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PIONEER
STATION OWNERS
OF THE
WIMMERA



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PIONEER STATION OWNERS OF THE WIMMERA

THE object of this booklet is to furnish as much information as possible about the settlement by the early pioneers of the Wimmera Wheat Belt—the finest wheat-growing country in Australia—and the changes in ownership which have taken place to date.

Very few of the earliest pioneers are living now. It was in the 'forties—before the discovery of gold in Australia—that these men came over the sea, 16,000 miles, to Australia, and made their way into the interior, to settle on country inhabited by the aborigines, who were somewhat hostile to the newcomers. With none of the advantages of to-day—railways, telegraphic, telephonic, and postal services, wireless, markets, etc., and in spite of all dangers and disadvantages—these brave men, with the true British spirit, made good, and paved the way for the great development that has taken place. Viewed in the light of present-day advantages, it is indeed difficult to realise the tremendous sacrifices made by the early pioneers in the development of the country.

Few people at present seem to know much, if anything, of the men who first came to the Wimmera. It seems to me that it is our duty to have an up-to-date record of the names of these men, the stations on which they settled, and something of their life's work. I am indebted to Mr. A. S. Kenyon, of the State Rivers Department (author of "The Story of the Mallee"), who has furnished me with much authentic information of the early settlers and the stations taken up by them when they were Crown lands (dating from about 1843), and the changes in ownership until the lands were taken up as selections under the Land Acts 1869 and 1878. Selecting seems to have started early in the 'seventies and finished early in the 'eighties, exhausting the available Crown lands stations.

I am also indebted to Mr. Thomas Francis Bride, LL.D., Librarian of the Public Library of Victoria, and editor of the work entitled "Letters from Victorian Pioneers," being a series of papers on the early occupation of the Colony by the aborigines, etc., addressed by Victorian pioneers to His Excellency Charles Joseph La Trobe, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Victoria. This is a book I can recommend to all interested in the development of the country. I intend to quote paragraphs from some of these letters, referring to the stations mentioned.

I have taken the areas of most of the properties from a copy of the supplement to the *Observer*, published in Melbourne on Saturday, 5th August, 1848. This paper delineates the boundaries of each run.

The pioneers held their large Crown land runs under an Order in Council (1847) at a nominal rental from year to year. The selectors took up the land at 20/- per acre, paying 2/- per acre per annum, the rent going as purchase money. For the first three years the land was held under licence, then a lease was issued for seven years, provided the required improvements had been effected by the holders.

The lease was a negotiable security, on which money could be borrowed, or the land sold and transferred. The result was that sales took place, and the general holding, instead of being 320 acres, was very soon 640, 960, 1,280, and over.

Looking over the names of the pioneers and their successors, we recognise them as a splendid type of men—courageous and enterprising, taking up large areas, mostly 100,000 acres and more, unimproved, with no markets, railways, etc., and the nearest neighbours miles away. At first there were no fences, the boundaries of the runs often being merely plough furrows; the sheep had to be shepherded and folded at night; dingoes were troublesome, and the blacks often stole sheep from the folds at night, necessitating sometimes two sets of shepherds for day and night work. As time went on the owners fenced in their runs, and provided water by excavating large dams, which had to be filled from surface drainage.

I propose now to deal with the several stations under review, as nearly as possible in the order they were taken up, giving the area of each pastoral lease and names of the holders, showing the changes in ownership up to the year 1880, when the bulk of the land contained in the pastoral leases was selected.

(FROM MR. KENYON'S LIST.)

Ledcourt was the first station taken up in the Wimmera, in

1842—Benjamin Boyd. Area 200,000 acres.

1848—William Sprott Boyd.

1849—Thomas Young and John Carfrae the Younger.

1850—Subdivided into "Ledcourt," "Newington," and "Swinton."

Ledcourt.

1850—Thomas Young and John Carfrae the Younger.

1857—John Carfrae.

1858—Henry De Little, Alfred Douglas, and Joseph De Little.

1865—Robert William Butt and Stephen Vine Buckland.

1868—John Holt.

1877—Robert Nicol Bell.

1883—Anne Anthony and Thomas Thomas.

1883—Alexander Wilson and James Williamson.

Newington.

1850—Thomas Young and John Carfrae the Younger.

1857—Thomas Young.

1865—Trustees and Agency Company.

1869—Thomas Tillett.

1876—Charles Croaker and Henry Scott.

1876—Henry Miller.

Swinton.

1850—Thomas Young and John Carfrae the Younger.

1852—Henry Pinson.

1852—Divided into Upper and Lower.

Swinton Upper and Lower.

- 1858—George Webster and James Alexander Douglas.
1862—J. C. Telford.
1865—Thomas Hamlet Taylor and William Nutt.
1869—John Holt.
1875—Albert Austin and William Hose Bullivant.
1884—Forfeited.

H. Norman Simson ("Letters from Victorian Pioneers") writes: "In 1842 'Ledcourt' was owned by Mr. Benjamin Boyd, and now (1853) it is owned by Mr. Carfrae."

Philip D. Rose (Letter No. 26) writes: "John Carfrae, 'Ledcourt,' Wimmera, in 1848, bought 21,000 sheep at 7/- per head clear."

William Taylor (Letter No. 33) writes: "About February, 1844, Mr. Hamilton, manager for B. Boyd, Esq., 'Ledcourt,' occupied the eastern branch of the Wimmera for 10 miles above and below where the township of Glenorchy is now."

Cooper brothers, of Stawell, are now in occupation of the original homestead with about 1,500 acres.

It will be noticed that "Ledcourt" was subdivided into "Ledcourt," "Newington," and "Swinton." These three pastoral leases each changed ownership until the leases were exhausted by selection about 1880. In 1881 Mr. Alex. Gray, of Geelong, purchased the "Swinton" freehold of about 20,000 acres from Messrs. Austin and Bullivant, through the agency of Dennys, Lascelles, Austin and Co., Geelong. Mr. Gray, like many of the early pioneers, was a young, enterprising business man. He was born in Newton Stewart, Scotland, arrived in Victoria from Liverpool in 1852, and went to Geelong. He never went to the gold fields, but got a position as accountant with a firm of merchants, Timms, Wilson and Co. After a few years he, with a practical flour miller, R. Robinson, purchased the Shannon Flour Mill on the Barwon River, and worked same for a number of years. In 1863 he became acquainted with James Miller, a brother Scot, from Wick, who was a practical ropemaker, and they founded the business of James Miller and Co., rope and twine manufacturers, Melbourne. In 1869 he, with his partner in the flour mill, started the Albion Woollen Mills, Geelong, buying from England all the machinery required, and importing expert foremen from Scotland to work the mill. In 1881 he, with his then partner (William Thackrah) purchased "Swinton" Station, on the Wimmera, from Austin and Bullivant. This partnership also owned the Australian Tannery, Geelong. A few years before "Swinton" was bought he purchased "Mollee" Station, Narrabri, New South Wales, giving an interest in same to his nephew, Thomas A. McGill. About ten years later he purchased "Banyenong" Station, Donald, giving his son, G. A. Gray, and nephew, William Sproat, an interest. He was also interested in properties in Queensland, and other enterprises until his death in 1913, at the age of 87.

It is interesting to note that Marcus Clarke (author of "For the Term of his Natural Life") was on "Swinton" for colonial experience when John Holt was the owner.

In 1909 a partial subdivisional sale of "Swinton" took place, when about 10,000 acres of the freehold was sold through the agency of Young Bros. to several farmers and graziers. Again, in 1919, a further 6,000 acres was sold to the Closer Settlement Board through the agency of Young Bros. From all accounts the soldier settlers are doing well.

The balance—about 3,000 acres—is still held by Mr. G. A. Gray; it is a splendidly improved property, practically a stud sheep station, the stock being recognised as very high-class, principally of Boonoke blood.

"Swinton" has been held by the Messrs. Gray for forty-five years.

Rosebrook.—64,000 acres.

- 1843—Philip D. Rose, occupier.
1853—John Carfrae and John Chester Jervis.
1857—John Chester Jervis.
1858—Carter and Sons.
1874—Samuel Carter, William James Carter, and John Charles Carter.
1884—John Charles Carter.

Extract from Philip D. Rose's Letter ("Letters from Victorian Pioneers," page 150): "Rosebrook taken up in March, 1843, as 'Huber' Station; expended £3,000 in purchasing stock for it. Had a few losses by blacks, and was obliged to have two hut keepers together. Sold in 1853, 10,000 sheep, 300 cattle, and all other items of station given in, for £12,000, £9,000 of which was to hang over for five years at 6 per cent. I have foolishly transferred my licence, which would have been one of the best securities. I have known as many as 400 blacks assembled—different tribes—on this and neighbouring stations at one time; few are remaining, about thirty only of one tribe. In 1843 I think there were over 100."

Extract from C. B. Hall's Letter, page 214: "It was not till 1843 that Mr. Rose took up a run on the head waters of the Norton (or McKenzie), which I had explored much earlier, for a heifer station, reaching it through a wild and beautiful pass, now called 'Rose's Gap,' but which I did not then think worth occupying."

Mr. Jervis sold to Carter and Sons in June, 1858, and they have held it ever since. In his "Reminiscences of Early Days in the Wimmera" the late Mr. Samuel Carter writes: "I bought 'Rosebrook' from Mr. Jervis, later we bought 'Glenisla' (then 'North Brighton'), and years later we bought 'Walmer.'"

Mr. George Carter (son of the late J. C. Carter) and his sons now reside on 'Rosebrook,' holding 6,000 to 7,000 acres of freehold land, together with other country.

Glenisla.—30,000 acres (including North and South).

- 1843—Hector Norman Simson, occupier.
1847—Donald Campbell Simson, trustee for Jane Charlotte Simson and John Coghill Simson.
1847—Subdivided into North and South.

Glenisla, North and South.

- 1847—Donald Campbell Simson, occupier.
1874—Samuel Carter, William James Carter, and John Charles Carter (Carter and Sons).
1884—Samuel Carter.

Extract from H. N. Simson's Letter, page 9: "In April, 1843, I started with some stock from a station on the Loddon with the intention of taking up some new country either on the Avoca or Wimmera. I passed the north end of the Pyrenees, crossing the Avoca, Avon, and Richardson, all of which were completely dry for from 15 to 20 miles to the north of my course; so much so that only for a timely shower I would have had to return. I made the Wimmera abreast of Mt. Zero (the north point of the Grampians), and not liking the then

parched and dusty Wimmera Plains, I crossed over to the head of the Glenelg, and in June took up the station now known as 'Glenisla.' "

Mr. Simson held the pastoral lease until 1860, when he sold to Mr. C. Carter and his sons, Samuel, William, and John.

In 1884 Samuel Carter became the owner of the "Glenisla" freehold, about 5,000 acres. On his death his executors (William, Alexander, and Miss Carter) carried on until they sold in 1922 to G. W. H. Butler, who in turn sold to Butler Bros., of McKenzie Creek, who are now in possession.

THE CARTER FAMILY.

The Carter family has played an important part in the development of the Wimmera.

