

JAMES WATKINS

- 1821 James Watkins was born circa 1821 at Carmarthen Town, Carmarthenshire, Wales to Thomas Watkins (a blacksmith) and Rachel nee Jones.
- 06/08/1846 James Watkins married Anne Thomas the daughter of Richard Thomas, a 'Collier' in the Registry Office in the district of Merthry Tydfil, Glamorganshire, Wales. At time of marriage James was residing at Tirfounder, Aberdare, occupation - Collier. Ann was residing at Mill Street, Aberdare, occupation - Mantua Maker.
- 29/01/1848 James and Anne Watkins welcomed the birth of their first child a son, William Watkins who was born at the family home in Cae Melyn, Aberdare, Glamorgan, Wales. The birth certificate records James' occupation as 'Collier'.
- 02/09/1850 James and Anne Watkins welcomed the birth of their second child a daughter, Mary Watkins who was born at the family home on Cardiff Road, Aberdare, Glamorgan, Wales. The birth certificate records James' occupation as 'Miner'.
- 1851 From the Welsh Census: James Watkins, aged 30 was recorded living at Aberaman Road, Walwen with his wife Anne and their two children William and Mary.
- 1855 About 1855, notations made on the death certificates of James and Anne show that a third child was born whom they named Elizabeth. It is not known what happened to baby Elizabeth but it appears she died the same year or could have been a still born baby.
- 05/09/1855 James Watkins sailed out of Liverpool, Lancashire, England with his wife Anne and their two children William and Mary on board the sailing ship, 'Lightning', bound for Australia.
- 25/11/1855 James Watkins, his wife and their two children William and Mary sailed into Hobson's Bay, Melbourne on board the sailing ship, 'Lightning'.
- 20/09/1856 James and Anne Watkins welcomed the birth of their fourth child a daughter, whom they again named Elizabeth Watkins. Elizabeth was born at the family home at Jones' Creek, Dunolly, Victoria, Australia. The birth certificate records James' occupation as 'Digger'.
- 25/02/1858 James and Anne Watkins bereaved the death of their 16 month old daughter, Elizabeth. Elizabeth accidentally drowned in a water hole at Sandy Creek, Victoria, Australia. The death certificate records James' occupation as 'Digger'.
- 28/09/1860 James and Anne Watkins welcomed the birth of their fifth child a son, Richard Watkins who was born at the family home at Sandy Creek, Victoria, Australia. The birth certificate records James' occupation as 'Miner'.
- 08/09/1864 James and Anne Watkins welcomed the birth of their sixth child a daughter, Anne Watkins who was born at Tarnagulla, Victoria, Australia. The birth certificate records James' occupation as 'Miner' and their residence at the time of the birth was recorded as New Chum Reef.

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The following abbreviations are used within these documents;

TC - Tarnagulla Courier

IA - Inglewood Advertiser

MDA - Maryborough and Dunolly Advertiser

DBCE - Dunolly and Burnt Creek Express

DTSE - Dunolly, Tarnagulla and St Arnaud Express

25/07/1863 Prospector of Sandstone Reef. (IA)

22/09/1864 (DTSE)

01/06/1867 Calls for tenders to erect 5 room brick house. (TC)

22/08/1868 James Watkins bereaved over the death of his wife Anne in a tragic accident. Anne Watkins died from a broken neck after being thrown from a buggy at Tarnagulla, Victoria, Australia.

25/08/1868 Anne Watkins, wife of James Watkins, was buried in the Tarnagulla Cemetery with their infant daughter Elizabeth.

27/08/1868 From The Argus newspaper, Melbourne, VIC. Thursday 27th August 1868 – page 5:
“A fatal accident occurred on Saturday evening, in the neighbourhood of Tarnagulla, when a Mrs. Watkins was thrown out of a buggy, the horse in which had bolted. She sustained in her fall dislocation of the neck, causing immediate death. Her husband and son were also thrown out, but were not seriously injured.”

29/08/1868 Wife (Ann) killed in vehicle bolt down Commercial Road.
48 years old, 4 children, 500 mourners. Native of Wales. (TC)

06/11/1871 James’ son, William Watkins marries Harriet Evans the daughter of John & Ann (*nee John*) Evans of Dunolly, at William’s residence in Llanelly by the rites of the Independent Church. William’s occupation was recorded as Engineer.

21/10/1871 Lease application North Extended Corfu QMCo, German Reef. (TC)

01/02/1873 Agrees to extend Golden Hope Tribute for a further 3 years. (TC)

11/02/1873 James’ daughter, Mary Watkins marries John Long the son of Timothy Long a ‘Miller’ & Emma (*nee Lea*) at the family home in Llanelly by the rites of the Presbyterian Church. John was recorded as being born in Leeds, Yorkshire, England, occupation as ‘Draper’. At the time of their marriage, both parties were recorded as living at Llanelly. James occupation recorded as ‘Gentleman.’

