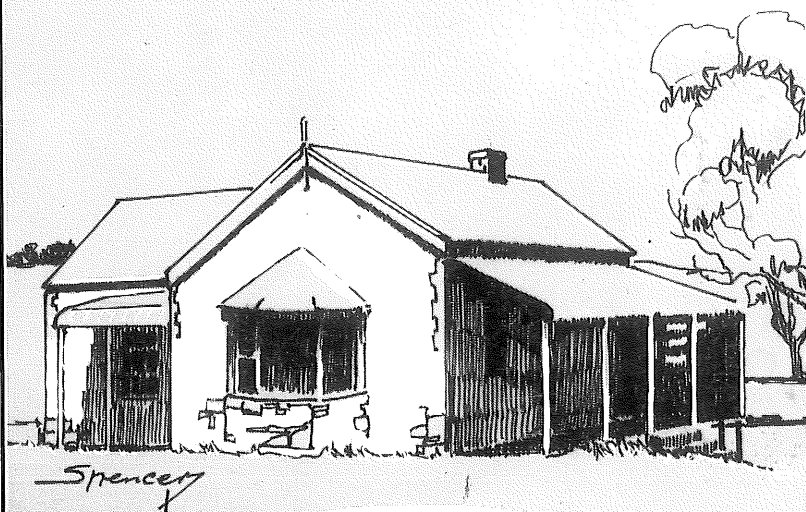


THE GREAT SOUTHERN EXPEDITION OF 1835.



THE OLD HOMESTEAD
OF PIONEER WAGIN FARMER,
SIMON PEARCE, IS LOCATED
NEAR THE TRACK TAKEN BY
JOHN SEPTIMUS ROE.

BY LLOYD NELSON

**A factual and closely researched account
of the first exploration of the solid Great
Southern Region of Western Australia —
150 years ago.**

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lloyd Nelson is well qualified to write about Roe's important expedition to the Great Southern and Avon Valley.

The Nelson family has been associated with the land in these areas, firstly in the Avon Valley and later the Great Southern, for 134 of the 150 years written about.

A former Great Southern businessman and Shire Councillor (at Wagin), Mr Nelson now lives in Perth. However, he retains a strong country interest as Chairman of the Walk Committee and the Annual Drag Hunt at York, and in historical research and writing on the early history of Wagin and the Great Southern.



Printed by the Albany Advertiser as a contribution towards the Sesqui - Centenary celebrations.

Paper kindly supplied by James Hardie Spicers.

Cover : one-sided Splendorlux.
Text : 85 gsm Spicote Dull.

2nd Printing 1986

*COVER SKETCH:
Sketched from a 1947 photo,*

FOREWORD

I am very happy to accept the author's invitation to write the foreword to this volume, which makes a valuable contribution to the understanding of early explorations throughout the Great Southern region of Western Australia.

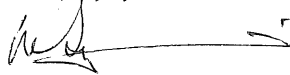
Lloyd Nelson has carried out wide-ranging and thorough research for his book and the result is a very readable story which is informative and recounted in such a style that those days live again.

As a third-generation owner-editor of the "Great Southern Herald", Katanning, and responsible for a number of historical records of local business and organisations, I well appreciate the amount of work involved.

The author's interest in the Great Southern stems from his family's long association with it and his strong childhood attachment with the land that nurtured him.

Such a response as this to his origins gives us a very human and enjoyable account of exploration and early development in Western Australia. Historical comment takes on a new meaning as locations chronicled in explorers' logbooks are identified with references to present-day properties and townsites.

F.I. (Bill) Synnott



Lines on Roe and the Great Southern Expedition of 1835.

*"For we looked around this Country
Far as Human eye could see,
Saw a vision of the future —
Of Pastoral prosperity"*

BACKGROUND TO THE EXPEDITION

The exploration of the Great Southern District of Western Australia by an expedition lead by Surveyor General John Septimus Roe, accompanied by the Governor of Western Australia Sir James Stirling and others was an event of considerable long term significance to the then Swan River Colony. It opened up within a few years a vast area of rich agricultural and pastoral land of greater extent than the Avon Valley and was the first expedition by white men into the Districts of Wagin, Woodanilling, Katanning, Broomehill, Gnowangerup and Kojonup and to some extent Narrogin and districts to the North.

The expedition took place between the 4th October 1835 ex Kelmscott returning to York from Albany on December 29th 1835 and back to Perth on New Years Eve.

The aim of this brief history of the exploration of the region is to trace the reasons behind setting up the expedition - to look at general conditions prevailing in the Colony at that time and to see what the explorers recorded of their impressions of the potential of the country they passed through, the very obvious extent to which that potential has now been realised. Also the personal backgrounds of the members of the party and their subsequent careers are well worth looking at from the point of view of social history and their real contribution to our State.

All of the published histories of the Wagin, Gnowangerup, Katanning, Kojonup and Plantagenet (but not Narrogin) districts mention the Roe-Stirling expedition in brief but not in great detail. This is not surprising as these excellent publications focus more on the later social development of their districts rather than the early explorations.

This brief history has been compiled as a Sesqui-Centenary tribute to Roe, Stirling and their party as this anniversary approaches. The detailed research necessary on the expedition has been made easier by the availability of the original transcripts of Roes daily journal of the expedition backed by his magnificent cartography and supported by newspaper accounts of the day.

During the research the opportunity arose for the writer to visit Sir James Stirling's home town in Guildford Surrey, England and this together with a visit to Apsley House, the London home of the Duke of Wellington who was Prime Minister of England when W.A. was founded, and where the curator could find no reference to W.A. in Wellingtons records, plus local visits to places such as that of Stirlings private home site at Woodbridge, (Guildford W.A.) East Perth Pioneer cemetery, St. George's Cathedral, Old Guildford cemetery, York, Toodyay and the W.A. Museum and sites along the expeditions track such as Etipup and the Old Mill South Perth. This research has tended to emphasise the interwoven nature of the lives of the small number of early settlers and has been most interesting.

As with any historical research a lot of additional background reading was necessary. We are fortunate in W.A. to have such resources as Battye Library, Perth City Council Library historical section as resource gathering centres and such a wealth of pioneer writers.

The quality of authors and diarists such as the Irish Barrister Crown Prosecutor and farmer George Fletcher Moore is outstanding in giving a vivid idea of what living in W.A. at that time was like. Similarly the gentler perceptions of later writers such as Mrs Edward Millet (author of a Country Parsonage) are equally as invaluable in giving perspective. These and other writers typify the drive and determination of our many faceted, very capable pioneer settlers. They expected to succeed in a new environment and mostly did so under very difficult conditions.

Turning now to the background of the Great Southern Expedition - After a slow and shaky start to the Colony, Stirling had returned to England in 1832 to organise more assistance to the flagging Colony. Prior to leaving, his settlers dipped into their pockets to present him with a sword and a gift of a plate - both of which can be seen today in the Perth Museum with the Swan Cup presented to him by relatives of the settlers back in England.

His welcome in London was very chilly, being absent without leave and no doubt in part to the bad press the Colony had received from reports coming back from settlers including many who had gone to the Eastern seaboard. Stirling being forceful, well connected and adept at presenting a case and, having acted in any case, in the best traditions of the Royal Navy, of which he was a serving Officer soon turned the situation around and Honours of a Knighthood, a dinner by the City of London and having his portrait painted by Beechey the fashionable painter were heaped on him.

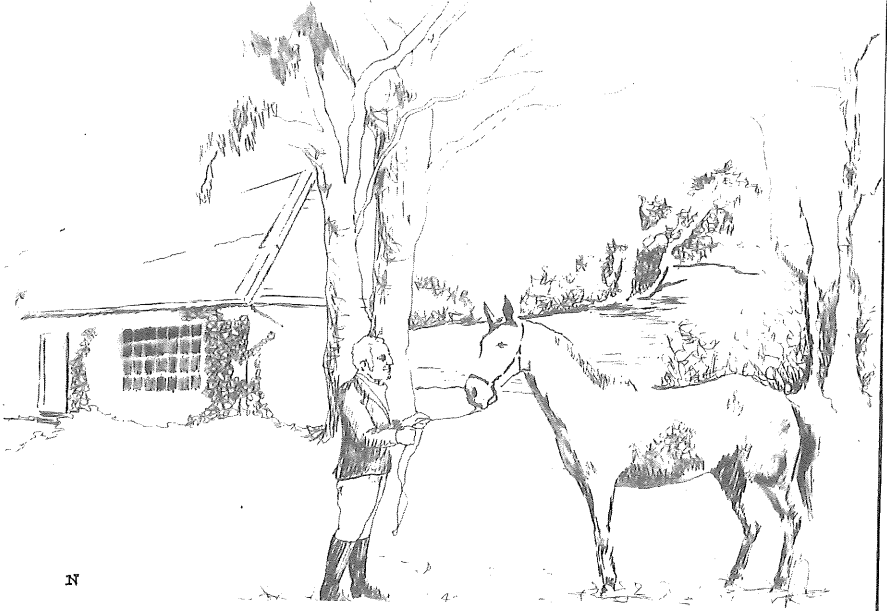
Stirling was away two years. A good part of this time would have been spent in travelling (voyages then averaged 20 weeks). We know he spent eight months negotiating with the Colonial office on matters such as the continuation of the wheat subsidy, relaxing free hold conditions on land purchases and attempting to lower the price of Crown Land. Hay at the Colonial Office would have none of this and did in fact impose on Stirling for enforcement fines on land not improved within a three year period and forfeiture of grants by those who had left the Colony. Stirling's major achievement was the eventual formation of a Joint Stock Bank which later became the West Australian Bank. He returned to the Colony arriving at Albany on July 19th 1834 and arrived back in Fremantle on the James Pattison with his wife and family on August 19th 1834.

The expedition to the Great Southern was foreshadowed in the official public address in reply made on August 23rd 1834 to the earlier speeches of welcome. Stirling expressed his pleasure at the obvious improvement in the Colony in his two year absence and spoke of the optimism expressed by settlers on the future prospects of exportable quality wool. There were only 3,545 sheep in the Colony at the time but wool had been sold in London two years prior by the Trimmers of York for 2/2 per lb. This emphasis on wool prospects implied the opening up of more land which between 1831 and 1834 the Colonial Office had discouraged preferring to follow a policy of consolidating known areas and establishing routes between existing settlements. The deteriorating relationships with the natives had quite a lot to do with this policy.

Despite the parsimonious attitude of the Colonial Office Stirling was very motivated on his return. He reorganised the Government establishment on new lines and publicised that he was available to

any settler in his office from 7.00 a.m. to 8.00 a.m. daily. In October/November he grasped the nettle of the native problem in somewhat bloody fashion at the Battle of Pinjarra where members of the resolute Kalyute tribe were shot. This resolved the question for once and all in favour of the settlers.

Following the return of the punitive expedition to Perth, Stirling went up to York to review at first hand the progress of this key area, returning on November 15th just in time to attend the funeral of Captain Ellis, who died as a result of the Pinjarra fracas.



Governor Stirling

Pictured outside his beautifully sited Woodbridge Cottage at Guildford with his famous stallion Grey-Leg, which he acquired from Lord Egremont's Stud in England.

The expedition south was mooted in the press on October 20th 1834. Initially the idea was for Stirling to travel to Albany on the Government schooner Ellen, with Roe and the party going overland. However due to Roe being too busy to leave Perth for long and Stirling being sick it was decided to defer the overland trip until October 1835. Stirling and Roe went to Augusta and then Albany by sea on the Ellen in late January and undertook a survey of the Kalgan and Hay River headwaters where Stirling with his usual unerring eye took up land.

In the meantime moves were made to check out the favourable reports - never previously followed up - made by Captain Tom Bannister on his significant Perth to Albany expedition of 1830-31 when over seven weeks he traversed the country from Kelmscott, on a line about 4km south west of the present Williams townsite and 40km west of Kojonup down to the coast to Walpole. His navigator Smythe from

Roe's department wasn't too accurate and this resulted in an extended journey with the party living off the land on the Walpole-Albany section. Bannister's report was encapsuled for Stirlings benefit and can be read at the Battye Library. It is a master of laconic understatement but he fully realised the value of the country he travelled over and concluded by saying "that given forced labour to push an adequate road system through, the region would eventually support thousands of industrious settlers and townsmen".

The new expedition under Alfred Hillman - the Government Draftsman - left Kelmscott on January 5th 1835 and followed the line of the Perth-Albany highway of today, reaching the Williams River on January 13th. They were delighted with the Williams Valley which they felt was equal to any of the York countryside. By January 26th they had reached Peel's settlement of Clarence, returning via the Murray and were back in Perth the next day. Joseph Harris who accompanied the party reported at length and very favourably in the Perth Gazette of February 14th 1835 on what he described as the only extensive new district of fine land suitable for grazing sheep and cattle available.

Some dissatisfaction was expressed that Hillman, despite having ample provisions, declined to traverse more of the Williams River frontage. Hillman covered 6 miles of frontage and the private members 21 miles which together with 10 miles of good country reported 4 years earlier by Bannister proved 30 miles of good frontage. Good both ways but possibly they thought getting better to the East.

The Williams River incidentally is about 45 miles in length. It rises south of Dumberning siding and towards Highbury and joins the Hotham River west of Mt Saddleback - from where it is known as the Murray. Maps as early as 1833 show the Williams River which Captain Tom Bannister is thought to have named after King William the Fourth, then reigning.

The press report drew the following critical letter from a correspondent writing under a nom de plume.

.. To the Editor of "The Perth Gazette."

Sir I have read in one of your back numbers, Mr Hillman's account of the expedition to the William and Hotham districts, and feel satisfied he has said everything which the land in that quarter merits. May I ask why it is, that those districts have not, years back, been noticed, and whether it is the business of the settler, or that of the Government to proceed and report upon these matters? There is certainly nothing calculated to mislead in Mr Hillman's report, and it is to be regretted that those gentlemen who upon a former occasion visited that quarter, were not more accurate in reporting as to the extent of good land, which now appears so limited. I would further ask how it is that Mr Hillman, in his Journal, names the Avon - a river not in existence, according to Mr Bland's account. It is to be lamented that the expedition to the Sound, over Bannister's track, had not been preceded upon four years back, which would have enabled the Government here to have pointed out land of undeniable character to the Gentlemen lately arrived.

Your inserting the above in your next Publication will oblige.

A constant Reader,
and true Friend to the Colony.

The writer raises very valid points but in view of later heavy stock losses through poison in the area it probably was just as well that the Avon Valley concentration allowed sheep numbers to build up for later expansion.

These matters rested until the 26th of June 1835 when the Colonial Secretary, Peter Broun wrote the following letter to the Surveyor-General Roe.

Colonial Secretarys Office
26th June 1835

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that it is the Governor's intention to send out an expedition as soon after the 1st September next as the state of the season may admit for the purpose of examining the country in the direction of King George's Sound and that with the view of rendering the intended exploration in every respect complete and satisfactory it is the wish of the Governor to confide the execution of that service to your personal superintendance.

In addition to the attainment of the above mentioned object there are some minor points which it is considered your presence in the interior will enable you to accomplish. Among these may be named the selection generally of a line of communication between the Southern part of the settlement and also the adjustment of claims of certain individuals to lands on the river Hotham and Williams. In order to accomplish the latter of these and to set at rest definitely the question which has arisen out of the uncertainty with respect to the position of these two rivers the Governor deems it advisable that you should proceed upon the route of Captain Bannister as far as the stream that has since been designated the Hotham on the official plans, but after the attainment of that position your future course may be governed by circumstances and your own opinion.

Thus having stated the views that the Governor entertains I am to acquaint you that it is his wish the expedition should be equipped with everything which you may deem essential to its efficiency and comfort, and I am to request you will draw up and transmit to me in the course of the ensuing month a list of persons whom you may consider it advisable to take with you and also estimates of the quality, quantity and probable cost of the articles which you may require in order that full time may be secured for their purchase and preparation.

Signed Peter Broun
Colonial Secretary.

THE PARTY MEMBERS

Roe in his usual efficient, low key style proceeded to structure the expedition for an absence of about 5 weeks.

The operational plan involved pushing ahead a forward party to the Williams River guided by Alfred Hillman of the Survey Department but (probably due to Harris's complaints earlier) under the general guidance of James Randell Phillips who was proceeding to the District in the capacity of Government Resident. Phillips had been in the country since February 1830. He was 36 years of age and held land in Canning and Plantagenet. Other members were Marshall MacDermott - in the Colony since June 1831 and who held about 19,000 acres of land, Joseph Harris the eldest son of Dr Joseph Harris M.D. He had been in the Colony since January 1833, and was 25 years old. Joseph Burges who came out in 1831. Thomas Newte Yule aged 32 a former Indian Army Officer who came out in 1830. Yule was farming in partnership with other former Indian Army Officers Lewis & Houghton in the Colony. Lt Henry Bull 35 years old (of later Bullcreek fame)

who had been in the Colony since 1830. Chief Constable Barron - a former colour sargeant of the 63rd Regiment - who had been in the Colony since June 1829 plus the Swan River native tracker Weenat. Also of course Geo Leake who needs little introduction. They had with them 10 bullocks, 6 horses and a team. The general intention of at least some of the party was to select land and settle themselves in the area.

This party got under way on October 4th and their departure is mentioned together with the impending departure of the main party in the Perth Gazette as follows.

The overland expedition to King George's Sound, will start from Perth early on Monday morning. The party consists of his Excellency Sir James Stirling; the Surveyor General, Hon. J.S. Roe, Esq.; Mr Norcott, Superintendent of Police, with a body of the mounted corps; Messrs. A. Trimmer, A. Stirling, and G. Elliott. Mr G. Leake will join the party at Kelmscott. Every preparation has been made that former experience could suggest, and the available means in the colony render practicable. The course which will be taken as far as the Hotham River, will be the track of the party which left this a fortnight ago, where it is, we believe, intended to make a short stay, in order to afford the Surveyor-General time for examining that part of the country. Their further proceedings will be guided by circumstances; but on their arrival at the Sound, preparations will be made for transporting the horses and baggage to Doubtful Island Bay, from whence, as we have before announced, it is in contemplation by the Surveyor-General to return further inland. The expedition has our most cordial wishes for its success, and we hope in about two months to welcome the party home in good health, abounding with gratifying intelligence of a great portion of our territory hitherto unexplored.

In the same paper Stirling's domestic affairs also got the following mention

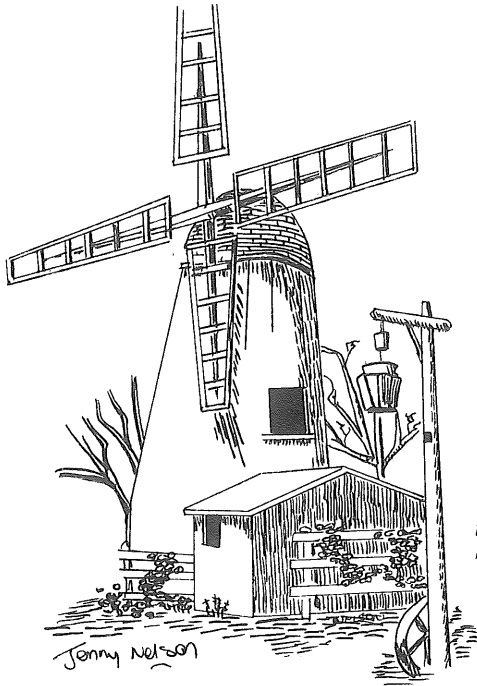
Lady Stirling, we are happy to find, is sufficiently recovered from her recent confinement to admit of her receiving the congratulatory visits of her friends.

Starting for the Williams River

The actual departure was also reported in the gazette as follows

Overland expeditions to the Hotham and King George's Sound - His Excellency the Governor Sir James Stirling, accompanied by our Surveyor-General J.S. Roe, Esq., and the party we have already enumerated in a previous number, started on this Expedition, from Perth, on Monday morning.

After crossing the ferry, His Excellency being solicited by Mr W.K. Shenton to lay the foundation stone of the Mill about to be erected at Point Belches, obligingly complied.



*Peter Broun: Colonial Secretary.
1829-1846.*

*This sketch appeared on
the 1984 Home Building
Society Calendar.*

Shenton's Mill — South Perth

Governor Stirling laid the foundation stone en route to the Great Southern.

One of the members of the party, York farmer Arthur Trimmer was obviously making an after shearing trip as the following articles in the gazette imply.

The wool sent home from this Colony last year, from one of our best flocks, only realised 1s. 9½d per lb, owing, as the agents intimate, to the number of grass-seeds in the fleece. This ought to be avoided, as it is further remarked, that the quality was approved of, and under other circumstances would have realised 3s. per lb.

Two waggon loads of wool, in bales, for exportation, were brought to town this morning from Messrs Bland and Trimmer's, at York.

Roe's party left Perth the day Hillman's advance party reached Hillman's old bivouac at Starting Creek on the Williams River and as this brief history is really about Roe's party greater detail now can be entered into by giving a pen picture of the background of each individual member and their reasons for being in the Colony and on the expedition.

It would be appropriate to start with the Governor - Sir James Stirling. Stirling was 44 at the time. His wife Ellen being 28. They had two children born in England, Andrew 9 and Frederick 6. One child born in the Colony died at 4 months of age in 1831. A daughter Anne had been born that month (October 1835).

Stirling was a Scot and came from a family of status and influence. He was the fifth son of Andrew and Ann Stirling of Drumpellie Lanarkshire. His family had a long tradition of Naval Service. The most famous being Sir Walter Stirling. His family had American connections and his uncle was a Rear Admiral.

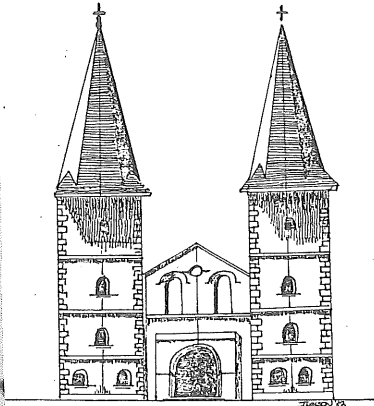
He started navy life as a midshipsman on the Camel at age 12 serving on the West Indies Station and taking part in the action against the French navy at Cape Finesterre and also at Montevideo. In the brief British-American war of 1812 at age 21 he commanded HMS Brazen a 28 Gun Frigate and bombarded American forts and also provided naval protection for British Colonists at Hudsons Bay.

Admiralty reports listed Stirling as a "very zealous officer, able, intelligent and energetic with conciliatory gentlemanly manners plus a marked aptitude in foreign languages. All of this however did him no good when at the end of the Napoleonic Wars in common with so many other able men in the British Naval establishment he languished for some eight years on half pay without a ship to command.

In 1820 at age 29 Stirling visited Woodbridge in Surrey, the home of James Mangles the commercial magnate who was a director of the famous British East India Company - the headquarters of which were in Leadenhall Street in the city of London. Mangles also was High Sheriff of Surrey and Member of Parliament for Guildford. During this visit Stirling was captivated by Mangles third daughter Ellen then aged 13. He married her the day she turned 16.

He was recalled to Naval Service in 1825 to command HMS Success and left Ellen and their first son Andrew with her family at Woodbridge and went out to New South Wales to evacuate the settlement of Melville Island to Raffles Bay. While refitting in Sydney the journey north was postponed to avoid the monsoon season. To fill in this time Governor Darling seconded Success and a schooner to check out the prospects of a more ambitious settlement at Swan River than that which was struggling at Albany. Ralph Darlings part in colonising Western Australia has not received the recognition merited in history. In establishing the settlement at Albany he did so in the face of instruction from Lord Bathurst, his immediate superior and Secretary of State for War and the Colonies.

The result of the survey are of course now well known. The favourable report encouraged Governor Darling to recommend to the home office

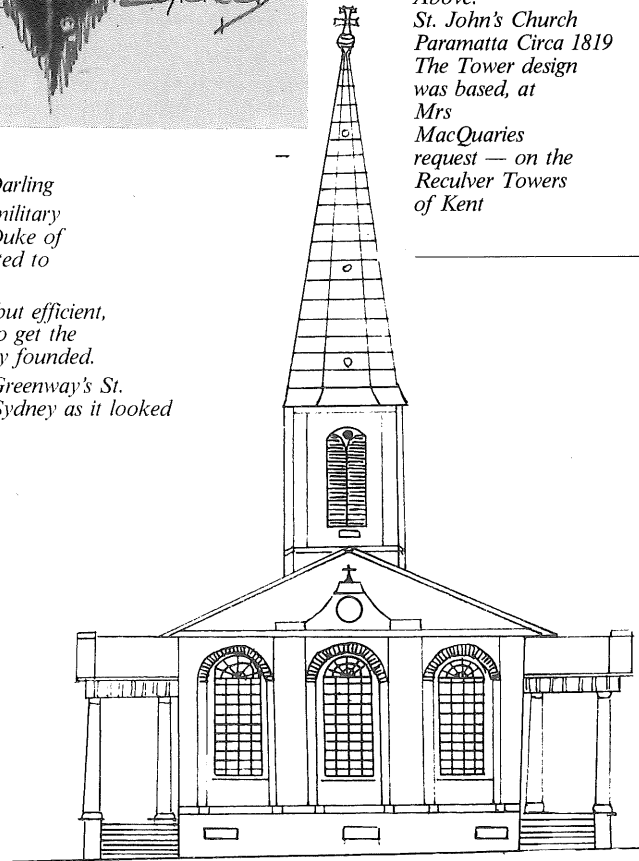


Above:
 St. John's Church
 Paramatta Circa 1819
 The Tower design
 was based, at
 Mrs
 MacQuaries
 request — on the
 Reculver Towers
 of Kent

*Governor Ralph Darling
 One of the many military
 colleagues of the Duke of
 Wellington appointed to
 Colonial posts.*

*Cold, humourless but efficient,
 Darling did a lot to get the
 Swan River Colony founded.*

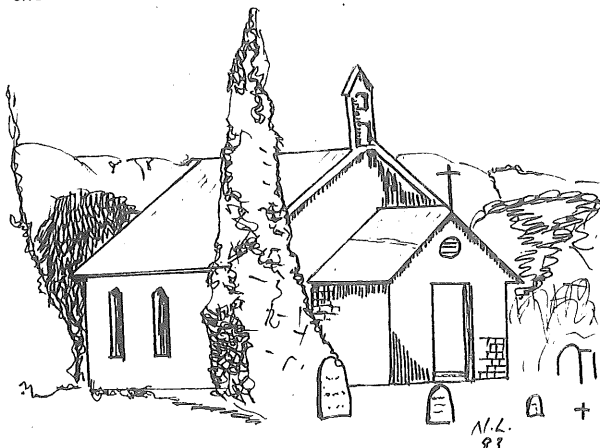
*Right — Francis Greenway's St.
 James Church in Sydney as it looked
 in Darling's time.*



Jenny Nelson

that a colony be established at Swan River. Curiously enough the existing reports of the expedition are signed by Stirling's subordinate Captain (or Lieutenant) Gilbert and the Botanist Charles Fraser who had achieved note as field Botanist to the explorer John Oxley.

Gilbert's report on the Swan River reads in part (and quite inaccurately) "The country opens into immense plains of the most fertile description. The soil is rich brown earth extending to the base of the 'mountains'. while Mr Fraser concluded his report "In delivering my opinion of the whole of the land seen on the banks of the Swan I hesitate not in pronouncing it superior to any I have seen in New South Wales eastward of the Blue Mountains.



James Stirling

All Saints

This beautiful little church at Upper Swan was the far point reached by Stirling on his survey, in 1827.

Stirling certainly saw the possibilities of the Swan River area and wrote to the British Government applying for the position of superintendant of any Colony to be established by Britain on the Western Coast.

This was the curt letter he received and which is quoted now from the Historical Records of Australia Series 3 Volume 6 page 584.

"Under Secretary Stanley
to Captain Stirling,
Downing Street,
29 Nov. 1827.

Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Secretary Huskisson to acquaint you, in reply to your letter of the 15th May last, that as it is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to form an Establishment on Swan River, it is not in his power to comply with your wishes in the manner to which you allude.

I am, & c.
E.G. Stanley"

Subsequently claiming ill health Stirling went back on half pay and returned home to England and for reasons encompassing ambition, drive, extension of Empire, forestalling the French plus a distinct chance to restore the family fortunes (which were hit hard in the Financial crisis in Britain in 1825) by personally acquiring good land - the basis of wealth in land hungry Britain - he promoted the concept of settling the Swan River. The French settlement possibility according to Lord Goderich Earl of Ripon (after whom Lord Street is named) quoted in 1835, "was groundless and only the offer of private enterprise to open the Colony in return for protection and assistance for a limited period from the Government accomplished the project." Ripon's comment may appear superficial in view of the French Governments earlier official note to Lord John Russel asking him to delineate Britains area of interest in the new continent. (All of it, Russel replied.)

Whichever way it is looked at, Stirling was the right man in the right place at the right time. Conditions were ripe in England at the time to resume colonisation after the hiatus of the Napoleonic wars and Stirling was the entrepreneur that started the Colony on its way.

At the time of the Great Southern Expedition his Colony, the first free settlement in the country was suffering from too many chiefs and far too few indians. Despite an unworkable land grant system the Swan River Colony was overcoming its unpromising start and showing movement. Stirling didn't mind in the least the hard personal work needed from him to continue the progress made.

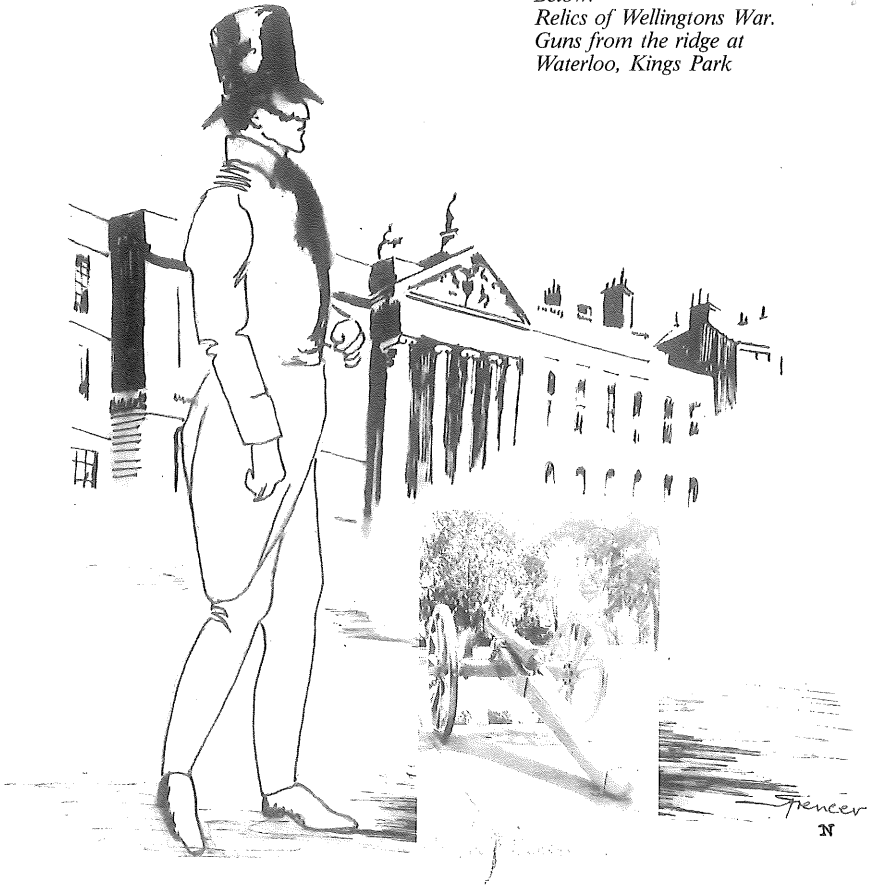
On a personal level he had an eye for good country and had taken up a nice block of 4,000 acres at Woodbridge at Guildford. The site of his cottage which is about 100 metres upstream from Harpers later Woodbridge House - now National Trust Property - is one of the most beautiful sites in Western Australia, on high banks where the Woodbridge reach of the river turns sharply towards Midland Pool. The site is in the grounds of Governor Stirling High School and has been marked by a Historical Society Plaque since 1931. He built a cottage there before July 1831 and the site is well worth a visit.



*Woodbridge — Guildford.
Built by Chas Harper in 1884-5. Just
downstream from Stirling's cottage
site.*

*Guildford Grammar School was
founded in this house.
It is now a much visited National
Trust House.*

*Below:
Relics of Wellingtons War.
Guns from the ridge at
Waterloo, Kings Park*



The celebrated Duke of Wellington was Prime Minister of England when the Swan River Colony was founded.

He is pictured outside the offices of the powerful British East India Company in Leadenhall Street in London.

Stirling's father-in-law James Mangles was a prominent Director of this Company.

We now turn to his great Lieutenant John Septimus Roe. The Surveyor-General was 38 at this time and his wife Matilda 33. They had four children all born in the Colony ranging from Sophie 6, to Eliza then 11 months.

Roe was the seventh son of the Reverend Jas Roe of Newbury, Berkshire and was educated at Christ School in London. From there he was appointed midshipsman at age 16 (in 1813) to HMS Rippon which was engaged in blockading the French coast in company of a squadron that included the famous warships Bellerophon, Magnificent, Impregnable, Warspite and Ajax. While engaged with the inshore squadron Roe drew up charts of Brest Harbour on which Sir Christopher Cole commended him.

He later saw service in HMS Horatio to Newfoundland and the Phillipines. In 1817 he first went to New South Wales on HMS Dick under the brilliant Hydrographer Phillip Parker King and while there met the old Governor Lachlan MacQuarie. An occasion whereby the best Colonial Administrator the British Empire arguably ever had met the man who later became arguably the country's most outstanding civil servant.



The original of this sketch has been presented to the Wagin Historical Village.

The sculpture of Roe on his Kings Park Memorial.



Roe waiting at old Government House at Paramatta for an audience with the old "Viceroy", Governor Lachlan MacQuarie.

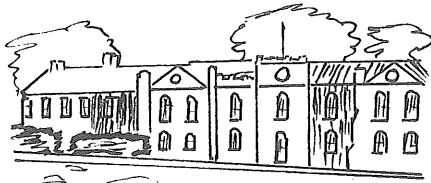
Neither man, despite totally outstanding colonial service received recognition from the British Government. Government House was built by Architect John Watt, the portico was a later addition by Francis Greenway.

N

King took Roe to Western Australia on the Mermaid in September 1817 going via Bass Strait, The Recherche Archipelago off Esperance to Albany, North West Cape and Exmouth. Then to Timor and Sydney. Following survey work in Tasmania they then went West to Goulbourn Island where Roe nearly lost his life in an attack by natives.

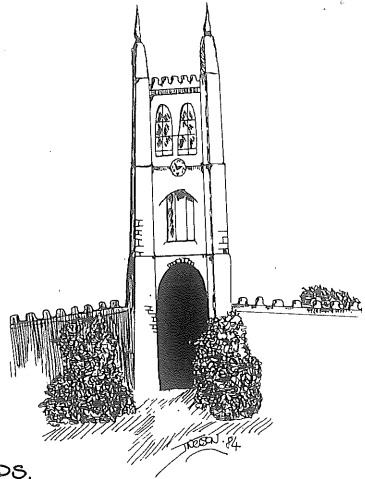
In 1821 on a new ship, Bathurst, Roe sustained a broken fall of 50 feet and suffered head injuries to which in later years he attributed the loss of sight in his right eye.

In 1824 he was back in Australia on the Bathurst and was present at the founding of Port Essington. On his return to England in 1827 he was attached to the Hydrographers office at the Admiralty. Following an approach from Stirling he was appointed Surveyor-General for the Swan River Colony for a two year term and married Matilda Bennet prior to coming out to the Colony. Matilda presented him with a daughter some months after arriving in the Colony - the first child of a Parmelia settler.



THE PRIORY AT
NEWBURY, BERKSHIRE,
FROM WHICH ROE'S
SANDALFORD ESTATE
DERIVES ITS NAME:

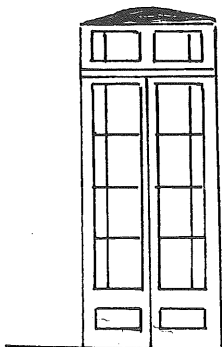
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THE REVD. ROE'S CHURCH, ST. NICHOLAS, IN
NEWBURY - OLD EVEN BY ENGLISH STANDARDS.

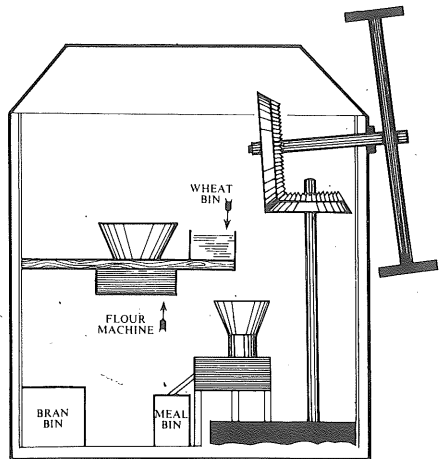
Reaching the Colony, Roe was immediately embroiled in surveying a town, farms, sections and roads. He arbitrated land disputes and helped out in piloting vessels into Cockburn Sound. In 1832 he was sworn in as a member of the Legislative Council, set aside land for Supreme Court Gardens and Government House. He explored the Collie and Preston Rivers in 1830, charted Cockburn Sound approaches and anchorages and commanded in 1834 a party of guns at the ford at the Battle of Pinjarra.

He worked incessantly and counselled new migrants on how to secure land grants. During all of this he enjoyed an excellent rapport with the Governor. In addition to his heavy work load he had taken up the 2,000 acre Sandalford property at upper Swan and built a substantial brick house in Perth.



VERANDAH
DOORS AT
ROE'S
ADELAIDE TCE.
HOME,
GLYNLEE.

