>th</sup> November 1917 Embarked in Melbourne HMA 'Indarra' pay book no 900410

(RMS Indarra, built in 1912 for Australasian United SN Co Ltd. 'the most palatial liner to serve on the Australian coast.' Sold in 1920, she became Pays de Waes until sold again in 1923 to the Japanese and renamed the Horai Maru. She was sunk by aerial attack in the Sunda Straits in 1942 [1624 x 1027].)

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE - NOMINAL ROLL - continued.

Regt. No.	Pay Book No.	Name (in full)	Rank	Age	Trade or Calling	Married or Single	M.R.	Address at Date of Enlistment	Next of Kin and Address	Religion	Date of Joining	A.M.F. Unit serving to at Date of Enlistment	Before Embarkation		Pay			Daily Rate of Pay, 1000 of Service with Expeditionary Force.	Remarks
													Rate per Week	Date to which Paid	Daily Rate, including Detach. Pay.	Allowment in Australia per Week.	Net Rate, including Allowance or Detach. Pay.		
<b>ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, OCTOBER, 1917, REINFORCEMENTS - continued.</b>																			
19623	801736	MAXTON, Eric Archibald Murray	Private	24	Soldier	S.	5th	North Fremantle, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. E. Maxton, care of Mrs. D. Aldin, The Sunnyside, Deebury avenue, Fremont, near Wimbourne, Dorset, England	Pres.	25.10.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19624	801737	MILLS, Frederick Walter	"	22	Bank clerk	S.	5th	Perth, Western Australia	Father, W. Mills, 71 Bromfield-road, Clapham, London, S.W., England	C. of E.	4.9.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19625	801738	O'FARRELL, James Francis	"	28	Railway employe	M.	5th	Perth, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. E. O'Farrell, 325 Murray, Perth, Western Australia	R.C.	16.7.17		5 0		5 0	4 0	1 0	1 0	
19626	801739	POTTER, Elmer Val	"	29	Dentist	S.	5th	North Perth, Western Australia	Father, W. J. Potter, care of S. F. Potter, Bunbury, Western Australia	C. of E.	11.8.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19627	801740	QUIRKE, Joseph	"	27	Soldier	S.	5th	Perth, Western Australia	Mother, Mrs. E. Quirke, 10 Paul's-avenue, Cork, Ireland	R.C.	25.10.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19628	801741	ROBERTSON, Richard	"	25	Banker	M.	5th	West Perth, Western Australia	Wife, Mrs. G. M. Robertson, 116 Chalmers-street, West Perth, Western Australia	C. of E.	1.8.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19629	801742	SHILONY, Jack	"	22	Ward orderly	S.	5th	Subaco, Western Australia	Father, H. L. Shilony, Zircon Jabob, near Oude, Palestine	Jewish	15.8.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19630	801743	WHITELEY, George Berchmans	"	26	Stationmaster	S.	5th	Hine's Hill, Western Australia	Father, P. A. Whiteley, Beverley, Western Australia	R.C.	10.8.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	

EMBARKED AT MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, PER S.S. "INDARRA," 26th NOVEMBER, 1917.