15/02/1873 Daughter Mary marries John Long. (TC)

16/08/1873 Buying shares in Golden Hope Tribute Co as a result of gold strike at 540'. (TC)

14/11/1874 Badly hurt in buggy accident. (TC)

16/10/1875 Lease Application Possum QMCo, north of Sandstone Reef. (TC)

20/11/1875 On Fete Committee. (TC)

11/03/1876 Watkins' Hotel. (TC)

17/06/1876 Lease Application The Star Reef Co., 6 acres. (TC)

26/08/1876 Asks Council to reduce rates on his mill at Star Reef. (TC)

- 26/09/1876 James Watkins marries Margaret Yale Hamlin the daughter of Joseph a 'Gentleman' and Cynthia Hamlin at Maiden Town, in the district of Tarnagulla, Victoria, Australia. At time of marriage James was residing in Maiden Town. He was recorded as a widower with occupation - Collier. Margaret was also residing at Maiden Town as a divorcee, having divorced her husband in 1873. Her occupation was recorded as Inn Keeper at Maiden Town. She was born in Wallingford, Connecticut, USA. She had five children from her previous marriage with only one child being recorded as surviving when she married James.
- 30/09/1876 Marries Margaret Hamin, Llanelly, late of Conneticut, USA. (TC)
- 02/12/1876 Applies for a Publican's License for a house situated at Llanelly. (TC)
- 20/12/1876 Extract from the Publication of Special Licensing District Boundaries, Proclaimed 16th February, 1853: page 240 Government Gazette.
Boundaries of the Special Licensing District of the Northern CIRCUIT. The GREAT DIVIDING RANGE being the Southern Boundary of the County of Talbot, commencing at the River AVOCA, thence along the DIVIDING Range aforesaid, the Source of the River COLIBAN, thence by the Rivers CAMPASPE and the MURRAY, to a point north of the NORTH-WESTERN BOUNDARY of the TOWNSHIPS of CASTLE-DONNINGTON, thence by a line Southward to Lake BAEL BAEL, and thence by the River AVOCA to its Source in the DIVIDING RANGE aforesaid.
REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
Nature of License: Publican's
Date: 20/12/1876
Applicant: James Watkins
Situation of House: Maidentown Arms Hotel, Llanelly.
- 26/08/1878 From the Bendigo Advertiser newspaper, VIC. Monday 26th August 1878 – page 4:
"TENDERS. - TENDERS are invited for the Yorkshire Gold Mining Company (Limited), Tarnagulla, for Taking Down the Pumping and Winding Plant, now situated on the lease of Mr. J. Watkins, at Llanelly, and Removing and Re-erecting the same on this company's mine, at Watt's Reef, about two miles distant. Specifications at the Golden Age Hotel, Tarnagulla; and at the company's office, Dunolly, where tenders must be lodged by six o'clock p.m. at latest, on Tuesday, 3rd September, 1878. J. H. YATES, Manger. Broadway, Dunolly, 24th August, 1878...1957."
- 07/09/1878 Allows his leases on Sandstone Reef and Star Reef to run out. Also sells winding gear on Golden Hope Claim to Yorkshire Co. (TC)
- 11/12/1878 REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
Nature of License: Publican's
Date: 11/12/1878
Applicant: James Watkins
Situation of House: Maidentown Arms Hotel, Llanelly.
- 30/04/1879 James Watkins died at Llanelly, Victoria, Australia. His death certificate records he died from Delirium tremors. His occupation was recorded as Miner when he died.
- 02/05/1879 James Watkins was buried in the Tarnagulla Cemetery with his first wife Anne and their baby daughter, Elizabeth. William Watkins, James' son was noted as the informant on James' death certificate who gave the personal particulars of James. William did not note that James had re-married for a second time after the death of his first wife.
- 03/05/1879 Dies. A large funeral. (TC)

- 03/05/1879 From The Argus newspaper, Melbourne, VIC. Saturday 3rd May 1879 – page 8:
“Mr. Watkins, who was the holder of a large interest in the Yorkshire and other companies, was buried to-day. There was a large attendance at the funeral.”
- 12/07/1879 Probate applied for. (TC)
- 20/11/1879 REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
Nature of License: Transfer of License
Date: 20/11/1879
Applicant: James Watkins (dec) to Margaret Watkins of Maidentown.
- 29/11/1879 Margaret Yale Watkins, Maidentown Hotel. (TC)
- 30/10/1881 REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
Nature of License: Publican’s Annual Renewal
Date: 30/10/1881
Applicant: Margaret Watkins
Situation of House: Maidentown Arms Hotel, Llanelly.
- 10/02/1883 Watkins Hotel. (TC)
- 19/09/1885 Sale of his properties, an excellent resume of his holdings etc, at Llanelly and district. He was a very wealthy man. (TC)
- 07/08/1886 Maidentown Hotel to Let, been going for 22 years. (TC)
- 21/07/1886 Mrs Watkins transfers license to W A McGregor. (TC)
- 18/06/1887 Mrs M Y Watkins sells cattle, buggy, etc at McGregor's Maidentown Hotel. (TC)
- 28/07/1888 Mrs Watkins selling up, handsome weatherboard cottage Lot 2, Section 19, Tarnagulla. (TC)
- 23/09/1901 Four roomed brick dwelling at Llanelly to be sold. (TC)