Charles Carter and Mrs. Carter, with their three sons and three daughters, came to "North Brighton" in 1842. The names of the sons were Samuel, William John, and John Charles. The daughters became Mrs. Robertson, of Skene, Hamilton, and Mrs. Elliot, of Brimsprings. Sarah Carter, the youngest child, 1 year 11 months, was drowned in the Wimmera on the 12th November, 1843, and buried in a small graveyard at "North Brighton."

Charles Carter came to "North Brighton" with Mr. Darlot, when he took up "Brighton" in 1842. A few years after they removed to Brimsprings, where he took up a station, establishing his homestead about 8 miles from the present Brimsprings, near the mountains on the Glenisla Road. He was there in 1851. The stones of the old chimney and a patch of scented geranium are still there to mark where the house stood; it is always called the old Home Station. Later a house was built, where the "Brimsprings" pre-emptive was taken up. Mr. Charles Carter did not intend to settle there, and started to go to Port Fairy, but one of the bullock drays collapsed, and Mr. Rose, of "Rosebrook," persuaded him to settle in the district.

June, 1858. On this date C. Carter and Sons purchased "Rosebrook" and "Wartook" Stations from John Chester Jervis. In 1860 C. Carter and Sons became the owners of "Glenisla." In 1872 C. Carter and Sons purchased "North Brighton." In 1876 Carter Bros. (Samuel, William John, and John Charles) bought "Walmer."

Charles Carter died at "Rosebrook" in 1875, aged 75 years. Mrs. Charles Carter died in November, 1889, aged 90 years. The sons died: Samuel, at "Glenisla," on 12th April, 1910, aged 75 years. William John, at "Tarrington," on 19th March, 1904, aged 68 years; and John Charles, in Melbourne, in February, 1889, aged 50 years.

Samuel Carter left three sons and three daughters

John Charles Carter had two sons, S. C. Carter and George J. Carter.

Mr. S. C. Carter died; his widow has now the old "Rosebrook" homestead, and his sons are on the land.

Mr. George Carter and his sons have the north part of the pre-emptive, with between 6,000 and 7,000 acres of freehold, also some forest country.

In 1884 the Carter Bros. (Samuel, W. J., and J. C.) dissolved partnership, Samuel taking "Glenisla," J. C. taking "Rosebrook," and W. J. going to "Tarrington."

"North Brighton" having been sold, Samuel Carter, in addition to "Glenisla," bought "Pine Plains" from Miller Bros. in 1887.

After Samuel Carter's death, "Glenisla" was carried on by his two sons, William and Alex., until 1922, when they sold to Geoffrey Butler, who, in turn, sold to Butler Bros., of McKenzie Creek, who are now in possession.

W. and A. Carter have now a nice property on "Longerenong," where Alex. lives, William living at "Marnoo."

Wonwondah (including North and South), 124,000 acres.

1844—George Sinclair Brodie and Andrew Rose Cruikshank.

1845—William Francis Splatt and Charles Pitt Pynsent.

1854—John Quartermann.

1856—John Quartermann and John Rutherford.

1865—Subdivided into North and South.

Wonwondah North.

1865—John Quartermann.

1870—John Matheson for Bank of Victoria.

1873—John Quartermann, Andrew Bridges White, and James White.

1876—Andrew Bridges White and James White.

1878—Henry Miller.

1882—Forfeited.

Wonwondah South.

1865—John Rutherford.

1866—Sir James Frederick Palmer and Sir Francis Murphy.

1869—John Rutherford.

1869—Edwin Brett and John Russell Ross.

1873—James MacBain and Robert Nicoll Bell.

1873—Robert Nicoll Bell and Patrick Reid Bell.

1881—Forfeited.

Extract from Edward Bell's Letter (page 179): "Messrs. Brodie and Cruikshank, about 1844, took up the 'Wonwondah' Station, now (1853) Splatt and Pynsent's."

Extract from Philip D. Rose's Letter (page 146): "'Wonwondah,' River Wimmera, taken up in February, 1844, by Brodie and Cruikshank, with 3,300 sheep. Lost by the blacks, during the first year, 1,800 sheep. The extra expenses while forming the station, guns, extra labour, etc., two shepherds to each flock, and additional hut keepers, £1,000. Added 18,000 sheep during the year. The blacks were exceedingly numerous and troublesome, Mt. Arapiles being their headquarters when with stolen stock; their numbers are now greatly diminished."

Extract from William F. Splatt's Letter (page 157): "It was in August, 1845, that I purchased Messrs. Brodie and Cruikshank's stock, with the right to their station, 'Wonwondah,' and in connection with my partner (C. P. Pynsent) I still retain that establishment (August, 1853)."

Quartermann and Splatt bought out Pynsent in 1853.

John Rutherford bought from Splatt in 1855.

Robert Nicoll Bell and Patrick Reid Bell bought from Rutherford about 1875.

Thomas Laidlaw bought from Bell Bros. in 1882. Mr. Thomas Laidlaw died, and his executors subdivided and sold the estate by tender in 1925, through the agency of Young Bros. and T. H. Laidlaw & Co., to neighbouring graziers, in areas from 1,000 to 5,000 acres.

"North Wonwondah" is now held by Mr. E. T. W. Guest, and "South Wonwondah" by Messrs. Heard Bros.

Brighton (including North and South), 102,400 acres pastoral leases.

1843—James Monckton Darlot and Archibald McLachlan (generally known as Darlot and Co.)

1849—Subdivided into North and South.

North Brighton and South Brighton.

1849—Darlot and Co.

1862—James Monckton Darlot and Henry King Hawke Darlot.

North Brighton.

1865—John Carfrae, John Chester Jervis, and Robert William Nutt.

1866—John Chester Jervis and Robert William Nutt.

1871—Robert William Nutt.

1872—Carter and Sons (Charles, Samuel, William J., and John Charles).

1873—Forfeited.

South Brighton.

1863—Monckton Synnott.

1867—Andrew Bridges White, James White, and John Quartermann.

1876—Andrew Bridges White and James White.

1878—Henry Miller.

1882—Forfeited.

Mr. Darlot and Mr. Archibald McLachlan took up "Brighton" in 1843, and named it after the famous English watering place.

Extract from Letter from Mrs. M. Quartermann to Thomas Young—dated 16th April, 1926: "Brighton" Station, Horsham, was owned by Mr. H. Darlot. After some years it was divided North and South; the latter was bought by Mr. Monckton Synnott, and some time in the 'sixties sold to Mr. Quartermann and Holmes, White and Co. Mr. Kimberley (father of John Kimberley, of Horsham) was then manager. Later it passed into the hands of the Bank of Victoria, who sold to Miller Bros."

Extract from Edward Bell's Letter (page 179): "Briggs (from whom Briggs' Bluff at the Grampians derives its name) came next on the river, having outstations near where the Four Posts Inn or Glenorchy now is. The lower part of the river was next taken up by Darlot in 1843 ('North Brighton'), and after him what he had passed through as valueless was occupied by Messrs. Taylor and McPherson ('Longerenong')."

Extract from "Reminiscences of the Early Days of the Wimmera," by Samuel Carter: "My father, Charles Carter, made arrangements with Mr. Darlot to come up country and take up a station for him, the date being May, 1842. We shifted the cattle and rest of our belongings from 'Longerenong' to 'North Brighton' on 10th August, 1842."

It is interesting to note that the following Horsham streets perpetuate the memory of some of the earliest pioneers who took up stations in the district:—

Baillie and Hamilton	..	Polkemmet Station
McLachlan and Darlot	..	Brighton Station
Wilson	..	Walmer, Vectis, Kewell
Pynsent and Splatt	..	Wonwondah
McPherson	..	Longerenong
Urquhart	..	Station at Mt. Arapiles

Freeholds.—Many of the large Crown lands station owners did not secure any large areas of freeholds, confining this in some cases to 640 acres pre-emptive, on which to erect their homestead buildings.

There were, however, exceptions to that rule. Brighton, in addition to Crown pastoral leases, had nearly 50,000 acres of freehold; 17,500 of this belonged to North Brighton, and was sold to Carter and Sons in 1872; re-sold by them to Young Bros. about 1884, and they subdivided the estate and sold to agriculturists, who have all done well. In 1884 it was sold at an average of about £3/15/- per acre; now it is worth £20 to £25.

About 6,000 acres of the South Brighton estate was sold by the Bank of Victoria to Mr. O'Brien Blake, and 3,000 acres to Watts, Smith Bros., T. M. Salmon, Matheson, and others, through the agency of Young Bros. Later this firm sold 22,000 acres of this estate for Miller Bros. by tender. This settlement has turned out a great success.

Longerenong and Ashens (including Longerenong, St. Helens, Marma Downs, Green Hills, and Kirkwood).

Area—Longerenong, 153,000 acres; Ashens, 40,000 acres.

Longerenong and Ashens.

1844—William Taylor and Dugald McPherson.

Longerenong.

1848—William Taylor.

1856—Wilson Bros. (were in occupation prior).

1862—Subdivided into Longerenong, St. Helens, Marma Downs, Green Hills, and Kirkwood.

Longerenong, Marma Downs, St. Helens, Green Hills, and Kirkwood.

1862—Wilson Bros.

1871—Samuel Wilson.

1874—Albert Austin and William Hose Bullivant.

1881—Green Hills forfeited.

1884—Longerenong, St. Helens, and Marma Downs forfeited.

Ashens.

1848—Dugald McPherson.

1859—Alexander Wilson.

1860—Wilson Bros.

1884—Forfeited.

Extract from William Taylor's Letter (page 189): "In 1844 my partner (Mr. McPherson) and I took up country later called Longerenong, having started with cattle and sheep from Geelong. At that time, except for Mr. Darlot's 300 cattle 8 miles lower down the river, there was no stock north of Cameron's heifer station (Navarre) or west of the Avoca to the Glenelg, that I was aware of. About this time Mr. Hamilton (manager for B. Boyd, Esq.) occupied the eastern branch of the Wimmera for 10 miles above and below where the township of Glenorchy is now fixed. About the 20th April Mr. Mills (manager for Brodie and Cruikshank) passed our station with 3,000 sheep, and occupied Wonwondah a few days afterwards. This was the second flock of sheep that passed into the country beyond Ledcourt—ours being the first."

Extract from Edward Bell's Letter (page 179): "The lower part of the river was taken up by Darlot in 1843, and after him, what he had passed through as valueless was occupied by Messrs. Taylor and McPherson, who have since divided two of the finest runs in the district."

Samuel Carter, in his book of Reminiscences (page 26) says: "McDougall McPherson was the next squatter to come to the Wimmera; he brought sheep with him, and when he got as far as Longerenong he left his shepherds and came on to North Brighton; we were delighted to know we were going to have a neighbour, and made him welcome.

We advised him to settle on the Yarriambiack Creek, which he did. In a few years Samuel Wilson purchased Longerenong from McPherson and Taylor, and erected a very fine two-storied brick residence in 1863; this was surrounded by large well-planted grounds, well kept, and beautified by statuary."

