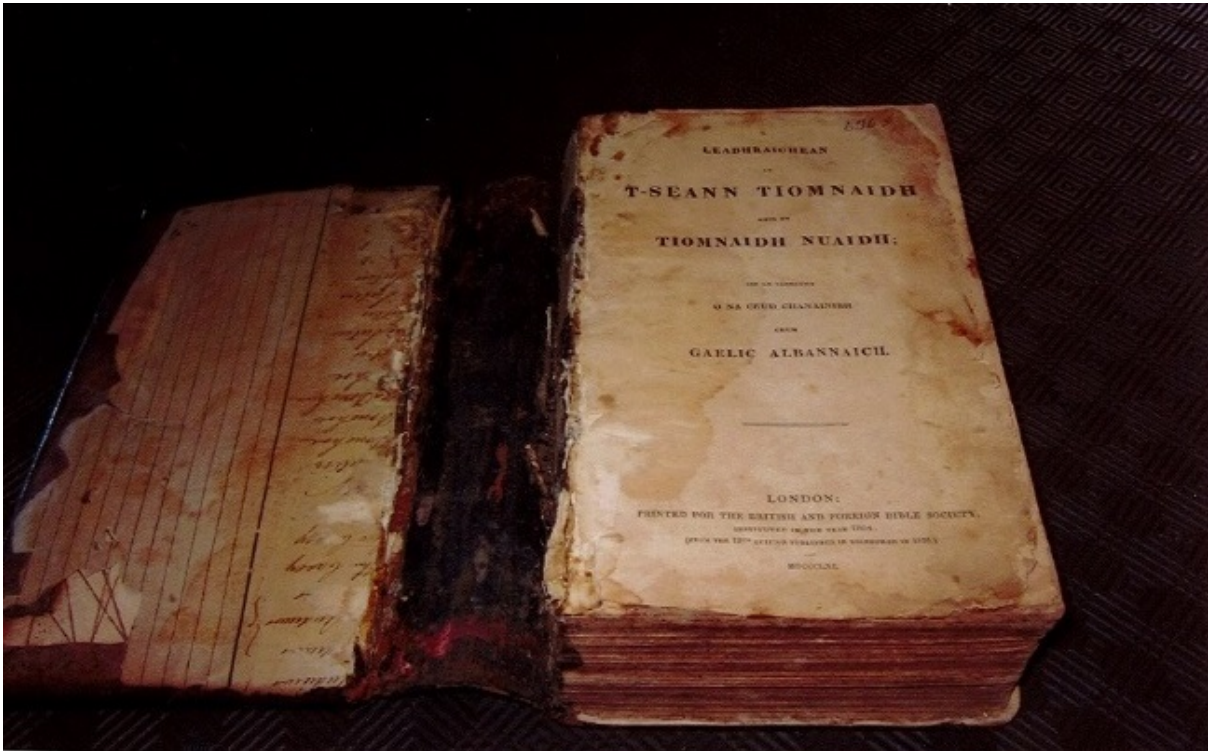


Community Organizations, Church and Civic History

Religious affiliations and churches were an important part of community, spiritual and cultural life in the Manning Valley, connecting communities and maintaining beliefs and culture. An interesting group of family bibles and prayer books demonstrate the importance of religion in migration history, conveying beliefs, religious traditions and family history. Perhaps the most significant is the Gaelic Bible owned by Donald McLeod, and carried to Australia in 1837 on the immigrant ship the Midlothian.



Other items of note include Father Foley's 'sick box', or portable Eucharist box for administering to sick and dying parishioners. Father Foley ministered to his parishioners in the Manning Valley from 1855-1913.

The collection also holds material relating to many community organizations including Girl Guides, Apex, CWA records, and Masonic material from Lodge Cowper. Civic and council material includes the original mechanism of the clock from the Wingham War Memorial Town Hall and bell dedicated in 1925, various framed photographs of councillors from the Wingham Municipal Council and other council records.

The importance of rural fire services is reflected in the collection with items ranging from historic insurance plates, an alarm bell and early extinguishers, to more contemporary equipment and protective gear.