WILLIAM WATKINS

- 29/01/1848 William Watkins born at the family home in Cae Melyn, Aberdare, Glamorgan, Wales. The birth certificate records William's fathers, James' occupation as, 'Collier'.
- 1851 From the Welsh Census: William Watkins, aged 3 recorded living at Aberaman Road, Walwen with his parents, James and Anne Watkins and his sister Mary.
- 05/09/1855 William aged 7, sailed out of Liverpool, Lancashire, England with his parents, James & Anne Watkins along with sister Mary on board the sailing ship, 'Lightning', bound for Australia.
- 25/11/1855 William aged 7, sailed into Hobson's Bay, Melbourne with his parents, James & Anne Watkins along with sister Mary on board the sailing ship, 'Lightning'.
- 1856 From the 1856 Loddon Electoral Roll in the Division of Maldon. William recorded living at Growlers Gully, his occupation recorded as 'Miners Right'.
- 06/11/1871 William Watkins married Harriet Evans the daughter of John & Ann (*nee John*) Evans of Dunolly, at William's residence in Llanelly by the rites of the Independent Church. William's occupation was recorded as Engineer.

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- 11/05/1872 Shareholder Golden Hope Tribute Co., Sandstone Reef. (TC)
- 16/09/1874 REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
Nature of License: Publican's
Date: 16/09/1874
Applicant: William Watkins
Situation of House: Royal Hotel, Newbridge
- 21/10/1876 On Tarnagulla Fete Committee. (TC)
- 11/12/1878 REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
Nature of License: Publican's
Date: 11/12/1878
Applicant: William Watkins
Situation of House: Royal Hotel, Newbridge
- 13/12/1879 Publican's License. (TC)
- 00/00/1800 REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
Nature of License: Transfer License
Date: 1800
Applicant: William Watkins
Situation of House: Farmers Arms Hotel, Llanelly
- 15/03/1880 From The Argus newspaper, Melbourne, VIC. Monday 15th March 1880 – page 5:
"NEW INSOLVEMENT - William Watkins, of Newbridge, licensed victualler. Causes of insolvency— Falling off in business as a publican, losses occasioned by a flood in March, 1878, sickness and death in family, bad debts, and pressure by a creditor. Liabilities £194 6s. 7d; assets, £300; surplus, £105 13s. 5d. Mr. Peter Virtue, jun, assignee."

- 20/03/1880 Insolvent, licensed victualler, Newbridge. (TC)
- 11/12/1880 Applies to remove Farmers Arms Hotel from Newbridge top Llanelly. (TC)
- 30/10/1881 REGISTER of Applications for LICENSES heard and determined by JUSTICES in PETTY SESSION at TARNAGULLA in the COLONY of VICTORIA.
 Nature of License: Publican's
 Date: 30/10/1881
 Applicant: William Watkins
 Situation of House: Royal Hotel, Newbridge
- 26/08/1884 Tenders to sell Watkins' Royal Hotel Newbridge. (TC)
- 16/04/1887 Truant Case. (TC)
- 13/09/1896 William Watkins died at Wedderburn, Victoria, Australia. His death certificate records he died about the 13th September 1896 from accidently drowning by falling down a shaft off Godfrey Street, Wedderburn. His occupation was recorded as Engine Driver when he died.
- 17/09/1896 From the Bendigo Advertiser newspaper, VIC. Thursday 17th September 1896 – page 4:
“A GRUESOME DISCOVERY. WEDDERBURN, Tuesday - A shocking discovery was made by two diggers working in the main flat within 200 yards of the Shire Hall to-day. They had been absent from work since Saturday afternoon, leaving their shaft, about 15 feet deep, covered with bushes, and when they commenced baling the water from it to-day were horrified to find the body of a man at the bottom. The police were communicated with, and the corpse raised to the surface, when it was identified as that of a man named William Watkins, about 50 years of age, an enginedriver in the employ of the Ophir Company. The deceased had been off work for some days, pending some changes being made in the pumping plant of the company, and being a comparative stranger little notice was taken by his fellow-workmen of his whereabouts, though it is generally reported that he had been drinking heavily. How he got into the shaft without disturbing the bushes is not clear, unless he first fell into an adjacent hole attached by a drive and was drawn through by the action of baling.”
- 18/09/1896 William Watkins was buried in the Melbourne General Cemetery, Calrton, Victoria, Australia. Inscription on grave headstone reads:
“Ann EVANS beloved mother of John H. EVANS died 9 Oct 1897, age 73 years also of William WATKINS beloved husband of Harriett WATKINS died 15 Sep 1896, age 46 years also Isabel H. WATKINS died 6 Aug 1890, age 17 years.”