The late Mr. John McLean was manager for Sir Samuel Wilson from 1868 till 1877, and took over the management of Longerenong in 1872. His son (Mr. Hector McLean, of Young Bros., Morsham) has furnished me with the numbers of sheep delivered in 1873 to Austin and Bullivant when they purchased Longerenong from Sir Samuel Wilson. (Taken from the late Mr. McLean's diary.)

At Longerenong	87,100 sheep
At Ashens	21,261 sheep

Total .. 108,361 sheep

Two years later Mr. Bullivant bought out Mr. Austin's interest. Mr. Austin went to New South Wales and purchased the celebrated Wanganella Station, in partnership with Thomas Milliar.

The first year Austin and Bullivant had Longerenong and Ashens they shored about 120,000 sheep, but in the 'seventies the bulk of the land was thrown open for selection under the 1869 Land Act—reducing the entire area to about 32,000 acres freehold.

Mr. W. H. Bullivant died in 1900, and the estate was carried on by his executors (Albert Austin, A. H. and H. E. Bullivant) until 1903, when it was subdivided and the 32,000 acres sold by tender, through the agency of Young Bros., at an average price of £4/10/- per acre. The purchasers have done well; some of the land near St. Helens Plains has been sold up to £16 per acre.

During the time Sir Samuel Wilson resided at Longerenong he had a number of ostriches and deer on the paddock near the homestead, and at Green Hill, now Jung Jung (an out station), a herd of Angora goats; he had these for the Acclimatisation Society. The ostriches were not a success, and terrified the horses on the place. Kangaroos and emus were very numerous, and the new settlers enjoyed many an exciting hunt after them.

Extract from Letter from Mr. Arthur Bullivant to Mr. Thomas Young, dated 20th April, 1926: "If Taylor and McPherson took up Longerenong first, they also had Ashens. Mrs. McPherson (who died within the last few years) told me Ashens was her first home, and she helped to build it by handing her husband material, tools, etc. From there they made to Paika, Balranald, New South Wales. About twenty-five years ago I met, in Deniliquin, Mr. Weir, who at one time managed Longerenong for Sir Samuel Wilson. He spoke of camels arriving there for acclimatisation purposes, and the result was a panic amongst the horses, who rushed and broke fences in a mad stampede, and he was left with nothing but the stable hack, nearly mad with terror in a loose box. He insisted on the camels going on to Vectis; also a large camp of men he had on Taylor's Lake. Owing to complaints *re* food and dirtiness, he had to speak to the cook, who responded: "How can I be clean with that water; about fifty greasy men bathe in it (Taylor's Lake) every day."

Kewell, 117,760 acres pastoral leases.

1845—Wilson Bros. occupied.

1872—Hector and Norman Wilson.

1876—Kate McMillan.

1879—James Powell and John Powell.

Extract from William Taylor's Letter (page 189): "In 1843 Darlot occupied his present station with 300 head of cattle, on the Wimmera (North Brighton), 1845. The Messrs. Wilson immediately afterwards built two stations lower down the same creek—Kewell and Muckbilly."

NOTES.

A very large station, 117,000 acres of splendid agricultural land, lying between Minyip and Dimboola, Kewell East, and Kewell West, all selected about 1873 to 1875. Used to shear 100,000 sheep. They held 640 acres of freehold as a pre-emptive at the homestead, on which the buildings—house and woolshed—were erected. They also had 640 acres freehold at Sailor's Home out station. These freeholds were sold in the 'seventies. The Kewell country selected is now settled with prosperous farmers in holdings of from 640 to 3,000 acres, the land being worth on an average at least £18 to £20 per acre.

The late Sir Samuel McCaughey gained experience on Kewell.

Sheep Washing at Kewell, by David Healy.—There was a hot water sheep wash at Kewell, where the sheep were washed a few days before shearing. A dam was put across the Yarriambiack Creek, and a channel made on the east side to run the water to the wash. The water was heated in large tanks and then run by pipes to the place where the sheep were washed; the men stood in specially made tubs. After each sheep was well soaped with soft soap it was held by two men under a chute of running water; the sheep were then put in a battened paddock to dry, which would take two or three days; the water was then run down the creek.

Boiling Down.—About the years 1867-68 there were boiling-down plants at Kewell and North Brighton. The fat sheep were boiled down for the tallow, as there was no market for sheep. There were over 20,000 sheep boiled down at Kewell in one year. The tallow was put into tanks and casks, and carted to Ballarat in bullock wagons.

Warracknabeal, including East and West, 124,000 acres.

1845—Andrew Scott, occupier.

1870—Subdivided into East and West.

Warracknabeal East.

1870—Robert Scott.

Warracknabeal West.

1870—Andrew Scott.

Extract from Letter from Robert Scott to Thomas Young, 18th May, 1926: "Andrew Scott, with his wife and family, consisting of Robert, Andrew, Thomas King, and Martha (afterwards Mrs. R. Gillespie), landed at Sydney late in 1837. They went to Melbourne early in 1838, and in the same year my grandfather settled at Mt. Buninyong. After the usual privations and hardships of the early pioneers they made good, and keeping that as their home they took up Warracknabeal Station, where Andrew lived. Later this divided into East and West by the Yarriambiack Creek. My father (Robert) always made Mt. Buninyong his headquarters, only going to the Wimmera periodically. Thomas bought Rich Avon and Avon Plains as you said, and lived there till he sold and went to New South Wales, near Walgett, although he never lived there. My grandfather died, and was buried in Geelong in the 'forties, but the boys were then old enough to battle along alone."

Extract from W. Taylor's Letter (page 189): "In November, 1845, the Messrs. Scott occupied their runs on the Yarriambiack Creek."

Extract from "The Story of the Mallee," by A. S. Kenyon (page 138): "Warracknabeal, on the Yarriambiack Creek. Andrew Scott, of Buninyong, and his sons Robert and Thomas passed the Wilsons at Kewell and took up Warracknabeal in November, 1845. In 1854 it fell to his sons, and in 1870 was subdivided into East and West Warracknabeal, each brother taking one side of the creek."

Extract from R. H. Stainthorpe's "Early Reminiscences of the Wimmera and Mallee": "The Scott Bros. took up Warracknabeal Station in the year 1845; there were three brothers, Andrew, Thomas, and Robert. Thomas later dissolved from the others and took up the Rich Avon Station on the Richardson, now called Guthrie's, which joins the Sheep Hills Station on the east side."

Taken from a letter from Mr. David Fleming (an old employee on the station): "Andrew, Robert, and Thomas Scott were the owners in partnership of the Warracknabeal homestead (East and West) in 1845. Thomas retired from the partnership in 1858, when he purchased Rich Avon West from Robert Moffatt. Andrew and Robert Scott dissolved in 1864, Robert taking the East and Andrew the West of the homestead. James Lyle came from Kewell in 1869 to manage for Robert Scott, and I went with Thomas Scott to Rich Avon."

Extract from Letter, Thomas Guthrie to Thomas Young, 8th May, 1926: "Thomas King Scott bought Rich Avon West (the part on the west of the Richardson) from Robert Moffatt. In 1872 Scott bought Avon Plains, and in 1875 sold both Rich Avon West and Avon Plains to me."

Andrew and Robert Scott carried on Warracknabeal Station East and West until the bulk of the land was selected under the 1869 Land Act, leaving them only a very limited area of freehold—640 acres pre-emptive on the east, and the same area on the west, and in addition 640 acres at an out station near Kelallac, known as Begg's.

J. C. Candy went to Warracknabeal in 1864 to build a home for Robert Scott on the west side.

J. C. Candy and his son went to Sheep Hills in August, 1865, to Godfrey McMillan, he says.

Robert Scott's 640 acres pre-emptive on the west side was sold to John Kelsall, and is now owned by H. Daniels. The original woolshed still stands.

Andrew Scott's 640 acres pre-emptive on the east side. The original homestead is still there; it was sold to P. Phillip, and the woolshed to J. G. Devereux.

In 1862 Mr. and Mrs. Thacker were on the station for colonial experience; they left the same year and went to Glenthompson. Only a few days ago two of the daughters who were born there visited Warracknabeal to see the old home of sixty-four years ago.

The township of Warracknabeal is on the spot where the original homestead was built by the Scotts in 1845; it is now a prosperous town, with a population of about 3,500, and is the centre of a good agricultural and pastoral district. It is certain these first pioneers never imagined that such a changed state of affairs would take place. The writer spent an evening with Mr. Andrew Scott in the 'seventies, and amongst other things Mr. Scott said that the grass had thickened very much, he thought, by the stocking up of sheep; he said he

and his brother tried one day to see how far they could walk without stepping on a blade of grass. The Scotts were good Presbyterians, Andrew was an Elder, and laid the foundation stone of the Horsham Presbyterian Church; he used to drive over from Warracknabeal to attend the service, Thomas and his wife and friends used also to come from Rich Avon.

Sheep Hills, 32,000 acres pastoral leases.

1847—A. McMillan, occupier.

1882—Forfeited.

Extract from Letter, Alex. McMillan to Thomas Young, 26th April, 1926: "My grandfather (Archibald), with my grandmother, nine sons and one daughter, landed in Melbourne by the sailing ship, *David Clarke*, in October, 1839. I do not remember there being any firm of McMillan Bros. at that time. Cannot give you dates of the first settling in the Wimmera, but would think it was in the 'fifties. My grandfather died in 1863, and my grandmother in 1880. Uncle Godfrey managed Sheep Hills, Alexander (my father) managed Glynwylln and Irrewarra Stations, and Uncle William Caldermeade Estate in South Gippsland. After my grandmother's death in 1880 all these properties were sold, my father purchasing Caldermeade. After leaving Scotch College in 1883 I went to Caldermeade, and in 1885 had the management. My father passed away in July, 1897, and left the property to my two brothers and me, and we worked it under the name of McMillan Bros. until 1923, when the Closer Settlement Board took it over."

Extract from Letter, Alex. McMillan to Thomas Young, 10th May, 1926: "Upon searching the family register I find my late father (Alexander McMillan) was born in Argyllshire, Scotland, on 23rd May, 1825; he landed in Melbourne by the sailing ship, *David Clarke*, in October, 1839. On 2nd February, 1859, he married Isabella Masterton, of Elsternwick, Melbourne. He told me that when under 14 years of age he took sheep from Swan Hill to Glynwylln. Glynwylln was purchased from Peter Greene (father of the late Molesworth Greene). I can remember the old brand P.G. being used for cattle and horses in my time there. Have heard my father say that the spout-washed wool was shipped home, but in later years the Australian Mercantile handled it. The station must have been my grandfather's, who died in September, 1863, the properties being left to my grandmother, with my two uncles and father managing."

The Crown pastoral lease land was all selected under the 1869 Land Act, the only freehold being the present 640 acres, on which a very fine house was erected. The house still stands, but is very much out of repair; the woolshed is still in working order, and is now held by Mr. Stainthorpe.

Sheep Hills is now settled by prosperous farmers and graziers; the country is well served by railway and prosperous townships—Minyip and Sheep Hills.

