

From: **The Courier, (Brisbane, Queensland) Thursday 28 August 1862, Page 2.**

<http://newspapers.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/4607652>

The Warren Farm Well

A DEEP WELL.- The Brighton Herald of March 22, contains exulting information as to the long-delayed success of the attempt to find water in "the Warren Farm well." The locale of the well is on the summit of the South Downs, 400 feet above the level of the sea. The Guardians of the Brighton Workhouse had there erected industrial schools for 250 youthful inmates of that establishment, and in addition to the requirements of the schools, they bound themselves to supply the neighbouring farmers with an adequate quantity of water. Instead of contracting with the Brighton Water Company, the Board determined to sink a well, and they commenced the work about four years ago. Appearances were long doubtful, some scientific authorities maintaining that water could not be found there at any attainable depth, and others contending that it would certainly be found if the work was persisted in with spirit. This state of things led to great diversities of opinion among common people, and the wits of the great watering place declared it a dry subject, while others, upon economical grounds, advised the Guardians to abandon the undertaking and let well alone. This advice the Guardians, on the same ground, rejected, and the work proceeded. It was at first hoped that water would be found at the sea level, and a shaft was sunk six feet in diameter to a depth of 438 feet. There was a chamber driven a little above that level for a distance of 422 feet, and another lateral chamber a little higher up was driven in an opposite direction 418 feet. It was then determined to leave the bottom of the old shaft as a reservoir for any water that might collect, and sinking was recommenced in the long chamber, the new shaft being only four feet in diameter. This caused a considerable addition to the difficulty of disposing of the chalk excavated, and it soon became necessary to supply air to the workmen engaged in their stifling occupation. Ultimately it was found necessary to employ a steam-engine to send down pure air and expel bad air from the bottom of the shaft. At a depth of 1228 feet the workmen came upon a brown stratum, with a greenish tinge, which eventually resolved itself into the veritable water bearing green sand. Soon after, one of the men on coming to the surface, declared that although he had sent up as many bucketful of earth as usual, he had not been able to put in the usual round of steening - in other words, that digging the well had ceased to make it deeper. This was laughed at, but it was nevertheless quite true. The workmen had carried the excavation to within a short distance of a large body of water, and the green sand was upheaved by it. When the next relay - for the work proceeded day and night - went down they heard a rushing sound, which convinced them that the water was rising, and in a very short time there was a depth of 400 feet of the pure element in the well, and during the next day it attained nearly 900 feet. The work had been carried on at a weekly outlay of £100, and its cost altogether is stated to be £6500. The water was pronounced to be of the best possible quality, and the success of the undertaking caused quite a sensation in Brighton, the Board of Guardians held a special meeting, and took credit for their perseverance, the workmen were entertained at a grand dinner, and medals were distributed commemorative of the occasion. One medal was of gold, and the others of silver. They were the work of Mr. Norris, of Brighton, and were inscribed on the obverse, "Warren Farm Well, Brighton. Water found March 6, 1862 at a depth of 1285 feet." On the reverse, "By the blessing of God on hard work, patience, and perseverance."