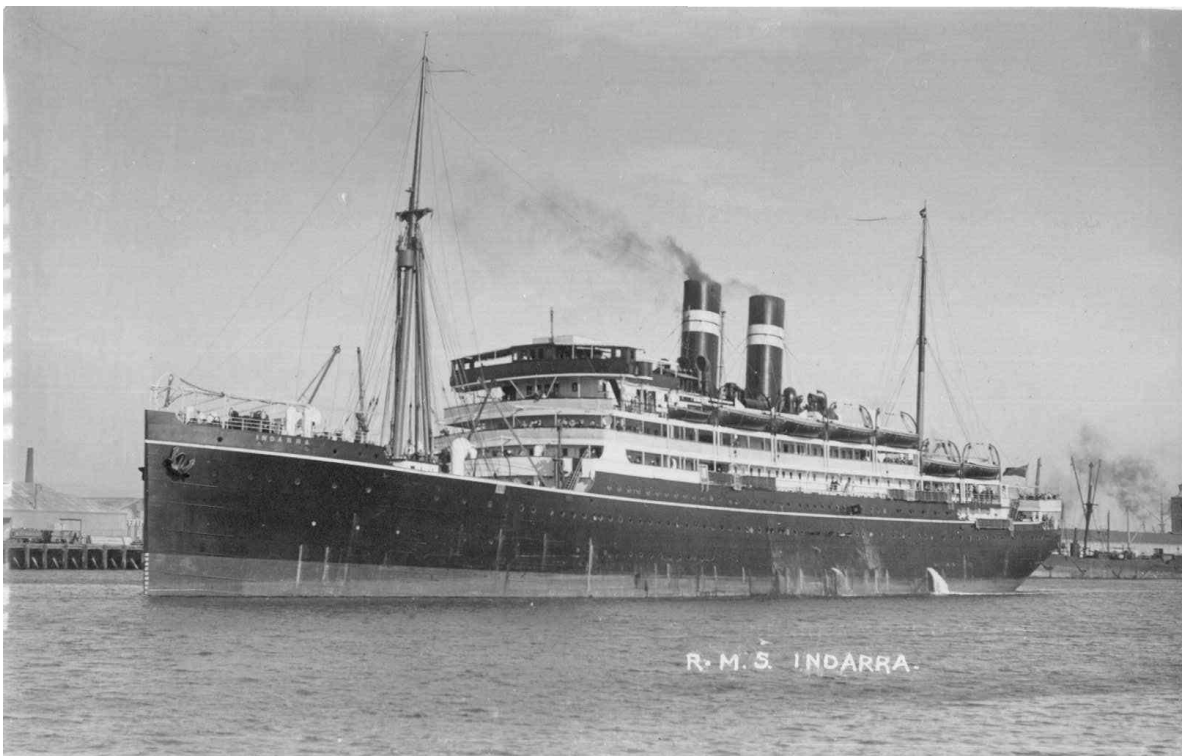
Pay Book commences 26th November, 1917.

19641	900397	FLANAGIN, Andre Lionel	Private	28	Clerk	S.	6th	Hobart, Tasmania	Mother, Mrs. M. Flanagin, The Esplanade, Worthing, Sussex, England	R.C.	1.3.17		5 0	13.11.17	5 0		5 0	1 0	
19642	900406	GARRETT, Bernard	"	19	Medical student	S.	6th	Hobart, Tasmania	Father, A. W. Garrett, 215 Melbourne-street, Hobart, Tasmania	R.C.	2.2.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19643	900407	GUY, William George	"	20	Baker	S.	6th	Scottsdale, Tasmania	Father, W. G. Guy, Scottsdale, Tasmania	C. of E.	26.2.17	2nd Inf.	5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19644	900408	HANNAN, John	"	37	Orchardist	M.	6th	Hoon, Tasmania	Wife, Mrs. F. Hannan, Franklin, Hoon, Tasmania	Wes.	22.2.17		5 0		5 0	4 0	1 0	1 0	
19645	900409	MARVEY, Nathan	"	18	Dairyman	S.	6th	Hobart, Tasmania	Wife, Mrs. F. Marvey, Cook-road, New Town, Hobart, Tasmania	Congr.	19.2.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19646	900410	SELLERS, George Ira	"	24	Blacksmith	S.	6th	Scottsdale, Tasmania	Father, G. T. Sellers, Scottsdale, Tasmania	Meth.	28.2.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19647	900411	SHIMONS, Athol George	"	23	Clerk	S.	6th	New Town, Hobart, Tasmania	Father, W. E. Shimons, 321 Park-street, New Town, Hobart, Tasmania	C. of E.	1.2.17		5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	
19648	900412	STEEL, Stewart John	"	20	Labourer	S.	6th	Goat's Country, Tasmania	Father, F. Steel, Goat's Country, Tasmania	Meth.	1.3.17	2nd Inf.	5 0		5 0	3 0	2 0	1 0	

C.16602 - A.M.C. R-2a

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1067626



15<sup>th</sup> February 1918 Disembarked in Southampton (at sea 2 ½ months)

31<sup>st</sup> October 1918 France **14<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance**



Some of the men from the 14<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance

2AGH Boulogne, France - This was a large tented hospital, and most of the patients were battle casualties. It came to specialise in the treatment of fractures. This hospital experienced many air raids. Towards the end of the war there were outbreaks of influenza. When the armistice was signed, the staff barely found time to celebrate. They were too busy treating the influenza victims who continued to arrive throughout November.