Archibald McMillan appears to have occupied Sheep Hills, Glynwylln and Irrewarra in the Wimmera, and Caldermeade Estate in South Gippsland. Godfrey managed Sheep Hills, Alexander Glynwylln (77,440 acres) and Irrewarra (35,000 acres), and William managed Caldermeade until the death of Archibald McMillan in 1863; after that, until 1880, the estate appears to have been carried on in the name of Kate McMillan. On Mrs. McMillan's death, in 1880, all the properties were sold.

In 1876 the Kewell pre-emptive freehold was purchased from Hector and Norman Wilson, and Mr. Godfrey McMillan managed it from Sheep Hills.

Warranooke, 64,000 acres.

1846—Alexander Ayrey, James Robson Darnell, and Henry Nichol, occupiers.

1852—Alexander Ayrey and Henry Mitchell.

1873—Forfeited—pastoral lease exhausted by selection.

Extract from Letter, Clive N. Campbell to Thomas Young, 11th May, 1926: "Warranooke was taken up in its primitive state by Messrs. Nichol and Alexander Ayrey, the pre-emptive right being in their joint names previous to 1859, and they held a very large area of land adjoining, running from the Richardson River to the old Marnoo Station on the north, between Rupanyup and Murtoa to the north-west, and to Lubeck to the west. Later, from 1868 to 1872 (when this country was thrown open for selection), their area was curtailed and consolidated around the pre-emptive right. Mr. Alexander Ayrey was killed by a falling tree, and left his portion of the estate to his nephew, the late Mr. Charles Ayrey, who was then managing the property. In the early 'eighties Mr. Charles Ayrey was a very successful sheep breeder, and took many prizes for his stud sheep, establishing a very valuable flock, well known throughout Australia. About 1884 he purchased two estates—Burrum on the north, and Minneboro on the south, both from Mr. J. Fry, and making Warranooke into a freehold property of some 40,000 acres, which he retained until his death in 1908. The property then came to his daughter, who became Mrs. Clive Campbell, in 1911. In 1909 about 10,000 acres of the old Minneboro country was cut off and sold in farms, and in 1911 about 10,000 acres of land to the west was also cut off and sold in farms, and in 1920 a further 9,000 acres to the north was sold to the Closer Settlement Board for farms, leaving Warranooke with a reduced area of about 11,000 acres, now entirely used for running merino sheep."

Walmer and Talgany, 40,000 acres pastoral lease.

1845—Wilson Bros., occupiers.

1871—Alexander Wilson.

1876—Samuel Carter, William James Carter, and John Charles Carter.

1879—Forfeited—exhausted by selection.

Mr. Charles Wilson lived at Walmer for many years, while Alexander Wilson resided at Vectis.

Walmer Estate had 11,700 acres of freehold, in addition to the Crown lease, which had been selected before 1879. This was sold to the Closer Settlement Board through the agency of Young Bros., and has proved a godsend to the sons of the farmers who secured it; it is situated on the River Wimmera, 3 miles from Horsham, and is now worth, on an average, from £20 to £25 per acre. Over ten bags of wheat to the acre is being grown year by year.

Extract from William Taylor's Letter (page 190): "During January, 1845, Major Firebrace brought up 6,000 sheep, and claimed the run occupied by Messrs. Wilson, and having no licence the Wilsons were compelled to move lower down the river, where Baillie now is (Polkemmet), but left during the winter, being afraid of the natives, and sat down where their present station is (Walmer), 3 miles from Horsham, with 2,000 sheep."

Vectis (including Arapiles, Muckindar, and Darragan), 115,200 acres.

1844—Wilson Bros. occupied.

1845—Major Firebrace occupied.

1853—William Firebrace and Robert Tarver Firebrace.

1860—Alexander Wilson. Subdivided into Vectis, Arapiles, Muckindar, and Darragan.

Vectis, Arapiles, Muckindar, and Darragan.

... —Alexander Wilson.

1880—Muckindar abandoned.

1884—Darragan forfeited.

1884—Vectis forfeited.

Arapiles.

1884—James Keyte.

Vectis.—After the Crown lease lands were exhausted, the owners had upwards of 10,000 acres of freehold, which was sold by tender through the agency of Young Bros.; one block of 3,000 acres of very loamy soil was secured by Brake and Derry, to establish an irrigation fruit-growing colony, called Quantong; this has proved a great success; large quantities of apples are grown and exported at payable prices, and orchards have changed hands at over £100 per acre.

It is interesting to note that the camels belonging to Burke and Wills, the famous explorers, were agisted on Vectis for about eighteen months.

The late Donald Wallace, owner of Carbine, gained experience on this station.

Extract from Edward Bell's Letter (page 179): "Below Mr. Darlot, Major Firebrace took up the Vectis Station on the river, disputing part of it with the Messrs. Wilson, who ultimately squeezed in between him and Mr. Darlot, about 3 miles below the present township of Horsham."

Extract from H. Norman Simson's Letter (page 9): "1842.—In a few months Messrs. Taylor and McPherson, Darlot and McLachlan, Splatt and Pynsent, Wilsons and Major Firebrace occupied the Wimmera down to Mt. Arapiles."

NOTES.

Major Firebrace named Vectis after his native place in the Isle of Wight. Alexander Wilson purchased Vectis from Major Firebrace and erected a very fine two-storied brick residence on the river, with commodious stables. When his sons Hector and Norman were there they had some noted racehorses.

This station was mostly taken up by selectors in 1873, leaving Mr. Wilson with only about 10,000 acres. Mr. Alexander Wilson left Vectis in February, 1873; he went down country and bought Mount Bute Station, near Skipton. On the eve of his departure he was tendered a farewell dinner by his friends in Horsham, at Beaumont's Hotel. His sons Hector and Norman remained at Vectis. Hector died at Vectis, when the property passed on to his widow.

Polkemmet, including Wyn Wyn, 96,000 acres pastoral lease.

1845—Wilson Bros. occupied.

1846—Lady Mary Baillie and Robert Hamilton (named by them).

1847—Thomas Baillie and Robert Hamilton (Thomas Baillie attaining his majority).

1848—Subdivided into Polkemmet and Wyn Wyn.

Polkemmet.

1848—Thomas Baillie.

1858—Robert Calder.

Wyn Wyn.

1848—Robert Hamilton.

1855—William Firebrace and Robert Tarver
Firebrace.

1860—Alexander Wilson.

1873—Robert Calder.

1882—Forfeited.

Extract from Letter by William Taylor (page 190): "1844.—Messrs. Brodie and Cruikshank had 200 sheep stolen by the blacks. Messrs. Darlot, Ellerman, Mills, and McPherson tracked them for two days and found them near Baillie's present station (Polkemmet) in a green scrub; they had killed ten and carried the carcasses away, breaking the legs of those left behind alive; this was their usual plan to prevent the sheep straying, and at the same time annoy the settlers. Brodie and Cruikshank in one winter lost 900 sheep from Wonwondah."

Baillie and Hamilton sold Polkemmet to Robert Calder in February, 1858, and he used to shear 30,000 sheep. The run included a large area of good country running up to the present railway from Pimpinio to Wail; all the good country was selected about 1872 and 1873, leaving only the timber reserve around the homestead and 640 acres pre-emptive. The Calder family selected the timber reserve in 1876, and still occupy it, about 2,000 acres of freehold and 1,000 acres leased from the Council of Agricultural Education. Miss Calder is now the proprietress, and carries on mixed farming, keeping about 1,200 sheep and farming the balance, mostly on shares.

THE CALDER FAMILY.

Polkemmet has been carried on by the Calder family for sixty-eight years.

Mr. Robert Calder, of Berwickshire, Scotland, and his newly-married wife (Martha Hood, of Grueldykes, Bunse, Scotland) arrived in Australia in 1851. Mr. Calder was 27 years of age, and they were accompanied by Doctor Chirnside and his wife (a sister of Mrs. Calder).

The men went to the diggings at Mt. Alexander, but did not have much luck.

Mr. Calder went to Mokanger Station for a time, then accepted the management of Barton Station, near Ararat, for Thomas Chirnside; it was then a cattle station.

In 1858 Mr. Calder purchased Polkemmet from Baillie and Hamilton (Miss Calder has the sale note in her possession). At that time it was a fairly large place, 96,000 acres, with some very good cultivation land; the boundary would reach to about where the Pimpinio and Wail railway stations are at present. They used to shear up to 30,000 sheep.

Mr. and Mrs. Calder and their family paid a visit to England in 1873, and on their return they found that nearly all their best country had been taken up by selectors, the timber reserve near the homestead was the only land left, this some members of the family selected in 1876; this, with the homestead pre-emptive of 640 acres, left them only about 3,000 acres.

Robert Calder died in 1887, and Mrs. Calder in 1889; they are buried on Polkemmet, also their daughter Martha and son-in-law (Walter Hood).

There were two sons and four daughters. The sons (Robert and William) went to Queensland. William was managing Milo Downs and Welford Downs Stations for Elder, Smith and Co. at £1,000 per annum, and was chosen out of 125 applicants.

Robert and William took up grazing leases, one at Terrick, Blackall. This they sold, and took 20,000 acres at Richmond Downs, which they called Wimmera. Robert managed this for some years, and after William's death, sold.

The daughters were Margaret, who became Mrs. Walter Hood; Elizabeth, who married Mr. Walter Crowther, surveyor, originally in the Horsham district; Martha (who died at Polkemmet), and Ellen Davidson Calder.

The entire management of Polkemmet was taken up by Miss Ellen Davidson Calder after her father's death and the departure of the two brothers to Queensland. She has done wonderful work, clearing a large area of timbered land to bring it under cultivation. For some years the property has been utilised for mixed farming, keeping about 1,200 sheep, and cropping about 300-400 acres on the shares system.

Polkemmet has, therefore, been in the hands of the Calder family for sixty-eight years, from 1858 right up to 1926. The area now held by Miss Calder is 2,040 acres freehold, and some Government reserve leased land.

The Calder family were staunch Presbyterians, and used to attend the Horsham Church, driving in 16 miles nearly every Sunday.

Upper Regions, 128,000 acres pastoral leases, including Upper Regions, Lochiel, and Bonegar.

1845—William Patterson occupied.

1854—Daniel Cameron.

1856—Subdivided into Upper Regions and Lochiel.

Upper Regions.

1856—William Montgomerie Bell and George Houston.

1858—Subdivided into Upper Regions and Bonegar.

Upper Regions and Bonegar.

1858—William Montgomerie Bell and George Houston.

1858—Daniel Cameron.

1859—Henry De Little (nine months only).

1864—Thomas Edols (in occupation from 1858).

1874—William Henry Lloyd.

1878—Robert Lewis Bell and William Armstrong.

1878—Robert Lewis Bell.

1882—Bonegar forfeited.

Upper Regions.

1884—James Musser.

1884—Forfeited.

Lochiel.

1857—William Montgomerie Bell and George Houston.

1859—John Carfrae, John Chester Jervis, and John Holt.

1862—John Carfrae and John Chester Jervis.

1864—John Holt.

1870—William Sloane and Robert Jonathan Jeffray.

1873—John Holt.

1881—Forfeited.