N.L.
87

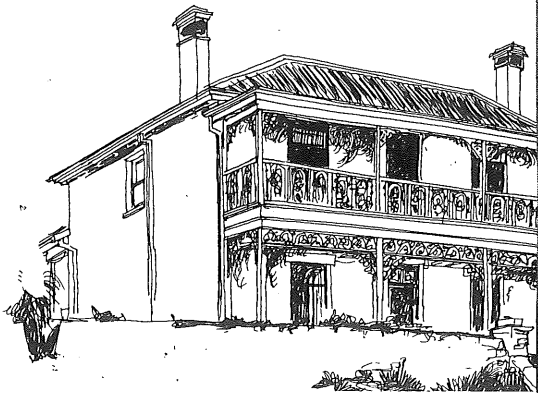


WORKING
DETAILS OF
SHENTON'S
MILL.

The original of this sketch was auctioned at the 1984 York Walk.



*The Old Western Australian Bank Building in York
Circa 1886. The Western Australian Bank came into being as a result of Governor Stirling's early efforts in England to start a Banking facility in the Swan River Colony.*



*Gallop House
Circa 1877.*

A member of the Great Southern Expedition — Commissioner John Lewis, owned this property from about 1834 and left it to English relatives who sold it later to James Gallop.



*Stirling's statue in the forecourt of
R&I Bank in Barrack Street.*

This latter was at 240 Adelaide Terrace and had double French doors, opening onto wide paved verandahs. The grounds of the house ran from Hay Street down to the River (Adelaide Terrace didn't exist then). There were horse paddocks and fruit trees and a good pool of water from springs. Near Hay Street there was a two roomed cottage which was used at one stage by Roe as the Survey Office. The kink in the terrace at that point was attributed to the fact that when St. George's Terrace was continued east, if it had been surveyed on the same line it would have passed through Roes House. Roe at the time of the Great Southern Expedition was doing a fine job for the Colony and certainly had vindicated Stirling's choice of Lieutenant.

Andrew Stirling

Then seventeen years of age - a nephew of Sir James Stirling - and was his private secretary. He had come out from England on the James Pattison in August the previous year when Sir James returned to the Colony. He was the eldest son of Sir James' older brother, John of St Andrews, Fifeshire Scotland. This young man despite his youth was making a very competent fist of his duties.

George Eliot (or Elliott)

Nineteen years of age. He was a single man who came out on the *Parmelia* in 1829 as a Clerk to Sir James.

He had selected 2,560 acres in the Plantagenet area in 1831 and had also bought 4,000 acres from F.H. Byrne in the Avon area.

He went back to England on the HMS Sulphur with Sir James as his Aide De Campe in 1832 and returned again with Sir James on the James Pattison in June 1834.

Commissioner John Lewis

Lewis was then 39 years old. He came to the Colony on 18th December 1831 per the Egyptian and held the post of Commissariat General. He was the owner of Perth Town Land.

Police Superintendent Charles Rossmore Norcott

Norcott was the son of General Sir Amos Norcott. He came to the Colony in 1831 and worked with Marshall MacDermott. He took up 10 acres of land at Kingston on Rottneest in 1831.

He was later superintendent of Natives and then after the death of Captain Ellis from the Battle of Pinjarra he succeeded to the office of Superintendent of the Mounted Police.

Norcott was a cool hand. At the Battle of Pinjarra, when a native was in the act of launching a spear at Sir James Stirling, Norcott called out casually in English shooting style "To your left Sir James" - then shot the native dead.

He was a gifted mimic, a quality that appealed greatly to the Swan River natives who invariably would call out to him in the streets of Perth. The Perth Gazette of January 3rd 1835 recounts some

humanitarian work by Norcott and natives Migo and Mollydobbin (both of whom were attached to the Mounted Police) in tracking down the lost Hall child at the Murray. The child became lost at noon and Norcott and the natives were at the scene from Perth at first light the next morning and tracked hard in very difficult country all that day catching up with the child alive and well early the following day. This versatile and erudite officer was a logical choice to accompany the Great Southern Expedition.

Arthur Trimmer

Trimmer then aged 28 was an interesting character. He and his brother William came out in the Atwick in April 1831. He and William (aged 38) took up 15,200 acres in the Avon area.

Their mother was the celebrated authoress Jane Trimmer, who later came out to the Colony and stayed six years. Mrs Trimmer was 70 years of age when she travelled out on the 'Brothers' in 1838/39. According to fellow passenger Walkinshaw Cowan (of later York fame) she took the trip cheerfully and lightly.

One other passenger on the ship was the new Governor Elect Hutt.

Trimmer together with R.H. Bland were the first settlers to take up a town grant of 50 acres at York. They were the largest and in fact for some years the only settlers at York. Their operational base was the Government stock station, north of Caversham House, which they ultimately took over. In 1834 they had 1,400 sheep at York. Sir James said at that time that both Bland and Trimmer were in a most prosperous position and "Did Mr Bland live he would become a man of great wealth". In omitting Trimmer from this comment Sir James was probably taking into account reports that Trimmer was drinking fairly heavily at the time. Some of Trimmers land adjoined that of Sir James at Avondale (now Avondale Research Station).

The Perth Gazette of 13th June 1835 records that R.H. Bland and Trimmer were recovering a broken down cart on the York Road and were attacked by 13 natives and had to ride hard to get clear. The paper was critical of both settlers for being unarmed at the time but obviously regarded them well saying "neither were known to lack courage".

Trooper John Stanton

Then aged 41. He was an Army Sargeant in the 63rd Regiment and came out in the Sulphur on 8th June 1829. He married a 32 year old widow in 1831 and at this stage had a step daughter and a daughter aged two. He left the army the previous year and was the owner of several Perth lots.

Trooper Patrick Hefron

Hefron was a private in the 63rd Regiment arriving in June 1829 with his wife Anne. He left in 1834 with his regiment but returned in October to an appointment in the Mounted Police based in the Murray area. No doubt he was involved in protecting Peels people down there. He took part in the Battle of Pinjarra and was badly speared with a barbed flint headed spear above the right elbow in this action.

Trooper John Craigie

Then 23 years of age. He came out on the James Pattison in 1834 on the same ship that Stirling returned on.

Trooper George Syred

He was then 25 years old, arriving in the Colony on the Hoogly in February 1830.

He was single and came out with his two brothers Tom and Daniel. He had something of a social conscience and was noted as having signed a petition against the unpopular timber tax in 1833.

The Syred name has long associations with the Toodyay District.

Trooper Jesse Wood

He was 36 years old, having come out in the Atwick in October 1829 from Sussex. In 1833 he served in the Yeomanry Guard to act against Natives. For a time he worked for Bannister.

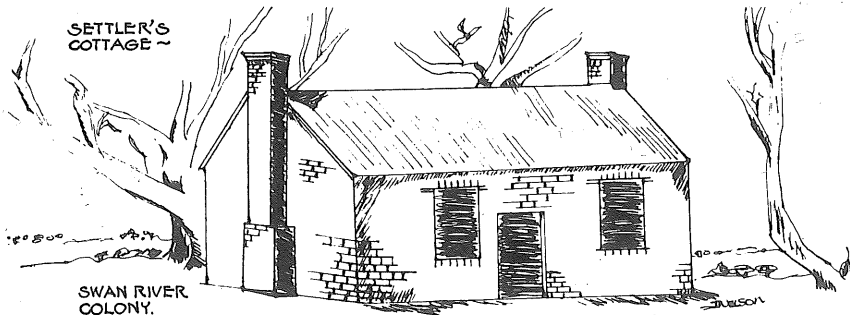
Migo

The Swan River Native attached to the Mounted Police. He has already been mentioned for his good tracking work for Norcott at the Murray.

Migo is described as "A good looking man of about 21. He got along well with the white population and was well regarded by them. At the Foundation Day sports in Perth earlier in the year he had given a good demonstration of spear throwing to entertain the crowd." He then took on all comers in a foot race and won by a yard." His efforts are recorded in the Perth Gazette.

One other member of the party who only went as far as the Williams River was George Leake.

Leake was 49 at the time and had come out on the Calista in 1829. He was a substantial man of property and his subsequent career as a real power and financier within the Colony is fairly well known. Leake was very astute and no doubt his presence in the party was to assess the prospects of the lands to be looked at as far as the Williams River. He later took up land further South in the Kojonup area.





Old Government House as it looked when the writer's great grandfather arrived in Perth, in 1851.

The Great Southern Expedition finally got away from Perth on 19th October 1835.

Roe, Stirling, Andrew Stirling, George Eliot and Commissioner Lewis hacked around to the foot of Mount Eliza in the afternoon and swam their horses across the Swan alongside the ferry. After resaddling their horses, they were flagged down by W.K. Shenton who was in the early stages of building his new flour mill - now the well know Old Mill tourist attraction at South Perth. Shenton prevailed on the Governor to lay the foundation stone of the building and Stirling readily complied. Apparently the stone used was the nearest squared piece of limestone as a very close examination of the mill by the curator and the writer showed no signs of a marked or inscribed stone. Considering the impromptu nature of the ceremony this is not surprising. The press report of the ceremony appeared earlier in this account.

Shenton's Mill when it finally got into production could grind about 25 bushels per day. The entire wheat acreage for the Colony at that time was around 1,100 acres.

The diagrammatic principles of his mill were contained in an application to Stirling for some financial assistance and have been included in this brief history for interest sake.

They pushed on and three hours later they reached Mr Phillips' farm on the Canning and swam their horses over the river at that point. On the far side they were joined by Norcott and his men, George Leake, Arthur Trimmer and Migo. They exchanged some good humoured comment on the varied appearance of the members of the party, each of whom had worn what they considered appropriate for the journey. The party then pushed on along the left bank of the river passing the untenanted farm of C.H. Wright and at 6.00pm were at their overnight camp at the Military Barracks at Kelmescott. This was the last roof they could expect to sleep under for some time and they were glad of the dry shelter as the night turned showery.

Roe comments that at this point the Canning River (named after a Prime Minister of England) was flowing to the north at about two miles per hour in a deep bed 10 yards wide. The river rose about two inches overnight. The Barracks, in Clifton Street, was the first building in Kelmscott and stood until 1876 when the son of the first owner Henry Martin, demolished them to build a house on the site. This stood for nearly a hundred years before it in turn was demolished. An ironstone Cairn at the corner of Clifton and Martin Streets commemorates Martin's property.



Martin's old house on the Kelmscott Barracks site in 1975.

Next morning the party breakfasted early and stowed their gear on the baggage horses which the Police Troopers lead, and then set off. Of the party of sixteen, only seven were mounted. The rest walked. Migo was riding a Timor Pony. Quite a few of these hardy animals came into the Colony from ships making a land fall at Timor from time to time. A brisk trade is done within Timor for these ponies still, mainly at upland fairs. The writer visited one of these fairs in Timor near Maubisse in 1972 and was surprised at the number of ponies being offered for sale.

Migo carried a number of tin pots and also a tea kettle slung around his waist, the whole effect reminding Roe of a travelling tinker in England.

From Kelmscott the party pushed south east and about one and a half miles further on tackled the Darling Range. They ascended from the first small valley on that course and then struck a steep ridge and had to detour. They then crossed the deep Roleystone Valley and soon came on the first stopping place of Phillips' and Hillman's forward party. They pushed on in light showery weather and came to where one of the teams ahead had broken down and had delayed the party.

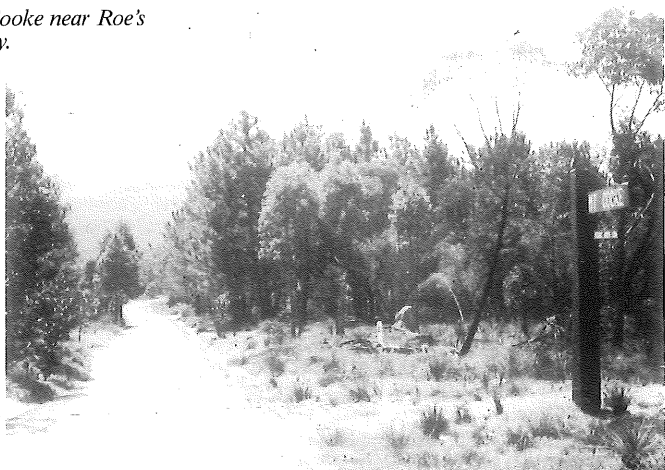
Here Mr Phillips had left a letter addressed to Sir James Stirling, nailed to a tree, explaining their reason for a change in course from south east to south south east. (The country south east was too steep for the carts.) They also found their perambulator (a surveyors device for measuring distance covered - quite commonly used by Swan River exploring parties, no doubt Roe's party had one) had been accidentally broken and suspended in a tree. They left this for the return party to pick up and followed Phillips' route, camping for the night about 17 miles from the Barracks. Roe's comments centred on good timber, but poor feed with the best country being in the valleys.

They were on a line about six miles past Gleneagles and six miles in towards Jarrahdale.

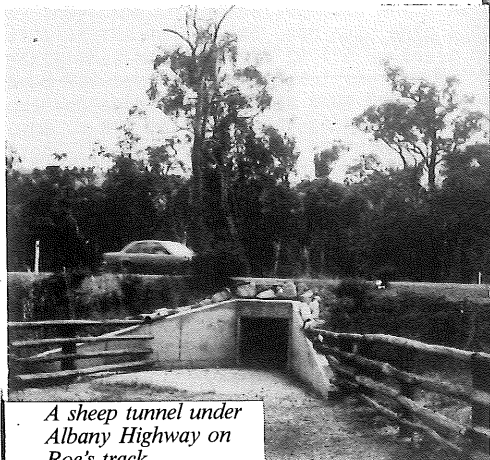
Next morning, October 21st, after a showery night, the party was on the track by 6.00am. It must be appreciated that they were following a marked track - that of the forward party - there were no directional decisions to be made. About one and a half miles on they identified Mount Joseph and nearby an overnight stop by the forward party. This latter was identified from a tree blazed by Hillman. By 9.00am they were four miles east from Mount Randal. At 11.30am the party halted in some better grass country for lunch. It was a brief stop and they then pushed on, on a line close to todays Albany Highway, greeting with pleasure about 3 miles further on the appearance of the first clump of White Gums. At about the same place they found another of Hillman and Phillips' overnight camps, again identified from a blazed tree. Shortly after they came on three native huts which were the first they had seen since Kelmscott. From this point on Roe's comments on the decided improvement in the country - White Gum timber and brown loamy soil. At 4.00pm they crossed a narrow valley with a stream in it and a quarter of a mile further on struck a small river descending to the west south west. They made 28 miles for the day, camping for the night just over the Serpentine River.

Next morning, October 22nd, the party was on the track by 5.30am in fine cloudless weather and shortly came across the 9th Bivouac of the forward party. They crossed a series of valleys, obtaining from a ridge a very extensive view of the country dipping southwards and by 7.45am had struck another of the teams bivouacs. From a point about three quarters of a mile further on, Saddle Back Hill was sighted about thirty miles distant - the western part being obscured by a long wooded hill about two miles off, this hill is still unnamed. The country here dipped to the south east, and a mile and a half further on took the party into a valley with large bare rocks on the eastern side. Below this another larger valley came in and at the bottom of this they struck the Bannister River running rapidly to the south west in a rocky bed four yards wide. There was excellent grass here and to let the horses take full advantage of this the party halted for three hours, from where they rested they sighted a blazed tree indicating that the forward party had also halted here for a while. Starting off again the party headed south east and Roe and Stirling left the party to climb a hill from which the most obvious feature they could discern was an elevated peak hill twentyfive to thirty miles to the north. This like so many features in the forestry country is unnamed but is map reference JD1 and has a cairn on its summit.

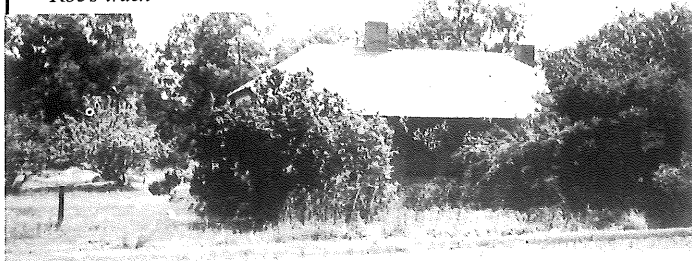
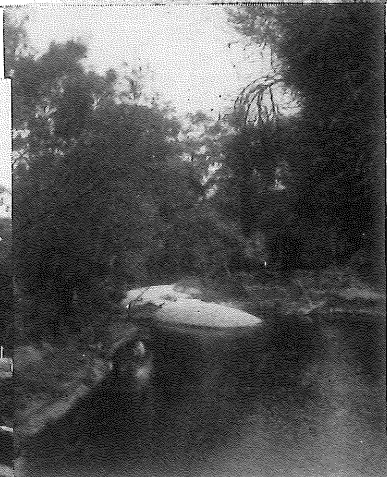
Right — Mount Cooke near Roe's track in the forestry.



the Serpentine River at Roe's crossing point.



A sheep tunnel under Albany Highway on Roe's track



Monger's old house where Roe crossed the Hotham.

The present expedition saw Hillman bring into being a detailed classification of soil types based on vegetation and designed to identify grazing potential. Experience in the known and proved Avon Valley country defined York Gum and Jam country as very good grazing country. Roe determined on this current trip that Yate and Morrell in the south gave a similar result.

This type of soil classification is first class land - York Gum/Jam; second class - Marri, Wandoo; third class - Jarrah and Banksia and scrub held good in Western Australia until the later 1940 period when the introduction of trace elements on light land forced a change in thinking. Some of the older school Bank Valuers in particular, from the writers experience, adhered to the traditional valuation of country based on original timber long after this system in relation to land production was a dead issue.

October 23rd saw another 5.30am start from camp. They crossed the stream on which they bivouaced and continued south east through mainly White Gum country and noted an improvement in the feed. They passed to the left of a very rocky slope which descended to a broad valley and passed over some dry water courses and within four miles were at the teams camp number 16. From here they came into Jam country and headed more to the south to avoid some low country. In doing so they came on two native huts which were fairly old on the south side of the valley and then came onto a notice posted by the advance party that advised them to tie up their dogs as they had left several dead bullocks by the side of the track. This bad news led to a quickening of pace and as they rounded some rocks, Roe and party came on two natives who responded rather timidly to a call from Migo. The natives were a man and boy both in bad condition to whom they gave some bread. Migo couldn't interpret their language. The pair were naked except for a kangaroo skin across the shoulders. There were no spears in evidence.

Leaving the natives, the party pushed on and came across seven fine bullocks lying dead by the track. Two carts had been left behind due to this lessening of the draught teams. Four of the bullocks were Mr Phillips and three belonged to Dy Harris.

While regretting this severe loss there was nothing to be done and the march was quickly resumed passing another dead bullock. Roe attributed the deaths to the scrubby nature of the feed but obviously they had eaten poison bush.

The line of the march continued into rocky ironstone and White Gum country and the Saddle Back Hill once more came again into view nine or ten miles away.

Around 4.00pm the party was cheered by the sight of better country ahead. The party spontaneously gave three cheers at the transition into better country and to quote Roe "In a few minutes we all met a little lower down at a delicious river of cool water and drank success to those that intended to establish themselves in this beautiful country".

Here they also struck ten native huts built in a semi circle looking to the south east. They were each four yards apart and built of bent branches, thatched with Black Boy rushes.

Continuing south south east two small streams were crossed and on the second of these there was a bivouac of the teams and there they found a note on a tree announcing that the main camp on the Williams River was five miles further on. As it was now 5.00pm Stirling and three others pushed on while the rest of the party continued at a steady pace so as not to push the baggage horses too hard.

About a mile further on they struck the Williams River at a reach running east south east to west north west. The soil and grass particularly the quantity of the latter impressed Roe.

The land from the river rose to moderate granite hills and there were a lot of everlasting wild flowers evident. Pushing on up the river they soon met up with Alfred Hillman and returned with him to the main camp. They had a bugle with them and announced their approach by blowing it and this was returned with some welcome notes from a key bugle in the camp. No doubt then as now the arrival of the Governor caused some excitement.

This camp was on the junction of the Williams River and Starting Creek and was about twelve miles west of present day Williams. The route of the party overall was on a line with Albany Highway but somewhat more south in parts finishing south west by west of Williams.

At the camp they met with Messrs Phillips, Yule and Bull with four servants and soldiers. Messrs MacDermott, Harris and Burges were away on a two day excursion up river checking out the country. Towards evening the party returned. They had followed the river up for about seventeen miles to the vicinity of Kondening Pool and had found much good land with a proportion of very desirable country. Mac Dermott had selected country about three to six miles above Mount Hillman.

Surveys out from Starting Creek

Next morning, October 24th, saw Stirling, Roe and some of the others leave camp at 7.20am to look at the country to the eastward. They crossed a series of tributaries of the Williams River and then the main river, passing three quarters of a mile north of Mount Hillman in Jam Country and then turned in to climb Mount Hillman itself. The height was estimated at 300 feet. There was quite a bit of granite on the summit and red and white gum timber. Roe comments that all the land they could see was wooded and undulating. They came down on the south east side and assessed the country as capable of growing wheat. They then tracked back to the Williams River and were back at the camp on Starting Creek by 3.00pm. "Having traversed during the day much good soil and grass mixed with land of indifferent rocky character - granite prevalent on the hills with occasional iron stone."

In the course of the days inspection they would have traversed across sections of the Meredian Hill, Koolmulmining and Meadow Vale properties of today.

The 25th, 26th and 27th of October 1835 was spent in marking off allotments of land and in getting organised for the next stage of exploration into unknown country.

The members of the party that had taken up land or proposed to do so were naturally looking hard at the surrounding countryside, MacDermott and Harris went up river with Hillman to define boundaries of blocks and in doing so got badly separated from the main party. This resulted in Roe, Norcott and three other members of the Mounted Police instituting a search party starting from the main camp at 5.45am on October 28th.

In doing so they covered a lot of ground - firstly on a south east heading to the vicinity of the present day Jerildene and Glenore holdings, then north east to Witherspoon and north north east to the river returning across Meadowvale and Koomulmining.

They had fired occasional gun shots and blown their bugle during the course of the ride in an effort to evoke a response from the missing men. They covered between 45 and 50 miles in the day's search and to quote Roe "It remains only to be added that late in the evening we arrived at the encampment where all our toil and anxiety was amply repaid by finding that the missing gentlemen had found their way into camp by the marked road from the north west, which they had contrived to make after having unwittingly crossed to the right bank of the Williams River and walked by their estimation 61 miles in 41 hours". A typical objective comment from Roe despite a very hard and long day in the Saddle.

Another party was still out with the native tracker Weenat searching up river for the stragglers and this group did not reach the camp until noon the following day.

While waiting for this group to come in the party had been distributing provisions and supplies and Roe had been checking their location by astronomical sighting. One of his chronometers had stopped and another was affected by horseback motion and he expected there would be some incorrect readings of longitude as a result. The party split up into three groups. Hillman, Leake MacDermott, Barron and the native Weenat were to head back to Perth via York. Another group was heading directly back to Perth on the marked road the teams had staged up on and Roe, Stirling and party were headed south.

Williams - West Wagin

They lost no time in getting away that day (October 29th 1835) leaving at 12.20pm after exchanging three hearty cheers with the assembled camp and with the horses in good condition from the luxuriant pasture and to the sounds of a farewell bugle call they headed east south east, crossing the Williams River about half a mile below Mount Hillman and pushing on over several ironstone ridges. They continued on through well grassed valley country and stopped at 5.40pm on the banks of a good water course and blazed a tree to indicate that this was the expeditions bivouac number 1 on the southward journey. This camp was about a mile from the present day Moree Homestead.

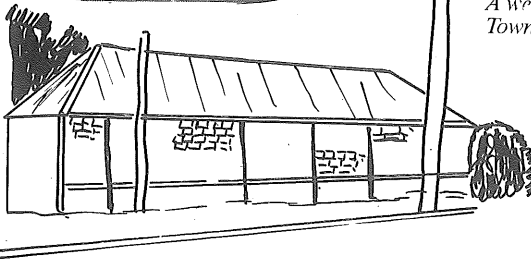
October 30th found the party on a south east by east, heading towards Tarwonga which was about seven miles from their camp. They pushed along north of Culbin and Southmark and a few miles further on climbed an ironstone ridge about 90 feet above the plain and noted a wooded peak eight miles to the south. From here they went through broken

Well known journalist
Robin Oliver at a Hunt
day on Hatherleys "Tabelup"
at Arthur River

1969.

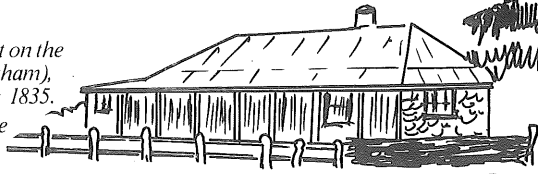


Left:
Christopher
Nelson; seated
Rachel and
David Pardoe.

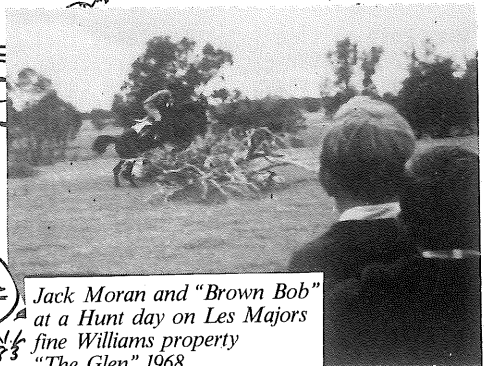
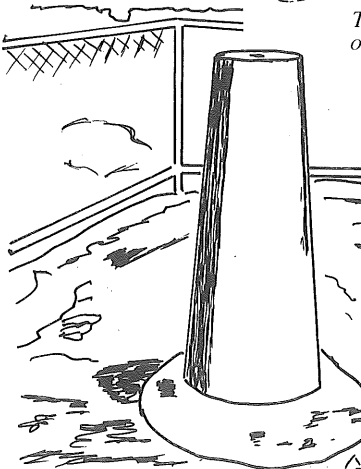


A well known landmark in Williams
Town site.

The Trig Station and lookout on the
Badjarning Hill (Mount Latham),
high point visited by Roe in 1835.
Wagin Rotary Club built the
lookout fence.



The old Coaching Inn at Tarwonga
on Albany Highway.



Jack Moran and "Brown Bob"
at a Hunt day on Les Majors
fine Williams property
"The Glen" 1968

and rocky country around Tarwonga and came to a tributary of Wangeling Gulley in the west Wagin area. The country levelled out after this and after passing through a narrow belt of spearwood and white gum Roe comments "We emerged upon a fine grassy country, beautifully waved in small rising and vales which continued for one and a half miles when we were gratified by coming on a fine river twenty four yards in width in long reaches and apparently eight to ten feet deep and flowing very slowly. The soil on the high steep banks was a good brown loam".

*The Arthur River at West Wagin.
Crossed and named by Roe and
Stirling near this point.*



Arthur River – Wagin

The Arthur River Church



Centenary of St. Paul's

The 100th Anniversary
of the Consecration of
St. Paul's Anglican
Church at Arthur River
will be celebrated on
March 10,

1985



*The Arthur River
— a twilight photo
at Brown's Pool*

This point was about one and a half miles up stream from Nobles Bridge, north of A.E. Harvey's property. By now it was about noon so the party stopped for lunch on the river bank. While this was being prepared Roe and Governor Stirling went upriver to find a crossing point. At about a hundred yards up they came to an island about 200 yards in length which can still be seen today and just above this a crossing point.

It is not surprising that Roe and Stirling were impressed with the river. It is still impressive today with long deep pools, heavy timber and carries a big wild fowl and kangaroo population. The first long pool Wanaking is in open country and very attractive and the country gets progressively more timbered up stream with very picturesque pools. When inspected by the writer in late December 1982 it was still running between pools, as it was when Roe first sighted it.

Stirling named the new discovery "The Arthur" in honour of Arthur Trimmer the York sheep farmer who was accompanying the party and in retrospect this was by means inappropriate in view of the contribution that Trimmer was then making to the fledgling wool industry through his grazing partnership with R.H. Bland at the old Government Stock Station at York. Between them this partnership owned 40% of the States sheep at that time.

Trimmer no doubt could see at a glance that the area was a first class sheep area.

The party resumed their trek at 3.00pm and crossed the river about a quarter of a mile up where the width of the river was only about five yards and the depth at the ford two feet on a firm bottom.

The land across the river was swampy and about half a mile south east of the river they entered a grassy plain about a mile in width which as a compliment to Rossmore Norcott of the Mounted Police they called "Norcott Plains". The name is still to be seen on the survey maps today and the plains run from Nobles Bridge up to Piesses Road, over three miles, along the river.

From there to their overnight camp - a mile due east of V.G. Smiths between Watson Road and the Warup North Road they passed across the Nobles Bridge Road area just east of Ben Lutzs old St. Kilda Farm.

In the course of their trek they crossed mixed country ranging from scrub and Banksia, White Gum, some good grass country finding a good pool of water about 15 yards long by three yards wide. Roe termed this a "Water Run". The country at this point being Jam and Wattle running into York Gum. They camped at 5.00pm on a tributary of Mailing Gully noting that the country appeared to fall to the westward.

October 31st saw a 5.50am start for the party taking a south easterly line. They crossed another gully and within a mile were on an ironstone ridge just short of the Warup North Road about half a mile from Draytons property.

Here they disturbed a fine large Emu with eight young chicks. They passed through grassy White Gum and Jam country and within one and a half miles were at Mailing Gully. This Roe described as 'gently sloping and beautifully wooded country and noted as "country beautiful and rich in soil and grass". They promptly named this "Eliot Vale" after a gentleman of the party. Although the survey maps of today show this as Elliot Vale the original map shows Eliot Vale. It was named after George Eliot the Governor's clerk and is indeed beautiful country and lies roughly within a triangle with the base between Jock Wallace's property and Peter Lunt's Carinya with the apex around Bill Drayton's farm. They then crossed a ridge very close to Spurr's Clovelly property and pushed on down to just above Allan Jessup's property Marmaling. From this point a line was followed that passed about a mile south of Bert Beckers Gainsborough property across the Beaufort Road in the vicinity of Quangallin siding through to their campsite - about half a mile south of the Lime Lake West Road about a mile in from the present day Wagin-Katanning Road. They were less impressed with the Lime Lake country which Roe described as "far from cheering - open, treeless plains or downs of thick scrub being

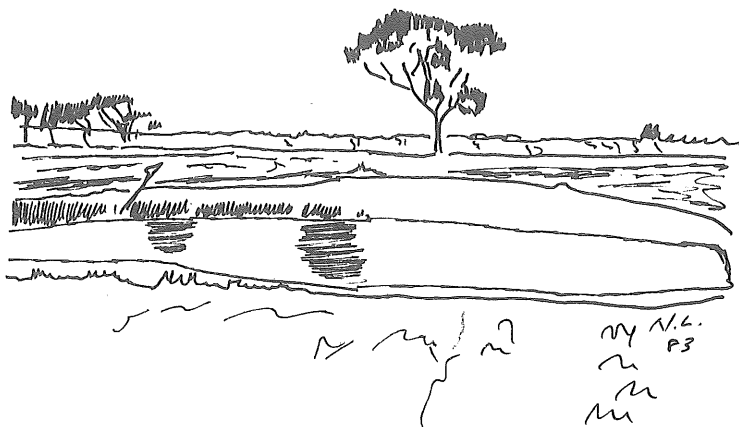
Lime Lake, Woodanilling & Katanning

the prevailing features close at hand relieved only by clumps of trees with dark coloured foliage which crowned the heights in rising ground on their surface".

They found a native hut prior to making camp and surmised correctly that they would find water nearby. This proved to be the case with the discovery of a three foot well dug by the natives that contained good water. They marked a tree III in the vicinity of the camp.

Roe comments on the homing instincts of dogs in relation to a roo put up by two of Superintendent Norcott's dogs around the Lime Lake West Road.

"In tracking the run one dog was found at the kill - a young kangaroo - but they and Migo failed to locate the missing dog and they gave it up as lost and commiserated with Norcott on losing a good dog. However on returning to headquarters in Perth in January 1836 they discovered that three days after the dog went missing at Lime Lake it turned up at Mandurah - an area around the mouth of the Murray that Norcott often hunted in. This was a distance in a straight line of nearly a hundred miles in country that the dog had not traversed before."



"Boanning" Soak, Wagin. On land purchased by the writer's father Hubert Nelson in 1926. One of many natural springs where native wells were usually found in the district.

The following day November 1st 1835 Roe and party were headed south east by 6.00am through the Lime Lake area - through heathy country of scrub and rushy grass with plenty of Kangeroos in evidence. They named the wooded hill just to the west of Ken Bell's Bellview homestead, Goldney Hill and a timbered peak about one and a half miles further south (and about three quarters of a mile north east of Norm Eckersly's homestead). Roe called Bunnys Peak after a banking friend in Newbury Berkshire. He also named Mount Rice about four and a half miles further south west near Becker's property.

Roe comments "Other parts of the country rose above the general outline but these were the most remarkable features. Although their altitude did not exceed from 100 to 200 feet above the common level. The hillsides seemed yellow with good grass and large granite masses protruded from their surface as in good grazing districts."

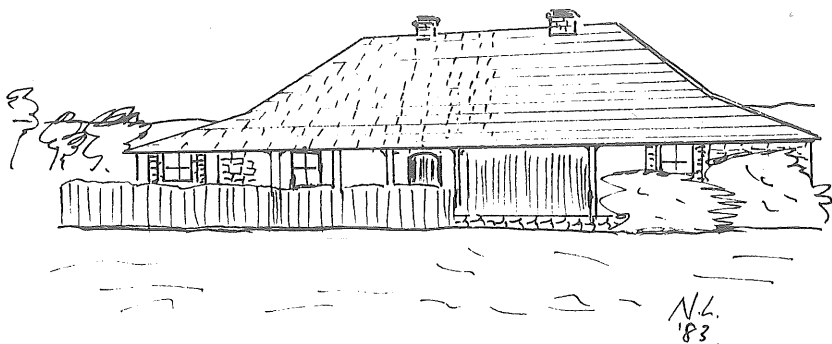
Somewhat surprisingly Roe fails to comment on the prominent Mine Hill both in his southward and northbound track although in both cases he was fairly close to this feature of the local landscape.

Moving on they passed through a patch of White Gums forming an island of timber in the scrub country and by 9.00am had arrived on a rocky ridge and named the area Peels Plains. They then descended through Banksia country coming across a dry creek bed. Further on they struck another creek containing brackish water. This was a tributary of Bockaring Creek south east of D.A. Kerr's property. Roe noted that there were a lot of both Kangeroos and Cockatoos in the vicinity and evidence of Emus. After a lunch break they resumed their south east march at 2.00pm through good Jam and York Gum country arriving at the top of a rocky ridge and from there headed south east to a fine grassy valley and picked up a creek bed which "tracing in a southern direction at the end of half a mile we had the satisfaction to find a little muddy but good water in a native well in the channel. This continued with an abundant supply of excellent grass to make this spot our Bivouac number IV which was accordingly marked on an adjoining tree to the satisfaction of all parties."

The party slaked their thirst which the brackish water at lunch had increased and then set out to enlarge the well and at two feet had plenty of water to water the horses. They dug a shallow hole in the ground, pressed a tarpaulin into this and bailed directly from the well into the improvised tarpaulin trough.

Altogether the days travel in the Wagin-Woodanilling district had not been too bad for the party. They started their day from their camp at Lime Lake watered by a native well and finished the day in a similar situation at Yairabin Well and no doubt the experience of the native tracker Migo was instrumental in locating these established well sites. They had traversed a lot of scrubby country but had also sighted good country all around the grass fringes and had named land marks that still carry the same names today. The comments noted on the map of the route read "Extensive open plains of sandy soil, heath and scrubby vegetation without a tree, numerous Kangeroos and some Emus and further on red-yellow clay soil." Their stopping place was very good country two miles up to Dumbleyung Road from the Robinson Road Cross Roads.

November 2nd 1835 saw the party on a south south east line at 5.50am passing over beautiful country with grass up to the horses knees Governor Stirling named this area Haymakers Downs - east of Coompatine in a line bounded by Hillside, Craigmore and Arncliffe Wood. They didn't have time to examine the extent of this good grassy country but noted that it appeared to extend far beyond their power of vision. Roe also commented that the neighbourhood was rather dry at that time (early November) but there were many green spots in slight hollows where water may be obtained.



Coompatine — Katanning

Built by the Haddletons 35 years after the Great Southern Expedition passed nearby.

They continued in good grassy land finding White Gum and York Gum timber together with Jam country. The York Gums were larger and had darker bark than any Roe had seen so far on the expedition. They changed to a more east south east line and found some good pools of water about nine miles east north east of Katanning with adjacent good loamy soils and plenty of good grass - west of Jam Hills.

In the area Roe noticed trees that had been recently notched by natives "in the manner usual with them for climbing after Opossums which take refuge in their tops".

Heading south east they came on excellent water in a rushy lagoon eighty to ninety yards long and eighteen to twenty yards wide in a hollow in level country and here they halted at 10.30am and due to the general heat of the day rested until 3.00pm when they resumed their south west march through York Gum and White Gum country running into some small scrubby sand plains with numerous Kangeroos.

Roe comments very accurately "good grassy country was also visible to our right where we traversed very fair sheep country". At 5.15pm they struck a hollow in grassy country and soon located two excellent pools and this was made Bivouac V - blazed as usual on a handy suitable tree. The soil around the camp was light brown loam and provided excellent feed for the horses which were allowed to roam until dark with a tether rope attached to a light log. Roe comments that most water courses crossed fell to the south east and inferred that they were traversing table land of some elevation. The low night temperatures supported this view. Whether they had taken into account the distance south they were from more temperate Perth regions is not fully covered.