**23<sup>rd</sup> July 1919 Returned on board HT MAIN honourable discharge**

**TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL (DESCENT) SOLDIERS** - a difficult time for many descendants who wanted to enlist. World War I brought the descendants of the first Tasmanians into the Commonwealth record. Definitive enlistment numbers are not known either before or after a relaxation on racial grounds in October 1917 that 'Half-castes may be enlisted ... provided the examining Medical Officers are satisfied that one of the parents is of European origin'. Between 50 and 60 Tasmanian Aboriginal people are known to have enlisted. In terms of volunteers and other sacrifices, on Cape Barren Island at least, they were, as Lyndall Ryan wrote, 'significantly greater than that of the surrounding settlers'.

The historical background against which to best understand the extant Commonwealth record about Tasmanian Aboriginal people is divided by the 1967 referendum. That the documentation is concentrated after that date arises, firstly, from the fact that national responsibility for Aboriginal matters was acquired only from 1967. Secondly, that responsibility was embraced in Canberra only gradually in the final decades of the century. It also reflects an awakening consciousness among the descendants of what has been called the Tasmanian Aboriginal diaspora, the largest group within which began to take shape in the late 1830s on islands near the Aboriginal establishment at Wybalena on Flinders Island and later at Oyster Cove.

Before 1967 The 'founding fathers' defined Indigenous Australians to be not the responsibility of the federal government. There are only two references to Aboriginal people in the body of the Australian Constitution. Parliament was denied power to make laws concerning people of 'the aboriginal race in any State'. Section 51(xxvi) conferred on Parliament the power to make laws with respect to 'the people of any race, other than the aboriginal race in any State, for whom it is deemed necessary to make special laws'. The drafters had in mind making laws relating to groups such as Chinese miners and market gardeners, Japanese pearlers and Pacific Islands labourers. That the new nation might acknowledge that it had an obligation to its original inhabitants was not seriously contemplated. As well, section 127 provided: 'In reckoning the numbers of the people of the Commonwealth, of

State or other part of Commonwealth, Aboriginal natives shall not be counted”.

Commonwealth Government Records about Tasmania

<b>WORLD WAR I PERSONNEL DOSSIERS FOR A SELECTION OF TASMANIAN ABORIGINAL PEOPLE</b>	
<b>National Archives, Canberra</b>	
Brown, Claude Eyre; service number – 6477; place of birth – Cape Barren, Tasmania; place of enlistment – Claremont, Tasmania; next of kin – (sister) Beeton, Olive Mrs, 1914–20	B2455, BROWN C E digitised
Fisher, George Godfrey; service number – 374; place of birth – Launceston, Tasmania; place of enlistment – Claremont, Tasmania; next of kin – (father) Fisher, John, 1914–20	B2455, FISHER G G digitised
Hearps, Charles; service number – 207; place of birth – Devonport, Tasmania; place of enlistment – Claremont, Tasmania; next of kin – (father) Hearps, Charles, 1914–20	B2455, HEARPS C 207 digitised
Kennedy, Gilbert Morgan; service number – 7023; place of birth – Hamilton on Forth, Tasmania; place of enlistment – Claremont, Tasmania; next of kin – (father) Kennedy, William, 1914–20	B2455, KENNEDY GILBERT MORGAN digitised
Mansell, Archie Douglas; service number – 5150; place of birth – Cape Barren, Tasmania; place of enlistment – Claremont, Tasmania; next of kin – (father) Mansell, John, 1914–20	B2455, MANSELL ARCHIE DOUGLAS digitised
Maynard, Edward Lewis; service number – 2294; place of birth – Flinders Island, Tasmania; place of enlistment – Claremont, Tasmania; next of kin – (mother) Maynard, D, 1914–20	B2455, MAYNARD EDWARD LEWIS digitised
Sellers, George Ira; service number – 19646; place of birth – Sheffield, Tasmania; place of enlistment – Scottsdale, Tasmania; next of kin – (father) Sellers, George Thomas, 1914–20	B2455, SELLERS GEORGE IRA digitised

The difficulty for Aboriginals to try and exist, be accepted, be acknowledged and treated fairly was a long time to come even after they had served for the country which was no longer their country.