Extract from William Taylor's Letter (page 191): "Mr. W. Patterson occupied his station on the Wimmera in April, 1845, with 3,000 sheep. The losses of the settlers in sheep by the natives were again considerable this winter; Messrs. Baillie and Hamilton, of Polkemmet, suffered most severely; in all they lost 1,000 sheep, besides lambs, and were continually harassed, being near the scrub, where the natives had plenty of cover. Major Firebrace

and Mr. Patterson (Upper Regions) also lost several hundred sheep; the old system of breaking the legs was still carried on."

Thomas Edols became the owner after Patterson, and carried on the place for a number of years, then selling to W. H. Lloyd, merchant, of Dimboola, just before the rush for land by the selectors broke out, and Lloyd sold to Messrs. Bell and Armstrong, who held on until there was nothing left of the run but the pre-emptive right at the homestead of 320 acres of indifferent land. The remaining 320 acres and the woolshed, about 2 miles away on the open plains, were sold for £4 per acre; the present value is £18 per acre.

Mt. Talbot (including Lingmer Run), 64,000 acres pastoral lease.

1844-45—J. M. Airey, occupier.

1847—Dr Robert Officer.

1859—Charles Myl's Officer and Suttonius Officer.

1880—Forfeited.

Lingmer Run, 26,880 acres pastoral lease.

1846—Matthew Henry Baird and Henry Hodgkinson.

1849—Robert Officer.

1856—Charles Myl's Officer and Suttonius Officer.

1880—Forfeited.

Extract from Edward Bell's Letter (page 177): "It was not until 1844 that Mr. John Airey sent a party, consisting of a Mr. Mann and his overseer, with about 3,000 sheep, to look for country in my neighbourhood. I had an indistinct notion, from various cattle hunts in that direction, that there must be plenty of good country to the north-west of me across the river, and advised them accordingly, and they returned to my station in a week, having discovered the Mt. Talbot country, which, if they had occupied all they could at the time, would have been one of the finest runs in the whole Colony."

Extract from Letter, Mr. Leslie Officer to Mr Thomas Young, 14th April, 1926: "Mt. Talbot (then known as Malahide) was purchased from John Airey by my great-grandfather, Dr Robert Officer, of New Norfolk, Tasmania, in 1847 or 1848, as my grandfather, Charles Myl's Officer, came over to take charge of the place in 1848. Mt. Talbot consisted of 100 square miles at this time, and I think then included the Lingmer Run west of Clear Lake, which was purchased from Matthew Baird. In 1859 my grandfather, Charles Myl's Officer, and his brother Suttonius, bought Mt. Talbot from Dr Robert, and later on Charles bought out Suttonius, who went to New South Wales. Eventually, in 1885, my father took over Mt. Talbot from his father, and lived there until his death last year. Dingoes seemed to be the worst pest to contend against in those days, and all the sheep were run in flocks of from 1,500 to 3,000, yarded at night and shepherded by day. Foot rot gave a lot of trouble, too, evidently owing to abnormal run of wet seasons and abundance of grass. All runs were held under Orders in Council at a nominal rental."

In 1848 Mt. Talbot held over 100 square miles of Crown lease land. In addition, about 13,000 acres of freehold was secured, which is at present held by Messrs. Leslie and Errol Officer, great-grandsons of the original holder in 1847 (Dr Robert Officer, of New Norfolk, Tasmania), so that this station has been held by four generations of the Officer family.

Rich Avon (including East and West), 122,669 acres pastoral leases.

1845—James Horsfall, occupier.

1848—Robert Sutherland.

1853—Archibald McLachlan and Ronald McLachlan (brothers).

1858—Subdivided into East and West.

Rich Avon East.

1858—McLachlan Bros.

1862—John and Ronald McLachlan.

1865—Edward Joseph Murphy and Thomas Hamlet Taylor.

1868—Thomas Guthrie.

Rich Avon West.

1858—Robert Moffatt.

1865—Thomas King Scott.

1879—Thomas Guthrie.

1881—Forfeited.

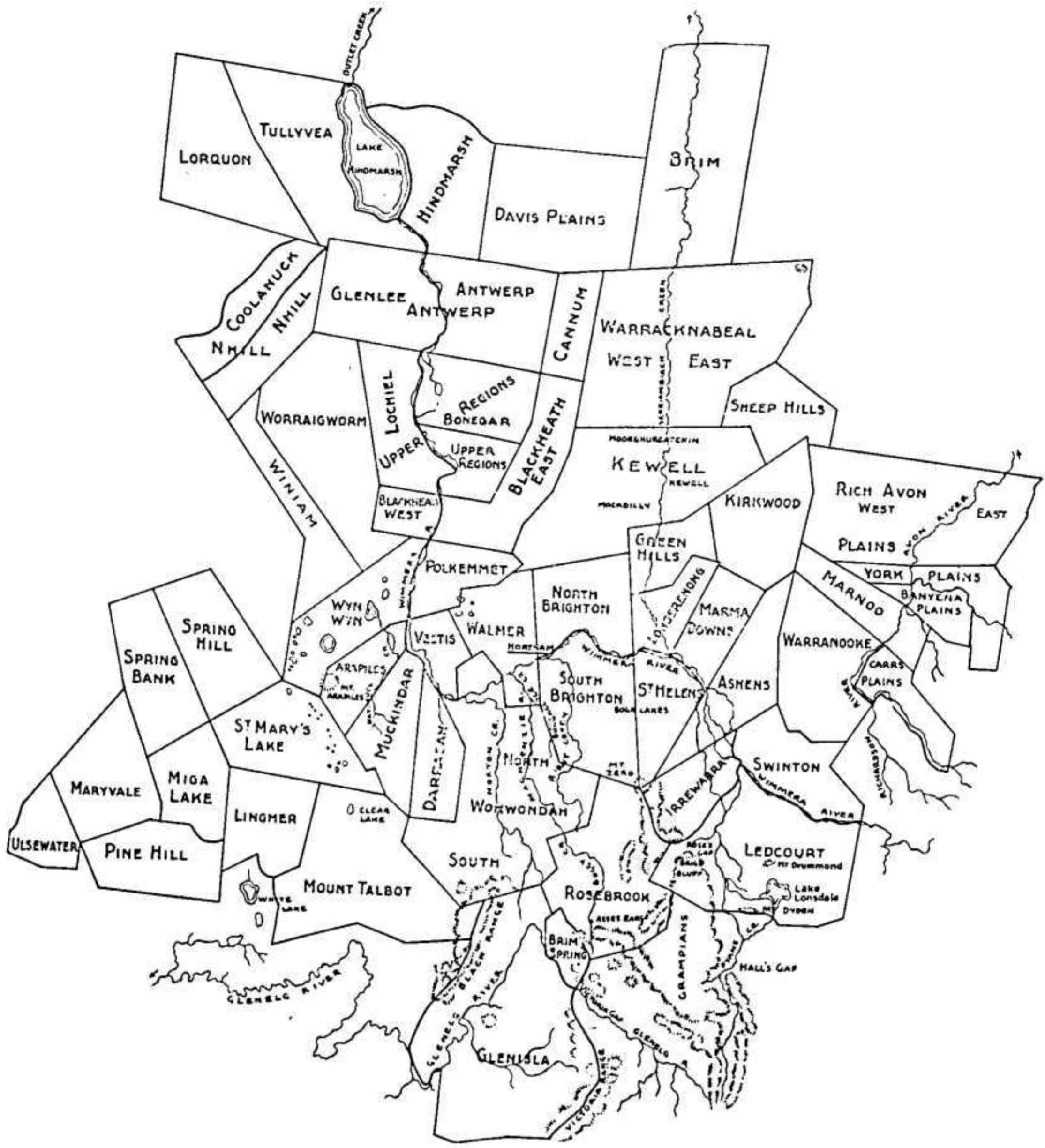
Extract from William Taylor's Letter (page 191): "In November, 1844, Messrs. Creswick occupied the Avon Station. During December, Messrs. Wilson occupied a Station on the Richardson, near Rutherford's present station, but afterwards moved down the Wimmera, east of Mt. Arapiles, where Mr. Firebrace's station now is.

"About the 20th March, 1845, Messrs. Donald and Macredie came to Longerenong looking for runs. On questioning the natives we found there was good water to the north-east, a day's journey distant. Two days afterwards my late partner (Mr. McPherson) started with them, taking a native as a guide, and the same evening struck the Avon below the station of Horsfall, who had been there about a week previous. Next day they followed the Avon to Banyenong—the water they started for. Mr. Donald immediately left for Melbourne to get a licence and bring up the stock.

"In August, 1845, Mr. Horsfall, on the Avon, had a hut keeper murdered by the natives, with a spade that was in his hut; the murderers were never taken."

Extract from Thomas Guthrie's Letter to Thomas Young, 8th May, 1926: "I have heard of the name of Horsfall, also Sutherland, as at one time being in some way connected with Rich Avon, but have no personal knowledge further back than the year 1850, when the pastoral lease, not estate, was owned by Archibald and Ronald McLachlan. They sold the part on the west of the Richardson River to Robert Moffatt, who sold it to Thomas King Scott, and in 1864 sold the east side to me, but I did not go to live there till 1866. A few years before I bought it, it was a cattle run, and the rent was £200, but was shortly raised to £500. In 1872 Mr. Scott bought Avon Plains from Samuel Wilson, and in 1875 sold both Rich Avon West and Avon Plains to me."

Extract from Mr. Thomas Guthrie's Letter, dated 12th May, 1926: "Rich Avon East and West and Avon Plains possessed 24,000 acres of freehold; of this over 6,000 acres was sold to farmers in the district, and 4,800 acres to the Government for soldier settlement into fourteen farms. When I bought Rich Avon East in 1864, it was sold on account of Mr. Ronald McLachlan. I was one of a party who aided the scab trouble in Victoria. It happened in this way: A flock of ewes had passed through Rich Avon East, when it was discovered some of them showed signs of scab; notice of this was sent to all ewe holders in the district, and on



PLAN OF STATIONS MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE,
SHOWING THEIR BOUNDARIES AND LOCATIONS.

to Charlton. We all met at the Cope Cope Hotel, when, after proof was given that the flock was infected, it was resolved that we should purchase and destroy them. This was done near where Donald now is (at the time it was known as The Bridge, and contained only a store, blacksmith's shop, and hotel); this was in 1867, and was the last heard of scab in Victoria. At that time some of the New South Wales ewe breeders were changing from cattle to sheep."

Mr. Thomas Guthrie (father of Senator Guthrie, of Geelong, and Thomas Guthrie, of Rich Avon) went to live at Rich Avon in 1866. He has reached the ripe age of 93, and is one of the few early pioneers now living, to whom we owe so much. Rich Avon has been owned by the Guthrie family for over sixty years, and is still their property. Mr. Thomas Guthrie (who is at present in Europe) lives there.

Morton's Plains (including Marlbed North and South, Narraport, and Karyrie). Area, 153,000 acres pastoral leases.

- 1846—Joseph Raleigh and William Lockhart Morton took up.
- 1847—Joseph Raleigh and William Lockhart Morton occupied.
- 1847—Joseph Raleigh.
- 1850—Thomas H. Pyke.
- 1853—Charles Lyon and Compton Ferrers.
- 1859—Subdivided into Morton Plains, Marlbed, and Narraport.