The general route of the days march had taken them close to Meerabin water hole and Ewlymartup Lake and their night camp was east of the Tabenup well area. They had gone from the Woodanilling area to south south east of Katanning and had travelled through some fine land in doing so.

Their actual camp was on the site of the Morley Farm Homestead two and a half miles south west of Coyrecup Lake.



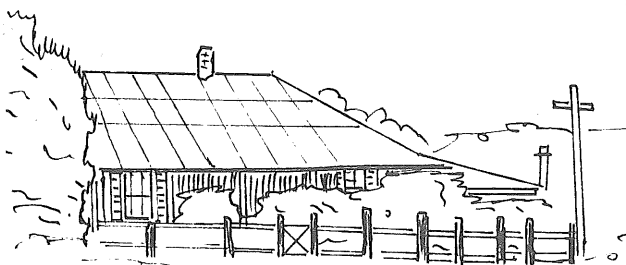
Lake Country
Great Southern



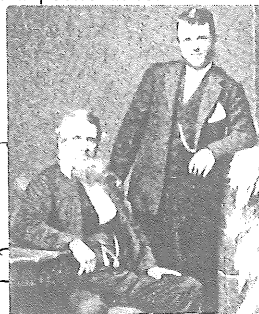
Stud Rams
Great Southern

Katanning – Gnowangerup

November 3rd saw an even earlier start for Roe's party. They were heading south east by 5.15am on a march that would cover fourteen miles and see them camped around Brookdale. Their route took them up a gradual ascent and they then ran into a dense fog which increased as they headed south east. They found the land changing - considerable open spaces between trees with plenty of grass - they came on a new Euclyptus, low bushy and in close clumps - no doubt the first of the Mallee country. From there they came on open White Gum country and around this point Roe and Stirling detoured from the main party and had some difficulty in finding them again. From a point after

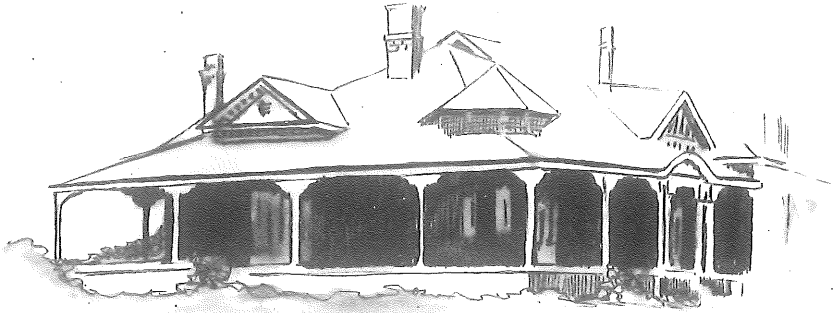


N.L. 83



ELIJAH QUARTERMAINE,
and his son Wilton

QUARTERMAINE'S 'YOWANGUP' (YARNUP), WEST OF ROE'S TRACK AT ICATANNING. QUARTERMAINE FIRST INSPECTED THIS COUNTRY SEVEN YEARS AFTER THE GREAT SOUTHERN EXPEDITION.



Spencer

Sketch original has been donated to the Katanning District.

"Housome" Near Moojebing — Katanning

Built by Wesley Maley M.L.C. in 1904 to a design of Architect W. A. Nelson.

rejoining the main party they got their first glimpse of the Stirlings which Roe described as "an elevated and picturesque range of mountains lying about forty miles north of the settlement at King George's Sound. Some of the most remarkable and elevated peaks of which now appeared like small islands above the wooded ridges at a distance of forty miles to the south east". This placed their sighting on the line of the Broomehill-Gnowangerup Road between Martinup and Telyarup. They would certainly have been the first white men to sight the Stirlings from this direction. Sightings of the range had of course occurred much earlier by a number of navigators including the first to record the sighting; Matthew Flinders in 1802.



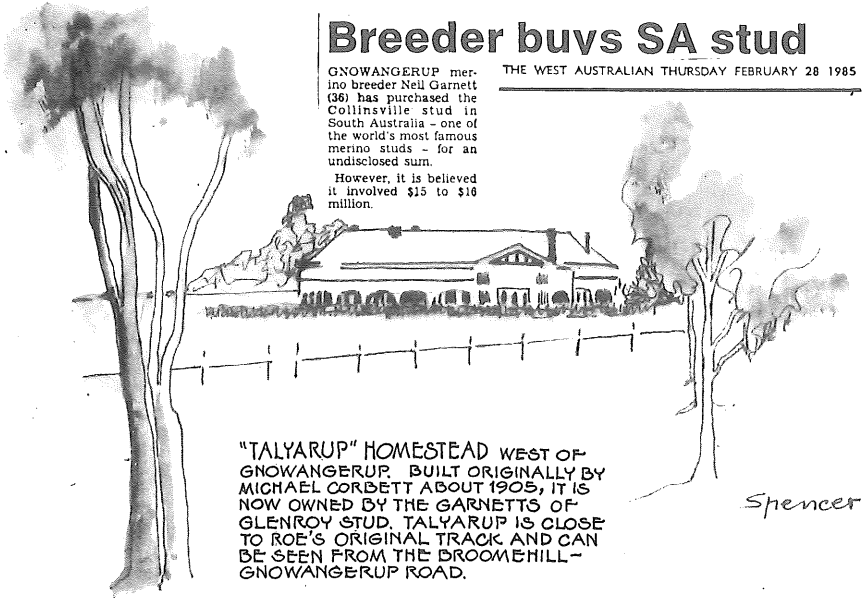
The Stirling Ranges

Breeder buys SA stud

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28 1985

GNOWANGERUP merino breeder Neil Garnett (36) has purchased the Collinsville stud in South Australia - one of the world's most famous merino studs - for an undisclosed sum.

However, it is believed it involved \$15 to \$18 million.



"TALYARUP" HOMESTEAD WEST OF GNOWANGERUP. BUILT ORIGINALLY BY MICHAEL CORBETT ABOUT 1905, IT IS NOW OWNED BY THE GARNETTS OF GLENROY STUD. TALYARUP IS CLOSE TO ROE'S ORIGINAL TRACK AND CAN BE SEEN FROM THE BROOMEHILL-GNOWANGERUP ROAD.

Spencer

Sketch original has been donated to the Gnowangerup District.

The enthusiasm of the party of the picturesque ranges shows through Roe's journal at this and later points as they worked their way up to the foot of them. The ranges are as much a delight today to observe and in the era of smaller planes on the Albany run the writer often enjoyed a low altitude flight to Albany taking in the magnificent views of the Stirlings and Porongurups on the line of the Great Southern Railway. The best land mark on this trip was always Dumbleyung Lake which is easy to pick out at great distances.

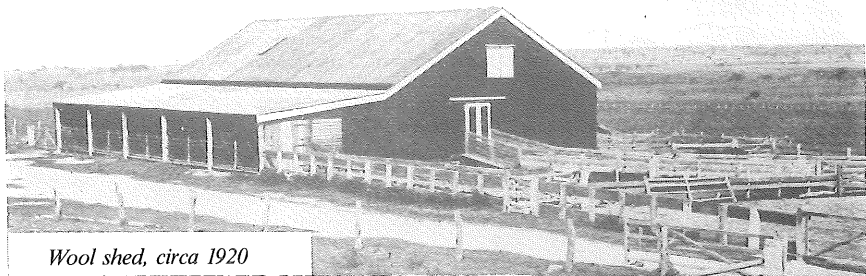
Roe sighted the range again shortly after and changed their route to south by east to avoid some thick bush. They came on to White Gum and then granite country and about half a mile further on came to a grassy hollow dipping to the south and followed the dry bed of this down in search of water. Within one and a half miles they found water in a native well at a depth of two feet. Roe comments "we halted half an hour before noon to dine. In this beautiful valley the grass was up to the saddle girths and an examination proved it to be equally good for a mile around our encampment and better below than above. The timber chiefly York Gum with Black and Prickly Wattle and a few Jam trees."

Their stop overnight at Brookdale was about four and a half miles from the Woodyarrup country later acquired by Hassel in a land swap for his Albany Town land needed by Hordern's Railway Company. The area impressed Roe and party and as they had made about fourteen miles since their early start with some fatigue to both men and horses they marked a tree VI and bivouaced there with the horses out on tethers. Kangeroos and Cockatoos were numerous and the Kangaroo Rat or Bandicoot were scampering all over the area. Roe remarks "that these could almost be trodden on before making a move to quit their nests."

"Woodyarrup" 1927.



Homestead, circa 1921



Wool shed, circa 1920

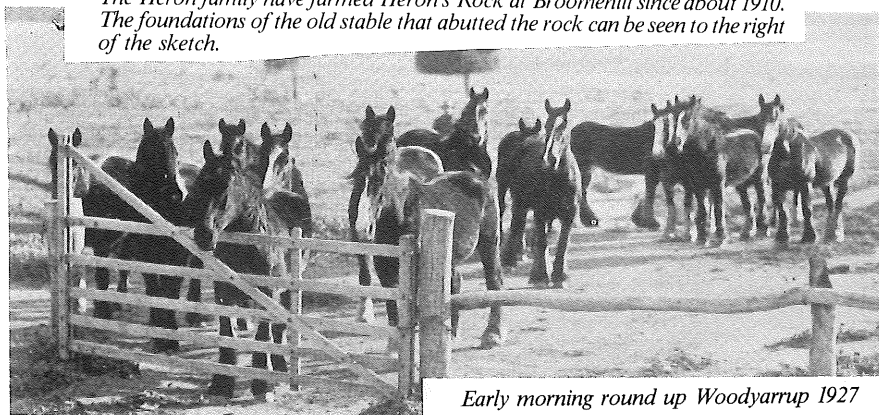
*Collinsville sire. Purchased for 350 Guineas in 1927.
The ewes were Bungaree Blood initially
when Rischbieth Bros founded the Stud.*



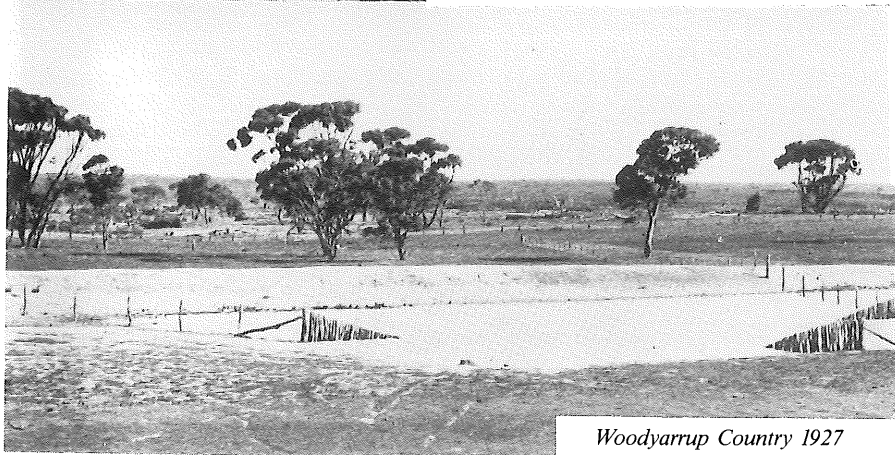


Heron's Rock, mentioned in Roe's Journal as being sighted by the Great Southern Expedition on November 3rd, 1835.

The Heron family have farmed Heron's Rock at Broomehill since about 1910. The foundations of the old stable that abutted the rock can be seen to the right of the sketch.



Early morning round up Woodyarrup 1927



Woodyarrup Country 1927

Pallinup

November 4th 1835 saw the party breakfasted and on the march by 5.30am Heading south south east down the grassy valley in drizzling rain and they soon came onto the Martinup Creek and then the Pallinup River. They noted large clumps of small Casuarina and Samphire and assumed the water would prove brackish which was to be the case. This lack of good water for drinking was to give the expedition some trying days of travel and to be the first set back they encountered on the long journey south. They initially followed the tortuous windings of the river which in places had banks five to eight feet high, lined with Casuarina trees of increased size. The soil was a light loam and the low hills on each side timbered and well grassed. Two miles further down where the banks were ten to fifteen yards wide, the water was quite salt but they found an excellent spring on the slope rising up from the right bank near an outcrop of limestone.

Three miles down they noted a considerable tributary stream coming in from the west and below this the flats expanded to open plains. They then came on a good reach of the river eighteen yards wide and three to five deep and lined by Casuarina trees. The water again was too salt to drink but the loamy soil in the area was carrying excellent grass. From here they followed the river south west covering a lot of distance but only six or seven miles in a direct line due to the windings of the river. Some pools were a lot less brackish than others and they were hopeful of it changing to fresh water. Roe comments "the grass continued good and abundant and the land was lightly timbered with York Gum and Jam. Ducks were numerous and tame and Kangeroos abundant. One of the latter that our dog killed weighed about fifty pounds.

Another one and a half miles took them to where the first limestone cliff rising from the river bank was reached and they took the rising ground behind this (to the west of Pallinup) and from here sighted the elevated range again. Roe noted the sharp peak called by the natives, Toolbrunup which they estimated at 3,000 feet high. Roe notes "These remarkable and picturesque mountains being as yet unknown by any distinguished appellation and his excellency kindly consented to conferring on them a name I called them the Stirling Ranges after the Governor by whom they were about to undergo a closer personal examination than had hitherto been bestowed on them."

One supposes Roe could have hardly called the ranges anything else! From where they stood the foot of the ranges were 22 miles away and the country between level and interspersed with numerous open spaces and belts of timbered land in between.

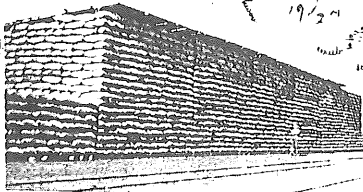
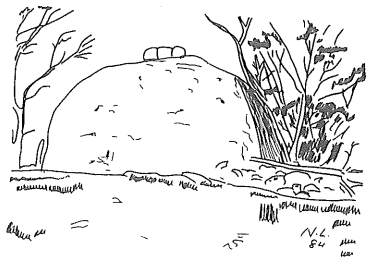
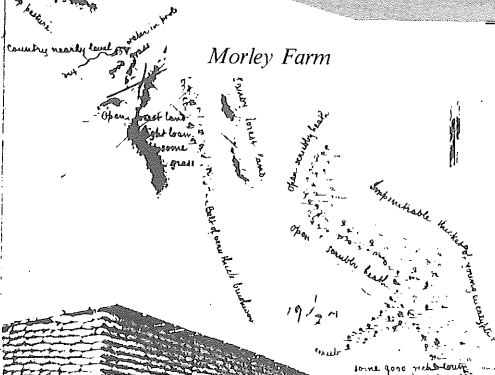
Stirling and George Eliot left the main party for a quick horse back reconaissance for water while Roe took survey angles from some rising ground. They were back in half an hour and reported no luck in their quest. They party then trekked east north east back to the river and came across what Roe termed "about a pint of fresh water in the bed of a small hollow about 200 yards from the river." This encouraged them to tether the thirsty horses while they set to work with an iron pot lid and a tomahawk to sink a small well. This wasn't a success so they saddled up again at 4.15pm and went down river and then back inland. Returning again to the river without finding water one of the party took a pot shot at a hawk overhead and knocked out some feathers and at this stage some drinkable water was fortuitously



The Stables, Woodyarrup 1927

all open fields of forest & grass
 some high forest

Morley Farm



A wheat stack in the 1920's

Heron's Rock

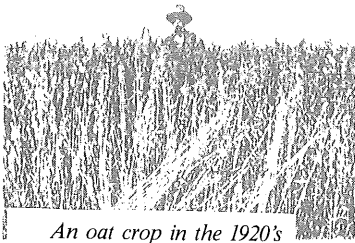
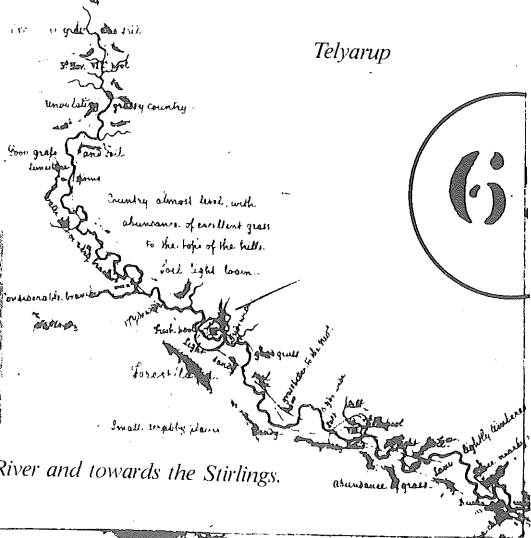
Country - some grass
 Large bonfires of granite
 rock large
 some low kangaroos
 in good soil
 some track + brush

Martinup

Brookdale

Telyarup

Woodyarrup



An oat crop in the 1920's

Roe's track down to the Pallinup River and towards the Stirlings.
 Inset: Heron's Rock.

found in a small hole at the foot of the bank. The presence or a decomposing duck in the pool was no deterrent to them. They made this their seventh camp since leaving Starting Creek on the Williams and here blazed a Banksia tree.

Deepening the hole proved to be a mistake as this brought in brackish water that they used for soup and tea but the horses were faced with plenty of grass but no water. Roe comments "Boiling brackish water makes it more salt and nauseous - all of its pure qualities escaping with the steam which is fresh."

November 5th saw a 5.30am start to a day that was to prove very unproductive to the party.

They went east north east and found ample grass but no water so they changed to an east south east direction to follow a promising hollow but ran into the salt indicators of Samphire flats again and returned to an east north east course in good red loam country sprinkled in parts with quartz gravel and granite.

While tracing the last hollow they found the carcass of a small Kangaroo suspended on a bush by the hind legs, having apparently been caught between two branches in its attempt to leap over. Shortly after they struck small Mallee thickets again and as the pack horses found it hard going to wind through these the party turned north west to skirt these. Ruefully they termed these thickets the "Devils Tea Gardens".

At this stage with no promise of water and with the horses becoming distressed the party turned south west and returned to their old camp VII where they drank the water hole dry - dividing the limited supply between the men and the horses. The mens share was made more palatable by the addition of the best Jamaican Rum and lime juice. The party then returned upriver and watered the horses at 2.30pm at a brackish pool three and a half miles above the previous days lunch halt. Pushing on within three quarters of an hour Roe came on a promising grassy hollow and followed this up while the party continued north west. He found a two foot diameter pool of clayey water and called the party to the spot. To quote Roe "In less than two minutes it was pouring down every thirsty throat. It need not be added that here we halted for the night and blazed a White Gum VIII." The camp was in a gentle valley in an undulating country covered with grass. They chalked up eighteen and a half miles for the day, south east of Gnowangerup and almost due east of Borden.

Next day November 6th, Roe planned a short march in view of the amount of condition the horses were losing so their start was delayed to 7.15am heading west and north back up the Pallingup River towards Formby South Road. About a mile along the track Roe missed his field book and he and Migo backtracked carefully and found it where he had mounted his horse at the bivouac. Rejoining the main party a course parallel to the river was followed making attempts to get water at likely spots eventually locating a pool of sweet but muddy water in the main course. They halted here for the day at 11.00am to "Rest, refresh the horses in good grassy land". The pool was about thirty feet by fifteen feet and a foot deep adjoining an outcrop of granite. Here a White Gum was blazed to denote camp IX. This camp was about six miles south of Gnowangerup. They spent the following day resting, washing clothes and generally re-organising themselves.

They found a native encampment of seven huts nearby roughly built of brushwood and not at all water proof. Migo said they had been occupied a fortnight earlier by an estimated 20 men and women and a few children.

To the Stirlings

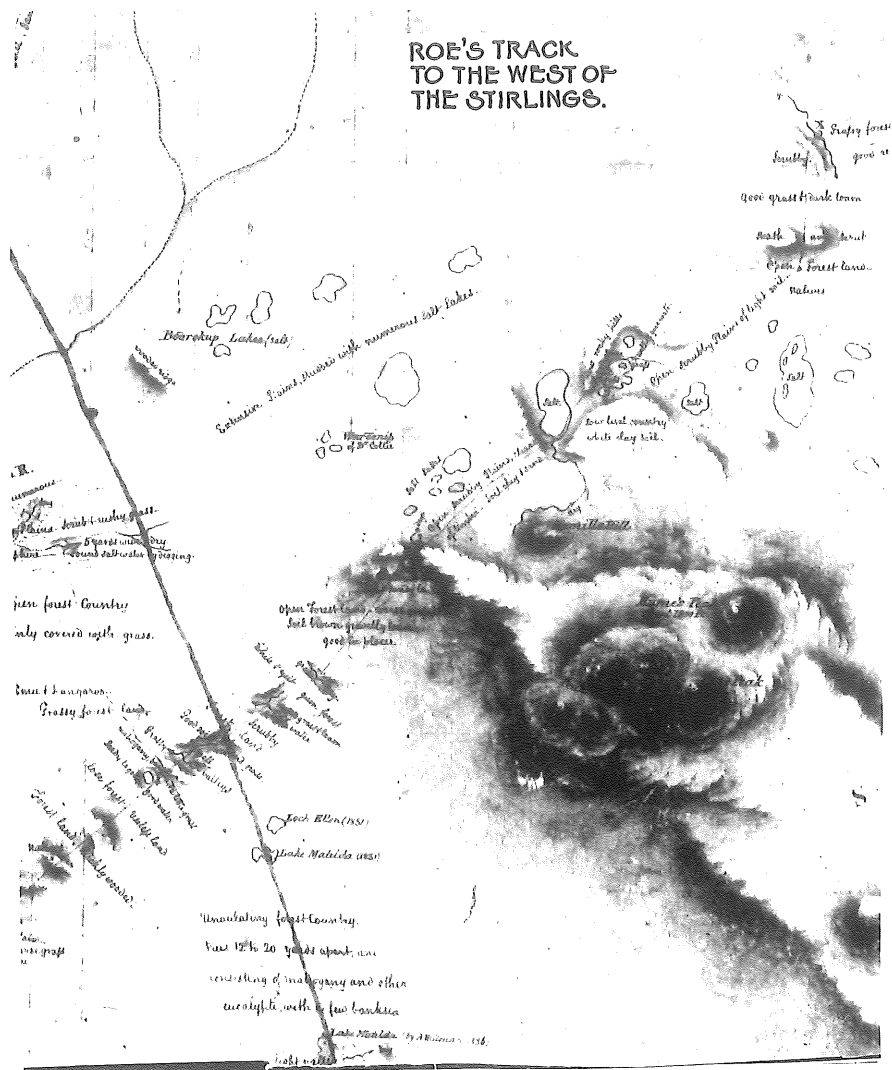
November 8th 1835 was a 5.30am start to the south quitting the river within a view to making for the Stirling Ranges where they expected to get water. They carried about two gallons and to speed up the rate of the march the Police Troopers took turns in riding a baggage horse which was no longer needed for that purpose. The going was damp after a wet night and the weather somewhat bleak. They were on a line south heading between Mount Magog and Mondarup Peak but the bad going over burnt scrub and brush wood was too heavy and they risked staking their horses. They then ran into thick Mallee thickets again and about fourteen miles north of Mount Magog they turned north west in the direction of Toobrunup siding still travelling through very thick scrub. Progress was slow in constant rain from the south west. By 4.30pm they were in better going and sighted and named the triple peaked hill north east of Toolbrunup Mount Trio. This was about nineteen miles east south east from the partys position at that point.

They came then onto beautiful flats with good grass and then onto high White Gum country where native huts, Cockatoos and Kangeroos all proved plentiful.

They camped at 6.30pm without water near the Pootenup Road back from Hassel Road in the vicinity of Barracup. No doubt it never entered Arthur Trimmer's head that one day he would live and farm at nearby Pootenup. This was the expeditions tenth camp since leaving the Williams.

November 9th saw the party on its way at sunrise around 5.30am on. They rounded the crest of some clear rising ground and to quote Roe "The Stirling Range burst on our view in great magnificence. The base of the nearer hills appeared to be distant no more than six or seven miles, while the whole extent of their conical and picturesque summits were spread out before us in a range of forty miles". The most impressive from that vantage point were Toolbrunup, Mount James, and Humes Peak. They were obviously impressed no end with the Stirlings and why not, they are no less impressive today viewed in a considerably less romantic age. A mile further south west a lot of lakes could be seen looking to be salt ones and lying in low ground between their vantage point and as far east as they could see. It didn't look promising for water but they tackled the nearest lake anyway. After crossing through a strip of White Gum country Norcott's dog got onto some Kangeroos and then the party blundered into a native party of six or seven hunting from the opposite quarter. The natives all ran except a bearded veteran who was most upset and motioned them away and beat on the ground. Roe expected the others had made off for the usual purpose of warning off the women so they put up with the old natives ranting to give them time to affect their purpose. However they sighted the party caching a large Kangeroo carcase on a nearby hill and soon five young men returned calling out "white man white man" proving they had obviously been in the vicinity of the white settlement at King George's Sound fifty miles to the south.

ROE'S TRACK TO THE WEST OF THE STIRLING'S.



Roe gave them some biscuit and established friendly relations but couldn't get through to the old native whom they dubbed in classical term "Cerberus". Migo interpreted his imprecations as saying "That he had sharp glass tips in his spears and would use them if they didn't leave". He finally settled down and joined his compatriots who were very shy of the horses. Roe indicated that they were heading for the lakes in a search of water and rather hesitantly they undertook to take the party south to a native well about five miles further on. Each native carried about three spears, they took up a flanking position on the travelling party with Cerberus in the rear eyeing off the Kangaroo slung on the pack horse at the rear. The man leading this horse kept his double barrel gun at the ready just in case.

They (the natives) were much amused with Migo coming from so far away and picking up each others language conversed noisily as they went along. Pushing to the west north west they came on some Kangeroos and Norcott's dog and two of the horsemen soon caught a big roo weighing between fifty and sixty pounds which they intended to give to the natives. They then struck a salt lake - probably Baricup Lake five to six miles to the north of some conical hills near the western end of the range and there they stopped at the native well of slightly brackish water two feet deep about two hundred yards from the lakes. They halted here for an early lunch at 10.00am.

The natives "after feeding or rather gormandising to the utmost of their capacity which was not at all a mean one" left at 1.00pm to visit Roe's last camp - no doubt to see what they could pick up. They took with them officially some Kangeroo meat and pilfered a bridle, canteen lid and a few other small items. Old Cerberus was the ring leader and catching him in the act, he was sent away from the lunch camp fire.

Roe who had been in King George's Sound previously states that the natives were very like those at the Sound and wore the usual Kangeroo skin over the shoulders skewered with Kangeroo bone and reaching below the waist. In cold and wet weather the fur is worn next to the skin. Roe concluded that only one of the party had actually been in the white settlement before and formed the opinion that there was a fair amount of tribal communication. To prove this point Roe later told natives at the Sound of the theft of the bridle and his alleged intention to shoot the thief if the occasion arose. The ultimate result was the return of the bridle to the Government Resident Sir Richard Spencer the day after Roe left Albany for York some time later.

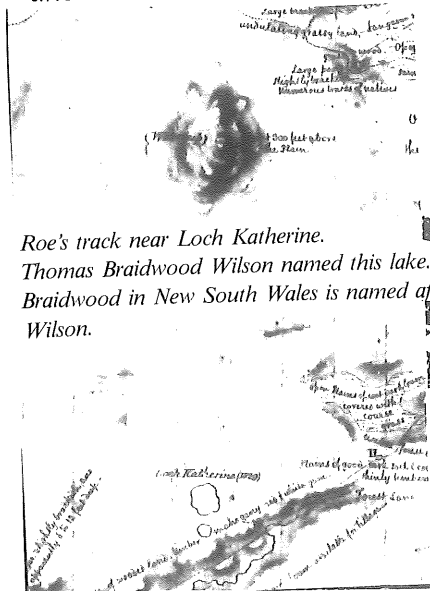
Anyway they resumed their march in the early afternoon and headed through lake and Samphire country naming Hamilla Hill which they passed within three quarters of a mile from, in honour of Captain P. Preston of the Royal Navy. The connection is not explained. By 4.15pm they were on the western end of the range and there climbed a small summit. From this point they picked out Mount Barrow, Mount Barker, Mount Lindsay, Toolbrunup, Many Peaks and Warreup. Looking on the northern chain of lakes Roe observes "But all having the appearance of one extensive salt chain stretched along the northern base of the Stirling Range towards Warreup in a valley remarkable for sterility and comparative uselessness". He spent an hour taking survey angles from the hill and was driven down by loss of visibility from a rainy squall. The whole party then cut back about a third of a mile and camped in the shelter of a ravine, blazing a tree as usual with the camp number which in this instance was XI.

November 10th saw the party trekking to the south west by 5.30am through a stony valley which took them right through the tip of the range to the plain beyond the south side and straight into Banksia and Blackboy country for a time. This improved into open forest land with White Gums and course grass. They found a hollow with a small quantity of fresh water in it and then a salt creek. The land was becoming more moist with fresher grass and vegetation leading Roe to surmise that the southern side of the range enjoyed better rainfall and the higher land here accounted for the absence of salt lakes and the land fell towards the Kalgan River.

To Kent River

They needed water and found it in good quantity in a native well just west of Tenterden. It then came on to rain and they stayed at the well until 3.30pm. Pushing on they passed a reedy lagoon filled with rushes south of Tenterden. Further on a native fire was sighted on a rise but the party was keen to push on and finally made camp for the night in undulating country where good grass was mixed with corse. Here they put their horses out to feed - water being available by a bit of digging. This stop Camp number XII was north of Nunijup Road and about four miles east of present day Albany Highway and about seven miles south south east of Warreup Hill.

November 11th saw a 5.30am start on a west south west heading and by 9.15am after following native paths and a cattle track they came on a fine open lake about a mile in length and breadth and about six to twelve feet deep. This was brackish but there was a lot of good water and feed in the valley below the lake. Roe mentions ample evidence of cattle in the area but the tracks - of a large bull and a cow and calf were several months old. Kangeroos were numerous and there were swans and ducks on the lake. Roe assumed this lake to be 'Loch Katherine' named by Dr Wilson in 1829.

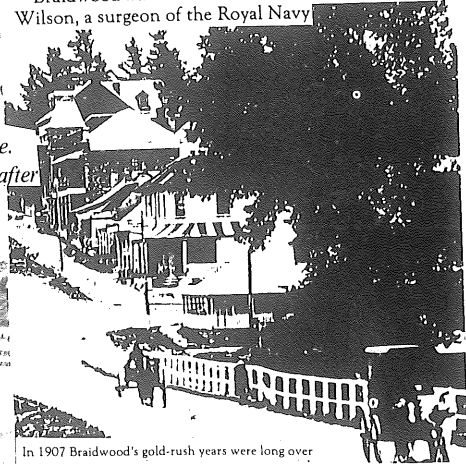


Roe's track near Loch Katherine.
Thomas Braidwood Wilson named this lake.
Braidwood in New South Wales is named after
Wilson.

Braidwood

NEW SOUTH WALES

Braidwood was named after Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson, a surgeon of the Royal Navy

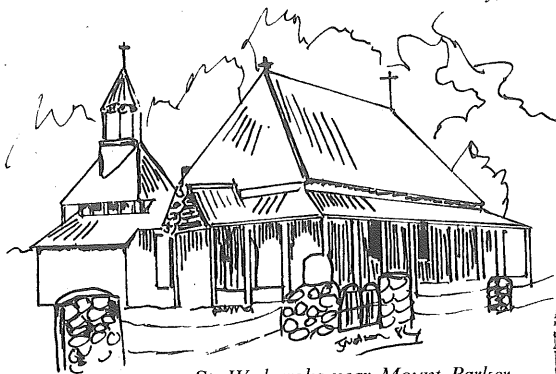


In 1907 Braidwood's gold-rush years were long over

Dr Wilson was of course Dr Thomas Braidwood Wilson, a surgeon-intendant of convicts who quite by accident went into the history books of Western Australia for his exploration from King Georges Sound in 1829. What happened was that Dr Wilson had met Captain Collet Barker after whom Mount Barker is named. Barker was the last designated Commandant of King George Sound prior to it coming under the control of the new and later settlement at the Swan River. Wilson was travelling to London via the Swan River and Albany on the Governor Philip when it had an enforced stop over in Albany for some caulking work. Seeking diversion Wilson climbed Mount Melville and assessed

the country between the south coast and the Stirlings as level, decided to attempt to mount a short expedition into the hinterland while the ship was being worked on. Barker quite helpfully fitted him out with some soldiers and convicts and a black tracker. Most of the party had bush experience and they were soon unconcernedly trekking north on the line of today's Albany Highway and in a two week journey went to Willuyng Creek, Narrikup, Chrystal Brook (near St. Werburghs), Kendenup and Sleeman River which he likened to the cow pastures at Camden in New South Wales, and Rocky Gully. They named Mount Lindsay, Mount Halowell, Mount Shadforth and returned home via Wilsons Inlet, Torbay and Grassmere Lakes. Wilson also named Mount Barker, Martigallup, Loch or Lake Katherine, the Kent and Hay Rivers.

↓
The Town Hall in Guildford, Stirling's adopted town in Surrey, U.K.



St. Werburghs near Mount Barker.



Wilson later incorporated his journey into a book which he sold as "Narrative of a Voyage around the World". This was published in London the same year as the Great Southern Expedition took place and sold very well. Thanks to Governor Stirling's instructions to Roe the names given to the land marks in the area remain still and Stirling also paid Wilson the graceful compliment of naming Wilsons Inlet after this enterprising and erudite personality.

Returning to Roe at Loch Katherine he comments on sighting the Stirling Range from near the lake, particularly Ross Peak which he renamed from the native name Madyerip. In some ways it is a pity that the native names were lost as many were quite graceful.

After a break they headed along the west shore of the lake and then swung south east and after traversing some valley country came on four native huts where the inhabitants had obviously been engaged in making an extensive quantity of spears. Resuming their valley march they came on the start of the Kent River which gave them access to ample water. They could hear the calls of natives in valleys close by and came on a recently quitted camp fire. As a precaution the party loaded their guns and shortly after were accosted amicably and confidently by a native who was then joined by another. These natives whose names were IEL-Barrit and Meringeool took the party to better grass down river and en route they arrived at the native encampment where their guides parents were assembled with four or five children in three huts. After amicable greetings had been

exchanged Roe crossed the river and bivouaced three hundred yards to the south. The native place name for this area was Kun-Balup. They indicated that the river ran into the sea to the south west.

November 12th saw the party breakfasting at daylight and at the conclusion of this the natives crossed over the river and joined the party for tea and biscuits. Roe left with his party at 6.00am travelling down river where the going along the steam bed was easier. They struck major tributaries coming in from both sides and pools in the flood plain. Again they came across cattle tracks. They assessed the herd at one bull, ten cows and calves, cattle straying from King Georges Sound around 1831 had done very well on the headwaters of the Hay and Kalgan rivers and this mob had travelled further afield again.

By around 8.30am the party had passed the pool area and had noted movement in the river. The valley continued to draw in and tributaries increased in number until by 10.00am they were in an area of strong river currents with banks up to twenty five feet high. Native voices could be heard close by but in the interests of not delaying their progress Roe and his party did not attempt contact. Soon the river came into Blue Gum country (Karri) and turned sharply to the south. During the course of their march they had crossed Muir Highway and were now north north west of Table Hill - about eight miles south of Rocky Gully. They camped for the day after a march of ten miles on the west side of the Kent River about three and a half miles north west of Table Hill. This was bivouac number IV from the Stirlings and a double stemmed York Gum was blazed accordingly.

November 13th saw a 5.45am start after a very wet night proceeding down the Kent River. The hills closed in on the river and the course took a sharp turn to the south east between densely wooded banks. However the country soon re-opened out into grassy flats again. An hour out from camp they crossed over the river by a rocky rapid and then struck deep pools. The going was very thick and forced Roe to abandon the river and head south east. On a wooded ridge they climbed a granite boulder and sighted Mount Lindsay about twenty miles below their position apparently over the Kent River valley. Here they were about one and a half miles west of Table Hill, crossing tributaries of the river they entered into wet heathy plains and from there sighted Mount Frankland, sixteen miles to the south west. Mount Lindsay came back into their view as they travelled along and the wet going pushed them into a more southerly course. By noon they struck some dry forest ground and took a break there for lunch tethering their horses out on poorish feed.

When they went to saddle up after lunch four of the horses had strayed off the camp and Migo was immediately detailed to track them. He headed them off within one and a half miles and they saddled and resumed southward, looking with interest to see where all the water they had tramped through was going to. They crossed and named Rocky Glen and came back on to the much enlarged river - there about fifteen yards wide - and decided to take the next opportunity to cross the river while they still could. This was done with some difficulty just above Millars Basin which Roe described as "A remarkably beautiful little basin of deep water about a third of an acre in extent surrounded by high rocky land wooded to the margin in the shape of a large segment of a circle. In the cord of the segment a chasm three foot wide through which the whole body of water in the river rushed into the basin like sluice of a mile. I had no means at hand to ascertain

the depth readily but a broken branch proved it to be upward of fourteen feet. Nature having so well adapted this site of a mill it was distinguished by the name "Millars Basin" and it still bears that name today.

By 6.30pm they had found good grass and blazing a tree V, camped for the night about a quarter mile from the river.

November 14th saw a 6.00am start for the party. They were soon in swampy country on a line running parallel with the eastern bank of the Kent River which was tending to the south east between steep rocky banks with tributaries coming in from both sides. By about 8.00am they had ascended one of the close by hills and then down into wet plain land. From there with some difficulty the party crossed steep banked tributaries some of which were so boggy it took a lot out of the pack horses to get over.

Roe comments on a number of good mill sites that he observed in the main river course but doubted the grain growing ability of the surrounding countryside and thought the standing timber to be too remote from coastal transport to be economically viable to cut. Around here they sighted Mount Romance to the north north east. The country became a little easier to traverse although the undergrowth still proved difficult. They noted crayfish (Marron) in the river but did not succeed in catching any.

