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www.rusheensweb.com

POONCAIRA (POONCARIE)

Much of the information on Pooncaira / Pooncarie and surrounding district has been included with the section on "Information on Early Wentworth and Surrounding Areas".

Many of the other sections on my website also contain information pertinent to this area.

RUSHEEN CRAIG March 2013.

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SKETCHES OF POONCARIE AND VICINITY, DARLING RIVER, 1881.

Town and Country Journal, 3 Sep 1881.

1. Township of Pooncarie.
2. Wardinbro, Selection on the Darling.
3. Steamer Woodcutters' Camp.
4. Blacks' Burial Place near the Darling.



POONCARIE AND VICINITY, DARLING RIVER, NEW SOUTH WALES.

1.—Township of Pooncarie. 2.—Wardinbro, Selection on the Darling. 3.—Steamer Woodcutters' Camp. 4.—Blacks' Burial Place near the Darling.

Australian Town & Country Journal (NSW 1870-1907) Saturday 3 September 1891, pg 24

National Library of Australia, <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/70959639>

LAND PURCHASES AT POONCAIRA (POONCARIE).

32 Lots at Pooncaira to be offered for Sale on 26 Oct 1863.

Empire (Sydney), 1 Oct 1863.

Wentworth (at the Police Office), on Monday 26th October 1863.

Town Lots - County of Perry, Parish of Pooncaira.

32 Lots.

A to Z and AA to FF, (each of 2 roods)

within the reserve of Pooncaira, on the left bank of the River Darling, about 80 miles from Wentworth, on the road to Perry (Menindee):

Section 9, Portions 1 to 10.

Section 10, Portions 1 to 3; and 8 to 10.

Section 13, Portions 3 to 8.

Section 14, Portions [?] to 10.

...

Price £8 per acre.

See Government Gazette No.179.

Country flooded at the time.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 4 Nov 1863.

[First sale of Pooncarie / Pooncaira Town land was at Wentworth on 26 Oct 1863.]

From Wentworth Correspondent:

The rivers here [Wentworth] are falling slightly, but as another flood is coming down they will soon begin to rise again. The country is now so **flooded** that in many places there is more water than dry land.

A sale of township **allotments at the new township of Pooncaira**, River Darling, was held at the Police Court yesterday, and **today several allotments, nearly if not quite under water, in this township will be offered** for further competition.

1863 to 1867 Land Purchases Pooncaira / Pooncarie.

Land purchase records of Pooncaira / Pooncarie available at the Lands Titles Office.

These records were mixed in with all the other Torrens Title Records for ALL of NSW, so it is hoped that I have picked up all the pertinent records. Rather than being arranged by area the purchases for all of the state are arranged by purchaser's name alphabetically. The exact date is not given - just the five year time frame within which the purchase was made. For further information you would have to pay for individual certificates.

VILLAGE OF POONCAIRA.

SECTION 9.

Section 9 Allot 1 - Purchased by Simon McDONALD.

2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 3.

Section 9 Allot 2 - Purchased by William HOSIE.

2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XIV Folio 248.

Section 9 Allot 3 - Purchased by Richard John Perrins EGGE.

2 roods. Contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XIV Folio 243.

Section 9 Allot 4 - Purchased by James DODGE.

2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XIV Folio 241.

Section 9 Allot 5 - Purchased by James ABERCROMBIE.

2 roods. Contained in the Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for period 1863 to 1867. Vol XIV Folio 239.

Section 9 Allot 6 - Purchased by Charles HICKS.

2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XIV Folio 247.

Section 9 Allot 8 - Purchased by Michael DOOLAN.

2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XIV Folio 242.

Section 9 Allot 9 - Purchased by William HOSIE.

2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XIV Folio 249.

SECTION 10.

Section 10 Allot 10 - Purchased by John EGGE.

2 roods. Village of Pooncaira. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XIV Folio 244.

SECTION 14.

Section 14 Allot 1 - Purchased by James JOSEPH.

2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 13.

Section 14 Allot 2 - Purchased by James JOSEPH.
2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 14.

Section 14 Allot 3 - Purchased by James JOSEPH.
2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 15.

Section 14 Allot 4 - Purchased by James JOSEPH.
2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 16.

Section 14 Allot 5 - Purchased by Simon McDONALD.
2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Title Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 4.

Section 14 Allot 9 - Purchased by Nicholas WARE.
2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Titles Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 19.