Morton's Plains.

- 1859—Charles Lyon and Compton Ferrers.
- 1864—George Cunninghame Macredie.
- 1870—Charles Mills and Co.
- 1873—Walter George Simmons and Edward Simmons.
- 1876—Edward Simmons.

Marlbed.

- 1859—Charles Lyon and Compton Ferrers.
- 1862—George Hislop and William Henry Agnew.
- 1865—Subdivided into North and South.

Marlbed North.

- 1865—George Hislop and William Henry Agnew.
- 1866—Alexander Thomas Anderson.
- 1878—Charles Shannon, William Murray, and Hugh Murray Strachan.
- 1881—John William David Cummings, James Cummings, and Alexander Cummings.

Marlbed South.

- 1865—James Lyall Anderson and Henry Oliphant Anderson.
- 1867—Phipps Turnbull and Co.
- 1872—The Karyrie Co. Ltd. (combined with Karyrie).

Marlbed South and Karyrie.

- 1875—Robert Murdoch Ronald and George Riddock.
- 1876—The Australian Mortgage Land and Finance Co.
- 1881—Samuel Cowan Craig.
- 1882—John Booth, Philip Oakden, and Matthew Ingle Browne.
- 1883—Forfeited.

Narraport.

- 1859—Charles Lyon and Compton Ferrers.
- 1864—Subdivided into Narraport and Karyrie.

Narraport.

- 1864—Charles Lyon and Compton Ferrers.
- 1873—The London and Australian Agency Co.
- 1876—Charles Bucknall and Joseph Cobham Watson.
- 1879—Forfeited.

Karyrie.

- 1864—Charles Lyon and Compton Ferrers.
- 1869—Phipps Turnbull and Co.
- 1872—Combined with Marlbed South.

From "The Story of the Mallee," by A. S. Kenyon (page 135): "Morton Plains, from which later Narraport, Wirmbirchip, and Marlbed were to spring, was taken up by Joseph Raleigh in 1846. Morton was the manager, and gave his name to the locality."

Joseph Raleigh took up Morton Plains in 1846, and sold to T. H. Pyke in 1850.

Extract from B. Cunningham's Letter: "Mr. Pyke sold to Lyon, who sold to Mills, Smart, and Nelson; they sold to Simmons Bros., of Stawell, who, in turn, sold to J. M. Warne. Hannah Bros., of Birchip, are now the owners."

Extract from T. H. Pyke's Letter (page 19): "The Morton Plains Station in the Wimmera I purchased from Mr. Joseph Raleigh in March, 1850. He took up the run two years before, and was the first occupier of it. At Morton Plains the natives were in considerable numbers, but have always been (as far as I know) perfectly harmless, and in many instances very useful."

Marnoo, 34,000 acres pastoral leases.

- 1845—Martin Shanahan occupied.
- 1873—Forfeited.

Banyena Plains, 18,000 acres pastoral leases.

- 1844—Henry Creswick and J. H. Creswick.
- 1857—John Creswick.
- 1859—D. S. Creswick.
- 1860—W. G. Walker.
- 1862—John Creswick.
- 1862—Martin Shanahan.
- 1863—Alfred Douglas and Joseph De Little.
- 1866—Henry Creswick.
- 1869—Charles Croaker and Henry Scott.
- 1870—Thomas McKellar.
- 1873—Charles Croaker and Henry Scott.
- 1877—The Oriental Bank Corporation.
- 1878—Forfeited.

York Plains, 38,000 acres pastoral leases.

- 1847—William Anderson (obtained from Creswick Bros.).
- 1848—John Matheson.
- 1853—Robert Hamilton.
- 1859—Colin William Simson.
- 1862—Martin Shanahan.
- 1878—Forfeited.

Marnoo.

The original pastoral lease was taken up by Martin Shanahan somewhere about 1845.

Mr. Shanahan sold the freehold of Marnoo and York Plains to Mr. Thomas Skene in 1883.

Thomas Skene had both these properties subdivided in 1905 and sold through the agency of Mitchell Bros. and White. The country is now satisfactorily settled by farmers carrying on mixed farming.

Extract from Letter, Thomas H. Skene to Thomas Young, 11th May, 1926: "My father purchased Marnoo Station and York Plains from the estate of Martin Shanahan in 1883—the year my father came back from Mexico. When my father got Marnoo I can quite remember him getting rid of the last two shepherds, a man called Lloyd, and the other by the name of Churchman. The property when we went there was only ring fenced and a horse paddock. The woolshed was of most magnificent timber, having all come from Mt. Cole, near Ararat. Rabbits had not got a hold of the country in those days, and the few strays there were about we kids used to run down upon the plains with a couple of cocker spaniels. I always understood Martin Shanahan was the original owner of Marnoo; but there, again, Mr. Munt will be a far more reliable authority. I understand Marnoo at that time was a large property, and extended to Minyip and Sheep Hills. The story I heard as a boy about Martin was that he settled first at the Dog Trap Creek, not far north of Stawell, with a small mob of sheep. Finding the dogs very bad in this locality, and hearing that the stations north of him, out upon the plains, had more country than they were entitled to, out moves Martin to a deep water hole upon the Richardson River, which the blacks had told him of, and where he built the old Marnoo homestead (the property my father purchased), the adjoining property owners knowing too well that Martin's assumption was correct, there he remained. Later, when the adjoining property owners called a meeting to consider fencing their properties, Martin was asked to attend; he did so, and secluded himself in a corner of the room. After everybody present, except Martin, had had their say, and all arranged to fence in their properties, somebody spotted old Martin, and said: "Oh, but we have not as yet heard Mr. Shanahan's opinion." "Begorra, he hasn't got any," replied Martin. "You're all doing foine work shure, and when you're all fenced in, won't Martin Shanahan be fenced out?"

"About York Plains I know little. It was a large property at one time, and I understand belonged to a Mr. Robert Hamilton, the father of Mr. Dundas Hamilton, whose death was reported at Geelong in the personal column of Saturday's *Argus*. I remember the drive out from Stawell in 1883 well, and for many years our mails came out that way. I understand that in the early days Marnoo extended principally west to the homestead, and adjoined Vectis."

Extract from supplement to the *Observer*, published in Melbourne, on Saturday, 5th August, 1848: "Armstrong and Thompson—Avon and Molloy Plains, 150,000 acres. Estimated to carry 20,000 sheep. The run on the Avon and Molloy Plains was known by the native names of Minyass and Dunmungle Plains, with a frontage of about 9 miles on the Richardson and the Avon, commencing at Mr. Shanahan's boundary. John Henry Creswick, per J. Creswick, Banyena Plains, 18,000 acres; 1,000 head cattle. Bounded on the north by W. Anderson's and the river Avon on the east. On the south by J. Theus and Shanahan. On the west by Taylor and McPherson."

After the Marnoo pastoral lands had been exhausted by selection, 8,000 acres of freehold was sold on account of Mr. Thomas Skene, through the agency of Mitchell Bros. and White, of Stawell; also 2,000 acres at York Plains. The same firm also sold, on account of the Messrs. Creswick, about

3,000 acres on Banyena Plains. The whole of this country is permanently settled by farmers and graziers, who are doing well.

Pine Plains, including Wonga Lake. Area, 45,000 acres pastoral leases.

1847—James Maxwell Clow.

1849—Andrew Russell.

1855—Henry Clarence Ellerman.

1856—Subdivided into Pine Plains and Wonga Lake.

Pine Plains.

1856—Henry Clarence Ellerman.

1863—Paul Cameron and Ewen Cameron.

1863—Herbert Power and George Henry Davenport.

1864—Powers, Rutherford and Co.

1868—Henry Miller.

1887—Samuel Carter.

Wonga Lake.

1856—Henry Clarence Ellerman.

1859—Anthony Anderson and John Thompson.

1861—G. Wilson.

1868—Charles Wilson.

1871—John Wilson.

1872—William Murray and Charles Shannon.

1874—Ewen Cameron, Martin Cameron, Allan and Paul Cameron.

1880—Forfeited.

Letter from J. M. Clow (page 107): "On the 23rd August, 1847, the application for Pine Plains was accepted and registered in favour of J. Clow, junior, by the Commissioners of the Wimmera district.

"Owing to the scarcity of water between it and Lake Hindmarsh (the distance being 50 miles), no stock was put upon it until the month of May, 1848. As the scarcity continued, the sheep were removed in November of the same year. In April, 1849, the right of the station was sold to Andrew Russell, Esq., merchant, of Melbourne, for £15. It has been used as a winter out station by him. The Wimmera River, however, has at last forced its way through the desert and along a former channel into this tract of country, and inundated it to such an extent that it is doubtful whether it was not more valuable in its former state than now. The water obtained there in 1848 was from a well 20 feet deep. It was sunk chiefly through the old red sandstone formation, and the spring of water fallen in with underneath it appeared to be a very strong one. The pasturage on the present lake beds, and the slopes of their banks, was of the best description, consisting much of salsolaceous herbage. Some of the Lake Hindmarsh tribe having been taken to assist in driving the stock thither, and in finding water for us on the journey, it obtained for us a friendly reception from the aborigines of this isolated tract. For months afterwards it existed, until the overseer, one night about 11 o'clock, fired at what he supposed to be a wild dog rushing the sheep in the yard, but which unfortunately turned out to be a blackfellow; the aim was fatal, the ball of the pistol going through his head. This tract of country was frequented by both the Murray and Wimmera River blacks. The Murray is distant 60 miles.

"I am given to understand that this run, which contains, or did contain, 60 square miles of good pasture land, was sold for £1,500; this was solely for the right of station."

Extract from "The Story of the Mallee," by A. S. Kenyon (page 146): "Pine Plains. This station became famous in the Millers' time for horses bred there. Pine Plains at one end of the State, or Monaro at the other, were synonymous for hardiness, endurance, and plenty of temper in horses. From both places has the glory departed. The Rev. J. M. Clow, of Ballarook, discovered this country in August, 1847. It forms the termination of the run of the Wimmera water after it passes through Lake Hindmarsh and Albacutya. The outlet creek passes in a deep and well-defined channel through white sandhill and heath country, here and there widening out into flats with depressions, forming lakes in flood times. They are known as Werrebean, Brimin, Black Flat, Wonga, Brambruk, Pine Plain, Koochy (Kootyup), and Wirrengren, the last-named being the last of all. It has not had water in it since 1853, when it is said to have been 12 feet deep. Mr. Clow named Lakes Brimin and Wonga. He called Black Flat the White Lake, and named Mt. Jenkins, an insignificant sand hill in the plains. Stock were taken to the run in May, 1848, but they had to be removed in November of the same year. A. Russell bought the run in April, 1849, for £15, but had to vacate it in 1854, owing to the almost complete submergence of the whole of the useful lands. He sold to H. C. Ellerman, who subdivided it into Pine Plains and Brimin in 1855. The latter name, having been already used by Archbold, was changed to Lake Wonga. Ellerman took up Salt Lakes (Pink Lakes) in 1856, Sandmount in 1861, and Spectacle Plains (Yallum) in 1862. Ellerman gives the names of the Salt Lakes country as Leal, Toolongewoort (now Toolongaway, native word for a plain), and Banger. Cameron was in charge in 1861, and in 1862 purchased through Powers, Rutherford and Co., who remained nominal owners until 1868, when the Millers came in. Cameron added Campania. The Carter Bros. came along in 1879, and occupied the Chaves Plain country, later on jumping Wirrengren Plain, where they sunk a well and condensed the salt water for their stock. They worked Sunset and Pine Plains together, but failed to make it pay. Le Couteur, formerly manager of Walmer, and now a plain Mallee cockie at Tiega, managed Pine Plains for the New Zealand Loan Co. until 1903, when it was abandoned. In 1905 Poulton, of Cambacanya, near Hopetoun, took a grazing licence, and added Cow Plains and Sunset the following year. He was no more successful than the rest.