The afternoon came in showery and in view of the tiredness of the horses and the sore shoulders of one they marked several trees and made camp for the night in very damp conditions. They had logged only six miles for the day which indicates the difficult country they were travelling through. Their camp site that evening was just north of where Nile Creek comes into the Kent River.

Following a night of constant rain November 13th dawned in very watery fashion. Roe felt the country had very little to recommend it as the horses were very quickly losing condition. They broke camp in rain at 7.00am heading south. They crossed the river and came on some Blue Gum Country - stands of Karri. Some of these trees were big. One measured twenty one feet in circumference with lower branches sixty to one hundred feet above ground level. They struck Nile Creek soon afterwards and had a lot of difficulty crossing it. Tacking back to the main river they were impressed with a beautiful long reach ended in steep granite rapids of a very picturesque nature. The average depth of water was about fourteen feet and the rapids were named by Roe the Falls of Forth for no explained reason. These are located about seventeen miles north west of the Denmark town site.

The travelling got even harder. Roe notes that shortly after the falls they crossed another strong tributary by a natural bridge where water ran under the bank. Fallen timber slowed their path and they struck a large stream - probably the Styx - coming in from the east and there they halted for lunch blazing the smooth trunk of a Karri tree.

After lunch the horses were taken across the tributary and the baggage portaged over a fallen tree trunk bridge. By 4.00pm travelling conditions were somewhat easier and Mount Lindsay was sighted about eleven miles

to the north east and further on some high hills behind Raine Point and Nornalup, Mount Shadforth or Halowell to the south east about seven miles away. Shortly after they encountered difficulty in getting their horses across boggy peaty country, having to unload pack saddles to get them out. In doing so they came close to two native huts described by Roe as "very neatly built native huts about five feet in diameter constructed of slender boughs stripped of their leaves and stuck in the ground in a semi circle. These were greatly interwoven in the form of a bee hive and thatched with grass tree tops (Blackboy rushes) leaving a small opening to the south east. Opposite to which and close to the huts were the remains of old fires around which were strewn the flat granite stones that had been used by the occupants as mortars on which to pound their roots and seeds." These stones used to be very common in the great southern and were obviously carried by the natives from place to place at times. The writer picked up one of these artifacts of green granite near Salt Lake at Wagin in an area that was otherwise devoid of stones.

They stopped shortly afterwards marking a Casuarina tree VII and estimated that they were six to eight miles from the sea "Whose thundering voice was distinctively heard through the stillness of the night as if breaking on a rocky shore". No strange sound of course to such professional Royal Navy Officers in Roe and Stirling and their calculated guess proved accurate. It must nevertheless have seemed strange to both of them to be camped in heavy West Australian bushland, miles from the nearest toehold of civilisation in the south of the state and with both men engaged in duties well away from their usual Naval occupation.

November 16th 1835 saw a 6.00am start for the party heading south west when a view of Mount Mitchell about twenty eight miles to the north west was sighted and the party turned eastward towards Mount Shadforth and then in the hope of finding better going south east towards the coast. Here they came on coast hills some of which were wooded and others covered in low scrub. After a spell they resumed their march and had difficulty in crossing a strong brook twelve foot wide and then shortly after again on of equal size - probably the Kordabup River. By now they had sighted Parry Inlet and after tackling another stream halted for the night around today's South Coast Highway about midway between Kordabup Road and the William Bay turn off.

On November 17th Roe tethered the horses out to recuperate on the good feed (sheep feed he said - but the country he thought, too wet for sheep) and hiked through to the coastal hill to obtain and record survey angles. From a small hill, Mount Frankland was observed twenty miles north west, west Cape Howe was south east and Mount Halowell north east six miles. He noted that William Bay was dangerous to a distance of half a mile from shore for boats except in fine weather, it was safer near the mouth of Parry's Inlet where Stanley Island formed a break water. At the same time another party covered the shore line to the mouth of Parry's Inlet where a strong deep channel twenty yards wide stopped further progress. They noted a dead whale across the channel and could see that the natives had been busy removing blubber from the carcass.

After rendezvousing at the camp the party pushed east at 1.00pm on a winding route on the sheltered side of the sand hills. They avoided the swamps and climbed the high land around and over looking Point Edward. They were traversing today's William Bay National Park.

Here they sighted and named Tower Hill and then resumed their march towards the southern slopes of Mount Halowell and finally after missing out on running down several Kangeroos due to Norcott's dog being too far to the rear of the party they camped for the night near Beach Road.

Denmark & Albany

November 18th saw the party heading to the mouth of Wilsons Inlet expecting to cross over the bar. By 9.00am Mount Halowell was three quarters of a mile to the north west and the Porongorups Range in sight thus in Roe's words "Increasing the number of objects familiar to our view and introducing us rapidly to known ground towards the end of our journey".

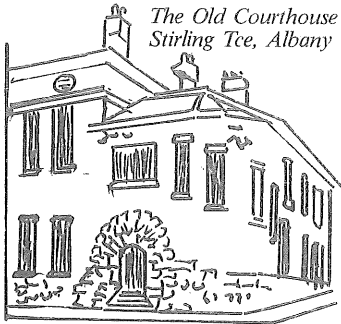
Roe thought the country between Mount Halowell and the inlet to be a good cattle run and shortly after they had the satisfaction of avoiding a long northern detour by crossing Wilsons Inlet on the dry sandy bar. In doing so Roe named Rockcliff Point prior to heading inland towards Wilsons Inlet in search of water which they soon found.

Roe was very impressed by the beautiful sheet of water that is Wilsons Inlet - as many later day visitors were and still are. He sighted the mouths of the Denmark, Hay and Smeeman Rivers all of which discharge into the inlet. As the elevated range that separates Stirling and Plantagenet was unnamed Stirling graciously allowed Roe to call it Bennets Range in honour of Roe's wife's family. Roe said "It extends from Mount Halowell (or Kooruntup as the Aborigines call it) to the distance of at least eighteen to twenty miles in a northerly direction and maintains an average breadth of five to six miles of well wooded hills including much good timber, soil and several streams of water. The principal elevations upon it were the conical Mount Lindsay (Peepetup), Halowell and Shadforth (Warandup) with Overton Hill between the two latter and Mount Leay near the entrance of Denmark". The range is of course impressive and those long sad hills of ring barked timber with rain clouds sweeping over them are a dramatic backdrop today to the beautiful Denmark area.

Although Roe was a much later visitor to the area than the first exploring party he quite evidently took great satisfaction in attaching his wife's family name to this beautiful corner of Western Australia and in retrospect no one could begrudge this quiet achiever his satisfaction.

Between there and their night camp just south of Normalup Point on the inlet Roe was impressed by the potential of the area for cattle and sheep and recorded sighting a lot of cattle tracks of which some were quite fresh, also horse tracks surprisingly. He was quick to grasp how easy it would be to fence off some 5,000 or 6,000 acres between the sea and the inlet. Their camp was in excellent feed country but they suffered as many later day campers have in the area from clouds of mosquitos.

November 19th saw a 6.15am start through the remainder of the wooded country and then into grassy undulating land from where Lake Saide and Nenemup Inlet was sighted. Skirting the former they had trouble getting the horses through clay country. They returned to higher country and then into very difficult going which necessitated unloading the horses and portaging the baggage through water. While engaged in this laborious work they were hailed by some natives whom to quote Roe "Came forward with perfect confidence and in good humour consisting



The Old Courthouse
Stirling Tce, Albany

1 year later
small building
Roe's Track of Corvallis
N/L
824
Nicksy house.

Traditional open flames
covered with brown mats

place door of entrance
small porch

Briggs had cabin
place the sea

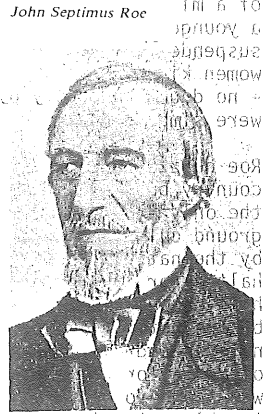
William Bay
Ferry's Inlet (Korvaldshavn)

Wilson's Inlet
Braidwood's Inlet

William Bay
Ferry's Inlet

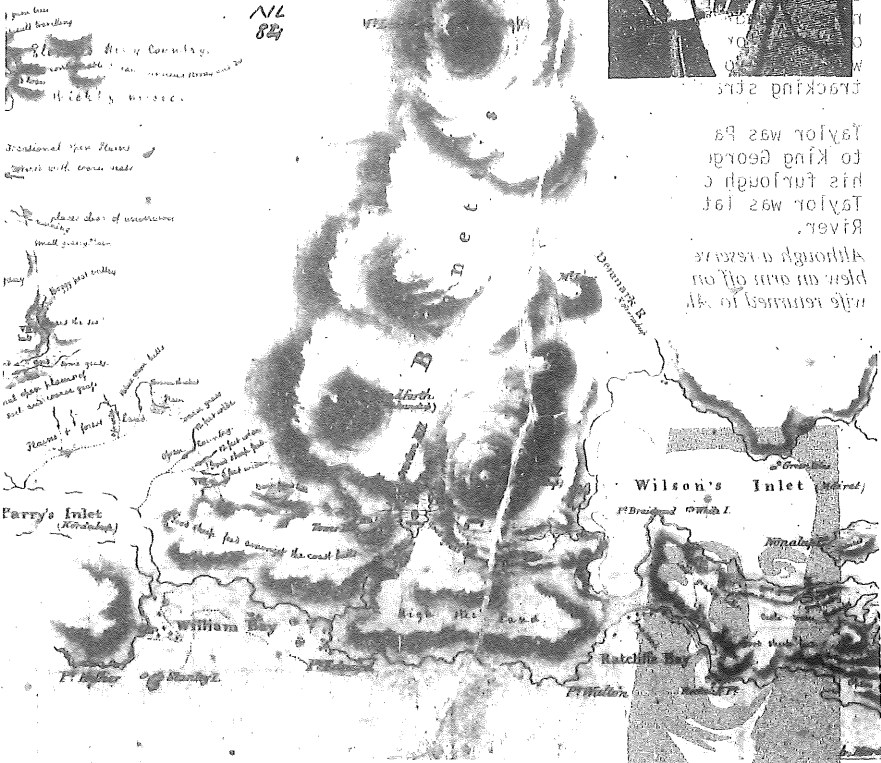
William Bay
Ferry's Inlet

William Bay
Ferry's Inlet



John Septimus Roe

Taylor was pa
to King George
his furlough c
his furlough c
River.
Although a reserve
plus an own off on
wife returned to Al



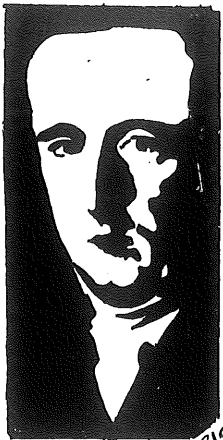
Roe's Track in the Denmark area, 1835
This quiet achiever derived great satisfaction at the naming of the spectacular series of hills after his wife's family.
Wilson's inlet commemorates Thomas Braidwood Wilson whose early expedition is recorded in this brief history.
Both names were a graceful compliment from Governor Stirling to the explorers concerned.

of a middle aged man with a fine open countenance and forehead and a younger man, three young women, two of whom had infant children suspended in the usual way in bags over the shoulder". The three women kissed Migo on both sides of his neck and Migo on being pressed - no doubt raucously by the party - reluctantly admitted that they were simply obeying instructions from the senior member of the party.

Roe quizzed the natives on a better track through the soft swampy country but was advised that it was as good as he would get and was the only track. They pushed on another half mile to find rising ground culminating in a hill south of Youngs Siding called Koir-che-kup by the natives. On the eastern side of this granite outcrop they halted for lunch near a fresh water lagoon. Sightings from the hill showed Halowell and Overton Hill north west and the lakes called by the natives Morangup near by. They shared their lunch with the natives and learnt that recently sighted horse tracks were those of Mr Taylor of Albany and a King George Sound native Jonan - who was known to Roe from his previous expedition. They had been out tracking stray cattle.

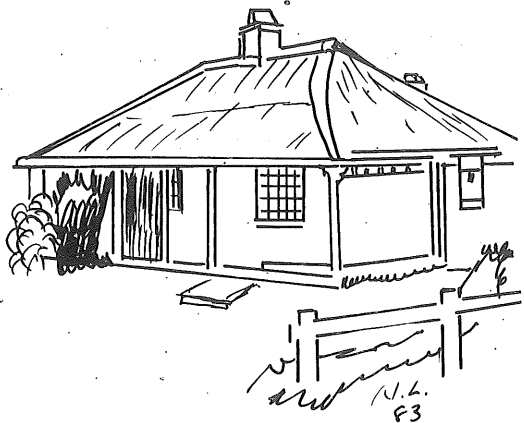
Taylor was Patrick Taylor a 28 year old Englishman who had come out to King George's Sound on the same ship the Governor returned from his furlough on from England - the James Pattison - in June 1834. Taylor was later to marry Mary Bussell and own Candyup at the Kalgan River.

Although a reserved and intellectual man, Taylor had some rowdy friends. One of whom blew an arm off on Albany Jetty while trying to fire a gelignite salute when Taylor and his wife returned to Albany by ship.



J. Nelson

Patrick Taylor.



Patrick Taylor's cottage. Built on Albany town lot 2, before 1832. Now a museum.

At 3.15pm the natives who had favourably impressed Roe left the party and Roe pushed on east by north towards the Vale of Teutar. The going improved and they camped three miles to the west of Guarinup Hill overlooking Torbay (Torbay Hill).

November 20th 1835 saw the party breakfast early to be joined by a native guide sent on as arranged with the previous party. This man had been out hunting at that time. He was about 25 (middle aged by native standards) and above middle height. He knew his job and lead the party towards Torbay but Norcotts dog started up a Kangaroo and the guide and two or three of the mounted party gave chase. The main party pushed on to Torbay while Roe and Stirling went down to inspect two small islands abreast of Torbay Hill to ascertain what seaward protection this would give vessels if taking timber from the area. The islands gave good shelter for small vessels but the approaches were narrow and rocky. Migo nearly came to a watery end in swimming over to the nearer island and Roe marked his narrow escape by calling this the Isle Migo. This island is west of Seagull Island above Cosy Corner. An adjoining island was named Richard Island after Lord Howe after whom Cape Howe near Torbay Head is called.

The timber in the area Roe adjudged as being good beam timber for ships. He estimated 700 tons of such good beam timber being handy to the shore. A spot near Torbay Inlet which he called Point Hughes appearing to be the most practical loading point. Timber was eventually milled at Torbay by Millars Timber (49 years later in 1884).

In general he assessed Torbay was too open and wild to be recommended as a resort for shipping due to its exposure to south east winds and he could plainly see the risks to any sailing ship embayed in the area. Both Stirling and Roe being Naval Veterans of the Napoleonic Wars no doubt mentally compared and probably discussed the Torbay of the Swan River Colony with the famous Torbay of Devon. The latter was an exposed and uncomfortable anchorage that the admiralty used to great advantage and some risk to water and revictual the channel fleet while they maintained the Blockade of the French fleet at Brest. At one stage Cornwallis had eighteen French ships of the line bottled up in Brest Harbour - enough to get Napoleons assembled invasion army over to England if they could have past the Royal Navy and although Torbay was barely sheltered from the west it was the safest position anchorage available. A number of big two deckers went aground there when they dragged their anchors in the road stead in westerly gales.

After taking survey angles Roe and Stirling with some difficulty found the main party camped in a very sheltered spot near Torbay Beach. This spot was amply supplied with grass and good water and was in fact the very same camp site used by Stirling on a visit to this part of the country sixteen months before. The old fire places and felled trees of the camp were plainly visible.

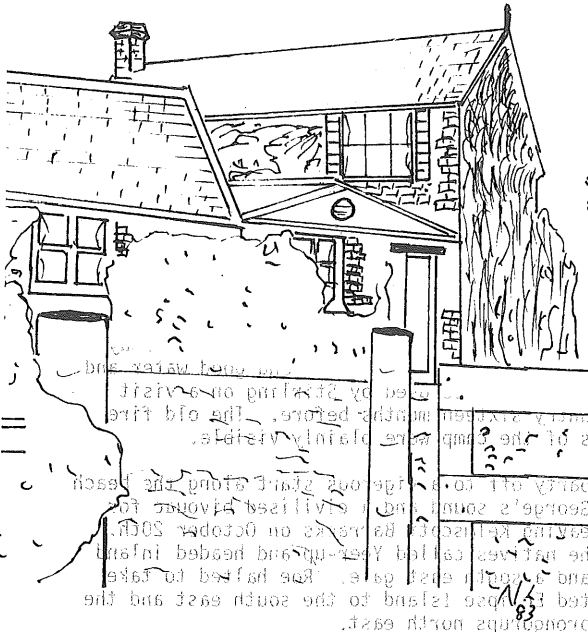
November 21st saw the party off to a vigorous start along the beach - hoping to make King George's sound and a civilised bivouac for the first time since leaving Kelmscott Barracks on October 20th. They passed the lake the natives called Yeer-up and headed inland in showery conditions and a south east gale. Roe halted to take survey angles and sighted Eclipse Island to the south east and the twin hummocks of the Porongorups north east.

By 10.00am after traversing the coastal hills they sighted the town of Albany about five miles distant and this raised a very understandable cheer from the entire party.

By 11.00am treading very light heartedly with their weary horses they were facing into the bleak and wet south easterly and came to the shore of Princess Royal Harbour north of the well known landmark of the white sand patch. By noon they halted at a small stream between Mount Melville and Elphinstone and shortly after pushed on into Albany where to quote Roe "We were greeted with all the cordiality and hospitable attention which the inhabitants of that station so well knew how to display on every similar occasion".

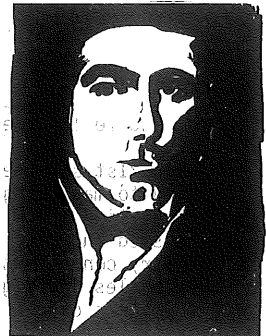
Characteristically Roe gave first thought to the care of their horses, one of whom died from a swelling in the chest within a few days. Another fatally staked itself and several of the others couldn't recover condition. Finally the Police Troopers took the lot back out to Torbay onto good feed where they recovered condition. Roe's journal doesn't record with whom the party all stayed, but one would suppose that at least Sir James, if not Roe, would have been a house guest of the Government Resident Sir Richard Spencer out at Strawberry Hill Farm on Middleton Beach Road. The York farmer Arthur Trimmer, who later married Sir Richard's 17 year old daughter Mary Anne the following year, must have spent some time visiting this social hub of the Albany district. One wonders how things stood between Spencer and Stirling despite a no doubt surface politeness.

Even today whenever a Royal Navy Ship visits Albany a colour party turns up to fly an ensign on the flag staff near Spencers Grave while the ship remains in Port. The site is up hill from the old farm.

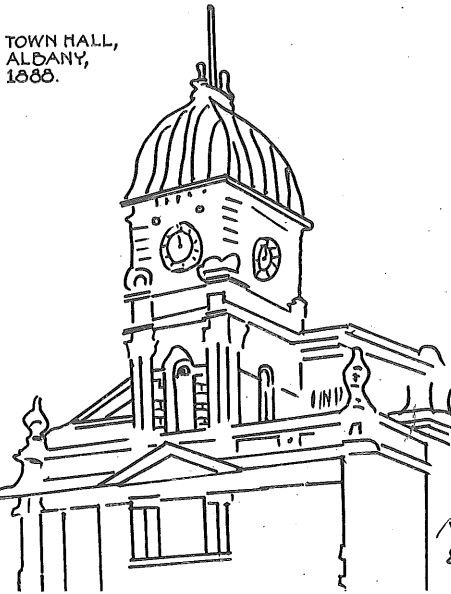


STRAWBERRY HILL FARM,
ALBANY. ARTHUR TRIMMER
WAS MARRIED HERE IN 1836.

SPENCER, ONE OF
NELSON'S FAMOUS
CAPTAINS.

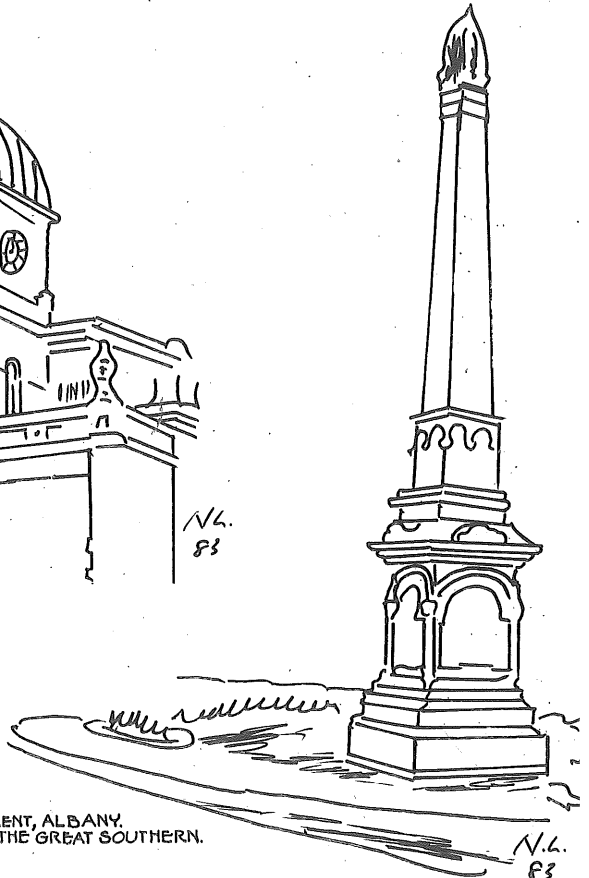


Spencer was one of the states earliest and most progressive agriculturists. He was appointed Government Resident at Albany in March 1833 by the then Under Secretary of War and the Colonies R.W. Hay (after whom Hay River is named). Spencer was a member of the British establishment and had an illustrious war record, wounds from which shortened his life. When Spencer arrived at Albany in September 1833 the population apart from the military was seventeen, there were three cows, poultry and little else. Only one acre was under cultivation. Spencer brought good stock with him and his sheep losses motivated him to examine the good country reported by Dr T.B. Wilson six years earlier. He found the land he wanted on the upper Hay River but to his chagrin in this empty land, Stirling who with Roe had had checked out the same reports personally in January 1835 had already selected this land, which Spencer was forced to buy off Stirling. His stock holding prospered and he built the first farm homestead on the Hay River, eventually expanding his holding further up river to Langton and Ongarup.



TOWN HALL,
ALBANY,
1886.

N.G.
83



ANTHONY HORDERN'S MONUMENT, ALBANY.
HORDERN'S RAILWAY 'MADE' THE GREAT SOUTHERN.

N.G.
83

The Albany Mail many years later was rightfully laudatory of Spencers achievement in farming and administration and said in part "He thoroughly identified himself with the place and its interests. He set an example of enterprise - scarcely followed. He introduced fruit and vegetables, good stock and left a district with 139 settlers, 103 cattle, 2,000 sheep, 18 horses, 15 donkeys and pigs, poultry in abundance, 60 dwelling houses plus 70 to 80 acres under cultivation."

Spencer who was forty at the time of the Great Southern Expedition visit left of course much more than this. He left a conviction that enterprise in the new Colony brought real rewards, a family that carried on his good example and traditions in the south of the state and not least he left a graceful Georgian stone house now recognised as one of the best and most visited National Trust Houses in Australia, which today delights the myriads of visitors to Albany.

The writer was present at the opening of Strawberry Hill Farm by Sir Ernest Lee Steere and others from the Trust some years ago in an era of little concern for old historic houses and regards the preservation of this fine building from the developers as something of a minor miracle.

Stirling returned to Perth by sea on the Sally Ann and the Perth Gazette reported his return as follows:

"His Excellency Sir James Stirling arrived at Perth, from King George's Sound, this afternoon, after an absence of eight weeks. We have not been able to collect the particulars of His Excellency's expedition over-land to King George's Sound in time for our present number, but we are happy to find that the report of the country traversed over is highly favorable. After the arrival of the party at Albany, K.G.'s S., an excursion was made to Doubtful Island Bay, but the appearance of the country has not realised the sanguine expectations which were entertained of it. There is good land in that neighbourhood, but not to the extent represented. The Hon. J.S. Roe, Esq., Surveyor-General, was to leave King George's Sound, with a party, about this time, and would proceed home over-land, directing his course inland, as far as practicable, and coming in by way of York. A detailed account of these explorations, of such important interest to the Colony, we hope to be enabled to lay before our Readers in the course of a few weeks.

WITH HILLMAN TO YORK

Before turning to Roe's return journey through the Great Southern to York and then Perth it would be appropriate to note what the press had to say of Alfred Hillman and party's return journey to Perth from Starting Creek at Williams through to York and then home along the York Road.

The paper reported as follows:

"The journal of an expedition to the Hotham River, and an account of the return journey by way of York, which Mr. Hillman, of the Survey Department has obligingly favoured us with, opens to our view, a portion of this territory hitherto unexplored. The distance from the William's River to the explored country at York, is about fifty

miles; about twenty miles of the ground passed over in a due N.N.E. line, may fairly be set down as available for purposes of agriculture or grazing. It appears but reasonable to conclude, if so large a portion of the country is good, in a direct line, that following the various tracts of approved land, either to the right or left, (which the expedition under our notice had neither the means or intention of accomplishing,) a vast extent of country must be open to us.

The Geographical Society of London, we observe, are directing their attention and sending out their emissaries, to the various portions of the globe. Why do they neglect so new and interesting a country as this?

His Excellency Sir James Stirling, we may reasonably anticipate, has reached King George's Sound by this time - three weeks having elapsed since his departure from the bivouac at the William's River, directing his course to Doubtful Island Bay. We look for his arrival here, in the Sally Ann, in about fourteen days, when we expect an interesting account of a large portion of our territory, between the William's and Doubtful Island Bay, hitherto unexplored."

In actuality Hillman's journey was not the easiest of expeditions. His journey to Perth took in from Starting Creek to Pingelly and then on to Solomon's farm at the junction of the Dale and Avon Rivers at Beverley. Like Roe, some weeks later he confused the Dale River with the Avon and was so footsore he spent a week in York before returning to Perth. Early in the journey they lost a saddle horse which they tracked, and were confident of recovering. Police Seargent Barron lumped a saddle and bridle for over 60 miles before finally giving up hope and storing these on a tree branch, for later recovery.

It is interesting to note that Hillman terminated his mapping efforts at Solomon's farm, unlike Roe who continued his cartography right back to his starting point, this illustrates the essential thoroughness and character of the man. Hillman was 27 at the time of the Great Southern Expedition and didn't display a lot of drive.

A summary of what **had been** gained from the Great Southern Expedition to Albany is perhaps **appropriate**.

In almost a months **travelling** they had covered about 350 miles of rough going - confirming Hillman's estimate of the sound pastoral potential of the Williams River region, discovered the good country of west Wagin, Woodanilling, east Katanning and Gnowangerup Districts. Named the picturesque Stirling Ranges, and many other land marks such as the Arthur River, they had floundered through the trappy country of the Kent River, Denmark and Torbay areas.

In one expedition in difficult and often waterless going they sighted and recorded the country that later gave the state an invaluable amount of agricultural and pastoral potential and impetus.

Roe accurately estimated the value of the country he traversed and blazed the path that pioneer settlers were within a few years to follow to their, and the fledgling colony's best advantage.

From October 20th 1835 to November 21st they never saw white habitation yet never encountered any mishap. All in all the expedition was remarkably well managed and handled and bearing in mind the versatility of Royal Navy Officers of this period the conduct of Roe and Stirling were in the best traditions of what the British public expected and got from its serving Navy Officers.

Starting for York

We now return to Roe's return expedition to Perth via the Great Southern and York. Stirling and his entourage including Arthur Trimmer having returned to the Swan River by sea. To justify this expedition Roe said "A communication overland between the Swan River and King George's Sound being for many reasons very desirable and connecting the present located extremities of the Territory of Western Australian and opening to the occupation of our enterprising colonists a line of country through which sheep and cattle imported from the eastern Colonies might with safety and advantage be conducted to the northern interior, I availed myself of the means afforded by the arrival of Sir James Stirling and party overland in the latter part of November 1835 and readily obtained his Excellency's consent to return with them by another route".

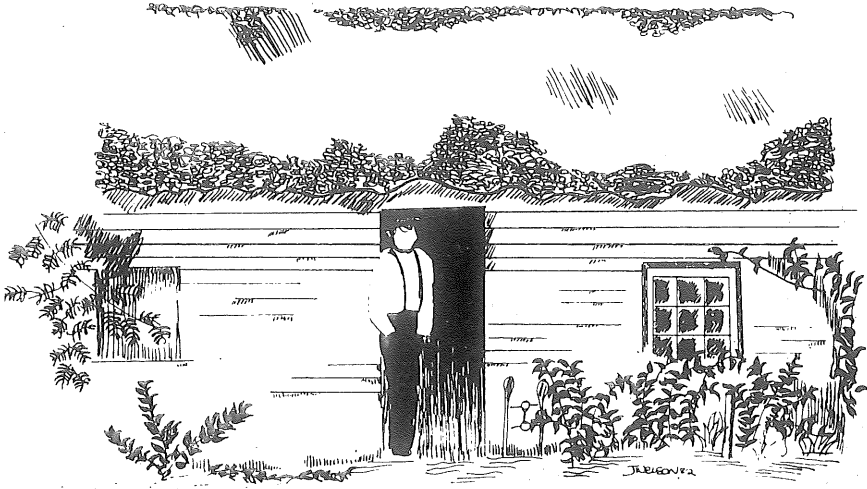
They were very cogent arguments for the opening up of the north south road. The Colony would obviously become a stock hungry one as settlers moved in to take up the huge amount of land available and the obvious source of supply was the eastern Colonies shipping in through the recognised safe port of Albany. Accordingly, riding their rested horses reshod especially for the journey by Sir Richard Spencer's excellent farrier, Roe and his party comprising of Police Superintendent Norcott, the five troopers - Heffron, Craigie, Syred, Wood and Stanton together with the Swan River Native Migo and eight horses left Albany at 5.15 in the afternoon on December 14th 1835. Two local natives Toole-Cub-Wallee and Wou-o-wer went along as local guides. They left Albany to the sound of cheers from a small group assembled at the Parade Ground to see them off.

They crossed between Mount Melville and Munster Hill and soon were in the bush and marshy peat plains of the hinterland. They made good going and halted at 7.15pm on the King River tributary Parkers Brook - named by Roe after his mentor the Hydrographer Captain Phillip Parker King of the Royal Navy. This brook is in the vicinity of Willyung Hill near the present day Albany Airport about four and half miles from Albany.

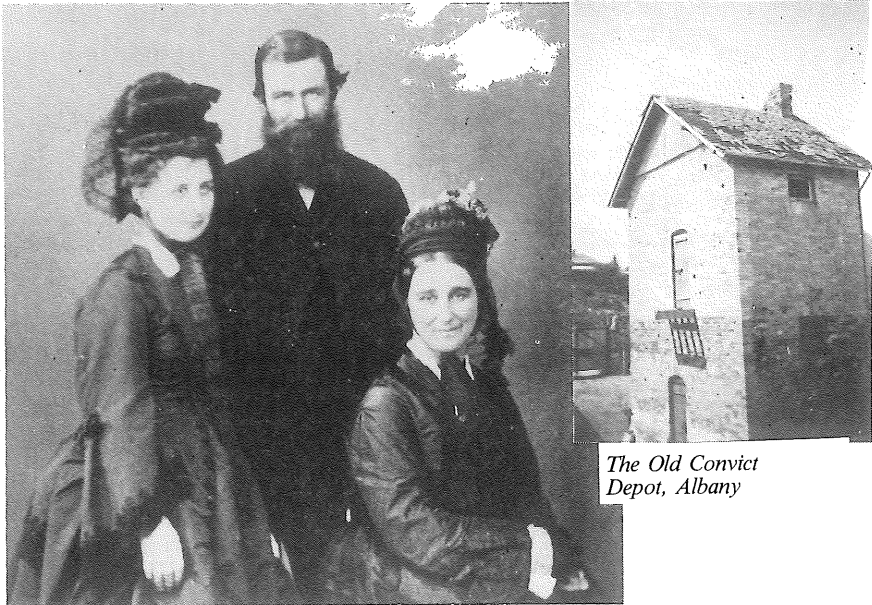
December 15th saw a 5.30am start on the Mount Barker track, crossing Green Valley and the main branch of the King River. Five miles on they came to Chorkerup Lake near which the writer's great grandfather kept an inn around 1869 before going farming at Broomehill.

From here they sighted Mount Barker, Mount Barrow and the Porongorup Range. By this time they were on the road running now to Sir Richard Spencer's farming property and in recognition of this Roe named the general area Spencer Vale. They halted for lunch near the fresh water lagoon called by the natives Kymundyip. This is about six miles due south of Mount Barker and was renamed Lake Barnes by Roe. It then came onto rain and they camped in wet and squally conditions for the night.

Arthur Trimmer was associated with this and other Spencer Properties for some years before taking up his Pootenup (Morrell) property and influenced the Spencers to take up Gobrup at Broomehill some years later.



The first house on the Hay River, built by Sir Richard Spencer.



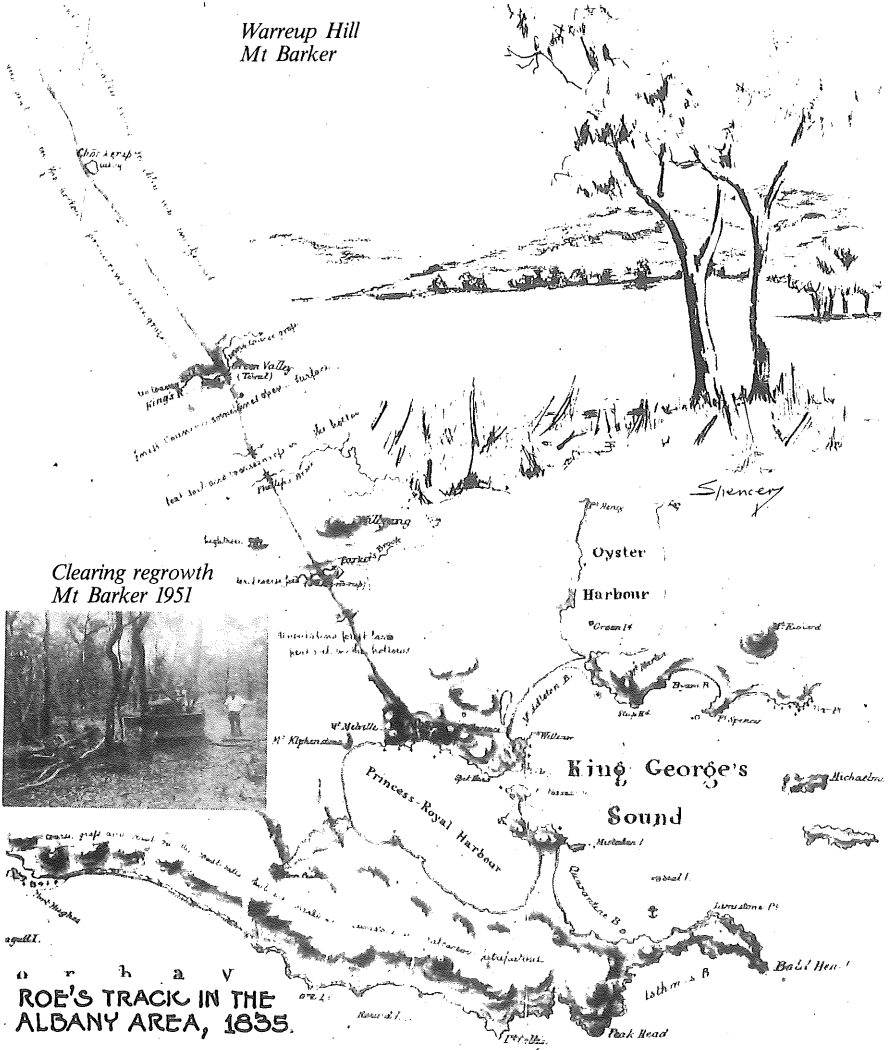
The Old Convict Depot, Albany

Arthur Trimmer's children.

Richard (Dick) Trimmer with his sisters, Lady Cockburn-Campbell left and Mrs Lawson. Dick Trimmer farmed his father's holding of 22,000 hectares at Pootenup near Tambellup from 1865 until 1887.

Mt. Barker

December 16th saw a 6.15am start. The first land mark was a reedy lagoon which Roe called Lake Don. Roe was surprised at the way the natives with the party let nothing edible escape their clutches from Kangeroos, Bandicoots, Kangaroo Rats, Banksia Honey, white ants, frogs, lizzards, Opposums, Birds, and various roots. Presumably he was talking generally of their food harvesting methods. They covered a lot of ground and camped fourteen miles from their previous camp. Their stopping place was Morrilup ponds on the Kalgan River near Kendenup. This was said to be the most northern of the reliable summer water supplies that their Albany guides were acquainted with.



At daybreak on December 17th 1835, Roe dispatched the King George Sound native guides south with a letter to Sir Richard Spencer acquainting him with the progress made to date by the party. There was no point in retaining the natives further as they were now passing into country that the latter were not familiar with. The party broke camp at 5.15am and within an hour were travelling through good undulating country from where they could see Mondarup which is the high peak roughly midway between Ross Peak & Mount Magog.

They would have been twelve miles south west of Mondarup at this point. They halted to lunch until 3.00pm on a dry camp and after resuming sighted the remarkable hill called by the natives Warreup about six miles north west. Warreup is the highest of a cluster of wooded hills and is about 300 feet above the surrounding country and thus quite noticeable.