Tasmanian Aboriginals were treated differently again because there were no longer any full casts. The involvement of Tasmanian part Aboriginal people in war may have been noted in Commonwealth records, but their actual existence went unacknowledged. In the 1920-21 census of Aboriginal people, for example, the 17 September 1920 circular letter from the Commonwealth Statistician to all state explicitly indicated that it applied to 'All States except Tasmania' (NAA:A95990, 49). The view in Tasmania was no different, summed up by the title of Sir William Crowther's 1933 Halford oration, 'The Passing of the Tasmanian Race'.

Some Indigenous Australians who were of lighter skin colour with mixed European parentage enlisted by claiming foreign nationality. It was usually left up to the recruiting officer to decide whether to allow the person to enlist.

By October 1917, when recruits were harder to find and one conscription referendum had already been lost, restrictions were cautiously eased.

**(I believe that my great uncle joined because of the easing of the enlisting restrictions and he looked both part Aboriginal and part European. At the end of the War there was a great demand for medical help for injured and ill soldiers in France and Egypt as well as back in England).**

Aboriginals served under the same conditions of service as other members of the AIF, with many experiencing in the army equal treatment for the first time in their lives. There may have also been the hope that having served would deliver greater equality after the war. In reality, however, upon their return to civilian life they were treated with the same prejudice and discrimination as before.

**Post War Years – Working in Saw Mills in Victoria - Yellands and Fitzpatricks Mills - not married no children recorded 1920 - 1939 (46 years old when Victorian Bushfires) George Sellers was proprietor of a boarding house in the Matlock area.**



Yellands Timber Mill  
 Vict. Well before 1939  
 bushfires George Sellers  
 centre at the back  
 without hat 1920-1925

George Sellers lived outside Melbourne and in the annals of history regarding the Victorian Bushfires 1939 --about the forest areas near Warburton--he is noted in many newspapers at the time courageously surviving the Victorian Bushfires in 1939 when he worked at Fitzpatrick's Timber Mill age 46. **Survivor of Victorian Bushfires 1939.** Here is one recount of the events --

*PAUL COLLINS: That is a real fear, and psychologically people, certainly in 1939, found it very, very difficult to go into the dugouts. But the simple reality is that it saved the lives of many, many people. There are two mills that give you a very good example of this, both, they're across the road from each other up near in the Matlock District, which is kind of east of Warburton.... Fitzpatrick's Mill and Yelland's Mill. Fitzpatrick's Mill had no dugout, 15 men died there, only one man survived. At Yelland's Mill there was a dugout, only one person died there, the cook, and she died because the roof of the house where she was fell in on her. Everyone else at that mill survived.*

*But at nearby Fitzpatrick's mill, another tragedy was unfolding.*

*BASIL BARNARD: Nobody thought the fire would come there. They had no dugout or anything. Another bloke got into the water tank, he was boiled alive.*

*CHRISTOPHER ZINN: 15 men perished at Fitzpatrick's mill and only thanks to some bush wisdom did **George Sellers become the only survivor.***

*CHRISTOPHER ZINN: **And how did George survive?***



**BASIL BARNARD: He had a blanket and he wrapped himself in this blanket, he dipped it in the water barrel and he kept doing that and the fire only lasted about 20 minutes. He shielded himself enough to, you know, to survive. When they got to him, he was pretty far gone, you know. Somebody kicked him and said, "This bastard's dead." He leapt to his feet and frightened the daylights out of them.**

(Victoria's Blackest Tragedy The Worker – Australia's Pioneer Cooperative Labour Journal Brisbane Tues Jan 17

BUSH FIRES DEVASTATE HUGE 1939)

### BUSHWORKERS' HEROISM AND RESOURCEFULNESS amongst Forest Workers' Great Tragedy

The Matlock forest, one of Victoria's finest mountain ash areas, is so indescribably ravaged that in the opinion of authorities regeneration of all but a small portion of the forest is unlikely. In the vast, heavily timbered Rubicon forest there is very little left to burn.

Tragic and Heroic Incidents

Many tragic and heroic incidents are reported.