"Lake Wonga became a separate station in 1855. In 1860 it belonged to Anderson and Thompson; G. Wilson in 1862, Charles 1868, and James 1871. Cameron Bros. took it along with Nypo in 1874, and the two runs became one station. Brambruk, a lake on this run, is said to have been named by Morgan, the bushranger, after a favourite steed. He was in the habit of traversing the Mallee by the Pine Plains-Kulkyne track when one place or the other got too hot for him. He was eventually shot in 1865, at Peechelba, Victoria, a station held by a brother of McPherson, of Nhill and Cow Plains."

Carr's Plains, 48,000 acres pastoral leases. (From *Observer* of 1848.)

1845—George Rutherford (and Andrew Russell, partner).

1853—William Dennis, Alexander Dennis, and John Dennis.

1867—Alexander Dennis.

1873—Forfeited.

Extract from W. Taylor's Letter (page 191): "About the end of February, 1845, Rutherford and Robinson took possession of the run (on the Richardson), now (1853) in occupation of Messrs. Rutherford, Dennis, and Ayrey and Nichol, with 3,000 sheep."

In the year 1845 Dennis Bros., of Tarndwarncourt, Colac, being overstocked, decided to look for more country. Mr. John Dennis set out in October, and decided to take up land at Warracknabeal. Early in 1846, when they arrived at Warracknabeal, they found the land occupied by Andrew Scott; retracing their steps, they disposed of their stock.

In 1848 Dennis Bros. purchased Robertson's Run, adjoining Carr's Plains.

In 1853 Dennis Bros. purchased Carr's Plains from Rutherford, 30,720 acres.

In 1854 the homestead from Robertson's Run was transferred to Carr's Plains, the combined runs constituting 53,100 acres.

In 1867 Alexander Dennis took over Carr's Plains.

In 1873 licences expired.

In 1875 Carr's Plains was thrown open for selection, and was reduced to 27,000 acres.

In 1892 Alexander Dennis died.

The late Hon. Holford H. Wettenhall came to Carr's Plains in 1861, at 21 years of age, as overseer, and was appointed manager in 1863. He was the son of Commander Robert Wettenhall, R.N., and was born at Wettenhall, on Carlton River, near Sorrell, Tasmania, in 1840. In 1866 he married Mary Burgess Dennis, daughter of Mr. Alexander Dennis. In 1870 he rented Carr's Plains from Mr. Dennis, and evidently continued to occupy for many years, until after the pastoral lease country had been selected, about 1880, leaving only the freehold of about 27,000 acres.

It was in 1887 that Mr. Wettenhall founded his stud flock of "Ideal" sheep, and the "Carrsdales" in 1895.

In 1905 Mr. Wettenhall purchased an area of Carr's Plains, which he divided amongst his sons in 1909. His son Herbert still resides on the property, comprising the homestead and 3,500 acres, and maintains the stud flock founded by his father, so that Carr's Plains has been associated with the Wettenhall and Dennis families for seventy-three years.

In 1890 Mr. Wettenhall purchased 400 acres at Pomonal in the Grampians, near Stawell, and established a large orchard of 120 acres, with a beautiful home, from which he directed his numerous activities; he resided there until his death in 1920.

He left seven sons, who are all doing well: Herbert H. Wettenhall, now at Carr's Plains; Arthur V. Wettenhall, retired solicitor and grazier; Milton B. Wettenhall, grazier, at Flinders; Allan H. Wettenhall, grazier, Winchelsea; Alex. L. Wettenhall, solicitor; Dr. R. Wettenhall, Spring Street, Melbourne; Marcus E. Wettenhall, member of the Legislative Assembly for Lowan.

The late Mr. H. H. Wettenhall was an able and public-spirited man; while busy at his station he was found taking part in every progressive movement for the benefit of his district and country. He was elected as a member of the Legislative Council in 1882, and held the seat until 1886. He was a member of the Kara Kara Shire before the Shire of Stawell was constituted, and for thirty-five years he was a member of the Stawell Shire Council,

being president on several occasions. A commissioner of the Wimmera United Water Trust from its inception until it was taken over by the State Rivers Commission. He was a promoter of the Australian Natives' Association and first president of the Stawell branch, and the Stawell Agricultural and Pastoral Society, and was Life Governor of the Stawell Hospital.

Having observed the success of a breed of comeback sheep established by Messrs. R. V. Dennis, Tarndwarncoort, Colac, and Alex. Dennis, Eeyeuk, Mortlake, Mr. Wettenhall decided in 1887 to breed the same type of sheep on improved lines. It is an interesting historical fact that Mr. Alex. Dennis, of Eeyeuk, has never had any outside blood in his flock since they were first brought to the comeback stage in 1881. Colac sheep were bred the same way as Eeyeuk, with an infusion later of Ideals from Carr's Plains. These two flocks are the base and originals of the Polwarths.

"Carrsdales." About the time Ideals were established the Corriedale had become recognised as an established breed in New Zealand; also their superiority for breeding fat lambs was recognised. The fat lamb trade developing in Victoria suggested to Mr. Wettenhall that he could supply the same breed here for that trade, and so he bred the 1st cross Lincoln ram-merino ewe, and maintained them, as was done with Corriedales, without any further introduction of new blood since 1895, *i.e.*, 1st x ewe and 1st x ram. As Corriedales were named after Corriedale Station, Carrsdales were named after Carr's Plains.

Extract from "Stud and Flock Book" issued by the Polwarth Sheepbreeders' Association, 1925.

Stud Book Flock No. 10 (Vol. 11).

Herbert Highlord Wettenhall, Carr's Plains, Stawell, Victoria.

"This flock was founded by the late H. H. Wettenhall, at Carr's Plains, about the year 1887. Three hundred Carr's Plains merino ewes (Ercildoune blood) were mated to pure Lincoln rams, and of the progeny the ewes were mated to Carr's Plains merino rams, and some of the rams to Carr's Plains merino ewes. The resulting comebacks of these matings were then inbred and developed under the name Ideal, and have been bred without introduction of any other blood up to this date.

"Sheep in flock at time of entry (December, 1920), 2,800. Annual return, 1924: Ewes to ram, 1,736; lambs marked, 1,412; rams used, 34 Carr's Plains bred; sheep registered, 3,200."

Stud Book Flock No. 12 (Vol. 11).

Dennistoun Pastoral Association, Dennistoun, Bothwell, Tasmania.

"This flock was established in 1909 by the purchase of five stud ewes from H. H. Wettenhall and Sons, Carr's Plains (Stud Book Flock No. 10), ten additional ewes were purchased later, and twenty-one more were procured in 1913, all from the same stud, together with five rams imported at different times.

"A ram from Dennis Bros., Tarndwarncoort (Stud Book Flock No. 1), was purchased in 1922, and a ram from Bisdee Bros., Hutton Park (Stud Book Flock No. 13), was also added to the stud.

"Sheep at time of entry (December, 1920), 200. Annual return, 1924: Ewes to ram, 101; lambs marked, 82; rams used, 3 Dennistoun bred; sheep registered, 417."

Stud Book Flock No. 13 (Vol. 11).

Bisdee Bros., Hutton Park, Melton, Mowbray, Tasmania.

"This flock was founded in 1904 on a selection made from 1,500 ewes bred at Carr's Plains (Stud Book Flock No. 10), which were mated with Carr's Plains rams.

"Outside blood since introduced. Nothing but Carr's Plains bred sheep have since been introduced to the flock, with exception of three rams purchased from Fysh and Edgell, Dennistoun. (Stud Book Flock No. 12.)

"Sheep in flock at time of entry (7th December, 1920), 3,288. Annual return, 1924: Ewes to ram, 111; lambs marked, 110; rams used, 4 Hutton Park bred; sheep registered, 297."

These references show that the Carr's Plains "Ideal" have been the foundation of many notable flocks in all States of Australia and Tasmania.

Miga Lake.

1856—George Urquhart.

1860—Thomas Robertson and Sons.

1867—John Philip.

1882—Exhausted by selection.

Miga Lake was purchased by John Philip in 1858, and remained the property of the Philip family until 1920—sixty-two years. Like all the other pastoral lease lands, it was selected in the 'seventies, but they had 16,508 acres of freehold, which was sold by Mr. Alex. Philip in 1920 to the Closer Settlement Board for soldier settlement. The soldiers are doing well; it is good merino wool-growing country, and the Board allowed each man to take £3,500 worth of land, equal to 700-800 acres.

Extract from Mr. Thomas Philip's Letter to Mr. Thomas Young, 28th April, 1926: "My father bought Miga Lake and St. Mary's Lake from John McKellar in 1858; only held St. Mary's Lake for a short time, when he sold it to my uncle Robertson, who soon afterwards sold to Alex. Wilson, of Vectis. The adjoining stations to Miga Lake were Maryvale (owned by James Thomson and Mathieson; they also owned Ullswater), Pine Hills (owned by David Edgar, and still occupied by his son), Mullagh (owned by J. B. Fitzgerald and Co., and still in the family), Kout Norein (R. B. Broughton), Bringalbert and Ozenkadnook (James Hamilton and Tom Hamilton), Neuarpuir (F. P. Hines), Bunyip (Lantie Ryan), Lemon Springs (John Broughton), Lake Wallace North and South (Hearne and Hayman; they afterwards dissolved, Hayman taking Lake Wallace South), Longlands (Whittaker Bros., afterwards sold to Robert Laidlaw, now owned by Martin Bree), Kooloomurt (Willis and Swanston, now under Closer Settlement), Brippick (A. A. Cowell), Mt. Talbot (C. M. Officer, still in the family), Fulham (C. H. Armytage, still in the family), Mt. Sturgeon (C. M. Armytage), Rocklands (Alex. Turnbull), Newlands (James Gordon, now in the Laidlaw family), Mundarra (Walter Laidlaw, still in the family), Mortat (David Affleck), Pleasant Banks (William Affleck), Kirbybolite (James Affleck), Spring Hill (Mr. Cameron, after him Dugald Smith, then Grice, Sumner and Co., managed by Robert Seymour), Spring Bank (Alexander McIntosh, who also owned Glendinning, near Balmoral), Rocklands (Alexander Turnbull, before him Robert Officer), Kongbool (the Clyde Co., afterwards owned by the Robertson family, now under Closer Settlement), Melville Forest (the

Laidlaw family, now under Closer Settlement), Kenilworth, near Cavendish (John Mackersey, now under Closer Settlement), Hyde Park (Mr. Gill). These are most of the stations and owners as I remember them, but I daresay I have missed some that should have been remembered."