Warreup, which was its name given by the Aborigines, was officially given that name by Doctor Collie R.N. (Collie died of consumption in Albany, Collie Street is named after him) on May 27th 1832 - some three years prior to Roe's expedition, in an expedition that took Collie to the fringes of the Broomehill Shire. The name of this proud hill continued until 1949 when the Nomenclature Committee in a burst of mediocrity changed the name to Geekabee Hill after the initials of George Kershaw Brown. Warreup is about 1,300 feet above sea level and is quite a land mark. Hopefully this naming decision will in time be reversed. The writer was involved in reversing several decisions of this nature made during a period as a member of the Old Wagin Municipal Council and found that common sense usually prevails in these cases.

Cranbrook

They were now approaching known country where they had been on the southward journey around mid November. The actual crossing point in their march was three miles north west of Lake Matilda - about the same distance south of Tenterden. In this area they picked out Lakes Wareeup and Boorakup and then camped for the night on some good water near Cranbrook.

December 18th saw a 6.30am start and within a few miles they were on a deep pool of what Roe named the Gordon River, north west of Cranbrook - named in honour of the Earl of Aberdeen. The days travel was marked by good grass, a lot of Kangeroos and little water. It was just before dark that the party came on a fine pool of water twenty yards long and about nine yards wide. Excellent feed abounded for the horses and the steep banks of the pool were covered in brushwood. Migo got his hands on some young wood ducks under the pool banks and by 9.00p.m. the party settled down and set their watch for the night. This camp was at Slab Hut Gully east of Tunney.

December 19th saw Roe and party blazing a tree on both sides of the pool, they had camped too late the previous evening to do this. These markers were of course valuable sighters tying in with the survey, field books, journals and later maps. They would be handy referrell points for a variety of future uses by both Government staff and settlers. Roe was quite sure there was, a greater quantity of water down stream but not wishing to deviate from his northerly route they pushed on at 5.15am. The country they were travelling over had good grass and plenty of Kangeroos. He commented on the apparent

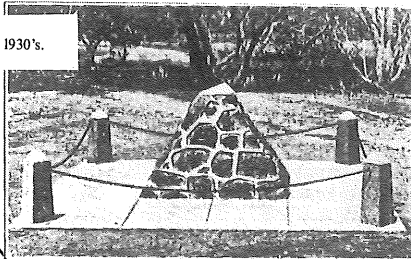
wind effect on trees in this area. The eastern sides of the valleys being more affected. The country was mainly White Gum and Jam with some ironstone ridges. Generally they were impressed with the feed. His comments on the country travelled over that day include - "Valleys of good grass, good grassy undulating land, good grass among Wattles, grassy forest land, undulating grassy land with Wattle, Jam and Broom. Slightly wooded country - numerous Kangeroos, Lightly timbered country rich in soil and grass."

East of Kojonup

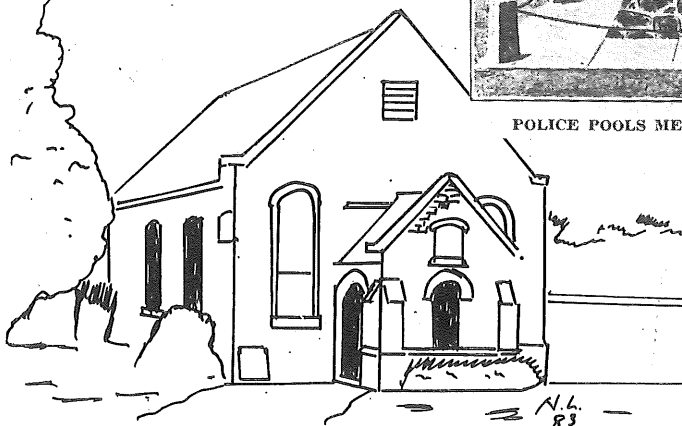
In the days travel some of the present day properties traversed were Gondola, Numbup, Te-Hoe, Ukullie, Borderdale, Allowah, Flat Rocks, Kilburnie with the overnight camp on Scamper Creek roughly in the centre of a triangle bounded by Twelve Trees, Wanaka and Gna-We.

Near where they camped several native huts were found with a camp fire still burning. It looked as though the owners were out hunting and near dark a native was seen approaching at a leisurely pace. He was astonished when the party hailed him and took off "like a Deer". They continued to call out and he came back for a second look and then repeated his rapid retreat, shouting out to his group and ignoring Migo's friendly call in the vernacular. Roe cautiously doubled the night watch. Migo passed the comment "All mooligall (frightened) and at least ten miles away by now". This wasn't actually the case though as one of the troopers went up the valley some distance and could hear natives conversing. Roe with a wry sense of humour at the native's fast escape named this creek Scamper Creek by which appellation it still appears on survey maps today.

Unveiled by Inglis Synott at Katanning in the 1930's.



POLICE POOLS MEMORIAL CAIRN.



THE LIVING MUSEUM AT BROOMEHILL (CIRCA 1911)

This camp was about two miles south of the Kojonup Broomehill Road and about eleven miles west of Eticup townsite. Eticup has been mentioned earlier in this brief history and but for the Great Southern Railway Company would certainly have been the main regional centre of the great southern grazing districts.

The rail way passed four miles east of Eticup at Broomehill and Katanning eventually took over from both centres as the regional centre. Eticup is the south's only true ghost town and is worth digressing on.

The W.A. Historical Journal had this to say about Eticup in a pre-war publication.

OLD ETICUP

Early Days on the Great Southern

Eticup, which once had the air of an Australian village with its two stores, hotel, smithies, church and farmhouses, was doomed when the Great Southern Railway passed to the east of it and the townsite of Broomehill was formed on the line about four miles away. To-day rich farms and studs occupy the same land, but of the old village activity there is little trace except a few ruined chimneys or old houses by the roadside, a decaying church beneath the white gums on the hill and a little cemetery.

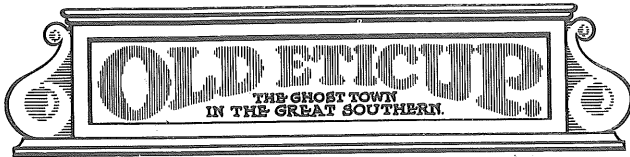
About 1862 W.H. Graham settled at Fairfield and about 1865 the Trimmer family moved from Pootenup and settled near Drolf. Early in 1869 Thomas Norrish whose parents had worked Warkulup (near Kojonup) took over Drolf's property from the mortgagee under conditions that will be explained later. Three years later he married and brought his wife to the district. It is this couple whose reminiscences form the subject of the following papers.

About 1870 Goblup was started. It was first owned by Edward Spencer (a son of Sir Richard Spencer) and in 1874 came into the possession of Lady Alexander Cockburn-Campbell through her mother, Mrs Trimmer, who was a sister of Edward Spencer. The property was leased out first to Thomas Norrish (from 1879 to 1883) and for the next two years to a Mr Lott, of York, but Lady Campbell lived there until 1889, when the estate was purchased by Lord Brassey, at one time Governor of Victoria. Lord Brassey held it until 1904.

Between 1874 and 1883 George Whitton, Pat Garrity, Ned Brown, Joseph Nelson, the Carmody's, Rogers and Tylers all went to live at Eticup and about 1887 the Carpenters arrived and the Krakouer brothers built their store. During the eighties the Vanzuilecoms were leasing Fairfield during the absence of Graham in England. The church at Eticup was built by the settlers themselves in 1884, each contributing towards the materials and helping in the construction. A vestry was added later from funds supplied by Lady Brassey.

The settlement reached its peak about the middle eighties, with its hotel, two stores, three smithies (the counterpart of the modern garage and service station), and string of houses along the road and its little church, which was also being used as a day school for the children of the district. The situation of the of the various places is shown.

in the accompanying sketch map. Then the railway came, Broomehill was founded and the importance of Eticup dwindled. In later years many of the properties have changed hands and new names are heard in the district. In the little cemetery about three quarters of a mile beyond the church as well as in a small group of graves in a corner of Fairfield, however, the memory of some of the first-comers is still preserved.

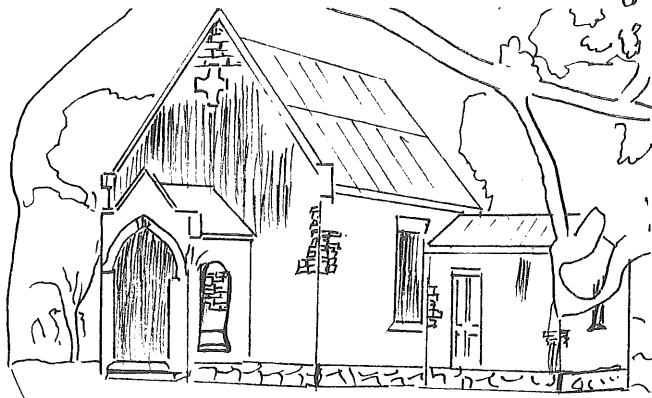


Material from St Peters was used in the later Church at Broomehill.

*St. Peters, Eticup,
Circa 1884.*

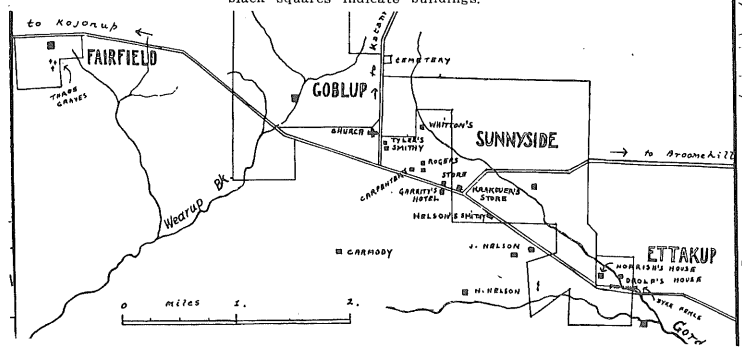
*Built in the 1880's by the Eticup settlers. The vestry was later added by Lady Brassey.
The site is marked by a plaque.*

N.L.
183

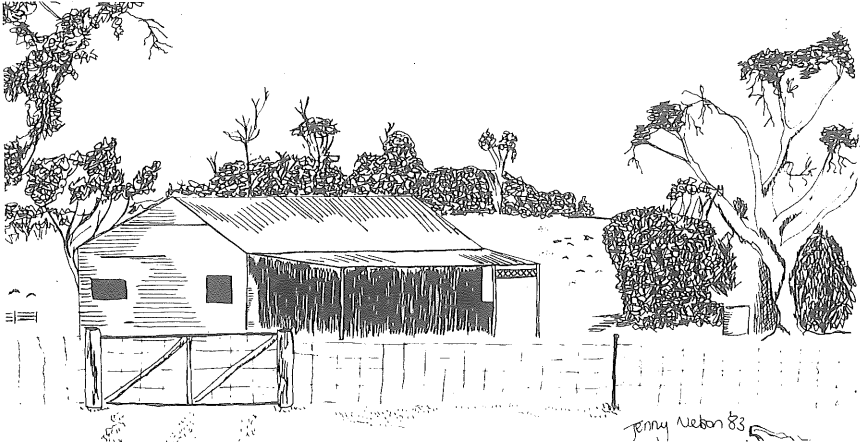


OLD ETTAKUP

A sketch map showing the various holdings mentioned in the accompanying article. The black squares indicate buildings.

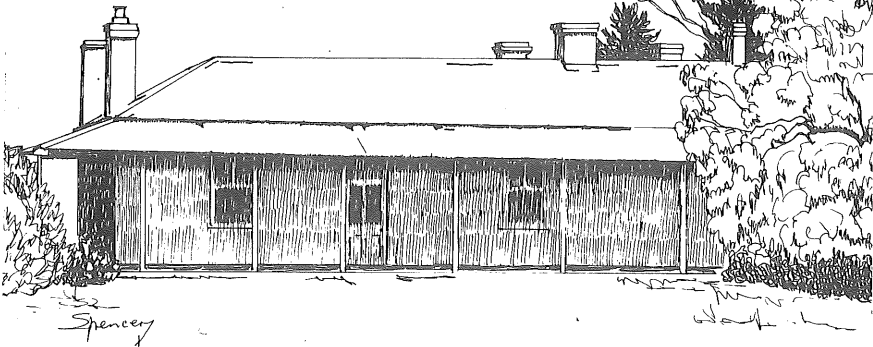


The writers great Grandfather, a Yorkshire man Joseph Nelson is mentioned as one of the early settlers moving to Eticup between 1874 and 1883. Joseph Nelson was in his mid fifties when he came to Eticup. He was a Yorkshireman who came to the Colony in 1851. He had served in the Royal Engineers in England and came out as an instructing warder with the introduction of transportation. He saw service at Toodyay, York and Albany acquiring land as early as 1853 in Toodyay, 1868 in York and then Broomehill. The Nelson family acquired the historic Sunnyside property from the Norrishes and a Nelson descendant, on the Distaff side, Ross Meyer of Bloomfield Broomehill, owns this property today.



*The Woolshed on the Historic Norrish Property — "Sunnyside," Broomehill
The Norrishes took up Sunnyside in 1872 and it later passed to the Nelsons from
nearby Eticup.
It is now owned by Ross Meyer of Bloomfield, Broomehill.*

*This sketch appeared on the 1985 Home Building
Society Calendar and has been presented to the Shire
of Broomehill*



"Sunnyside" Homestead built by Norrishes in 1883.

"Condeena" Broomehill

This fine property forms the central section of the old Goblupe Estate west of Broomehill.



SEPTEMBER 15, 1886.

This press extract records the death of Arthur Trimmer's widow Mary Ann.

The Albany Mail of the 1st inst., referring to the death of an old settler, says:—
On Tuesday, the 24th ult., a very old and respected Albany resident died at the house of her daughter, Dowager Lady Campbell. This was Mrs. Trimmer, widow of the late Mr. Arthur Trimmer, of Albany. Mrs. Trimmer was the daughter of the late Sir Richard Spencer, the first Government Resident of Albany. She leaves one son and six daughters, one of whom is Dowager Lady Campbell, another the wife of Mr. H. M. Thomas (our respected Clerk of the Court), another the widow of the late Mr. H. A. Turpin, and another the wife of Sir Thomas C. Campbell, Bart., and two others in the eastern colonies. The funeral took place on Friday, and was largely attended by the leading townspeople of Albany.

WEDNESDAY,

In retrospect it is rather strange to reflect that the Settlement at Etipup was under way over thirty years before Katanning or Broomehill existed and that the industry that gave Katanning a later boost - flour milling - was being carried out at nearby Fairfield well prior to 1884, converting the grain grown around Etipup into flour.

Etipup was a vigorous settlement and it nearly was able to sustain the momentum it gained. The first two surveys carried out for the Great Southern Railway Line routed the line through Etipup but it finally passed it by at Broomehill. The reasons for this - undoubtedly economic - would make a study in itself.

The erudite W.H. Graham of Fairfield was later the first President of the Great Southern Districts Pastoral and Agricultural Society and Foundation Chairman of the Broomehill Roads Board. His fine property near Etipup remained intact until after World War Two when it was purchased by the Land Settlement and subdivided into War Service Farms. This was the fate of many large holdings in the Great Southern including well known ones such as Hassel's old Jerramongup, Durack's Behn Ord Estate, Faulkner's Ora Cowie, McKenzie's Boyalling - all at Wagin; Piesses' The Arthur at Arthur River. Some like Moran's Tamacurring Station survived by selling off outlying blocks and consolidating their main holding.

In common with much of the early Great Southern including Goblup Estate the Etipup settlers took up a few hundred acres of freehold land and larger pastoral leases. The map of Etipup included in this brief history shows the extent of the freehold blocks and the location of homes and business. A lot of the buildings survived until comparatively recent times.

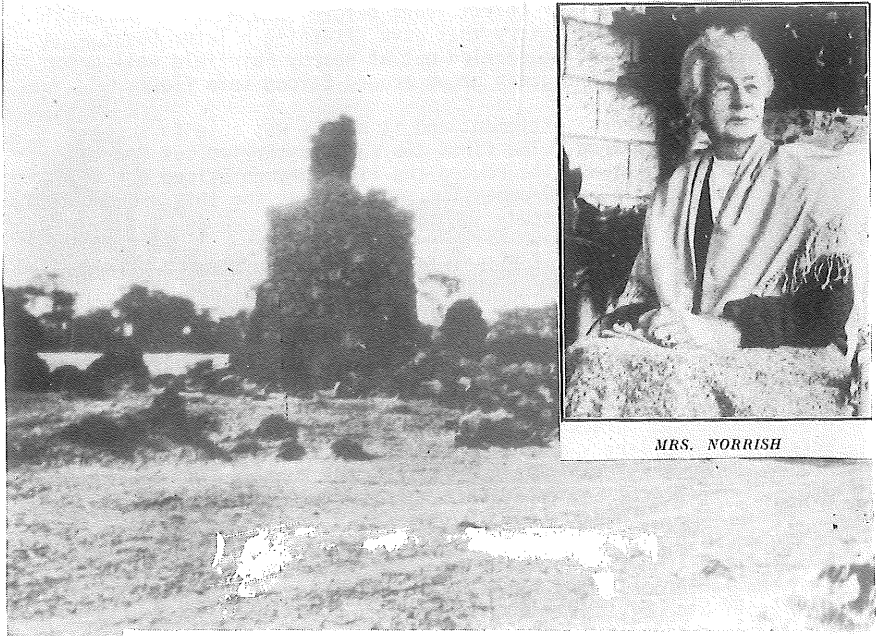
Garrity's son John built a store opposite the hotel in the 19870's and this is also pictured.

Krakouer's store was strategically placed on the junction of the Kojonup-Broomehill and Etipup Road. The remains of the store are also depicted.

A bit further down the writer's Great Grand Father Joseph Nelson had a smithy on 330 acres - combining a cash flow business with farming. His house was about a quarter of a mile north east of the smithy. His son Nat Nelson had the 300 acres adjoining, with his house south west of his Father's with another block of 200 acres adjoining Norrishes'. Another son Alf, later lived at Joseph Nelson's home before moving to Perinellup. Alf's son Billy later acquired Norrishes' Sunnyside property, the homestead which is also pictured and still standing today.

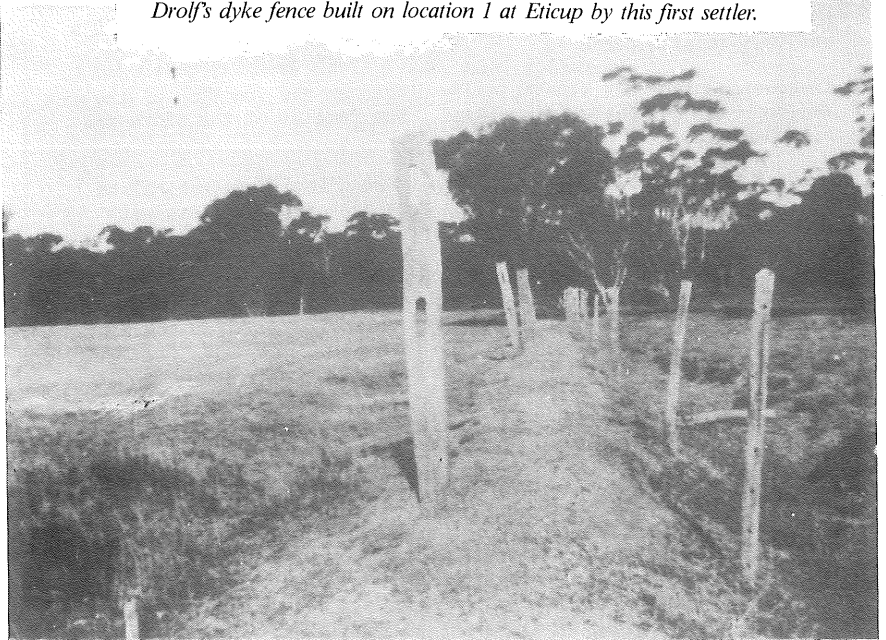
A Norrish descendant has been engaged in restoring the homestead in recent times.

Joseph Nelson Junior (the writer's Grand Father) rather surprisingly left Etipup to go to France to work in a family business associated with the wool trade there. He returned to Western Australia some time later and lived in the south west at Bridgetown before coming to Wagin. He had to put up with much ribbing from his family for many years after, being referred to as the "French Immigrant". A wonderfully skilled man with a broad axe, Joseph Nelson Junior



Norrishes' old homestead circa 1872.

Drolf's dyke fence built on location 1 at Eiticup by this first settler.





Fairfield, circa 1862.

WALLINAR, BROOMEHILL
 on the property
 situated 8km South West of Broomehill
 (Follow signs) on Brassey Road
Wednesday, 10 October 1984 at 1.30pm
180 Specially selected Merino Rams 1983 drop
Shorn mid June 1984
350 Stud Ewes CFA
400 Commercial Ewes 1 1/2 yrs To be offered
Gnowangerup Special Sale 31st Oct 1984
All Ewes Shorn mid September
6 Rams to be offered Kojonup ram Sale 24th October
Also on property private ram selection day will be held on Tues
30th Oct

96 YEARS LATER...
 LORD BRASSEY'S NAME
 CONTINUES ON, AS THIS
 PRESS CUTTING SHOWS.



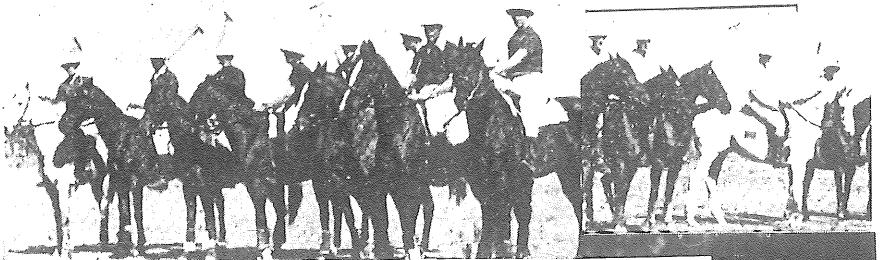
Arthur Trimmer's homestead. Built in 1865, photographed as it looked in 1940.

Krakouer's Store at Elicup.

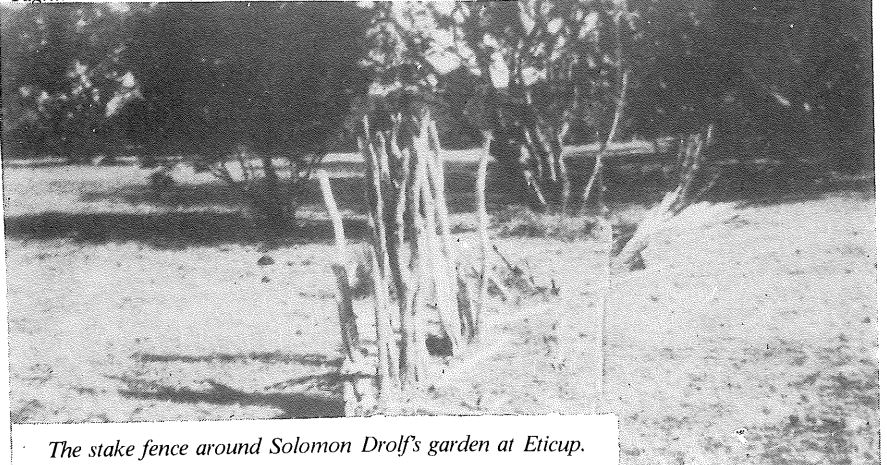


BROOMEHILL POLO TOURNAMENT

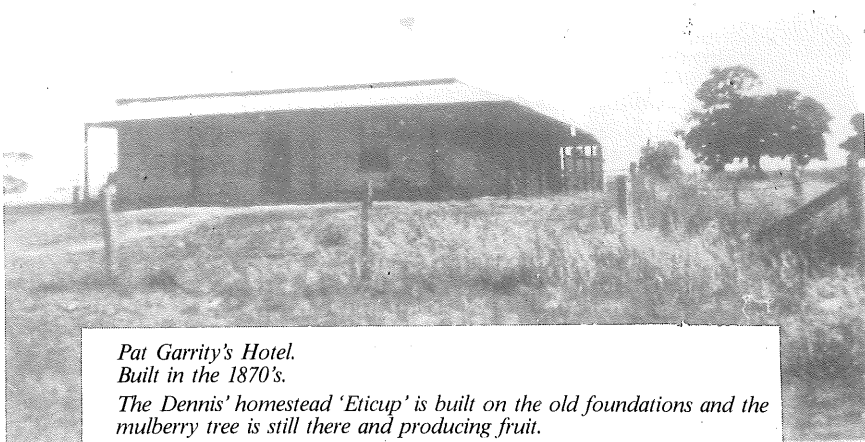
MARCH 12, 1939.



*Left: E. G. Donoghue, W. A. Rischbieth, A. D. Caukroger, Archie Hardie, W. H. Halliday, Toby Richardson, D. J. Chipper, Bob Richardson.
Right: A. S. Brown, J. A. Maitland, W. G. Bennett (Capt), A. R. Hardie.*



The stake fence around Solomon Drolf's garden at Elicup.

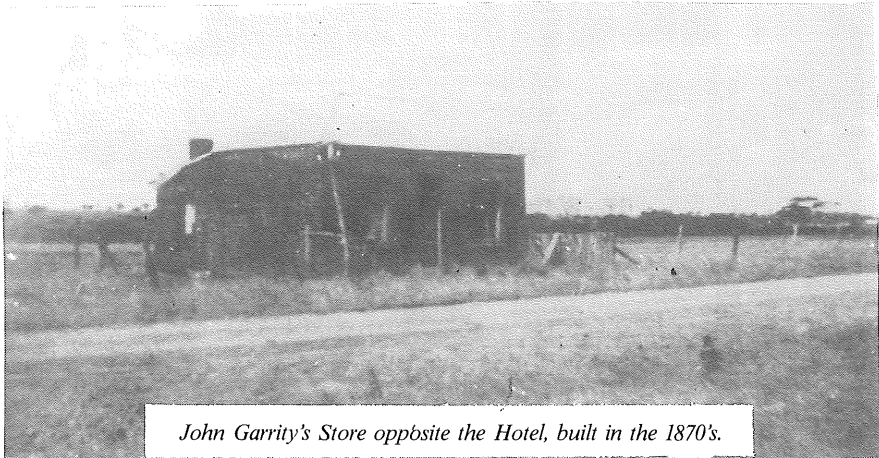


Pat Garrity's Hotel.

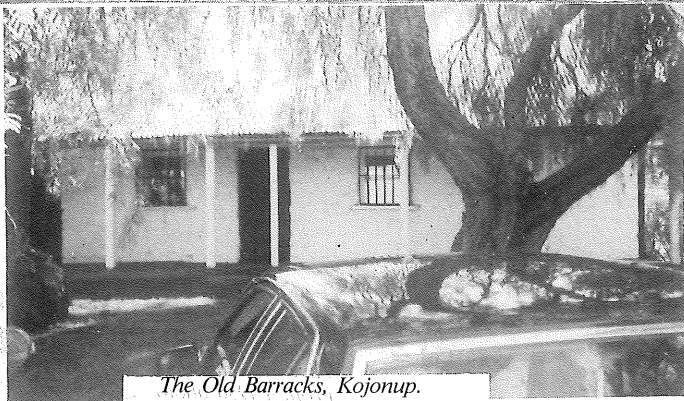
Built in the 1870's.

The Dennis' homestead 'Eticup' is built on the old foundations and the mulberry tree is still there and producing fruit.

A plaque commemorating the Great Southern Expedition and marking the centre of old Eticup is to be laid on the road verge near Eticup Homestead in September 1985.



John Garrity's Store opppsite the Hotel, built in the 1870's.



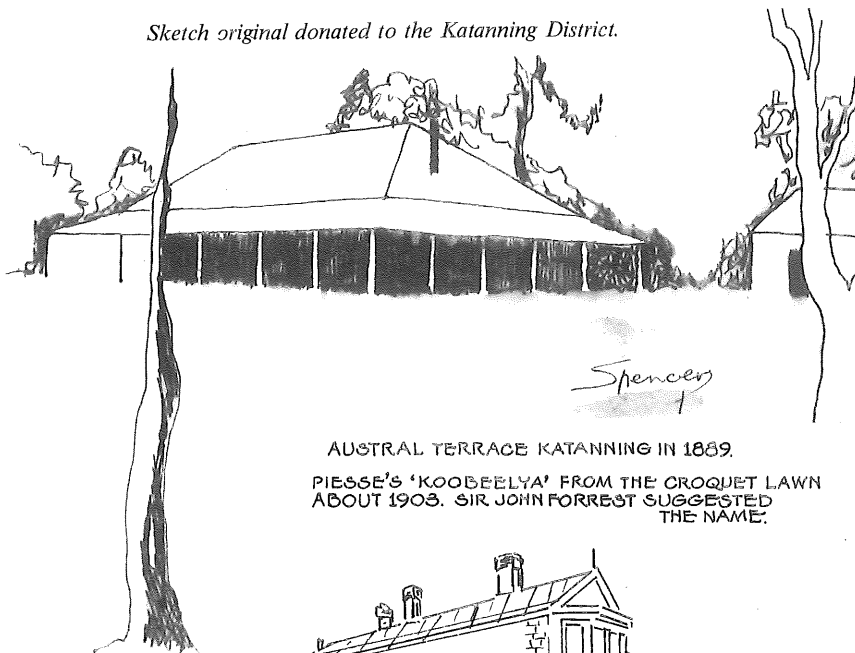
The Old Barracks, Kojonup.

later helped the writer's Father build his homestead on Boanning at Wagin on the property now farmed by the writer's brother Keith Nelson and his sons.

Joseph Nelson Junior's old home in Bridgetown is classified by the National Trust, it was built about 1900.

It continually surprises the writer that so much interest is taken in the historic town sites in the Goldfields, but so little in Old Etipup which is really the only true ghost town in the south of this State.

Sketch original donated to the Katanning District.

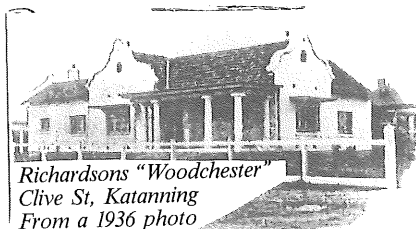


AUSTRAL TERRACE KATANNING IN 1889.

PIESSE'S 'KOUBEELYA' FROM THE CROQUET LAWN ABOUT 1903. SIR JOHN FORREST SUGGESTED THE NAME.

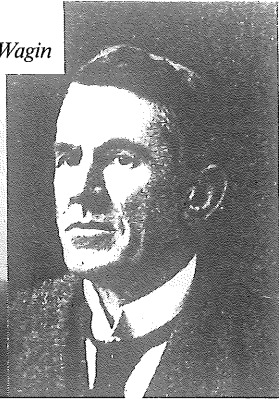


*The Katanning Club
Circa 1912*



*Richardsons "Woodchester"
Clive St, Katanning
From a 1936 photo*

Stewart farmed
 "Solai" and "Lake View" at Wagin

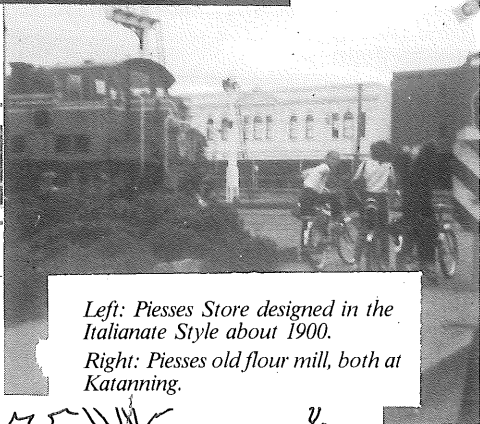


HON. HECTOR STEWART, M.L.C.
 Member for the South-East Province,
 Legislative Council.

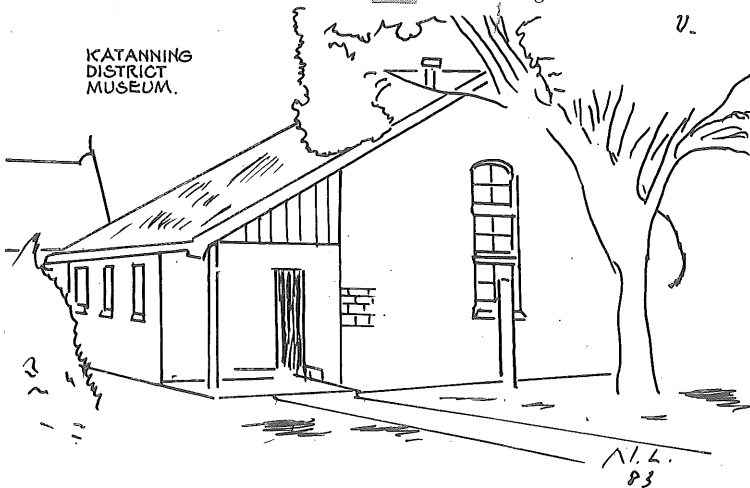
*Piesses old Pimweryning winery,
 Katanning.*



CLIVE STREET, LOOKING EAST, 1929.



*Left: Piesses Store designed in the
 Italianate Style about 1900.
 Right: Piesses old flour mill, both at
 Katanning.*



KATANNING
 DISTRICT
 MUSEUM.

A.L.
 83

The Beaufort

December 20th saw the party spending extra time in rounding up three stray horses - which to quote Roe "Came to the saddle with much more than their usual share of life and spirit." - An early demonstration of the feed value of this fine Great Southern Grazing districts - By 6.20am they travelled up the Scamper Creek Valley and quitted it after it turned westward. The good country with numerous Kangeroos continued and after crossing a plain they came on a larger water course - not far from Narrowwong Homestead. Roe called this Lambert Creek after Captain George Lambert R.V. who had carried out useful service to the Colony in placing buoys and beacons in the Gage Roads and Fremantle anchorage.

From this one gathers that the overworked Surveyor General evidently had appreciated Lamberts assistance in this task. Roe comments on the splendid red gums in the creek and notations on his map read "Grassy plains, good grass, grassy forest land in ridge and valleys".

Their general line of march would have taken the party through Oak Farm, Narrawong, Falkirk, The Glen, across the Kojonup-Katanning Road through Woodlands, Cheviot Hills and into the Carrolup Area where they struck pools of good drinking water in a river bed five to eight yards wide. They were in a shallow valley and could easily follow the stream bed from clumps of tea tree. They followed the river north west pausing to "lunch on two brace of cockatoos, a pidgeon, yesterdays young Kangeroo venison". The party was very much living off the land although Roe comments "Although we had been all morning among Kangeroos our dogs had not been able to run nor had our sportsment succeeded in their attempts to get one, the country being of too open a character to admit getting near enough to shoot one".

The river they were on had steep banks twelve to fifteen feet high and contained good, big pools of water.

Following their lunch break Roe considered a thunder storm in the offing and pushed on along the river which he named the Beaufort after Captain Francis Beaufort R.N. the Admiralty Hydrographer whom he had worked with while at the Admiralty in London.

He quitted the river around location 2858 north of Maracoonda Pools and north west of the Lowlands property where it swung west and soon crossed a dry tributary which drains the country west of New Glendower and this he named Francis Brook (again after Captain Francis Beaufort). Around River Road the storm broke with very heavy rain and lightning around them.

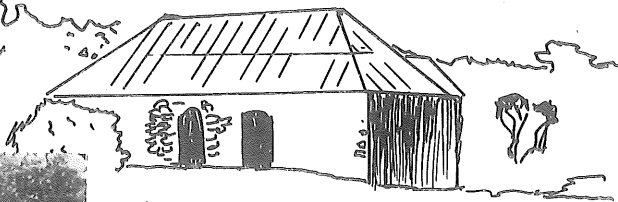
As it cleared they finally caught a Kangeroo and around 6.00pm entered a stretch of rising country where Roe recorded "Good grass and soil among rocky broken country". Here they blazed several trees and made their seventh encampment since leaving Albany in a sheltered grassy hollow.

In looking around from a hill above the camp Roe noted a wooded range around ten miles south west and the Beaufort River Valley. This later he named Melbourne Vale after the famous British Prime Minister. The hills they had just traversed Roe named Hemstead Hills after Dr



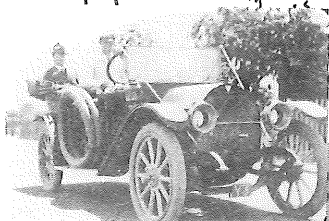
Part of the Old Mount Pleasant Inn at Arthur River.
A Committee is restoring this historic building.

CIRCA 1869



Mt. Pleasant Hotel, 125 Mile Peg, Albany Road at Arthur River.

C. Seabrook, C. Leggoe, Chas Edwards, (left to right),
(York People), photographed in January, 1915.



MR. CHARLES OXLEY PIESSE.



Their Car — Y.3 is a Hudson Super 4 and was the largest car
in the State when purchased in 1908.

Piesse Bros and their fine Arthur River property.
Both men died in the Great War in France and "the Arthur" was
eventually sold.



MR. VERNON FREDERICK PIESSE



"The Arthur" Homestead and Outbuildings
(Now Tabetup Homestead)

"THE ARTHUR" HOMESTEAD AND OUTBUILDINGS.

Hemstead from Roe's home town of Newbury in Berkshire (one supposes Roe's letters home to his clergyman father would have been major talking points in the town for long after with so many local names being permanently enshrined on landmarks in the other half of the world).

It was a wet overnight camp due to the storm but Roe calmly says "Good fires denied all discomfort and the horses benefitted from the rain on the grass".

Woodanilling

December 21st 1835 saw the party topping up their water containers with about six gallons of rain water, caught in a tarpaulin no doubt and headed north by 6.00am. Clearing the grassy country they covered a series of rocky ironstone rides, part of Hemstead Hills and then descended into open land with granite outcrops. Some of this land was scrubby but with belts of good grass. They would have traversed M. Doaks, Wyatt Youngs, Maders, Terlich Brothers and Haddricks properties.