Section 14 Allot 10 - Purchased by Nicholas WARE. 2 roods. Grant contained in Torrens Titles Purchasers' Index for 1863 to 1867 period. Vol XV Folio 20.

1865 Gazetted Pooncaira Land Purchases - Deeds of Grant ready for Delivery.

DEEDS OF GRANT, by Purchase, ready for Delivery.
Government Gazette.
Gazetted 11 July 1865.
(Rusheen Craig - 30 Oct 2005)

1 r = 1 rood = quarter of an acre.

George Alexander CARSTAIRS; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 15, Fol 240.

James DODGE; 2r; Assurance Fee 3d; Vol 14; Fol 241.

Michael DOOLAN; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 14, Fol 242.

Richard John Perrins EGGE; 2r; Assurance Fee 3d; Vol 14, Fol 243.

John EGGE; 2r; Assurance Fee 3d; Vol 14, Fol 244.

Duncan FRASER; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 14, Fol 245.

Charles HICKS; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 14, Fol 247.

William HOSIE; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 14, Fol 248.

William HOSIE; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 14, Fol 249.

Simon McDONALD; 2r; Assurance Fee 3d; Vol 15, Fol 3.

Simon McDONALD; 2r; Assurance Fee 5d; Vol 15, Fol 4.

Joseph James PHELPS; 2r; Assurance Fee 5d; Vol 15, Fol 13.

Joseph James PHELPS; 2r; Assurance Fee 3d; Vol 15, Fol 14.

Joseph James PHELPS; 2r; Assurance Fee 5d; Vol 15, Fol 15.

Joseph James PHELPS; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 15, Fol 16.

Nicholas WARE; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 15, Fol 19.

Nicholas WARE; 2r; Assurance Fee 2d; Vol 15, Fol 20.

Matching Purchases with Map

Matching the above purchases with the map shown in "The History of Pooncarie and District", Rob Lans, Thelma Smith, and Bill Smith; The Sunnyland Press, Red Cliffs, (no date).

SECTION 9.

Bounded by Tarcoola St., McKinlay St., Mallara St., and Burke St.
Ten allotments.

Section 9 Allot 1.

On Tarcoola St., at NE corner with Burke St.

Simon McDONALD.

Section 9 Allot 2.

On Tarcoola St., to the N of Allot 1.

William HOSIE.

Section 9 Allot 3.

On Tarcoola St., to N of Allot 2.

Richard John Perrins EGGE.

Section 9 Allot 4.

On Tarcoola St., to N. of Allot 3.

James DODGE.

Section 9 Allot 5.

On Tarcoola St., to N of Allot 4, and on the SE corner with McKinlay St.

James ABERCROMBIE .

Section 9 Allot 6.

On Mallara St., on SW corner of McKinlay St.

Charles HICKS.

Section 9 Allot 7.
On Mallara St., to S of Allot 6.
Duncan FRASER.

Section 9 Allot 8.
On Mallara St., to S of Allot 7.
Michael DOOLAN.

Section 9 Allot 9.
On Mallara St., to S of Allot 8; Backs onto Allot 2.
William HOSIE.

Section 9 Allot 10.
[Alexander Rankin on map - but not in Gazetted sales above.]
On Mallara St., to S of Allot 9, and on NW corner with Burke St.

SECTION 10.

Bounded by Mallara St., McKinlay St., Para St., and Burke St.
Ten allotments, but only Allots 1 to 3, and 8 to 9 offered for sale; Only one in Gazetted sales above.

Section 10 Allot 1.
On NE corner of Mallara St. and Burke St.
John EGGE.

SECTION 13.

Bounded by Mallara St., Burke St., Para St., and Wills St.
Ten allotments, but only Allots 3 to 8 offered for sale; only one in Gazetted sales above.

Section 13 Allot 3.
On E side of Mallara St., midway between Wills St. and Burke St.
George Alexander CARSTAIRS.

SECTION 14.

Bounded by Tarcoola St., Burke St., Mallara St., and Wills St.
Ten allotments. Not all Gazetted above as sold.

Section 14 Allot 1.
Tarcoola St., on NE corner with Wills St.
Joseph James PHELPS.

Section 14 Allot 2.
Tarcoola St., N of Allot 1.
Joseph James PHELPS.

Section 14 Allot 3.
Tarcoola St., N of Allot 2.
Joseph James PHELPS.