St. Mary's Lake, including Spring Hill.

1845—Christopher Glendinning and George Urquhart.

1855—George Urquhart.

1856—Subdivided into St. Mary's Lake and Spring Hill.

St. Mary's Lake.

1856—George Urquhart.

1860—Robertson and Sons.

1864—Alexander Wilson and John William Teece.

1864—Alexander Wilson.

1872—John Philip.

1880—Forfeited.

Spring Hill.

1856—George Urquhart.

1858—Duncan Cameron.

1867—Dugald Smith and George Ormerod.

1869—George Ormerod.

1870—Grice, Sumner and Co.

1881—Forfeited.

The St. Mary's pre-emptive freehold land remained the property of the Philip family for many years after the pastoral lease land was disposed of; the sons, William and Thomas, lived there until the property was subdivided and sold.

Nhill, including Nhill and Coolanuck. 58,600 acres pastoral leases.

1847—William Atkinson and John Pepper.

1848—Subdivided into Nhill and Coolanuck.

Nhill.

1848—William Atkinson.

1849—Dugald McPherson.

Coolanuck.

1848—John H. Pepper.

1849—Dugald McPherson.

Nhill and Coolanuck.

1849—Dugald McPherson.

The late William McDonald, of Nhill, managed the Nhill Station for Dugald McPherson from 1851 up till 1897. The bulk of the pastoral leasehold land was selected before 1880, leaving Mr. McPherson with about 2,500 acres of freehold land, including the homestead and some reserves; also portion of the area on which the township of Nhill now stands; the township land was subdivided and sold. The town now has a population of about 2,000; it is a thriving town, in the centre of a prosperous district. When the freehold was first sold it realised £2/12/6. It was sold last year to Messrs. Bond and McMillan at £16/17/6 per acre.

LAKE CORONG.

Extract from "The Story of the Mallee," by A. S. KENYON.

"Lake Corong. Peter McGinnis, nearly a year later than the Scotts, pushed further down the creek, and squatted in July, 1846, on Lake Corong, where he was to stay for thirty years. Towards the end of the year he included Brim in his run, but Davis beat him for it in 1848. Again, in 1849, he claimed it as unoccupied, but without success. In March of the same year his long partnership with Bell began. Things went smoothly and

uneventfully with the exception, perhaps, of a jumping attempt in 1859-60. Robert Page, a former employee, and then tutor for Pyers, manager at Warracknabeal, afterwards at Hindmarsh, Lawler, and Laen, obtained a licence for Ronald Kirk, a run embracing the Yarrack and Wathe country. Commissioner Wright foiled this attempt partly by McGinnis's prior occupation and partly by a subterfuge illustrative of official methods at that time. A. Miller had applied for Pine Ridges in 1848, and his application had not been dealt with. The boundaries described were wide enough to cover anything in the neighbourhood. The application, though 11 years old, was promptly approved, and Page's application refused, or rather cut down to a vanishing point, on the ground of interference with its boundaries. After occupying Melpreman for five years, abutting on Sweetapple's country, Lake Wilhelmina, and Minapree were officially taken up in 1863. These runs constituted the station, with the exception that for three years from 1867 Andreson brothers held Lake Wilhelmina. In 1872 Peter McGinnis became the sole owner. In 1873 the following description of the run was made after an inspection by a stock agent: 'They comprise 433,700 acres, splendidly watered by about thirty permanent waterholes. The runs are all fenced and subdivided into twenty-five paddocks, principally with Mallee basket fencing, and the woolshed, homestead, wash, and other principal improvements are situated on Lake Corong. In all, McGinnis has expended nearly £25,000 on the property. The stock consists of about 73,000 sheep and 20,000 lambs, given in. The price is 33/- per sheep, total £120,000. There are also 160 head of cattle, 60 of which would be given in and the balance at a valuation. Twenty horses and improvements in use would be given in. The Government rents amount to £766/13/4 per annum.' Mr. Lascelles, along with Arthur Mandeville and Alfred Douglas, purchased in 1878. The rabbits had come. The New South Wales Commission on the Extermination of Rabbits, 1888, obtained some interesting information from Mr. Lascelles: 'My first practical experience with rabbits was in 1878, when I purchased the Lake Corong Station, in the Mallee district of Victoria. It was then midwinter, and a very dry season. What rabbits were to be seen were in poor condition, and I had the idea that in so dry and waterless a country they could never take possession of it. Up to then the rabbits in the Mallee had not been much talked about, the settlers keeping the matter quiet, in the hope that buyers for their runs might be found. Their first start was in Morton Plains Station, on the edge of the Mallee, where a few couple had been obtained from the westward about 1866; but it was not until 1876 that they began to affect the carrying capacity of that run, from which time they gradually spread throughout the Mallee country, the good season in 1878 giving them a great start. Owing to the runs being under annual licences, expiring in 1880 (at the same time open to free selection), no united action was taken for their destruction. The urgent state of the case was repeatedly brought under the notice of the Government, but no legislation was forthcoming, the consequence being that in 1879 one run after another was abandoned. The first to be forfeited and put to public tender, with all the previous lessee's improvements given in, was the Lake Hindmarsh Run, which, up to 1878, paid £705 per annum for rent. By tender it brought £36 per annum. Other runs brought similarly low

prices. When the leases expired in 1880 it was thought certain there would be legislation; but the Government, being strongly anti-squatting, were afraid to deal with it, and merely renewed the existing Act for a year. It was not until 1885, when the Government agreed to erect a netting fence between the pastoral blocks and Mallee allotments, and also gave compensation at end of leases for netting fences, that any show was made in bringing the Mallee country again into profitable occupation. Since that time large areas have been netted, and these are now carrying sheep at large, dogs being practically exterminated, and rabbits reduced to a minimum. When the Mallee Act was passed, wild dogs, from the pastoral point of view, were considered as the greatest evil, and to deal with these, and also rabbits, by means of poisoned water, the various tanks were either stubbed or netted. Summer thunderstorms prevented the work being carried out in 1884, but in 1885 the tanks were closed, and particularly in salt-bush country great execution followed, *vide* a letter of mine to the *Argus*, dated 17th January, 1885, showing that at two tanks I had skinned in two nights 1,470 rabbits. Where scrub surrounded tanks the results were not good, showing that where bark is to be had rabbits can exist without water. During the last two or three seasons there has been so much outside water in swamps and claypans that there has been no chance to close the tanks during the heat of summer, and when the nights are long and cool I have found very little good by having water shut off.

"RABBIT DESTRUCTION.

"To the Editor of the *Argus*.

"When the Government passed their Mallee Bill, giving fixed tenure for a term of years, I lost no time in erecting rabbit and dog-proof fencing round my tanks, but I found that to ensure a thorough trial it was necessary to make a similar fence round Lake Corong and Yarrock Swamp, and covering together about 6,000 acres. I therefore decided on enclosing 30,000 acres, which would take in both sheets of water, and I also endeavoured to get the Murray frontage and Lake Hindmarsh lessees to similarly fence off their water, but to no avail. The timber being suitable and handy to the line of fence, I contracted for 23 miles pine-stub fencing at a cost of £64 per mile, but the contractor, before getting half through, failed to complete, and I had to carry out the unfinished portion by day labour, at a cost of about £75 per mile. The remaining 6 miles either ran across plains or through poor timber, and on this portion I erected wire netting, 3 feet 6 inches high, 16-gauge, 1½ inches mesh, let into the ground about 4 inches, and with a thick-set barbed wire about 4 inches above netting. Extra precautions must be taken with fencing around tanks, for both rabbits and dogs, and I have put three barbed wires in place of the one wire round the paddock. On the completion of the fencing, no animal can obtain water in any portion of my runs outside the stub fence; but, owing to an inch of rain last month, all surface water had not quite dried up over the Corong run when I left there last week, and it was only on Tyrrell Downs and back country adjoining there that the gates at tanks could be closed. Previous to this, 6-gallon galvanised iron troughs, sunk level with the ground, had been kept filled with good water, in a small sheep-proof enclosure, alongside the main gates; these were poisoned with strychnine dissolved by

putting into a clear bottle an ounce of strychnine with about a third of a pint of acetic acid; the latter can be obtained extra strong, when a much less quantity will suffice. It can easily be seen if the grains of strychnine are dissolved, the mixture thus formed will poison 12 gallons of water.

"At the two tanks where it was known most rabbits were in the habit of watering, men were put in to skin the dead rabbits, the result in two nights being 1,470, all gathered within 100 yards of each tank. At the six other tanks the rabbits were not gathered, but the numbers varied from 20 to 150 each night; in addition, I had four arsenic troughs in other parts of the run, around each of these there were a few dead rabbits, but more scattered about; the action of the poison, being slower, may have enabled them to get back to their burrows, but with strychnine they were completely piled round each trough.

"The wild dogs have been so thinned out at Tyrrell Downs that, although sheep are running at large, very few tracks have been seen for some time, so none were got; but at one trough of strychnine water in the back country at Lake Corong six were obtained in one night.

"Yours, etc.,

"EDWARD H. LASCELLES,

"Chairman, North-Eastern Vermin Board."

"Under the blocks system, Mr. Lascelles got all the Corong country. In 1891 subdivision set in. Lake Corong became Hopetoun. The old homestead became a curiosity amongst the new houses of the town, and the pastoral times were over."

On the Lake Corong Station—taken up by Mr. McGuinness in 1846—some 300,000 acres were sold in the year 1878 to the late Mr. E. H. Lascelles in its rough state; there are now hundreds of families doing well there, who owe in a great measure their success to Mr. Lascelles. This gentleman did more than any other man to open up the Mallee; he did more than the Government. At the time the House was discussing the question as to whether the Mallee was worth saving he was developing the country, by erecting dog and rabbit-proof fences in the larger areas, and killing off the dogs and rabbits. He also undertook to demonstrate that wheat could be grown profitably in the Mallee. Working the land on the share system, he found the men in horse feed and seed, guaranteed their store accounts, and once a week had a killing day on the station to provide their meat supply. The returns in those days were very small, and if he considered the share farmers could not derive a living from their share of the crop he would extend the time for receiving his share. He was a second Cecil Rhodes, a veritable nation builder. When he bought Lake Corong he purchased on a walk-in walk-out basis, taking the number of sheep on the figures of the last shearing; when the muster took place it was found that there was a shortage of 10,000 sheep, owing to the depredations of dogs and rabbits. He carried the burden of this estate, working and developing it for thirty years, with the result that he got back little more than the principal he put into it; but he paved the way for the future men. If the Government had paid him a quarter of a million for his development of the Mallee he would not have been overpaid. There certainly should be a Memorial Monument erected in the township of Hopetoun, setting out the great work Mr. Lascelles did, to remind the rising generation of the work he did for their fathers.



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