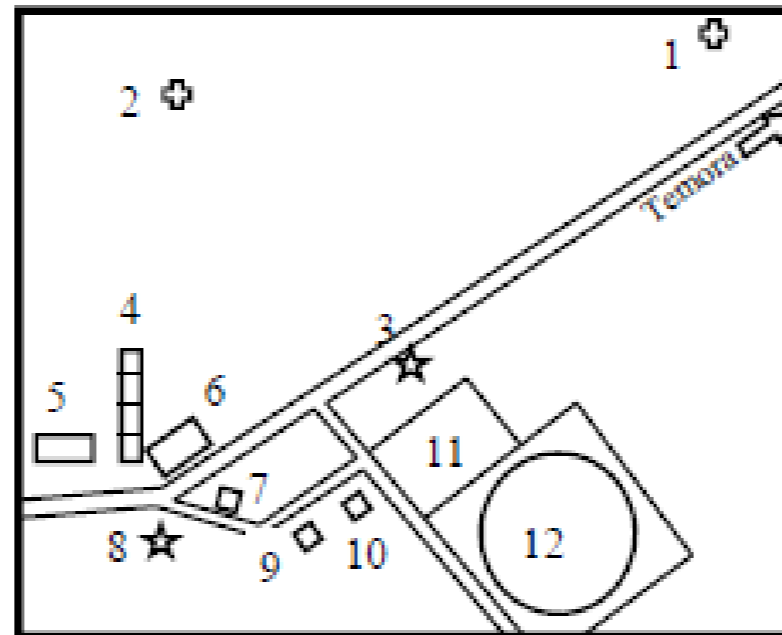


SEBASTOPOL TOWNSHIP.

SEBASTOPOL.

This is the central site of the village of Sebastopol which developed following the discovery of gold by John Evans in 1869. Patrick Heffernan and J.J. Ryan started the 'Morning Star' mine and the subsequent gold rush lead to the development of the small township of Sebastopol. Mr. H. Kavanagh reported the township had three hotels, two butchers, a baker's shop, three stores, two bootmakers and a blacksmith. He said that over 400 adults and 100 children lived here in the early 1870's., with a small group of aboriginals living on the outskirts.

The discovery of gold at Temora, proving much larger than here, caused the population to dwindle. However, the mine, the store, the hotel, post office and school continued to operate well into the 1900's.



THE MORNING STAR MINE.

Started by Patrick Heffernan and J.J. Ryan, this mine proved to be a big money spinner for the developers, earning them a small fortune for the times. They sold their claim to Nichols and Rich Brothers who continued to work it, at which time it had reached a depth of 200 ft. The mine was operated spasmodically by various owners until the late 1930's. At this time the mine was some 300 ft. deep.

The mine was last operated by the Temora Gold Mines N.L., who mechanised the operation with the building of a poppet head and a crushing plant. The shaft was filled in by the Department of Mines for safety reasons.



THE EXCHANGE

HOTEL.

This hotel was built by Patrick Heffernan in 1870, obviously from his profits from "The Morning Star" mine. He sold the hotel to Denis Kavanagh in 1873.

In 1881 the hotel licence went to Richard Curry.

In 1883 it went to Richard Lawler.

In 1907 it went to Francis Hallahan.

In 1908 it went to J.S. Miller.

In 1910 it went to J. W. Winter.

In 1914 it went to Earnest A. Hickey.

In 1921 it went to Percy Prior.

In 1922 it went to Alexander Rice.

In 1924 it went to Paddy Dwyer.

SEBASTOPOL MAP.

1. Sebastopol cemetery site.
2. Kavanagh childrens graves.
3. The Evening Star Mine.
4. Line of shops.
5. Mrs Lees' house.
6. The Exchange Hotel.
7. Post Office.
8. The Morning Star Mine.
9. Sebastopol Public School.
10. Post Office.
11. Recreation Ground - tennis courts & cricket field.
12. Race Track for the Sebastopol Cup.

SEBASTOPOL PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The first school was opened in 1871 with Mr. William Osborne as teacher. However, with the fall in population the school closed at the end of 1873. It is not known where classes were held but in 1883, when the school reopened with Bessie Wallace as teacher. She taught in a new building erected by Frederick Prior. Another building was erected in 1891, and with a verandah added in 1907, it was to stand until 1943 when it was demolished. Another building, which was used until the school closed in 1949, was transported to the site. In 1950 the school operated as a subsidised school with Marlene Bannon as teacher.

The school building was finally removed by the Department of Education in 1957.



THE SEBASTOPOL POST OFFICE.

On 7th March 1870 the Post Office opened for business in the home of George Nicholas. John Hansen, a publican, was the next to run it, followed by Charles Calthrop, a storekeeper. Mrs Kyle became the postmistress in 1872. Denis Kavanagh, publican, was the next to have the business which is believed to have occupied a front room of his Exchange Hotel.

The office closed for a short period in 1877, but reopened in 1878, Denis Kavanagh continuing to run it. The hotel owners operated it over the years until it was moved into the home of Viv Linnegar, opposite the hotel, where his wife Moya became the postmistress. Its final home was that owned by J.W. Winter, where the postmistress was his wife Ethel Winter.

Several people took on the postal duties until Brian and Kath Pellow became the last ones to maintain this important service.