Section 14 Allot 4.
Tarcoola St., N of Allot 3.
Joseph James PHELPS.

Section 14 Allot 5.
Tarcoola St., on SE corner with Burke St.
Simon McDONALD.

Section 14 Allots 6, 7, and 8 - not Gazetted above as sold.

Section 14 Allot 9
W side of Mallara St., one block up from the corner of Wills St.
Nicholas WARE (Crossed out on map - so sale was not completed.)

Section 14 Allot 10.
W side of Mallara St., on NW corner with Wills St.
Nicholas WARE (Crossed out on map - so sale was not completed.)

HOTELS IN POONCARIE AND DISTRICT.

Names of the Hotels.

Pooncaira Hotel
Mail Coach Hotel
Telegraph Hotel
Ellerslie Hotel
Welcome Inn
Roadside Necessity (near Burtundy)
Burtundy
Maid and Magpie (Camborn)
Middle Yard Hotel
Tarangara Hotel
Darling Hotel (Lethero)
Southern Cross (Old Mallara)
Yartla Creek Hotel (Polia)
Traveller's Rest Hotel (Cuthero)
The Cliffs Hotel (Tartna Point)
Victoria Hotel (Tolarno)
Harp of Erin (Netley)

Licenses of the Hotels and further information on them.

I have compiled a list of the Publicans' Licences from the Government Gazette for the years 1865 to 1900.

The licences listed below were granted part way through the year. They were for a twelve month period so would therefore carry over into the next year.

Rusheen.

Pooncaira Hotel.

Pooncarra / Pooncarie, River Darling.

Licences for the Pooncaira Hotel.

Simon McDonald 1865 - 1870.

Elizabeth McDonald 1870 - 1872.

William Hammat 1873 - 1876.

Henry Stephen Burgess 1877 - 1882.

David S. Mitchell 1883 - 1888.

Henry Stephen Burgess 1889 - 1890.

Richmond H. Perring 1891 - 1892.

[Now became known as the **Pooncarie Hotel**]

Sylvester Byrnes 1893 - 1896.

Norman McLeod ?1896; 1898 - at least 1900.

About Simon McDonald, the first publican.

The first sale of town blocks at Pooncarie took place in Wentworth in 1863. **Simon McDonald**, a Scotsman, who came to Australia in 1850, bought two of these. Before coming to Pooncarie, he had been a chief constable of police at Balranald and later a sergeant in the police force at Wentworth. He was granted a licence for a hotel in 1865 and this he built on the corner of Tarcoola and Bourke Streets, naming it the Pooncaira Hotel. On the block of land on the other side of Bourke Street, which he also owned, he built a dance hall.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, had five daughters - Annie (Mrs. Charles Wreford, "Moorara"), Ronaldina (Mrs. G. C. Todd), Jennie (Mrs. Charles Barrett, "Mallara"), Angusina (Mrs. B. E. W. Heaton Ellis) and Reginalda who was born in Pooncarie in 1864, possibly the first white child to be born there. Lans Rob, Smith Thelma, & Smith Bill, *The History of Pooncarie and District*, no date.

A description of the Pooncaira Hotel.

A report in the *Federal Standard* 1907 describes the building as follows :-

"Pooncaira Hotel, N. McLeod. Wood and iron, 15 rooms, occupying about 7 acres. Miss Mary Pile is the owner. One bar, a bathroom, three cess-pit closets (for which pans will be substituted at once). There are no gauze wire doors or windows. Renewal of licence granted at £20, assessed value £80. The licence required that a lamp be burning from sunset to sunrise. After the cancellation of the licence the hotel was used as a private dwelling - in later years, it became known as Angel's Rest."

Lans Rob, Smith Thelma, & Smith Bill, *The History of Pooncarie and District*, no date. [This book contains a wonderful photo of the old hotel.]

[My comment: The original buildings occupied only two blocks of 2 roods each i.e. a total of 1 acre (see below). To get to the 7 acre property described above the hotel would have had to cover 14 of the original blocks. Rusheen]

[Another comment: Simon McDonald was far from popular during his time spent in Wentworth. See my section on "Wentworth and Surrounding Areas." Rusheen]

1870 Death of Simon McDonald [Publican 1865 - 1870].

Death - At his residence, Pooncaira Hotel, Mr. Simon McDonald, in his 52nd year, son of the late Angus McDonald, Glenroy, Lochaber, Invernessshire, Scotland. Inverness papers please copy. South Australian Register (Adelaide), 26 May 1870.