Topping a sandy ridge west of Roberts they sighted open water five to six miles away to the north west. This would have been some water in Norring. "The western part of the lake was hidden by a beautiful little wooded elevation with grass over its summit and side being north west by north about one and a half miles away." This was the two Haycocks just above Mouldens old homestead and actually part of the present day Kojonolokan Hill property. The highest hill in sight was Badjarning Hill west of Wagin which from this point is just west of north and right on the skyline. Roe called this Mount Latham after his friend and London Doctor, Dr Latham. Roe was impressed with the good grazing country in sight - grass to the top of the ridges.

At 10.00am Roe headed for the Haycocks to obtain a view and no doubt survey angles from the summit. From the top of the Haycocks Hill he sighted other lakes, Little Norring and Quarbing to the north and Flagstaff, Queerearup and Charling to the west. An open space about a mile east of his track was called Spring Plains and the big hill behind H.O. Beckers, he called Mount Rice. Mine Hill rather surprisingly was ignored.

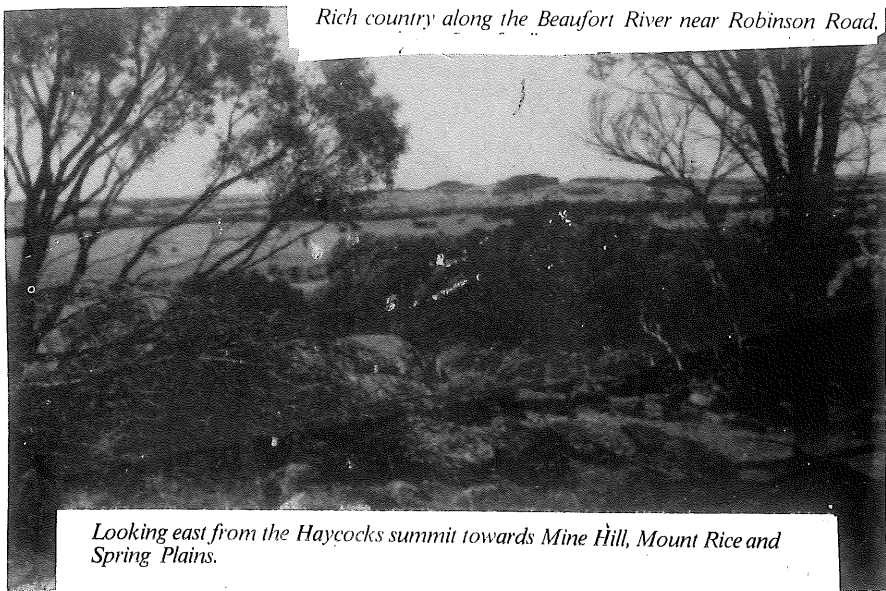
He was obviously impressed by what he saw and the view is no less impressive today although there is more water evident due to the clearing of the countryside. The writer while retracing Roe's route in this area from the original journal on Boxing Day 1982 found the outlook identical with Roe's description but it was necessary to move around this beautiful steep hill to gain an outlook through the timber. If the reader plans on visiting the Haycocks it would be as well to get permission from the Kojonolken Homestead first. The rancour caused in this area by Mining Companys recent attempts to survey and peg farming land can lead to misunderstandings otherwise.

Roe's visit to the Haycocks was cut short when his baggage horses bolted off towards Norring scattering clothes, tarpaulins, spy glasses etc on the ground as they went.

The Haycocks climbed and named by Roe near Ashwell Road in the Woodanilling District.



Rich country along the Beaufort River near Robinson Road.



Looking east from the Haycocks summit towards Mine Hill, Mount Rice and Spring Plains.

Mr Horrace Frederick accepts a commemorative plaque at the Historical Village from Mr Phillip Gooding (centre) President of the Stud Stock Breeders. Historical Society President Mr Marv Frost looks on.

THE GREAT

SOUTHERN HERALD, Wednesday, August 15, 1984 — Page 3

Historic plaque to be unveiled

A COMMEMORATIVE plaque marking the sesquicentenary of the first exploration of the Great Southern will be unveiled at the Heritage Exhibition in Katanning next month.

The unveiling is just one of the scheduled events planned at the exhibition by the Katanning Arts and Crafts Association.

The bronze plaque is based on a design by a convict architect Francis Greenway.

It will be unveiled by Mr James Arthur Roe who is the great grandson of the leader of the first exploration party a former Surveyor General Mr John Septimus Roe.

Mr Roe's party traversed the Katanning district twice.

Once while south-bound for Albany in November 1835 when the party also included the Governor of the Swan River Colony, Sir James Stirling.

On this occasion the party travelled east of Katanning in the vicinity of Lake Coyreup.

On another occasion, in December 1835, the party travelled west of Katanning while north bound to York.

The plaque has been donated by the Old Mill Restoration Committee.

The suggestion to lay the plaque and the formulation of its design was made by Mr Lloyd Nelson after he completed historical work on Roe's expedition.

His work is called The Great Southern Expedition of 1835 and will be launched in Katanning later this year.

Mr Nelson is the great grandson of an early Broomehill pioneer Joseph Nelson, who is buried at the old Etipup cemetery, and has also drawn up a history and map of the pioneer settlement of Etipup.

The settlement was a few miles west of Broomehill and ceased to exist after the Great Southern railway was built east of the township.

Mr Nelson's map shows details of existing and past locations of buildings in the settlement and copies will be available at the exhibition.

He is also keen to see an open day held at Etipup next winter and believes this will be of great interest to both local and city residents.

He is chairman of the York Walk Committee which each year draws large crowds for its annual walk around the historical colonial buildings in York.

Also at the exhibition the Home Building Society will present a framed original sketch of the historical Sunnyside homestead at Broomehill to the Broomehill Shire Council.

Miss Shirley Macdonald, a descendant of the original owner Richard Norrish, is restoring the homestead.

It was built in 1833 and it will appear on a Home Building Society calendar for 1985.

The sketch was drawn by leading WA artist Mrs Pat Spencer.



The Wagin Plaque — Woolarama 1985



MRS. AINSLEY EVANS (A HADDLETON DESCENDANT) AND THE WRITER WITH THE MAP AND PLAQUE MENTIONED IN THE PRESS CUTTING.

Norring

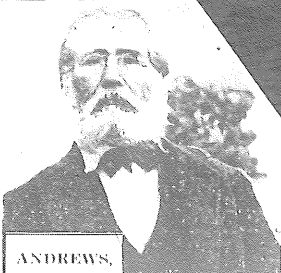
He had to make fast tracks to catch up with them three quarters of a mile to the north. No damage had been done however and Roe notes "In half an hour all stragglers having been collected we were once more on our route. This was north west over mixed country and dry steam beds going through Mouldens, Ramms and Watsons properties, stopping for lunch on the Boyerine Creek, where they found both good fresh water pools and feed. Despite the good overview of the country obtained from the Haycocks the level nature of the creek country had the party discussing which way the creek fell. Migo and Norcott estimated correctly that it ran into the lakes. After marking two York Gum trees they continued north west and came to Norring Lake about half way down the east shore. Roe had this to say "It was two and a half miles in length north east by south west and one and three quarter miles across. The white sandy clay which formed its shallow bed was at this time dry and cracked and bore numerous marks of web footed fowls all over it. He concluded it to be quite salt and its depth six to eight feet although he could discern marks of water drift three and a half feet above normal levels. They then crossed the lake bed to the considerable wooded eminence on the opposite shore. This of course was Mount Hugel named on the spot by Roe in honour of the scientific baron of that name who had recently visited the shores of Western Australia. The view from the summit of Mount Hugel then as now was extensive. Roe picked out the chain of lakes to the north east and could discern water to the south east where he expected the chain would run into the Beaufort River. Which of course it does and then later combines with the Balgarup west of Boscabel to form the Blackwood River. Roe mentions the quality of feed and the good rich country.

SESQUI CENTENARY OF FIRST PIONEERS

A plaque will be unveiled at Woolorama 1985 as a memorial to the district's explorers and pioneers.

To commemorate the Sesqui Centenary of the Great Southern region a petition to open up the region have been designed and promoted by the Home Building Society Colon, Sir James Stirling.

WILLIAM ANDREW'S HOMESTEAD NEAR LAKE NORRING, WAGIN.



ANDREWS,

Lake Norring and Mount Hugel near Wagin.

He is not wrong in his comments and it is interesting to note that Mount Hugel was about the earliest land taken up in the district that Roe explored. William Andrews who was a business associate of William Cornwall shepherded sheep and cut sandalwood from the 1850's on, on the property and it is still held by the same family today. When the writer was a member of the Wagin Shire Council at the time the Brand Watts Government invited all shires to submit original paintings of their district to decorate the corridors of the extended Parliament House, the Wagin Shires unanimous choice of subject was the view from Mount Hugel and an artist recommended by the late Sir Claude Hotchin was commissioned to paint a canvas for this purpose with a copy for the Wagin-Hotchin Gallery. Vlacc Zanalis was the artist and the quite creditable painting is hanging still in the Parliament House western corridor.

By 6.15pm they party descended Mount Hugel on the north side and found good grass. They halted for the night on the next rise close to todays Norring Road and on the H. Becker's property on Williams location 1217.

Wagin plaque to recall 1835 trek

A PLAQUE commemorating the sesquicentenary of the first European exploration of the Great Southern will be unveiled at the Wagin Historical Village during the 1985 Woolorama in March.

The suggestion to lay the plaque and the formulation of its design was made by a former Wagin resident, Lloyd Nelson, who recently completed a study into Roe's explorations.



A party of Junior Farm Club members pictured on Surveyor Turner's cairn on the summit of Mount Hugel at Wagin about 1953.

Left: Beris Wilson (of Balaklava, South Australia), Faye Becker, Maurice Becker — whose farm is nearby — and the writer.

The original of this sketch has been presented to the Wagin Historical Village.



The site of Roe's overnight camp on Becker's property, "Wahroonga" near Spencer Lake Norrington at Wagin. Close to the Norrington Road.
The Becker family have farmed in the Wagin district since the 1890's.

1861 Department of Lands and Surveys,
Perth, 14th August 1897.

Memo. Mr. Thomas P. Scanlon
Wagin Lake

I am directed by the Honorable Commissioner of Crown Lands to inform you that your Application as shown below has been approved, and the *Centurion* Certificate will issue in due course.

Date of Application	No.	Area	Division, District, or Locality	Status of Application
18 th 97 6 th July	184 814	.60	Williams	Homestead Farm

SUBJECT TO ALL NECESSARY RESERVES & RESERVES FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES OR SURVEY.

Mr. T. P. Scanlon
Under Secretary for Lands.

T. P. Scanlon was an Albury man who chanced his arm on the Kalgoorlie gold fields and later was a blade shearer around Wagin Lake area before taking up Hilltop Park in 1897



Hilly countryside on Scanlon's "Hilltop Park" property at Wagin. Roe shows this country on his map of the area.

Wagin

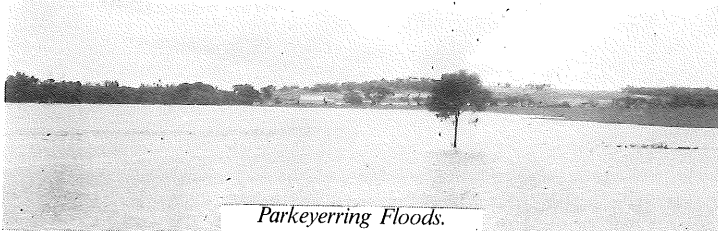
They were settled in nicely out of the wind when a native could be heard about a quarter mile away shouting to his compatriots in great alarm as he ran. Roe took no chances - they moved their baggage to the top of the hill about forty yards away where they could command a good view and blazed a tree eight to indicate the camp site.

About midnight one of the horses galloped into camp and at the same time the dogs indicated that something was amiss. Roe turned the party out and they checked the horses which were tethered to logs and found to be alright. The watch was maintained at the usual two when natives had been sighted but nothing further eventuated leaving the party as Roe states "at liberty to conjecture whether it was a native dog, a Kangaroo or a native himself reconoitring us".

December 22nd saw the party breakfasting around 5.00am. The horses to quote Roe "Coming to saddle with a rotundity of appearance amply testifying their approval of their nights quarters". They broke camp at 5.15am heading towards Badjarning Hill and within half a mile the dogs put up a mob of Kangeroos and in looking to see what had happened to them Roe found a large water hole about a third of a mile east of their route. This was a creek running down into Quarbing Lake. Grass in the area was good with Jam and York Gum trees being predominant.

They found the dogs a mile further on with a small Kangaroo they had caught. This was about a quarter of a mile east of Norring Road south of C.H. Cook's homestead. After topping their water kegs they pushed on. They shortly identified and crossed their outward track of October 31st, Roe said "The horses feet marks being plainly distinguishable in light sandy soil". This point was midway between C.H. Cook's and G.C. Kennet's homesteads (quoting from the location identities of Margaret Feilman's 1966 Shire Map) on Williams location 411 - about half a mile in from the Norring Road.

About 8.00am a dry stream bed was crossed on location 4213 where a large creek bed runs down to Little Parkeyerring Lake and Kangeroos and Emus were sighted in the area and numerous white Cockatoos. They pushed on to Badjarning passing east of Spriggs and Beckers, crossing Badgarring Creek and heading through granite country to the summit of Mount Latham through excellent grass and soil. The summit was dominated for many years solely by the Trigonometrical Station and was evidently a heliograph site for the Home Guard on exercises during World War Two. However the advent of the S.E.C. communication network and the huge microwave towers and television translators have seen quite a bit of construction spring up on this beautiful high point which now is accessible by bitumen road.

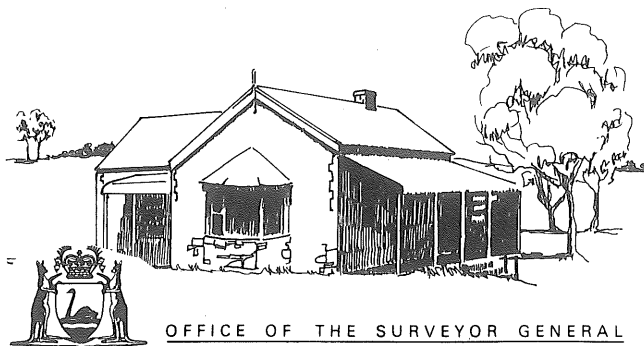


Parkeyerring Floods.

From the Badjarning high point Roe picked out his previous vantage points at the Haycocks Hill near Mouldens and Mount Hugel and also the lake systems and Wagin Lake. The party then traversed down the hill on an east north east line heading for the high lands towards the north east around the Ballagin Pool Property, crossing en route the big creek that drains Kim Piesse's land below Badjarning, traverses Tilellen Estate and eventually runs through Wagin town site and drains this area to the Wagin Lake. From there they crossed locations 1369 and 700 and then crossed location 568 which was taken up some 57 years later by the writer's grandfather Simon Pearce. This formed part of the productive Sunnyside Property about four miles west of Wagin which was farmed by the writer's father Hubert Nelson until recent times when it was sold to the Jendewarra Estate of which it now forms the northern section. The old house on the property is depicted on the cover of this brief history. This was built by Simon Pearce in the 1890's and the writer's mother grew up there.

The original of this sketch has been presented to the Wagin historical village.

SUNNYSIDE, WAGIN,
BUILT IN THE 1890s
FROM PADDOCK
STONE.



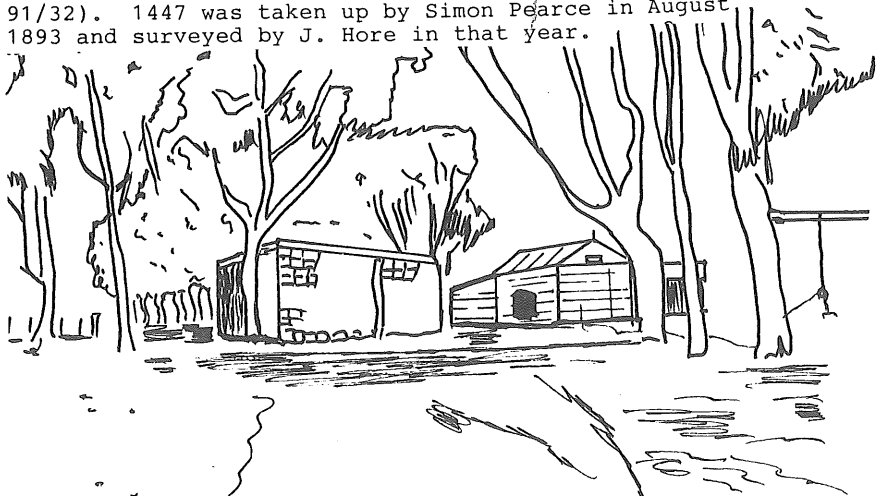
OFFICE OF THE SURVEYOR GENERAL

FARM SHEDS ON
SUNNYSIDE, 1949.
THE SHED IN THE
FOREGROUND WAS
BUILT OF MUD BRICKS
MADE ON THE PROPERTY.

THE WOOL SHED,
BACKGROUND, WAS
THE SCENE OF
SEND-OFF FUNCTIONS
FOR MEMBERS OF
THE PEARCE FAMILY
LEAVING FOR THE
GREAT WAR.

August 21, 1984.

91/32). 1447 was taken up by Simon Pearce in August 1893 and surveyed by J. Hore in that year.



A twin of this tractor, donated by Cancanning Farmer, Malcolm Booth is in the Wagin Historical Village Machinery display.



A farming scene on "Sunnyside" about 1952 at Wagin.

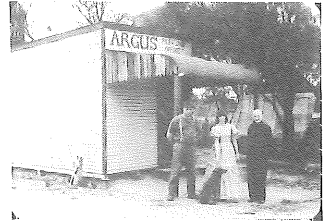
Ripping up rabbit warrens with a Pederick Rabbit Ripper. Part of the usual rabbit control programmes of that era.

The tractor is a Massey 25 Model with a hand clutch. This machine was operated on a Pederick gas producer during the war and post war years and handled quite big cropping programmes on Boanning Lyndhurst and later Sunnyside — Hube Nelson's farms.

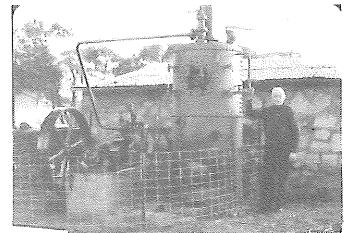
Driver — Aubrey Nelson.



Left: The big unnamed creek where it crosses Nelson Road at the back of Badjarning. Roe crossed at about this point heading northward, in the Wagin Arch.

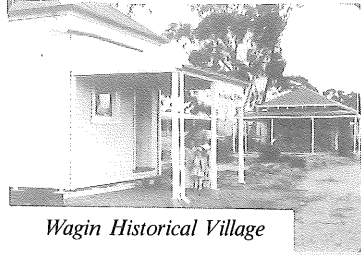


Wagin Historical Village Scenes

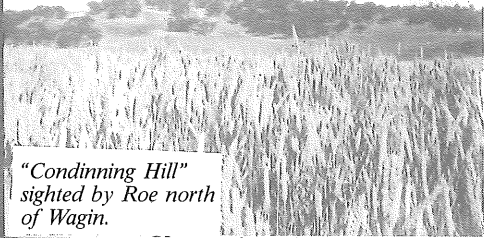


Tudor Street. Wagin

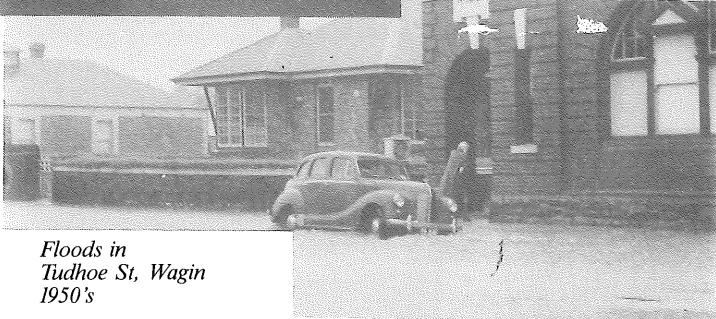
The Hitching post outside the National Australia Bank is quite a unique feature.



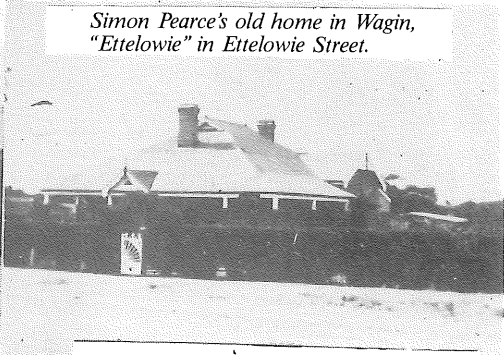
Wagin Historical Village



"Condimning Hill" sighted by Roe north of Wagin.



Floods in Tudhoe St, Wagin 1950's



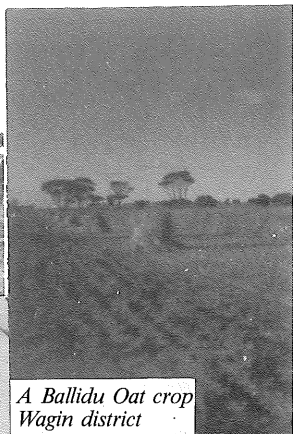
Simon Pearce's old home in Wagin, "Ettelowie" in Ettelowie Street.



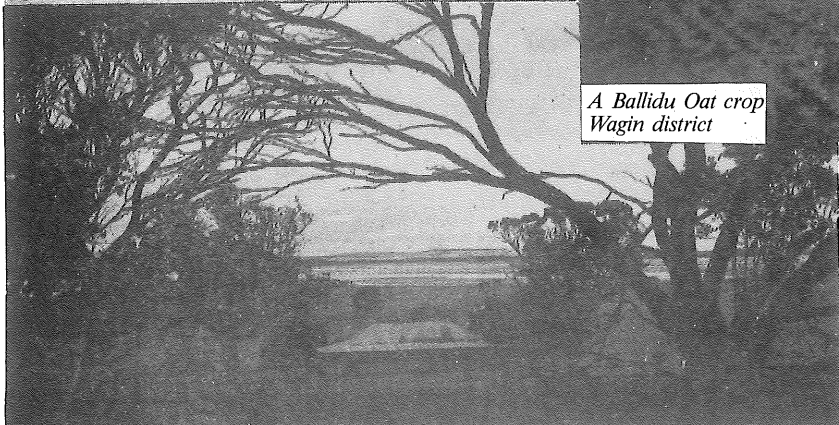
Left: A tennis party on the Wagin courts in the 1920's. Arnie Fleay and friend (left), May Pearce (right).

Below — The West family property “Balgun” at Wagin takes in part of Monger’s old cattle station holding.

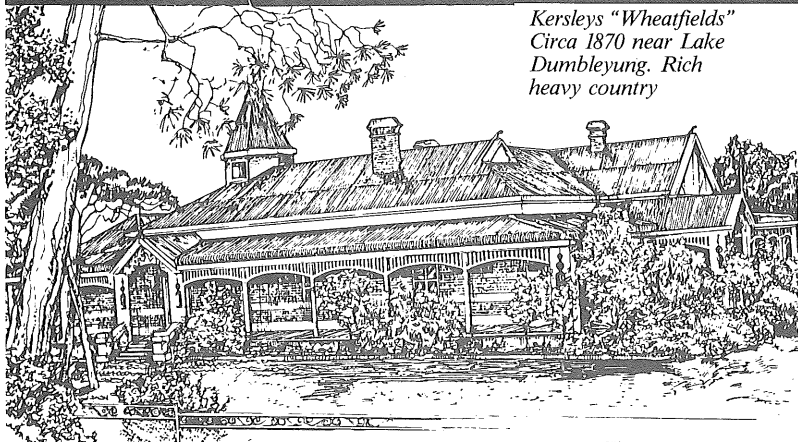
The writer’s grandfather Simon Pearce used the Cattle Station as a base for cartage contracting until he took up his own property “Sunnyside”. (In August 1893)



*A Ballidu Oat crop
Wagin district*



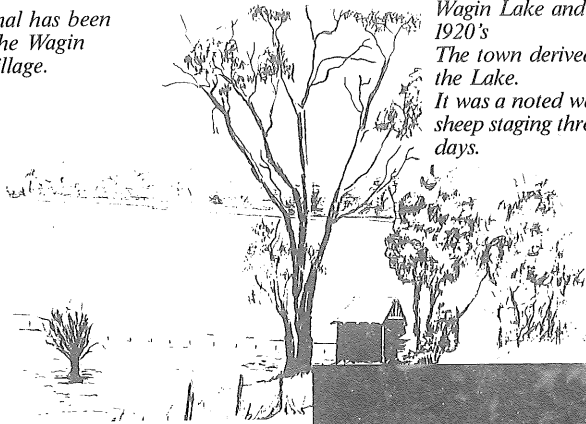
*Kersleys “Wheatfields”
Circa 1870 near Lake
Dumbleyung. Rich
heavy country*



Tolls Jaloran.

Phil Toll pioneered sub clover and top dressing on this fine stud property at Wagin.

Sketch original has been donated to the Wagin Historical Village.



Wagin Lake and bathing shed .
1920's
The town derived its name from the Lake.
It was a noted watering place for sheep staging through in the early days.

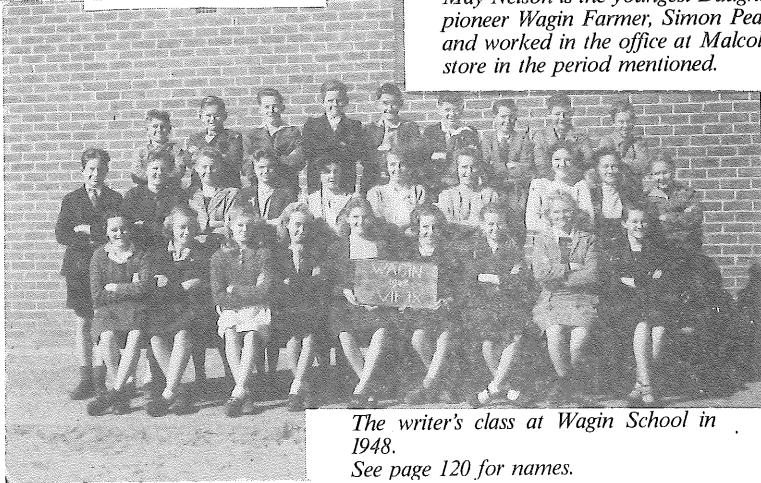
The writer's mother, May Nelson (Pictured in 1923) was one of many teenage girls who regularly swam at the Lake in the 1920's.



Malcolm's Store, Wagin 1921.



May Nelson is the youngest Daughter of pioneer Wagin Farmer, Simon Pearce and worked in the office at Malcolms store in the period mentioned.



The writer's class at Wagin School in 1948.
See page 120 for names.



The 1967 Wagin Hunt Meet held on Barne's Wardelocking property, Wagin near where Roe crossed Wardelocking Brook. — Wanda Moulden (later Bird) lead the Hunt Field over Ballagin Road. David Pardoe is pictured clearing a capped fence on his hunter "Wait and See"



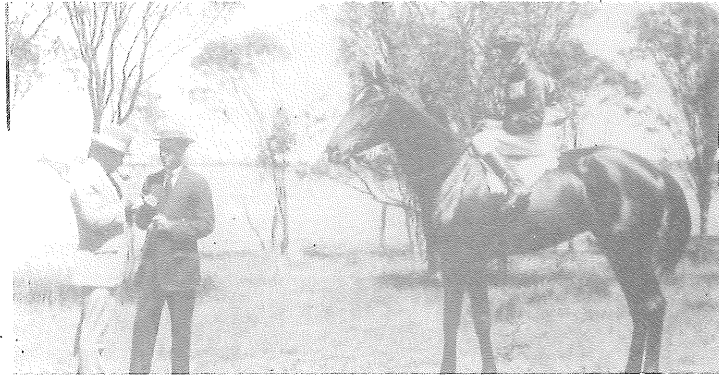
Piesseville

From here they proceeded across the Ballagin Road into Neil Barne's property to Walter Creek (Wardelocking Brook) and by 1.00pm had halted for lunch in some good grass country east of the Flats Rocks property. After lunch they proceeded through some scrubby, ironstone country and from there obtained a good view of the surrounding country. About a quarter of a mile on the party arrived at a brackish river pool and this water course was named the Buchanan River after a connection of Roe's in London, who was extensively connected with the Australian Colonies. The party would have crossed the Buchanan north east of Darcy Spriggs. Pushing on north, north west they soon came on the Arthur River near Ballagin Pool striking large pools about nine miles upstream from where the party had crossed the river southward bound at Norcott Plains.

Continuing north west about sundown they headed for a stand of trees promising water and found an excellent stream with good grass on the banks. Here they established camp 9 and following a quick reconnaissance by Roe they determined the stream joined the Arthur River several miles down, which it actually does about five miles due east of Davey's Eden Park property on the Narrogin Road. This stream was called the Tarn River after a naval surgeon. This camp was about a mile from the Weise Yaranabee Road near E.W. Weise's homestead and about three miles west of Moyse's Penworthem property, about a mile and a half over from Ambleside.



The Buchanan River drains a lot of country north and north east of Wagin. Here the river washed out Great Southern Highway near Piesseville. Taken in the mid fifties.

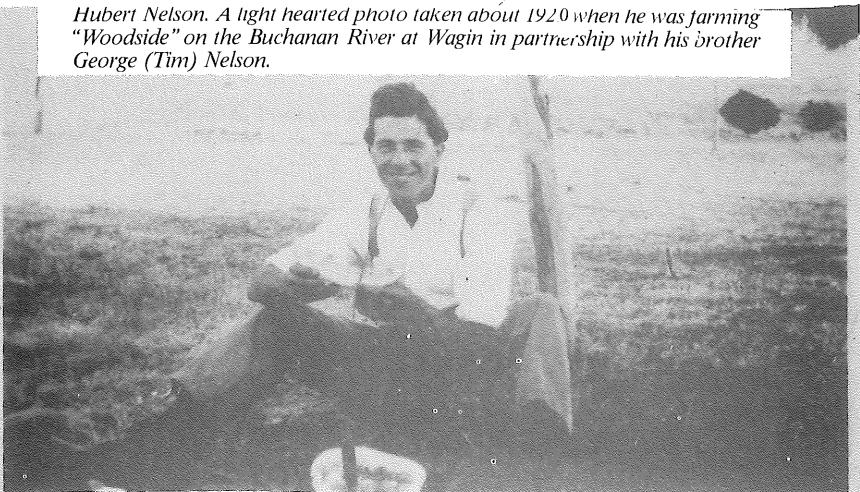


Neighbouring farmers on and near the headwaters of the Buchanan River, Eddie Jarick of "Buchanan Park" and Hubert Nelson (the writer's father) of "Boanning" are pictured at the Katanning Races in 1922 with their crack racehorse Kenisden.

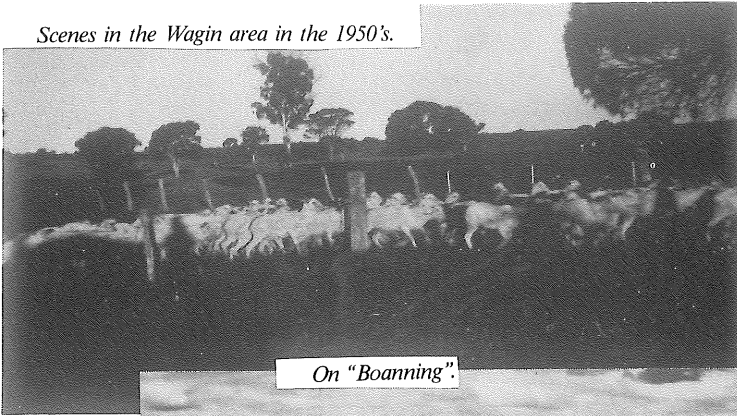
Hubert Nelson later acquired Kenisden outright and went on to win the Perth Cup Hurdles with him.

Kenisden was used as a farm hack by the writer's mother on "Boanning" later.

Hubert Nelson. A light hearted photo taken about 1920 when he was farming "Woodside" on the Buchanan River at Wagin in partnership with his brother George (Tim) Nelson.



Scenes in the Wagin area in the 1950's.



Looking
S.E.
along
Yulikan
Creek

On "Boanning".



Foreground
Keith
Nelson

"Glen Robin".



Left
Wilf cousins
Right
Colin
Robinson

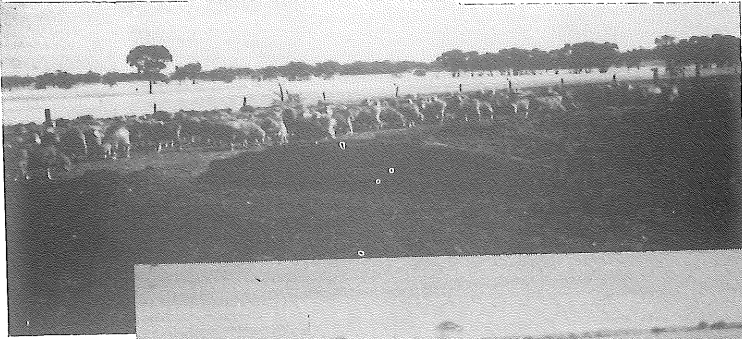
Photo
by
Jack
Hill of
Dwelyerdine



Nipper Hill.

"Dixons Hill".

Sheep at a silage heap



Dixons Hill was the Eastern section of "Tamacurring". It has been farmed by the Hughes family since 1947



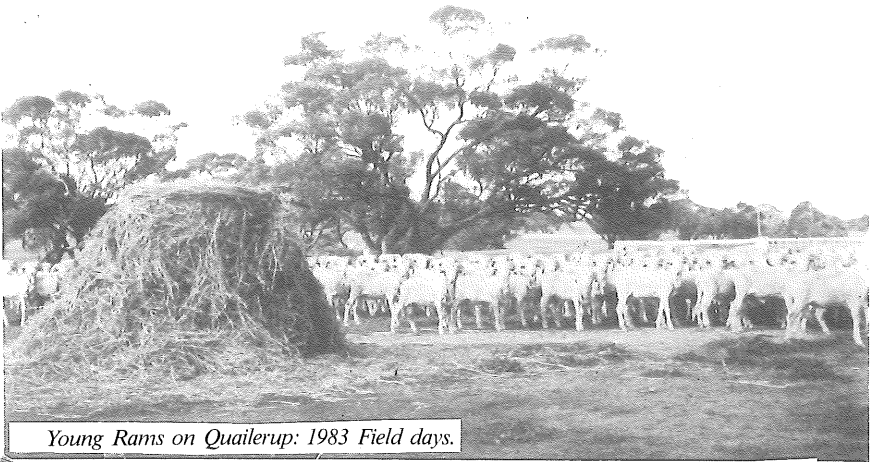
Feeding sheep in Autumn



Sowing oats. The tractor driver is Bob Hughes

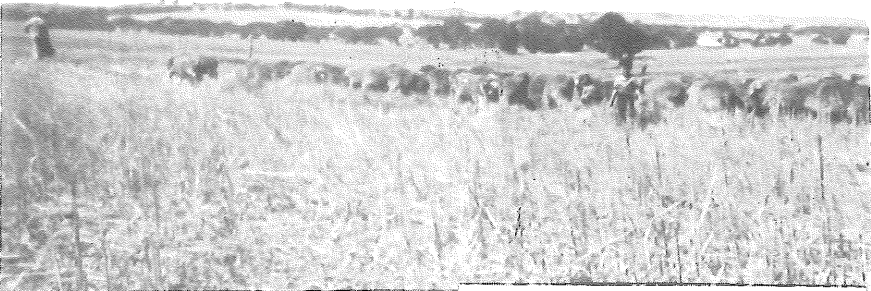


Kunmullup Hills from "Quailerup" once the Homestead block of Boddingtons holding



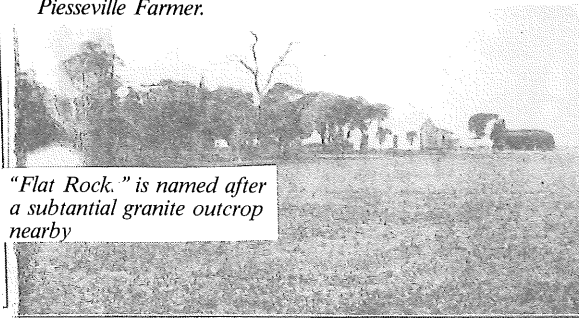
Young Rams on Quailerup: 1983 Field days.

*"Quailerup" 1940 (a few miles West of Roes Track).
Tom Scanlon Senior (left) fed sheep in this drought period on Bridgetown apples
sold to farmers for stock use at 75¢ per bag.*



*E. H. Hill was a well known
Piesseville Farmer.*

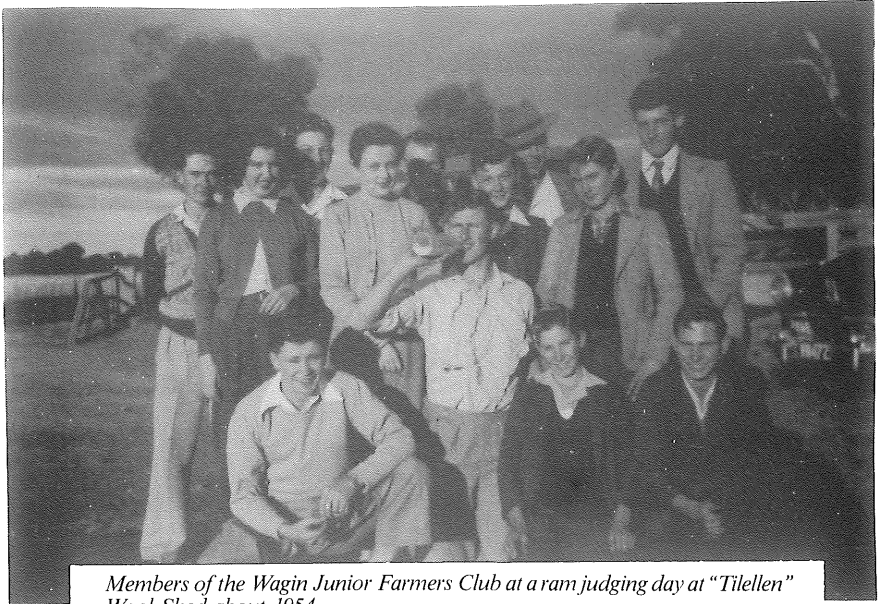
Stud rams "Balgun", Ballaying near Wagin.



