

## **Rawson Township History**

"Recent excavations at Mountain Rivers Tourist Park at Rawson have unearthed fragments of old pottery and other household items including an iron for use with a wood stove. Could this be Violet Rawson's iron?"

According to land title information, the original owners of the land in 1915 were Charles and Violet Rawson. Charles was the tenth of eleven children in the family of George and Mary Rawson, who emigrated from Yorkshire, England to Walhalla, Victoria in 1862. Apparently George farmed land in the vicinity of Parkers Corner in the 1870s, and built a cattleman's hut on the Baw Baw plateau.

Charles was born in Walhalla in 1876, married Violet Horrocks in 1902, and died in Warragul in 1942. The property was passed on to Clarence Hercliff Rawson in 1950, on Violet's death, and then his widow Edna May Rawson in 1969, before acquisition by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works in 1971 for the Thomson Dam Project.

Other evidence of the Rawson family's occupation of the property include an abandoned orchard of gnarled old apple trees, fed by perennial spring waters from a hillside dotted with interesting old rock walls.

The construction town for the Thomson Dam project was initially named Robertson after the MMBW Chief Engineer, but locals insisted the town should be called Rawson after the original landowners, and eventually the locals prevailed!"

**Ron Camier, August 2013**

<http://www.mountainrivers.com.au/chalets/page4.html>