'A message from Melbourne dated Sunday says that relief parties which struggled through the devastated Matlock Forest over a road covered with thousands of fallen trees found 16 people dead, five mills destroyed, and miles of fine forest country razed. **There was only one survivor at Fitzgerald's mill, where fire swept down from four directions on to 16 men. He was George Sellers, proprietor of the boarding house, who was saved only by his extraordinary presence of mind.** *'When fire reached the mill men sheltered behind the boiler house till the flames drove them back,'* said Sellers. *'Nine of them raced for a sawdust heap. (Continued on Page 12) -Victoria's Blackest Tragedy ?'-y '(Continued from front Page), poor devils! It was the worst ? place they could have gone J\*-. 'I grabbed a blanket from my bunk and wet it in a tub. I Swapped it round myself and stood out in the open. Wally Gladigo, one of the mill men, tried the same stunt, but he became panic stricken as the flames closed in on us, and rushed madly into the middle of the fire. 'I tried to control him and shouted to him to come back, but it was no use. For two and a half hours I stood in an open patch near the blazing mill, with flames licking round me. My blanket caught fire repeatedly, but I managed to beat out the sparks with my hands.' 'Several times I dashed back to the tub through the flames to soak my blanket again. I was afraid to lie down, because I thought that if I did the blanket would catch fire. I was within 10 yards of the men who were burned behind the sawdust heap. 'The only thing that kept me from suffocating was the fact that I used the blanket as a gas mask, and breathed through the edge of it. It's full of spark holes now, but I wouldn't part With it for £1000.' ' Sellers was found late on Friday night after the fire had passed, lying exhausted on the ground'.*

## At James Michael Fitzpatrick's Mill at St Claire, near Matlock

Saturday Morning a solitary figure emerged from the melted remnants of a sawmill in the Matlock forest. Silent among the forest of Cenotaphs, George Sellers, ashen faced and clutching his blanket, no dugouts or fire protection facilities-- the forest was not considered high risk. No one thought it would burn with such ferocity, Twenty-seven people, including five women and three children, dashed to a brick house at Yelland's mill nearby when the fires surged down on them.

### **The Advertiser Adelaide**

Sixteen persons at sawmills in the Matlock forest area were incinerated by fires which swept through the ranges and devastated everything in their path. Courage, resource, and good fortune combined to save the lives of scores of others.

The fires razed every sawmill from Warburton to Wood's Point, leaving the forest a blackened waste, and nothing but twisted metal and scorched bricks, to mark where the mills had stood.

The worst disaster was at Fitzpatrick's mill, where the charred bodies of 15 men were found by members of a search party from an adjoining mill known as Henderson's, and sometimes as Yelland's. At this mill 23 persons, including three children under three years of age, escaped the flames with the loss of only one life.

**The searchers were amazed to find George Sellars, of Fitzpatrick's mill, alive, but only semi-conscious, in the fire-blackened area. Sellars revived with water, and seemed, after a rest to have suffered very little physically from his terrible ordeal!**

*"When the fire swept down on us we had absolutely no chance." Sellars said. "We had no dug-out in which to take refuge, and we got behind the mill and engine-house to obtain some protection from the flames. When the mill caught alight the heat became unbearable, and most of the others rushed behind the sawdust heaps further back. I had a drum of water in which some blankets were soaking, and I wrapped these around myself. It became too hot to remain near the mill so I grabbed fresh wet blankets, wrapped them around myself, and ran into a burnt out clearing."*

**Searchers found ten bodies behind the sawdust heaps. Another body of a man was found in a 12-foot water tank, into which he had apparently climbed in a vain attempt to find safety.**

## SOLE SURVIVOR



Mr. G. Sellers, the sole survivor of sixteen men who were at James Fitzpatrick's mill in the Matlock Forest.

Age Melbourne, Vic 1854 -  
1954 TROVE Monday 16  
January 1939 page 14  
George Sellers  
SOLE SURVIVOR

Yellands Timber Mill Vict  
George Sellers Victorian  
Bushfires (Survived )1930s  
(2) below



**Believed to have been in a relationship at some stage.  
Died Intestate 4 1 1963 Fairfield Victoria aged 71**

**Dedication by Barbara Rees (Great Niece)**