*"Flat Rock." is named after
a substantial granite outcrop
nearby*



"FLAT ROCK" FARM, THE PROPERTY OF MR. E. H. HILL. WAGIN.



Members of the Wagin Junior Farmers Club at a ram judging day at "Tilellen" Wool Shed about 1954.

Back row left to right — Irwin Moyses, Stephanie Hughes (later Nelson), Frank Pederick, Lorraine Thompson (later Pederick), Laurie North, Ian Lunt, Sid Thompson, —, Peter Lunt.

Kneeling left to right — The writer, Campbell Nalder, —, Fred Pryor.

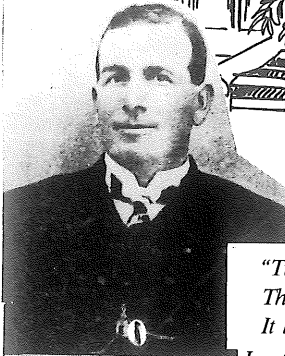


A Following Scene

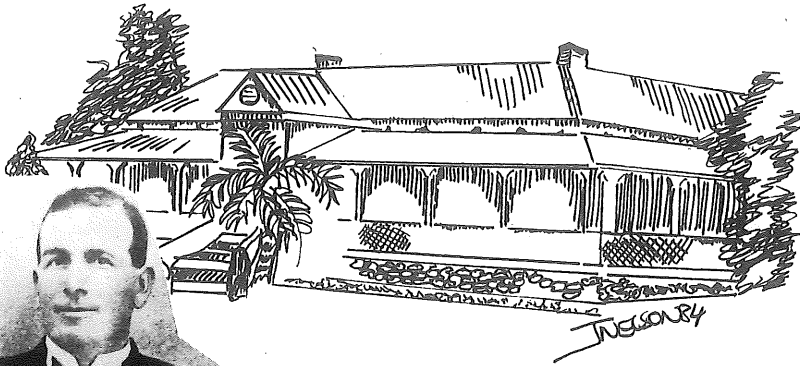
Arabette was bred by Andy Toll at Highbury and owned by Horace Pederick. An outstanding show mare — never shown at a Royal Show.



Off to a Great Southern show: The writer with "Toby" and sister Laurita with "Arabette" 1953.



MR. GERALD AUSTIN WILLIAM PIESSE.



"Tilellen" Wagin, About 1900

This Piesse property adjoins Roe's track.

It held a lambs wool State record price from about 1929 to 1947.

Inset: Austin Piesse O.B.E., who farmed Tilellen for many years.

In his comments on the days travel, Roe's comments include "good grass, level grassy plains, grassy forest, good grassy land" these and other favourable comments reflect on the obvious good grazing prospects offered by the Wagin District (and long since amply justified) to the eyes of the explorer well towards a hundred and fifty years ago.

Highbury

December 23rd 1835 saw Roe and party heading up the Tarn River which at this stage parallels the Chuckem Gully. Their line of march took them across the Highbury south Road in the straight section before it joins Yarranabee Road across Chomley Road, between Boothys and Virgos properties, across the Highbury West Road a mile west of O'Neils and then on the Narrakine Road heading north north west across Rose Park and within several miles of Narrogin. At one stage, one of the Troopers left his carbine behind in a creek bed and Migo turned his pony around and backtracked to retrieve it. He soon located the missing gun and was back with the party. By 10.40am after travelling over good grassy country they came on a pool of good water on what Roe supposed to be a branch of the Williams River.

Narrogin

During a halt for dinner Roe tracked down stream and found a strong tributary coming in a quarter mile down and another from the east further up. The river was about five yards wide here with steep eight foot banks. This stopover would have been Cooramining Springs. The party blazed a York Gum and resumed their north west progress at 3.30pm crossing both branches of the river and traversing the good Red Gum and York Gum country west of Narrogin stopping for the night camp north of the Williams Road about two miles west of Narrogin on Minninging Brook.



The backwater at Tamacurring

Old stone shed at Tamacurring, Wagin.

Tamacurring was taken up by former Minister of Lands C. J. Moran about 1902 and much of the original holding is still farmed by his descendants.

A Federal Cabinet meeting was once held in Tamacurring Homestead to consider an urgent item when a quorum of members were visiting the property during the time Morans colleague Sir John Forrest was a Federal Minister.

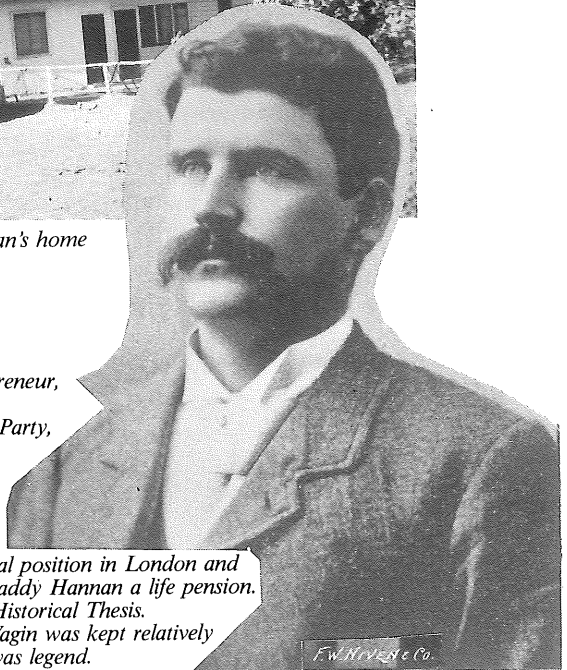


Tamacurring Homestead

Basically an outcamp as Moran's home was in West Perth.

Teacher, Architect, Mining Entrepreneur, Parliamentarian, Cabinet Minister, leader of the Independent Corner Party, Journalist, Large Scale Farmer, Agricultural Bank Trustee, Wheat Board Member, C. J. Moran was a larger than life size man of the old school.

He twice refused the Agent General position in London and was the moving factor in giving Paddy Hannan a life pension. Moran is an ideal subject for an Historical Thesis. Despite hard times his estate at Wagin was kept relatively intact. His eye for good country was legend.





THE PARLIAMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 22nd 1917

MELBOURNE

An unpublished 1917 letter from Sir John Forrest to C.J. Moran. This belongs to the writer's wife Stephanie who is a granddaughter of C. J. Moran.

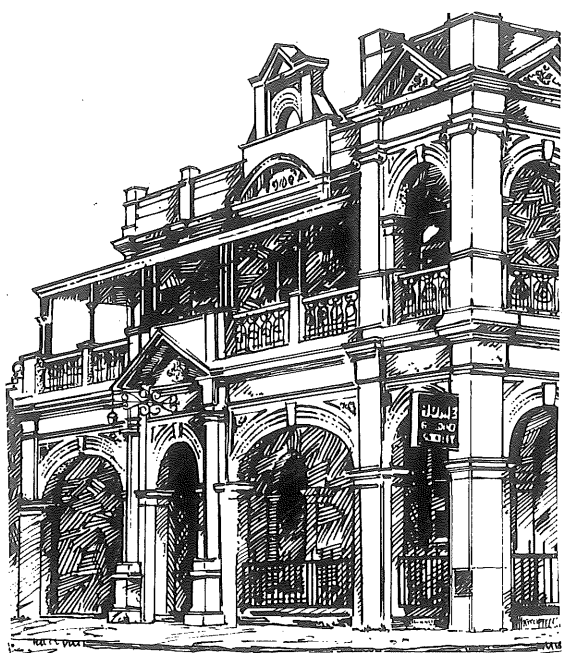
My Dear Moran

By an unfortunate inadvertence I did not reply to your letter of 15th January, earlier. I send words to thank you for it and to feel the truth of the words "the friends though hard & their adoption tried, grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel". I feel too that in you I have met an ordinary friend, like a real generous one, who wishes to see all that is best in me, & is a little blind to any faults one may have. After a long day's sleep, your
Yours truly
J. Forrest

Morans old town house Kalgoorlie, Villa in Emerald Terrace, West Perth.



Narrogin to mark its 150th



THE YEAR 1985 marks something of a significant milestone for the Narrogin district.

It is the Sesqui Centenary of the first exploration of the district by Europeans.

John Septimus Roe's "Great Southern Expedition of 1835" traversed the area on December 23 and 24, 1935, passing just west of Narrogin townsite and camping overnight en-route from Albany to York.

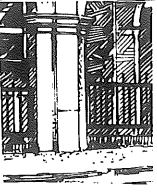
The party was made up of Captain John Septimus Roe — Surveyor General, Chas Rossmore Norcott — The Superintendent of Mounted Police in WA and police troopers John Craigie, Patrick Hefron, John Stanton, George Syred, Jess Wood, and the police native tracker Migo.

The reports of Roe are contained in his original

field books and these together with newspaper reports on the expedition were instrumental in bringing pastoralists into the region.

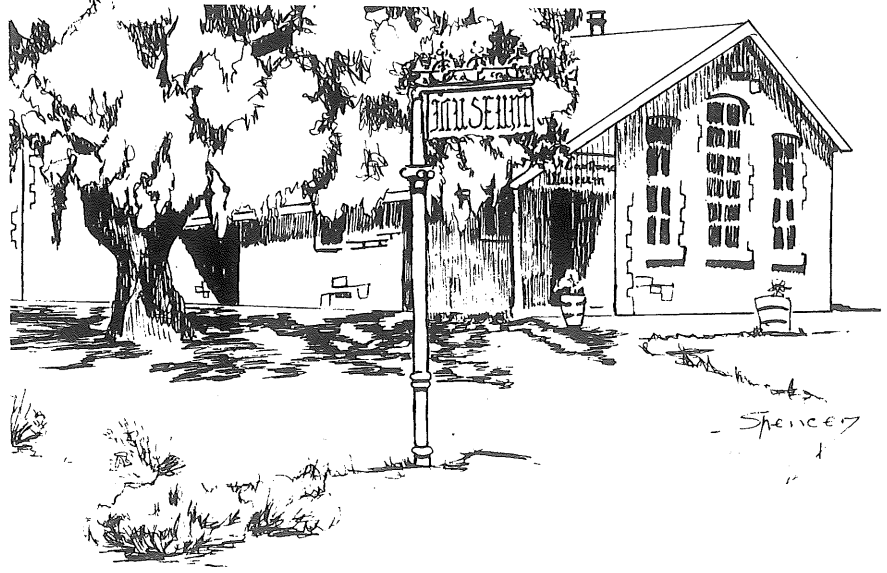
To mark the historic Sesqui Centenary, Home Building Society has donated a plaque commemorating the Sesqui Centenary to Narrogin Town Council.

The plaque is based on a design by famous convict architect Francis Greenway and will be unveiled at a function in Narrogin in June during Western Australia Week.



Narrogin Town Hall — Edwardian splendour.

The district museum — Narrogin. Formerly the Old Court House.

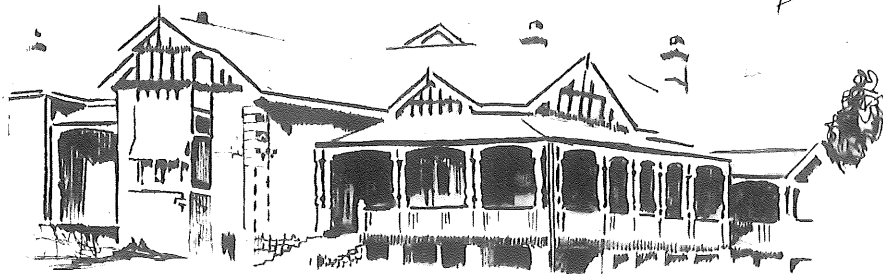


Roe's general comments on the country were very favourable and he was impressed with the obvious good feed and recorded that their camp site was well watered by a spring, in a creek about ten feet across.

Christmas Eve 1835 saw the party on the track by 5.40am through White Gum country following a line paralleling the later Great Southern Highway and railway, but several miles west, north of the Quarries.

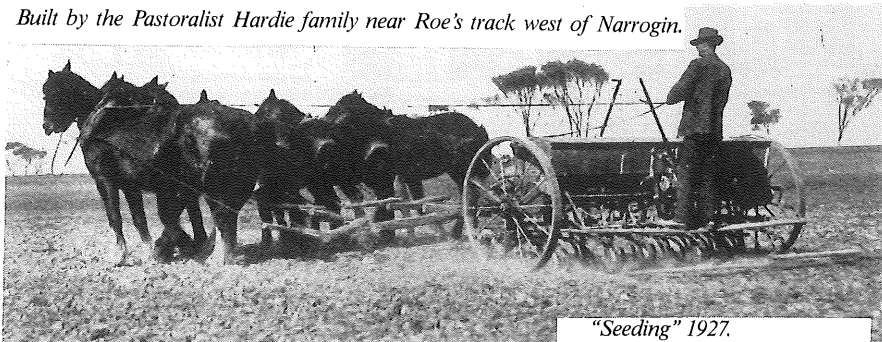
Original of this sketch has been donated to the Narrogin District.

Spencer



"Rose Dale"

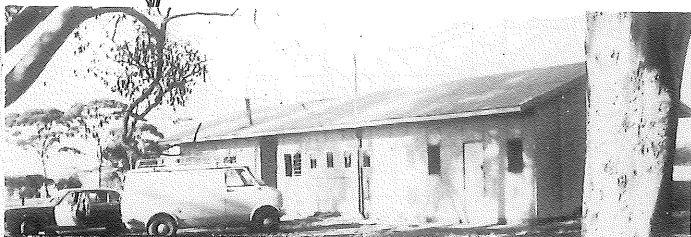
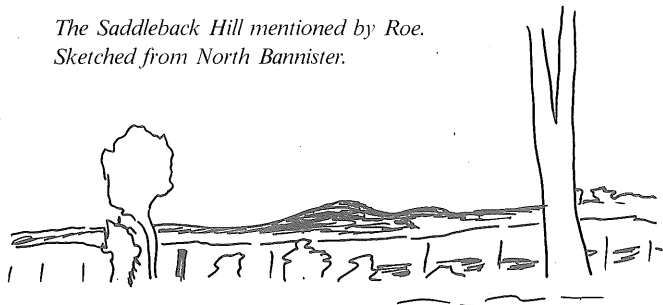
Built by the Pastoralist Hardie family near Roe's track west of Narrogin.



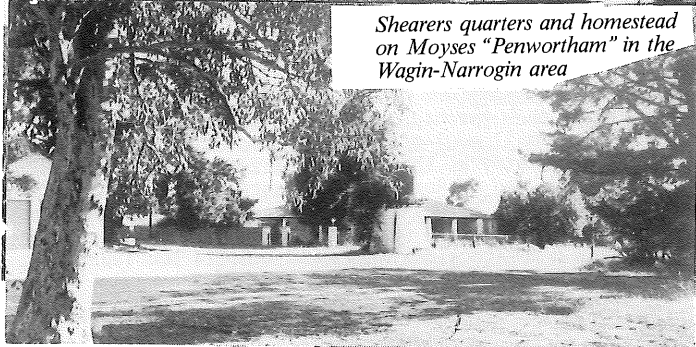
"Seeding" 1927.

They followed Minninging Brook until it turned north west and increased in size and then left it. Further on they struck a larger stream - probably the Fourteen Mile Brook near Barron Hills west of Cuballing, and here the dogs killed their second Kangaroo out of five seen since breakfast. They were now entering more hilly country around Campbell Park and Rocky Dale and shortly after came on two native huts of wide construction but fairly old. They pushed on through excellent York Gum and Jam Country crossing dry grassy water courses (which tended to the west north west and eventually linked up with Hotham River). They struck some rocky hills north west of Cuballing and from the crest of the second line of these closely surveyed the countryside. The outlook was of timbered country and the only distinct high spot was a wooded hill about six miles south east where the Narrogin microwave tower is situated today. About here Roe described a large tree that had been struck by lightning. He noted that timber splinters eight feet long and six inches in diameter had been scattered to a distance of forty to fifty yards and assumed the storm of the 19th that had caught them near Hemstead Hills was responsible. Their dogs had taken off after several large roos and in tracking north

*The Saddleback Hill mentioned by Roe.
Sketched from North Bannister.*

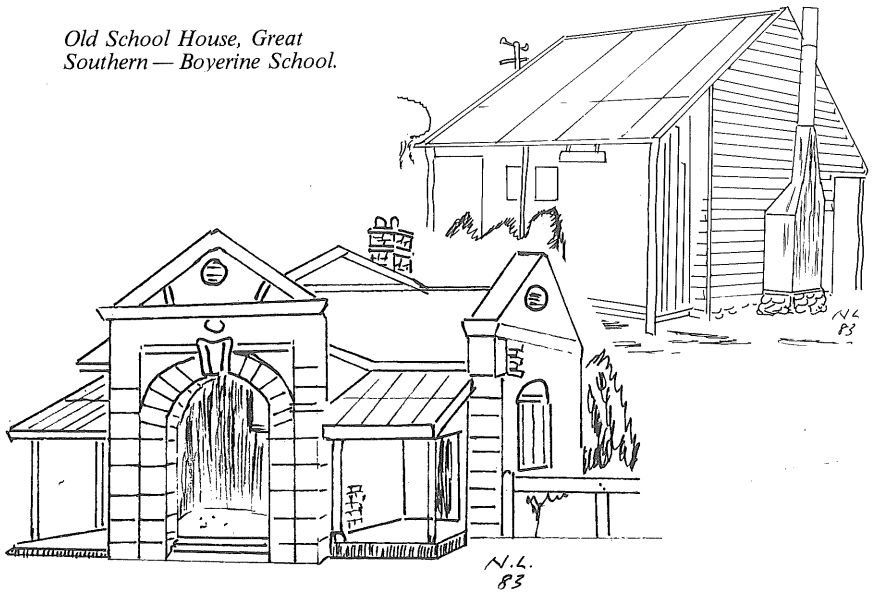


*Shearers quarters and homestead
on Moyses "Penwortham" in the
Wagin-Narrogin area*



Redgum country west of Narrogin on Roe's track to York.

*Old School House, Great
Southern — Boyerine School.*



THE CUBALLING POST OFFICE:

Cuballing

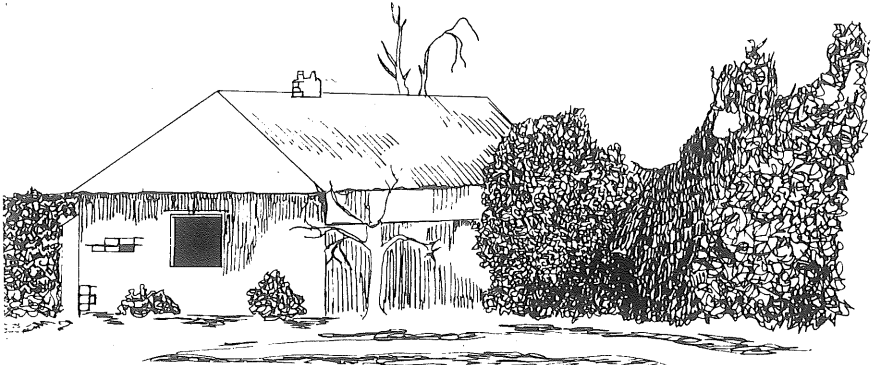
east to come up with them (perhaps with their Christmas dinner in mind) they came on a small pool of good water and stopped there for lunch in good grass country as the day was quite warm. The creek they halted on was assumed by Roe to be a branch of the Hotham River although it is more likely it was an arm of the Fourteen Mile Brook. Here the party blazed a gum tree while Rossmore Norcott amused himself chiselling into the opposite side the legend R.N. 24 Dec 1835.

By 3.15pm they were back on the track and passed through some granite outcrop country and then into hilly country west of Yornaning. The elevation of the range above the surrounding country side gave it a distinct reference capability so Roe called the range the Montague Hills in honour of Lord Rokeby. They then ran into recently burnt country and as sunset was approaching on this Christmas Eve they decided to be sure of horse feed for the Christmas Day camp and retraced their track back one and a half miles and camped on a small creek bank about five miles west of Yornaning where they obtained plenty of good water from an open pool three hundred yards above their camp on a tributary of the Hotham. They would have been west of Bald Rock at this camp.

During the day's travel they had covered some of the states finest grazing country west of Narrogin and the magnificent country west of Hillside, passing in the process four and a half miles west of Cuballing. Cuballing later was selected as the main junction town for the east west line of the Great Southern Railway planned to connect Williams and Wickepen. Some of the early entrepreneurs had established themselves in that centre around 1892. However the line went south and made Narrogin leaving Cuballing with some good buildings erected in anticipation of the prospects that it never realised.

Pingelly

Roe records that the party spent Christmas Day at the encampment to give the horses and men a needed rest. During the day they took stock and repacked provisions, washed clothes, cleaned their fire arms and to quote Roe "Revelled a most sumptuous board or turf having dined off soup, haunches of Kangaroo (inevitably roasted by Mr Norcotts superior skill), Cockatoos, plum pudding made for the occasion and a most undeniable can of punch in which the health and welfare of absent friends was toasted with heart felt satisfaction rendered more genuine and grateful by the reflection that our overland journey had progressed thus far without accident or hindrance of any description". Roe reflects the satisfaction the party felt at covering such a large proportion of good country since leaving King George's Sound.

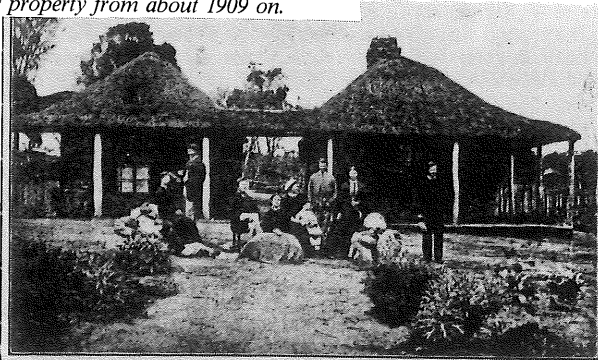


"Staunton Springs" near Pingelly, on Beerkebine Brook.

Pioneered by David Grainger in the very early days of the Colony and mentioned in many early accounts. Roe's granddaughter Emma Bostock lived on this property from about 1909 on.

Jerry Nelson '83

Sewells famous Homestead at Pingelly



ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD AT "MAPLESTEAD."

They conspicuously marked the bivouac by blazing a tree on the right bank of the creek with J.S. Roe and C. Norcott and Party 25th Dec 1835. No doubt with their English backgrounds it must have seemed a unusual way to spend Christmas Day camped on a creek in totally uncivilised country miles from anywhere. To Migo, one supposes it may have a better than usual day.

During their stay the party could hear natives in the vicinity but none came in the their camp.

December 26th 1835 saw the Great Southern Expedition back on a normal business footing and heading north west into some rocky country east of Paradise Bend with good grassy country paralleling their route. The grass in fact, was so good that to quote Roe "It gave the appearance of a most promising field of ripe corn". He also noted the horses gave the fullest approbation of the locality. While covering this good country east of Popayinning they sighted smoke from a native fire about half a mile away in the direction of Pingelly but due to delays that conversations with Aborigines always caused they pushed straight on and by 8.00am were on the Hotham River west of Karping siding near Merwanga Pool. Here they crossed the path of Alfred Hillman's party which they had parted company with at Starting Creek on the 29th October and which had camped on the Hotham about a mile east of where they now were on November 2nd en route to York. Roe blazed a flooded gum to indicate their crossing point and two miles further on they were into ridgy rocky country which returned to undulating loamy country and continued well grassed. They were now on a nine mile stretch across to the Dale River in hot oppressive conditions and they were glad of the opportunity afforded by a good fresh pool of water to stop for a break until mid afternoon. Pushing on through good country about six miles west of Pingelly the party bivouaced on two good pools of water at the foot of a big sheet of granite north of Benstead.

Brookton

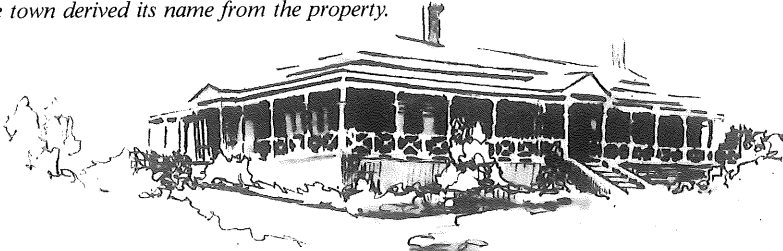
December 27th saw a 5.00am start through granite country and they soon arrived at the Dale River. The dogs got onto a large Kangaroo which finally eluded them by taking to the river and being the first out the opposite side. The lunch time halt was taken on a small reedy lake about ten yards from the river where good grass abounded. They were in first class York Gum country and shortly after crossed over to the far river bank. Roe climbed one of the Rocky Hills south of Dale Park which was about eighty feet above river level and sighted the outline of Mount Dale about thirty to forty miles to the north west - about thirty six miles by the writers calculations. The rest of the day was spent traversing a line about twelve miles west of Brookton through good granite studded feed country bisected by water courses passing east of Kenilworth across the Brookton Highway about one and a half miles east of Warranine Park. After traversing country around the Caves, Grover Road, Boyadine and Annandale, Roe sighted and named Bald Hill near Rosedale across the Talbot River south west of Beverley while Norcott who had climbed a hill further to the north reported a remarkable wedge shaped hill north east by north near Bald Hill. Actually they must have had a good vantage point because Bald Hill was a good ten to twelve miles from where they were. The hill sighted by Norcott is probably Peak Hill.

They camped for the night on the left bank of the Dale River on a good pool of fresh water thirty yards by twenty yards into which some granite rocks sloped. The river here was about ten yards wide in its main bed. This camp was bivouac number 12 and was about thirteen miles south west of Beverley and seven miles south of the Talbot Brook.

Brookton House — Brookton

Circa 1908. Pioneered by John Seabrook and situated on a branch of the Avon River.

The town derived its name from the property.



Sketch original has been donated to the Brookton District.



HARVESTER AT WORK ON THE FARM.

Dale River

December 28th saw a 5.30am start following the Dale River north. They entered into quite open country and startled some Emus which remained in their line of sight for some time.

By 6.00am they struck a tributary coming in from the west and another from the south west. From a granite hill Roe sighted what he supposed to be the Avon River to the east north east.

Further on they heard the loud shouting of Aborigines hunting to the north east and burning the country before them. This disconcerting trait was the bane of then and later settlers in the Avon Valley. By 8.30am the party had travelled three miles from the granite hill and came onto a considerable stream zipping north east in broken granite country with steep sides up to fifteen feet deep. This was named the Christopher River by Roe after Sir Christopher Cole KCB. Cole was the Captain under whom Roe first served as midshipsman.

Roe also called a hill about four to five miles east of them, Mount Cole after the same Captain.

Beverley

Mount Cole is about six miles due south of the Dale River Bridge and has rather a table top. Roe then climbed a single hill to the north east and was pleased to sight Mount Bakewell, called by the natives Balladon, on the townsite of York fifteen or sixteen miles to the north though in actuality it was about twenty four miles north. The very size of Bakewell may have mislead Roe. Immediately after this they entered hilly broken country and then struck another river lying north north east and south south west with very good water

in a double channel. Roe assumed this to be the Dale again (which they had quitted six miles to the south) but after following it for two or three miles they found it decreased and realised they were heading upstream. They halted on a good pool to dine at noon and the ever indefatigable Roe took Migo with him to climb a hill south of Windamurra Spring and survey the landscape. They sighted Bald Hill one and a half miles to the east but the country was so hilly that they gained no further information. At 4.20pm they headed north again towards Mount Bakewell despite Migo's opinion, gained from climbing a high tree on a hill, that Solomon's Farm on the junction of the Avon and Dale was several miles to the north west. Roe however knew from his earlier sighting of Mount Bakewell that in this rare instance Migo was wrong. Solomons actually was six miles to the north east of the party. The river they were on Roe named the Talbot - which joins the Dale below Beverley. They found this stream hemmed in by high rocky land and finally they crossed to the right bank after struggling through broken country west of Roseneath and turned north east to pick up the Avon River, sighting in the process Mount Dale about thirty miles to the west. Shortly after they topped the ridge near Morning Gully and the extensive view of the Avon Valley around Avondale Park, Addington and Seaton Ross opened out far below them to the east with Mount Bakewell plainly in sight in the gathering dusk to the north east, about fifteen miles or so distant.

The party moved quickly to establish camp on some good grass on the hill side south of Sandgate and settled down to recuperate from the days march of upwards of twenty miles in very hilly and difficult going.

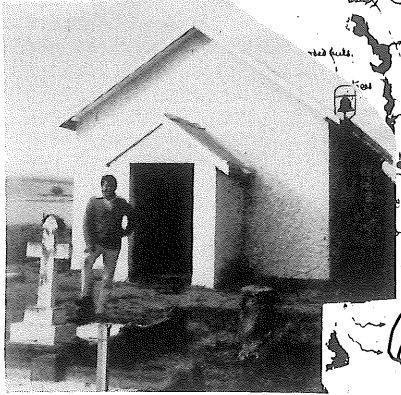
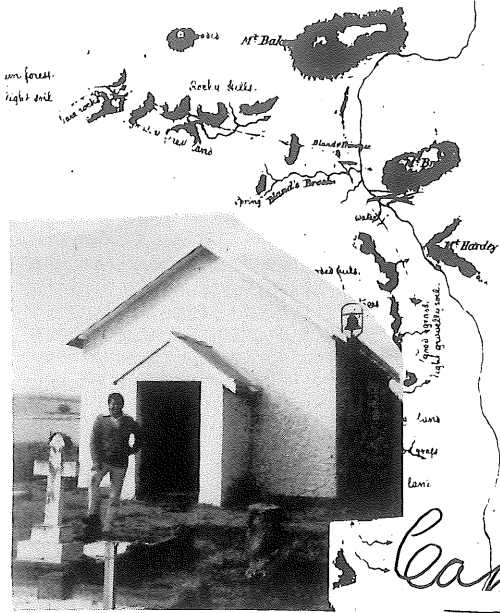
This was camp 14 and this was blazed on a handy White Gum. December 29th saw a 4.15am start towards York from their waterless camp. They didn't worry about breakfast until they found water about eleven miles from York where the energetic Norcott blazed another tree. One expects that the party was very proficient at this activity after the constant practise they had had on the expedition. They then pushed on along the base of the line of granite hills running into York, noting the position of the Avon River two to three miles east of them by the line of trees on its margin.

By 9.00am, on high ground, they were five miles south of Mount Bakewell one mile east of Mount Hardy and three quarters of a mile east of Mount Matilda, on Captain F.H. Byrnes property. It has been claimed that Mount Matilda is named after Roe's wife but it is more likely to be after Byrne's wife, Matilda who was then about 27. The Mount Matilda property is beautifully situated just south of York and its fine colonial homestead delights passers by on the Great Southern Highway today. At the time that Roe passed, Matilda Byrne was completing a new cottage on the property.

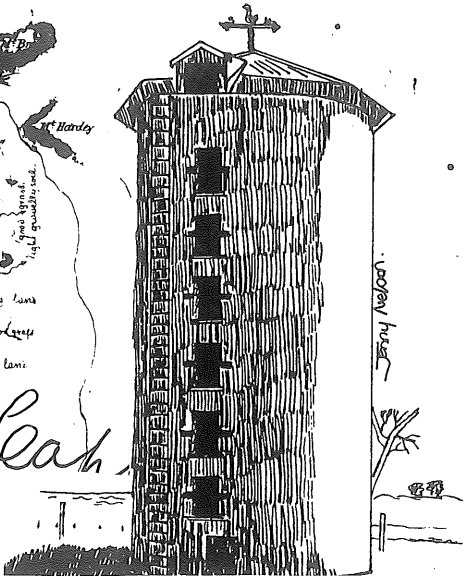
York

This property was the later home of Eliza and Thomas Brown, whose letters home to England between 1845 and 1853 form the well known book "A Faithful Picture" which together with Mrs Millet's book "A Country Parsonage" represent by far the most authoritative writings on early York life. Mrs Brown described their Mount Matilda (Grassdale) property as follows in her book.

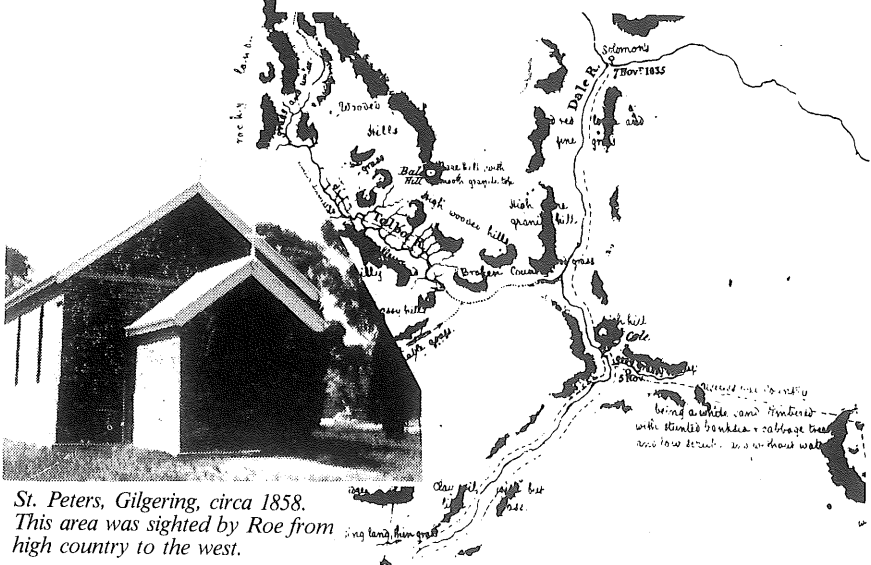
ROE & HILLMAN'S TRACKS IN THE AVON VALLEY, 1835.



THE EDWARDS CROSSING CHURCH, BEVERLEY.



A silo built this century at Avondale Research Station, Beverley. Governor Stirling was the original owner of most of Avondale, which has built up a strong tourist flow in recent years.



St. Peter's, Gilgering, circa 1858. This area was sighted by Roe from high country to the west.

"Grass Dale is the name of the estate, it is about eleven square miles in extent and has a range of hills running through one part of it, the highest of which is called Mount Matilda. At the foot of this is our dwelling, a cottage consisting of two rooms, it is roughly built but of exceedingly picturesque appearance from the extreme beauty of the site where it is placed, rugged rocks are heaped in wild confusion around and a fertile valley stretches itself for full two miles and a half like a green lawn in front of the lowly habitation. There is an outhouse near which serves as a temporary sleeping place for the men, adjoining a stockyard where the bullocks, mares, etc. are penned at night. 5/- an acre was what Mr Brown gave for the land with the buildings upon it, since the purchase was made Government has raised the price of land to 1 per acre. We bought Grass Dale of Mr Bland the Government Resident at York. We are about four miles from York and attend service at church there."

The country in this immediate area would certainly contain some of the finest farming landscapes in Australia. The writer has a small property across the river and often takes cognizance of the beauty of this particular part of rural Western Australia in hacking on horseback around the district.

Returning to Roe and his expedition in the dying days of 1835. They shortly after came on marks of carts and traces of cattle indicating that they were approaching the "Habitations of civilised man" the first they had come to since leaving King George's Sound so far to the south some weeks before.

By 11.00am the party had crossed historic Blands Brook where it joins the Avon and shortly afterwards arrived at Bland and Trimmer's residence which was the old Government Stock Station about 500 yards north of today's Faversham House.

Here Roe simply says "Where it is needless to add we were most kindly and hospitably received".

The presence of one of the owners, Arthur Trimmer in the southbound party would not have detracted from that welcome. R.H. Bland of course too is well and favourably known in West Australian history and later lived in the Residency in Brook Street - now the well known Residency Museum.

This ended a fifteen day journey from Albany - covering over 220 miles of bush travelling.

Roe adjudged the country one fourth good, very good and excellent, one third tolerable and useful, the remainder poor and useless. This of course was in the days prior to trace elements and the only possible outlook then was to grazing land. Roe hastens to add they had travelled a direct line diverting only for water and grass or if the going was too hilly so the result was a true average picture.

He was impressed with the water availability particularly as the expedition was three months after the rainy season. He thought a closer search enlisting Aboriginal aid as guides would turn up a lot more water supplies. He rightly set out the obvious value of

the great southern region for grazing sheep, cattle and horses and he also correctly saw the much later cereal growing potential of the country.

Rather typically although Roe's expedition had officially ended with their arrival at York, the same diligent detail of the country along the York Road was recorded by Roe right up to Guildford on the return journey.

Roe thought their line of march suitable for establishing a Perth Albany Road although he conceded that twelve or fifteen miles between the Williams and Hotham River was difficult going. In most areas a flock could be watered and pastured through.

Roe rounded off his journey; With a tribute to the steadiness and good conduct of the Policemen Stanton, Heffron, Craigie, Syred and Wood and their good care of the horses.

