

Albury Female Publicans, 1855-75

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Albury's first female publican is believed to have been Flora McEachern. A native of Scotland, 44 year-old Flora took over the license of the *Gold Diggers' Hotel* at 441 Townsend Street in 1855, previously run by her husband John, who died in May of that year.



Flora and John McEachern of the
Gold Diggers' Hotel.
(AlburyCity Collection)

Flora held the license until 1858 when she briefly ran the *Squatters' Hotel* on the corner of Townsend and Smollett Streets. Then in mid-1858 she opened premises on the south-east corner of Townsend and Hume Street, also naming this hotel the *Gold Diggers'* and ran it until mid-1859.

To the north of Townsend Street, John Kilfoil of the *Imperial Hotel* married 23 year-old widow, Eliza Parker (née O'Mealy) in 1865. After John passed away in 1867, Eliza took over the license of the hotel that had originally opened in 1857. She ran it successfully for twelve years before transferring the license to Michael T Kelly. On Eliza's death in mid-1905, newspapers described her as a "kind-hearted, generous and charitable person."

In July 1869 Susan Crisp (née Meehan), the widow of Edward Crisp who in 1861 had built the *Farmers' Home Hotel* at Thurgoona, became its licensee. Her time as licensee, however, was short.

After residing some six years at the *Empire Hotel* in Townsend Street with children and husband Clem Negro, who had reopened the hotel in 1862, Eliza (née Barton) took over its running for nearly six years until May 1874. She was succeeded by Mary Ann Mackay who renamed it the *Carriers Arms*. It was the hotel's fifth name change. Mary held the license until 1876.

Following the death of John Green in 1872, the license of the *Travellers' Rest Hotel* in South Albury was transferred to his widow, Irish born Anne (née Flavin). She held the license for nearly two years and died two months after relinquishing it.

With the death of Thomas King in June 1874, his widow Caroline, who arrived in Australia around 1840, took over the running of the 22 year-old, *Rose Inn*, Kiewa Street. Two years later

in June 1876 Caroline also passed away. Newspapers referred to her as an “old and respected resident, of upright conduct and possessor of many sterling qualities.”

Also because of the death of a husband in early 1875, Elizabeth Jones (née Bell) took over the license of the *Salutation Inn*, Dean Street. Her term was short, the license passing to L H Fitzgerald in October 1875.