He mentions his indebtedness to Superintendent Norcott for his companionship and assistance and concludes on the usefulness of Migo to the expedition and the fact that this member of the party become quite a lion on returning to his tribe as the first Swan River Native to travel so "far away".

The account of the York-Perth final leg of the journey on the following two days is omitted from the Battye Library transcript of the expedition. The writer on the helpful advice of the Government Map Office Staff was able to secure access to Roe's original field books which he carried and wrote up as he went along on the Great Southern expedition. One feels a sense of history in handling these.

Those field books are beautifully bound and hinged although difficult to read in parts as mostly they were recorded in pencil nearly 150 years ago and this has faded somewhat.

ROE'S
FIELD
BOOK
10.

Department of Lands and Surveys
Western Australia

FIELD BOOK No.

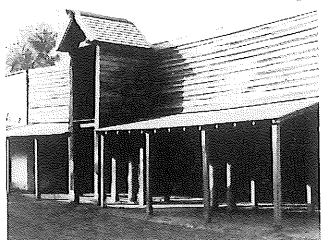
10.

BY
Cpt. J.S. ROE

DISTRICT
PERTH to ALBANY

22nd Oct. 1835
 Coped over the Notham in about 2 feet water, on a gravelly bottom - banks soft - & connected by a brushwood road, made by the harty who passed in. Country improves as the river was approached, but after coping, it again became of inferior quality. Timber white gum & wallopary, with some red gums - at 3 o'clock - in 1/2 mile S from 2.25, came to a stream 6 to 8 yards wide, running to the WNW, probably to join the bottom - Fearing that by proceeding further today we might get no feed at all for our cattle, we put up, this indifferent hospice, & halted for the night on right bank, - grass mixed with low forage on about 25 yards from the stream, and cows & calves ranged amongst the hills. -

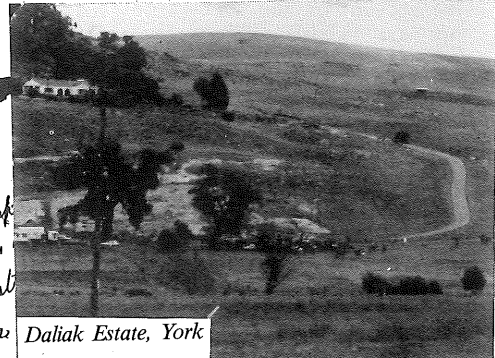
J. L. Roe
 1835
 Perth
 to Albany



Restored Stables at the Old Police Station.



The Old Hospital, York.



Daliak Estate, York

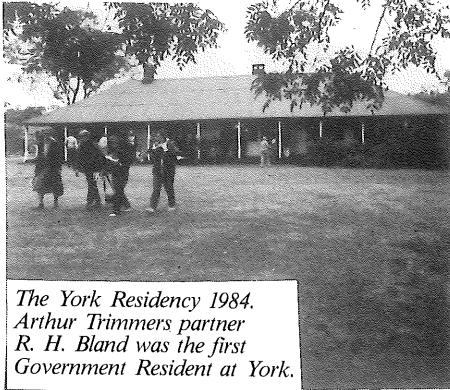


PAGES FROM ROE'S FIELD BOOK

started
 to look up
 the stream - showing symptoms
 of grip - undulating
 at 6 - in 1 mile
 nearly slope, covered
 to the left - coped 2 or 3 m
 trending into it from the hills on right -
 at 6.35 in 1 mile S from 6, coped a large water course
 (dry) dipping to NW - country covered with ~~irregular~~
 blue faced gum & wallopary -
 at 7.40 in 2 1/2 miles S from 6.35, came to a house
 in a valley, E/W, with water in pools
 in bottom of it - some grass amongst grass trees,
 white gums a few red gums, saw here. the
 soil brown loam - country undulating -

Field book 10 records Roe's progress back to Perth over part of Daliak Estate and over to Cut Hill - mentioned in the very earliest days of York by Geo Fletcher Moore as Cut Down Hill in September 1831. The native name for Cut Hill was Gabin Gullup.

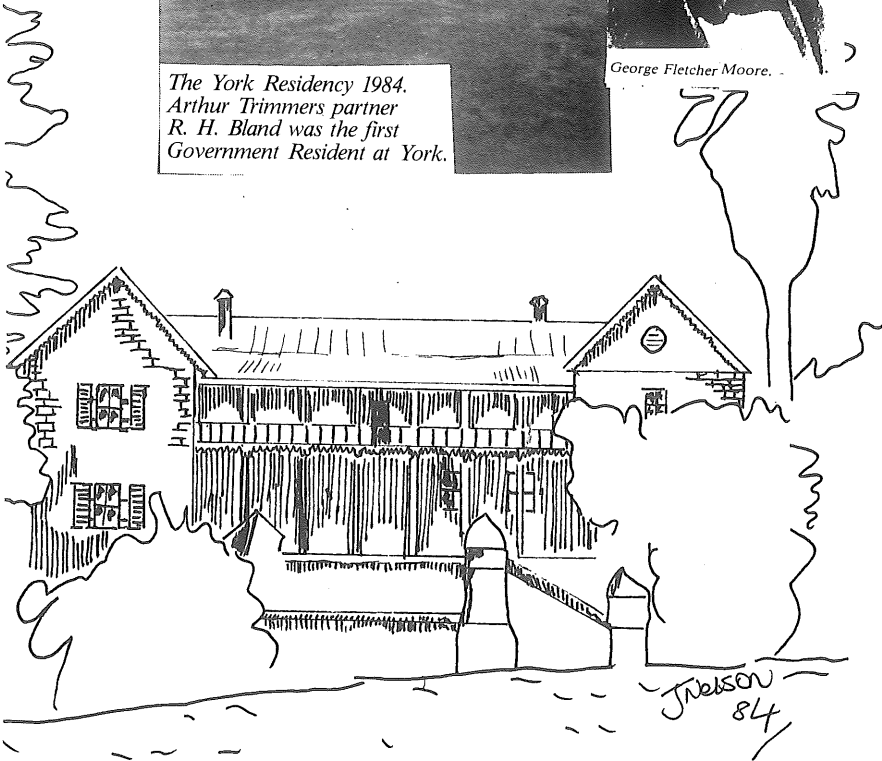
Arthur Trimmer in his usual gentlemanly manner rode with Roe to their overnight camp and left them to return to York the following morning. Possibly he had a conscience too at not returning with Roe from Albany.



*The York Residency 1984.
Arthur Trimmers partner
R. H. Bland was the first
Government Resident at York.*



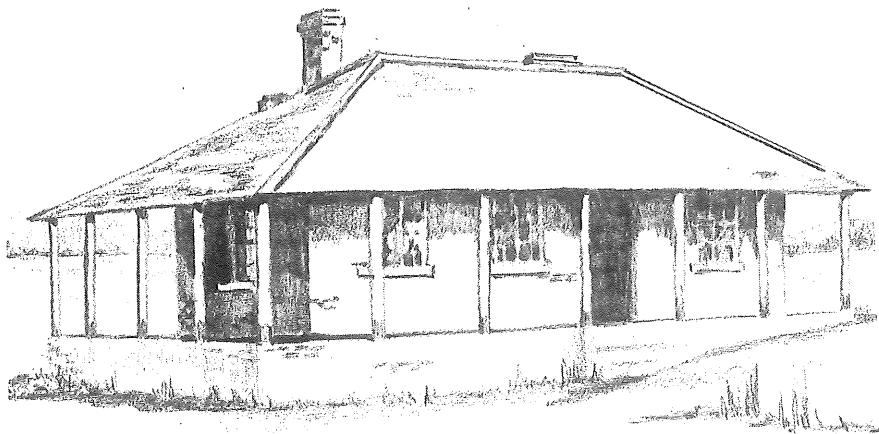
George Fletcher Moore.



*Monger's old Town House, Faversham House, York was built five years before the Great Southern Expedition set out.
Mongers have farmed Daliak Estate for 104 years.*

The Residency — York

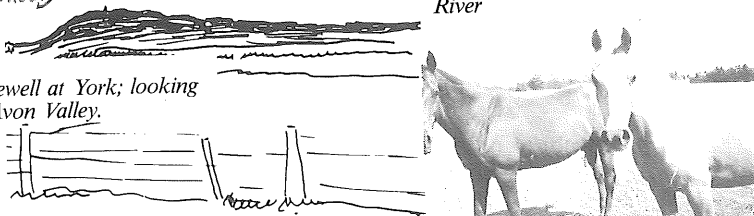
As it looked when the writer's great grandfather lived in York in the 1860's.



Spencey

Horses near the Avon River

Mount Bakewell at York; looking across the Avon Valley.



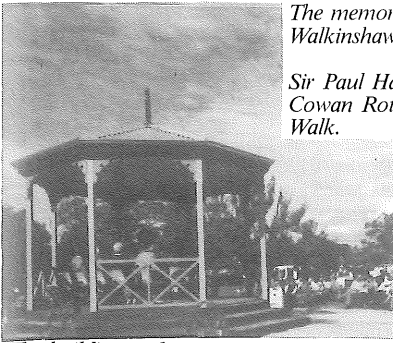
BACK TO THE SWAN

Then on the 2nd January 1836 the Perth Gazette reported on Roe's return to their readers as follows:

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL

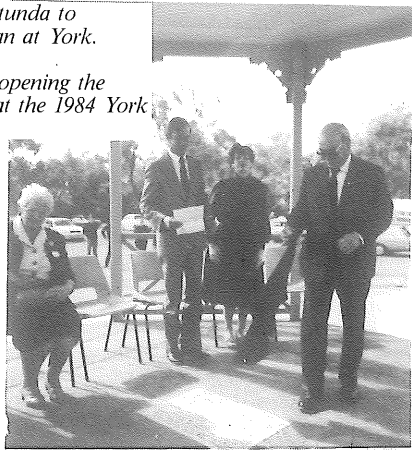
Saturday, January 2, 1836

We have the pleasure to announce the safe arrival on the 31st ultimo, of the Hon. J.S. Roe Esq, Surveyor-General, Mr Norcott, Principal Superintendent of Police, with 5 men of the corps, from their expedition to King George's Sound, and back, overland. The report of the fertility of the country on the line of road marked out between this Settlement and the Sound is most gratifying, and dispels all doubt, if any existed, of the facility of communication between the two ports. We look with considerable interest for the details of this expedition from the pen of the Hon. the Surveyor-General; but in the mean time we feel ourselves justified; from the information we have collected, in pronouncing this survey as one of the most important we have witnessed since our arrival in the Colony, opening as it does a most extensive tract of fine pasturage, abounding in every requisite for intermediate establishments, either for the purposes of farms or grazing. So soon as its capabilities are known abroad, if not taken advantage of by our



The memorial Rotunda to Walkinshaw Cowan at York.

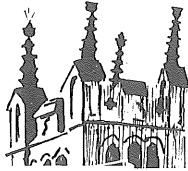
Sir Paul Hasluck opening the Cowan Rotunda at the 1984 York Walk.



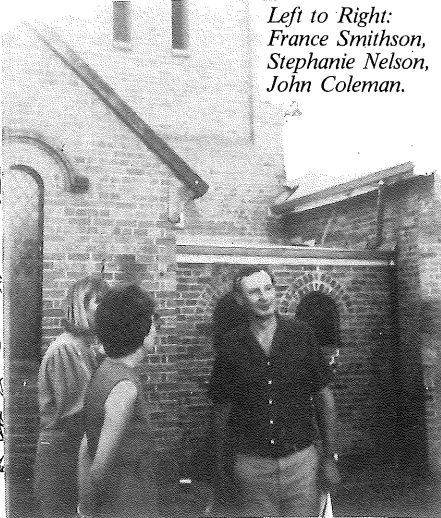
Left to Right: Be Cowan, Paul and Libby Monger and Sir Paul Hasluck.

The building and funding of the Rotunda was entirely due to the efforts of Phil Mulcahy.

(A life member of the York Walk).



Old towers of York's historic churches, St. Patrick's and Holy Trinity. The writer's York Walk Committee has raised funds to assist with the restoration of these.



Left to Right: France Smithson, Stephanie Nelson, John Coleman.

friends at home, the districts on this line of road will unquestionably attract the attention of the neighbouring capitalists. After passing over about 35 miles of indifferent country, within the immediate neighbourhood of King G's Sound, the party arrived at the commencement of the good pasturage, which extended, with the exception of occasional interruptions of trifling consequence, until they arrived at the York district. The horses came in well conditioned, and the journey was accomplished in 14 days -- a strong proof of the nature of the country.

EPILOGUE

Broadly speaking the Great Southern was first put to pastoral use by settlers to the south of Toodyay who were hemmed in to the east by the poison infested sand plain country. They moved their sheep southward along the Dale and Hotham Rivers and then towards the Williams and Arthur River. An earlier but less vigorous push continued from Albany with stock coming in via the Kalgan River into the water sheds of the Gordon, Beaufort and Arthur Rivers.

By 1837 the only land grants in the area traversed were at the Williams River and the headwaters of the Kalgan and Hay with nothing in between. Other commercial factors intervened to speed up the process. A notable one was the development of the Sandalwood Industry from about 1846 onward. The heartland of development was to the west of the Great Southern Railway which later was totally instrumental in pulling the centres of population and development to the east and hastening development of the eastern districts further out again. Without this the Great Southern would have certainly developed on an axis embracing Williams, Beaufort River, Etipup and south from there. Etipup was well on its way to being the major centre of the central Great Southern when the railways altered all of that and brought Katanning into being.

The early settlers had of course much greater scope in picking the eyes out of the country while later settlers found it harder in those pre super and sub clover days. The following laconic lines by an anonymous Wagin farmer perhaps typify this.

"From the Arthur River flowing,
To the Stirling Ranges soaring,
They saw the lands' potential,
And given the differential (of a lot of sub and super)
B'God how right they were."

There is more than a ring of truth in this verse. However taking into account the time lapse between the Great Southern Expedition and the follow up of settlement there is no doubt of the richness and value of the southern districts. Book illustrations sketched from a pre-Great War publication give some idea of the valuable estates established in the Great Southern within a relatively very short period of time.

The towns of the region have developed well as service and regional centres. The town development has largely been geared to transport trends, as roads and means of transport have improved. Almost nowhere has the motor vehicle been taken up quicker than the Great Southern (for example Katanning Roads Board had over 1,500 vehicles in 1927). Distance became less of a hurdle but the underlying industry - agriculture has always been highly productive and soundly based. A visit to the area today shows a continuous pattern of good farms, good homesteads, modern stock handling facilities, good stock and plant on the properties and a progressive approach and adaptability to technological change. The area boasts some of the best - and highest priced farm land in Australia and is the home of stud properties that rank with the nations best.

To round off this brief history of the Great Southern Expedition, it seems appropriate to review the later life of the members of the expedition - so far as this is known.

THE EXPLORERS

Sir James Stirling

He continued as Governor and in June 1838 announced his intention of returning to England. Kimberley's objective history written about the turn of the century - well before the euphoria of our 150th year said that "Stirling was an earnest, zealous Administrator. He was willing to perform the most trying work for the Colony and was a sincere advocate of its rights. Many of his acts were unstatesmanlike. Had he been more firm and determined there would probably have been no suffering from scarcity of provisions. Had he been more far seeing the first colonists would not have expected so much from Western Australia, their hopes may have been sustained and they better prepared. He suffered from an unsympathetic government in England. Whatever was in his limited power to do for his people he did. He visited all key areas before leaving the Colony and as the time of his departure approached the Governor became more and more popular each day. On December 20th 1838 he and Lady Stirling gave a farewell ball and his last meeting of Executive Council was held on Christmas Eve. On the 31st December a deputation presented him with a plate of service."

Other historians such as A.E. Williams favourably compares Stirling's administration with that of his naval compatriot Governor Arthur Phillip of first fleet fame.

Back in England Stirling commanded the 78 Gun Ship of the Line Indus until 1844 - then the 120 Gun Howe from 1847 to 1850, on July 8th 1851 he achieved the rank of Rear Admiral. He was Commander In Chief in China and the East Indies from 1854 to 1856. He became a Vice Admiral in August 1857 and Admiral in November 1862.

He died in April 1865 and lies buried by the side of his wife Ellen in Stoke cemetery Guildford, Surrey, England. The West Australian Government took steps in 1977 to restore the Stirling grave headstones.

In retrospect Stirling was not backward in giving himself preference in selecting good land. He did in fact allocate all of the Fremantle land from and including Arthurs Head to Point Marquis and east to within one lot of Club Street to himself but the British Colonial Office made him relinquish it. His business dealings were in time severely criticised by many colonists. However Stirling took part of his salary in land and was obviously a good business man. History shows he made money from selling his W.A. land in later years.

He was without doubt a man of drive vision and determination and the state of Western Australia owes him a very great deal. It seems a pity that he never revisited the Colony in later years although he continued to promote it. However in Guildford Surrey - a beautiful market town close to London but still today in open farming country of great beauty - Stirling chose a good place to retire, and looking on the lush greenness of the area one cannot blame him for not returning to the summer dryness and heat of Western Australia.

The following article appeared in a feature in the Daily News on August 31st 1982 and encapsules Stirling's career and renders in Naval terms "Suitable passing Honours".

NEW COLONY'S "FATHER" SAW A GREAT FUTURE

Captain Stirling must have foreseen a great future for WA when in 1828 he convinced the British Government to colonise the State.

Surely the honour of "Father of the Colony" must go to this man who first saw our potential, reported so favourably upon it, led the first settlers to our shores and become the first Governor.

Captain Stirling, or as he is better know, Sir James Stirling, was certainly the first in the line of those who could have laid claim to the honour.

During 1826 he made his first visit to W.A. - a brief visit to the Swan River district under instructions from N.S.W. Governor Darling.

He liked what he saw and his report suggested that a colony should be established here and that it would be a useful place for trade with nations of Asia.

He then offered to be the leader of an expedition to establish the proposed new colony.

Late in 1828 Captain Fremantle was sent, sailing H.M.S. Challenger to take charge of the territory. He did so, at the mouth of the Swan River at a location which has borne his name since May 2nd 1829.

Roe

John Septimus Roe raised a family of twelve children in the colony. In addition to Sandalford he took up land in the Leschenault area and several smaller lots inland. His wife Matilda took up 2,560 acres in the Plantagnet District in 1832.

In July 1846 Roe was appointed a Director of the W.A. Bank and in September of that year he was elected to the Committee of the newly formed Mining Company.

Between 1830 and 1849 he lead 16 exploring parties in expeditions to the south, north, and east of the State. This included the mercy expedition to save the survivors of Grey's ill fated expedition to the Gascoyne area. His longest journey was in 1848-49, to the Russell Ranges east of Esperance. This trip took 21 weeks during which he covered 1,800 miles on horseback.

Roe filled many positions of great trust in the Colony. There was hardly anything done in the Colony in its early years that he wasn't involved in.

Roe retired in 1871 when 73 and was granted a pension of £600 per annum which was good for those days. He died on 28th May 1878 and his head stone of North Wales slate can be seen in the East Perth Pioneer Cemetary, south west of the chapel.

The obituary of this outstanding Civil Servant is quoted as printed in the Perth Enquirer, and barely does him justice.

"As may be remembered, land at that time (1829) was granted to persons who should introduce property and settlers in the proportion of one acre for every 18d in property, the consequence being the alienation of vast blocks of all the land which for many years was known to be available for tillage and pasture. Townsites had to be selected and laid out: areas of land were allotted to the claimants: and thus, at the very outset, a huge difficulty had to be grappled with and over-come.

This work was undertaken, and done with the assistance of a subsequent trifling addition to the staff, and from the state. Until his retirement in 1869. Mr Roe's career was a career of honest toil, interrupted only by a visit to South Australia in 1855, and to England in 1860. He finally retired leaving to his successor in office, a thoroughly organized department, and the survey of land was so accurately defined as to secure every man in his holdings..... He was responsible for the work done by his men, and among them, he trained the Gregory's, who attained eminence in their profession and that prominence in the world which would have been his, had he been less devoted to the mechanical duties of his office, or more eager for fame.

His hands were clean: he never used the privileges of his office unduly to his own advancement or his numerous family. To him the colonists owe the details of the land regulations up to March 1872, and they are in the main features now inforce..... others have profited and gained fame at his expense, for explorers have avoided thickets and arid country whose positions he defined, and which is as much needed to be defined as reefs and shoals at sea. His great experience was never withheld from his subordinates, for he had no jealousies, and his instructions to every explorer have contributed in no small degree to his success.....

The colonists who knew him well, appreciated him at his right worth. They gave him their legislature a handsome pension (£600 per year) the most they could give him, with which to spend his last days in peace. But the home Government whom he served so well in the outposts of science and civilisation, gave him nothing but bare praise. Honour and decorations that have fallen to the lot of others were unbestowed. He had not even the meagre honour of C.M.G. If urgent recommendations of Governors who knew his value could have got them for him, he would have shown something more to his breast than the medal for the Burmese War of 1826....."

Commissioner John Lewis

Lewis returned to England in 1840 and came back to the Colony in March 1841 to take up a position with the Australasian Bank. He committed suicide in May 1841, leaving his lands to England relatives who retained them until 1853.

His grave is near that of Roe's in East Perth Pioneer Cemetery. The wording on the stone is somewhat acerbic.

Rossmore Norcott

Norcott returned to England in May 1836 to take up an inheritance and died there in May 1838. A seemingly early and untimely end for this erudite and active man.

Arthur Trimmer

Whose name is perpetuated by the Arthur River.

This interesting and obviously capable pioneer settler about whom all too little has been written changed his life a great deal as a result of the Great Southern expedition.

On October 1836 he dissolved his prospering partnership with R.H. Bland at York and married Mary Ann, the 18 year old daughter of Sir Richard Spencer. The wedding being held at Strawberry Farm the year the two storey wing was completed.

He later assisted in the conduct of the Spencers Hay River property where no doubt his sound sheep experience was invaluable to the family after Sir Richard's death. He was associated with Pootenup near Tambellup, and the Goblu property at Broomehill which his wife inherited. Great pioneers such as Mrs Thomas Norrish of Sunnyside Broomehill wrote warmly of the Trimmers and the contribution they made to the district.

Trimmer evidently never gave up his tendency to enjoy alcohol and during the time he combined the position of Protector of Natives with being a Justice of the Peace, the resident Magistrate at Albany

Sir Alexander Cockburn-Campbell, who was something of a stormy petrel, received the following note from the Governor of the day - Kennedy, obviously in reply to a complaint; "I know you have plenty of work before you - I would only enjoin patience and caution. You cannot

reform a community in a month. As for Mr Trimmer if he cannot keep sober he must cease to hold a position to judge others for like offences, give him time and a friendly warning." Cockburn-Campbell was at variance with a lot of other local institutions at the time and one suspects some professional jealousy here. The irony is that 10 years later Cockburn-Campbell married Arthur Trimmer's daughter Sophia Jane. Sophia later inherited the Goblup estate at Broomehill. By then she was a widow and known as the Dowager Lady Campbell. She ran the estate well eventually selling it to Lord Brassey - later Governor of Victoria.

Another of Trimmer's daughters Blanche married Charles Hammersley who founded the Richmond property on the junction of the Williams River and Junction Brook. She lived there from 1864 until her death in 1918.

Arthur Trimmer is buried in Albany among pioneer settlers of the Great Southern including Henry Camfield, Albert Young Hassell, Thomas Sherrat, Edward May Spencer, John McCail, William Grills Knight and William Henry Graham - who pioneered Fairfield.

A stock firm is likely to donate a suitably worded plaque to commemorate Trimmer and his partner Bland's early contribution to the Wool Industry. At this stage this presentation should take place during Western Australia Week 1985 - a highly suitable time.

Andrew Stirling

He remained private secretary to Governor Stirling for five years and it is recorded that he held his office "with much credit to his early abilities and to the satisfaction of the public generally". He was Clerk to the Council in 1838 and returned to England with Stirling in 1839. He married in England and his wife returned with him to the Colony when he came out to look after land and stock of Stirling's at Leschenault. He had business interests and a partnership with H.C. Cole (butchering and storekeeping) until 1841 when he was appointed a Magistrate and a member of Executive Council. He also had substantial land holdings in the Avon area.

He met with a serious riding accident at Leschenault to which was attributed the illness (Hepatitis) from which he died at the age of 26 at the residence of Mrs Eliza Boyd "Rose Bank" Guildford on November 6th 1844. He was buried two days later in the Old East Guildford Cemetary with the sons of the oldest tenants of Sir James Stirling's Woodbridge Estate acting as pall bearers.



St. Bartholomews Chapel, East Perth Pioneer Cemetery.

Sketched by well known East Wagin artist Pat Moran, shortly before his demise. Many of the exploring party are buried here.

This historic area is administered by the W.A. National Parks Authority. The Ranger there is both knowledgeable and helpful to visitors.

George Eliot

George whose name is perpetuated in the Wagin District (Eliot Vale) returned to England with Stirling, but came out again on the Prima Donna in 1840. He was a District Agent for the W.A. Bank in Leschenault in 1840 and resident Magistrate and Tax Collector for the area in 1841. In 1840 he was living at Australind and married Louisa Clifton. They had 7 children and moved to Bunbury in 1844 as resident Magistrate and a member of the Leschenault Road Commission. He was a member of a party that in 1847 cut a road through to Williams and in March 1850 was a Steward at the Perth Races.

His grave is in the East Perth Pioneer Cemetery, close to the boundary fence on the river side.

*From Page 87, Front Row: Clyde Douglas, Alan Lutz, Bill Cousins, John Worthington, Bob Haymes, Lloyd Nelson, Ray Simpson, Peter Lunt, Jim Bairstow.
Middle Row: Leon Griffiths, Gwenda Chellew, Beth Turner, Sylvia Thompson, Meryl Thompson, Margaret Riseborough, Mary Hansen, Alma Thompson, Ruth Ganzer, Jim Doig.*

*Front Row: Hilary Hunt, Hilda Johnson, Rhonda Holmwood, Edna Riley, Maxine Nalder, Shirley Cousins, Wilma Bilston, Viv Berril, Leigh Lugton.
Absent: Head Master Geo Cullen.*

Trooper John Stanton

Stanton evidently had later matrimonial problems as in 1842 he announced no responsibility for his wife's debts. He was later a Cartage Contractor in Perth.

Trooper Hefron

Later accompanied George Fletcher Moore on one of his expeditions. His wife was a well know mid-wife and worked as a housekeeper for R.H. Bland. Mrs Hefron is mentioned favourably in Eliza Brown's famous York Publication "A Faithful Picture".

Trooper John Craigie

Craigie later managed Symer's property the Kalgan River at Albany and did some work on identifying poison plants.

He married in Albany in 1842 and had 3 children. He was later a Publican and whaling partner in Albany. His hotel was the Albany in York Street.

Trooper Syred

Was later a partner in the Baylup Inn and in 1850 was a Publican in Toodyay. There are items in the Toodyay museum today that belonged to the Syred family and numerous Syred headstones in the Culham Churchyard near Toodyay.

Trooper Wood

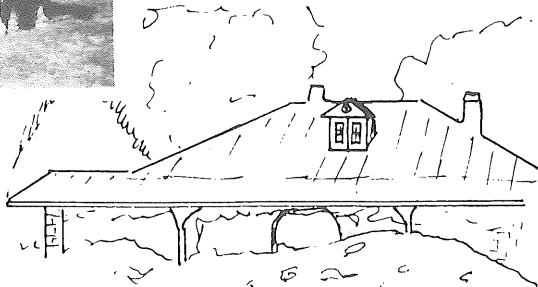
Wood was living in York in 1837.

Migo

At this stage the writer could find no further written reference to Migo which is surprising in view of how well known and liked this Swan River Native was.



Horse team on Sunnyside, Wagin 1912.



The Old Mahogany Inn on the York Road.

N.L.
F2

Acknowledgements and A Sincere Thank you to:

Apsley House Curator, London.

Battye Library: Transcripts, material and background reading.

"Balgun" (Jim West): Material and assistance.

Cyclopedia of W.A.: Property details.

Crabb, Dawn for permission to use the Trimmer Family Photo which comes from Mrs Crabb's Publication, "The Way to St Werburghs".

Council, Bruce: Production assistance.

Curator of the Old Mill, South Perth: Site inspection.

Darbyshire, Harold: Production assistance.

Davies, Taffy, National Parks Ranger, East Perth Pioneer Cemetery: Help with site inspections.

Donaldson, Julian: Production help.

Dennis, Mrs Dorothy: Material and photos of Eticup.

Dewar, Gavin: Material on Woodyarrup.

Eggleston, John: Advice and production inputs and cover design and graphic labels, (invaluable help).

Guildford Archives, (Surrey England).

Goodchild, Brian: Map office help and nomenclature background.

Heron Family: Photos.

"Hilltop Park", Wagin (Geoff Scanlon): Photos and organising the Historical Plaque for the Wagin Historical Village.

Herdsmen Pay: Material.

Home Building Society: Use of calendar illustrations.

Hoarau, Maxine: All of the typing.

Katanning and District Historical Museum: Photos and information.

Kojonoloken Hills Property: Access for photos.

Mitchell Library (Sydney): Material.

McIver, Steve: Production assistance.

National Trust: Help with research at the Spencers Albany House.

Nelson, Stephanie: "Tamacurring" material.

Nelson, Jennifer: Sketches.

Perth City Council Library: Historical reading.

"Quailerup", (T.B. Scanlon & Sons): Photos.

Renshaw, Peter: Production assistance.

Schmettig, Klaus: Production assistance (photos).

Synnot, F.I. (Bill): Archival material from the Great Southern Herald.

Spencer, Pat (Mrs): Sketches, including artists impression (Marked N).

The Surveyor General.

Permission to use Roe's Field Books and maps of the Expedition.

Timms, D.W.: Allocation of typing resource.

Wagin Historical Village: Photos.

W.A. Historical Society: Checking the Trimmer material.

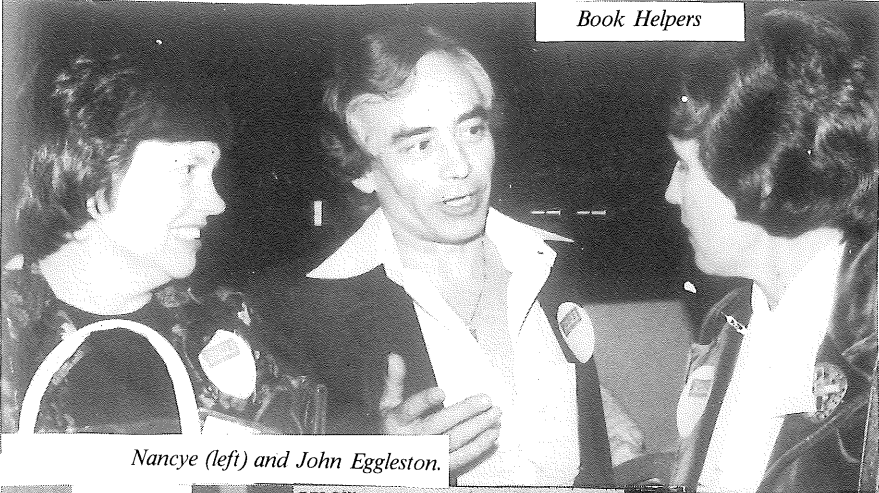
Wellman, Athol: Photos.

Without your help this brief history, "The Great Southern Expedition of 1835" could not have been compiled.

Sincerely

Lloyd Nelson.

Book Helpers

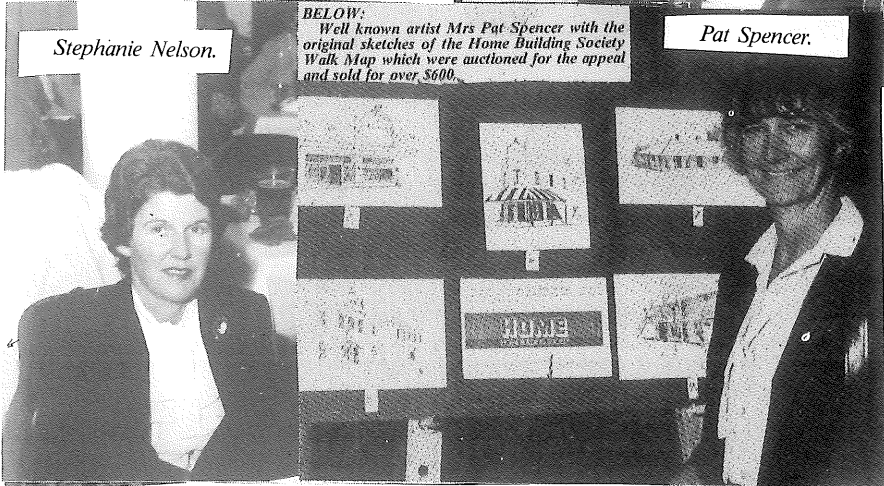


Nancye (left) and John Eggleston.

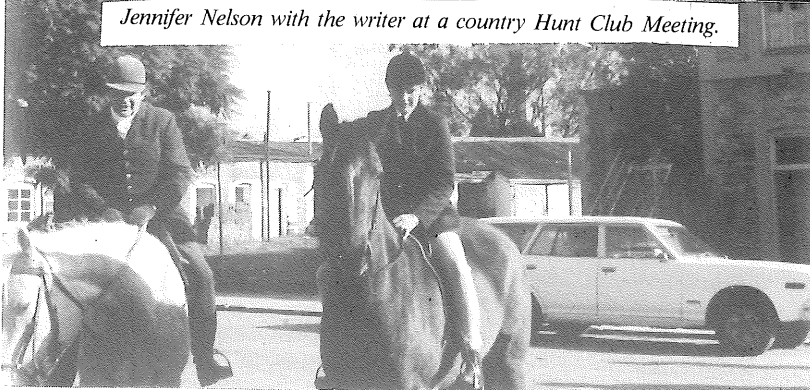
Stephanie Nelson.

BELOW:
Well known artist Mrs Pat Spencer with the original sketches of the Home Building Society Walk Map which were auctioned for the appeal and sold for over \$600.

Pat Spencer.



Jennifer Nelson with the writer at a country Hunt Club Meeting.



And further acknowledgements to:

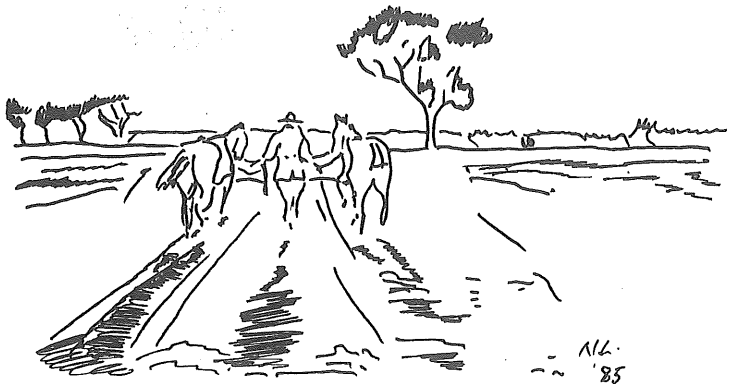
Ainsley Evans (Katanning Old Mill Restoration Committee) for arranging the Sesqui Centenary plaque at Katanning.
 Colin Phillpot (Wesfarmers Rural) for the Gnowangerup Plaque Graham Rose (Western Farmer and Grazier) Plaque and memorial for Old Etipup.
 Alan Elvin (Albany Advertiser) for the Tambellup Plaque.
 Howard Gaskin (Beverly York Express) for the Brookton plaque.
 Keith Mattingley (The West Australian) for the York Plaque.
 Geoff Scanlon (Wagin and Districts Stud Stock Breeders) for the Wagin Plaque.
 Alan Elvin (Albany Advertiser) and Tony Masters Spicers Paper Industries for the Albany Plaque. (At Strawberry Hill Farm).

and Home Building Society for the Narrogin Plaque.

Final arrangements on several other plaques were pending at the time of printing this. Thanks are due also to the following helpful people who paid for the framing costs of some of the original Pat Spencer sketches from this history so that these could be presented to Shire councils, libraries and Historical Societies.

These include:

Neil Garnett, Gnowangerup; Wagin and District Stud Stock Breeders, Wagin; Tom Scanlon and Sons, Wagin; Jack Seabrook, Brookton.



AUTHORS NOTES

This hobby history together with a template of the plaque pictured, developed by John Eggleston from a sketch I made in Sydney of a Greenway Architectural feature on St James Church one sunny afternoon, has been a very effective tool to suitably mark the Sesqui-Centenary of the "Great Southern Expedition of 1835", which traversed my grandfathers later property "Sunnyside" at Wagin a century and a half ago.



From this material generous donors were found to fund plaques at Katanning, Wagin, Gnowangerup, Tambellup, Broomehill, York, Albany and Narrogin.

Each plaque unveiling has led to heavy and interested community involvement and has in turn generated further activities such as the impressive Mounted Police re-enactment of the expedition at Wagin, the funding of a professional map and stone marker (long overdue) at Old Eticup, considerable publicity in press, radio and television, including strong individual feature stories.

The donation of Pat Spencer sketches from the history to Historical Societies culminates in the presentation by the York Walk Committee of a plaque commemorating Roe and his expedition to Roes home town, Newbury in the delightful Berkshire County during the Committees Tour to England this August.

Nor will 1985 see the end of the effort generated. A bi-annual "Arthur Trimmer Memorial Lecture" commences next year and will focus informed speakers on issues relating to the wool industry which so vitally effects the Great Southern Region.

I have pleasure now in putting forward to you the "Great Southern Expedition of 1835". Hopefully in dipping into it, you may find the same interest I found in compiling it.

No apologies are made for the rudimentary production quality of the final art work.

It would have been easy to have professionally typeset the history but I feel that it is more interesting as is and am pleased to have avoided the drudgery of proof reading and correcting bland typesetting.

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LESMURDIE 6076

1st June, 1985.

Phone (09) 291 7018.