1872 Death of Elizabeth McDonald, publican of Pooncaira.

[Publican from husband's death in 1870 to her death in 1872]

William Gunn creditor of her Estate.

Elizabeth McDonald, late of Pooncaira, New South Wales, widow, publican, died 15 May 1872 intestate.

Letters of Administration granted to William Gunn as a creditor of the said deceased.

Witness: The Honorable Sir Alfred Stephen, Knight Companion of the Faith, Chief Justice of our said court, at Sydney, this thirtieth day of December, in the thirty-sixth year of our reign, A.D. 1872.

D. B. Hutchinson, Prothonotary.

George Clement Gillott, Wentworth, Proctor for the said William Gunn, by McCarthy, Son, and Donovan, Pitt-street North, Sydney, his agent.

Empire (Sydney), 4 Jan 1873.

Jan 1873 Notice -

All ACCOUNTS against **the Estate of the late ELIZABETH McDONALD, of POONCAIRA, PUBLICAN**, must be at once forwarded to Mr. William Gunn, of Wentworth, Storekeeper; or to the undersigned

George C. Gillott, Wentworth.

Solicitor to the Estate.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), **10 Jan 1873.**

1872 Sale of Pooncaira Hotel [hotel description].
Estate of late Simon McDonald.

In the Estate of the late SIMON McDONALD
Of Pooncaira, River Darling, Publican.

Notice is hereby given that in order to close accounts in the above Estate, the Administrator thereof will, by his Auctioneer, cause to be sold by Public Auction, at Wentworth, on Monday, the 25th day of November next, at noon -

THE POONCAIRA HOTEL

With STORE, STABLING, AND OUTBUILDINGS,
Standing on one Acre of Land, part being laid out as a Garden, in which there is a splendid **Well of Water, having a never-failing supply**. This is the only Licensed House after leaving Wentworth on the Darling mail route, and the **mail coaches stop one night at the Hotel on both the up and down journeys**.

The back-country roads to Balranald and Euston branch off here, making Pooncaira of necessity a stopping place and depot for all stock going to the Victorian markets.

The House is so long established, and so well known on the Darling as a House of Call and **camping-place for Stock**, being close to the river, that any further description is needless.

The Furniture, Stock, &c. with the unexpired term of the License to be taken by the Purchaser at a Valuation.

Terms for House will be one-third cash, balance by bills bearing interest at long dates.

Title perfect. Enquiries can be made of Mr. George C. Gillott, Wentworth, Solicitor to the Estate.

South Australian Register, 24 Oct 1872.

1872 Marriage of McDonald to Wreford.

Marriage on 30 November 1872 at Pooncaira, River Darling, Charles Henry Wreford, of Moorara Station, to Annie Maria, eldest daughter of the late Mrs. McDonald, of Pooncaira.
South Australian Register 12 Dec 1872.

1873 Mr. W. Hammett buys Pooncaira Hotel.

The Pooncaira Hotel is sold to Mr. W. Hammett, of Wentworth. **£500** is the price given, the stock to be taken at value.

Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser, 28 Dec 1873.

[My comment: For further information on William Hammat (correct spelling) see my section on "Information on Early Wentworth and Surrounding Areas."]

1882 Mr. D. S. Mitchell takes up the Pooncaira Hotel.

We [in Wentworth] are about to loose Mr. D. S. Mitchell, auctioneer, saddler, and harness-maker, who has taken the Pooncaira Hotel, on the Darling.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 14 Jul 1882.

[My comment: I have him with the licence only from 1883. The above would suggest that he took up the licence part way through the previous year. Rusheen]

1883 Meeting at Pooncaira Hotel to discuss the question of Rabbit Control.

A meeting of landholders interested in the Rabbit Bill now before the Legislature, and residing in the district of Wentworth, was held at the Pooncaira Hotel on 20th March. There were present - Messrs. Swan (in the chair), Power, Mudge, Wreford, Urquhart, Barritt, McLennan, Ballantyne, S. and W., Darchy, Porter, Hammerstein, Lehman, Barraclough, Mitchell, Captain Raymond (sheep inspector, Wentworth), Canning (sheep inspector, Menindie), and Isdell, hon. sec. ... The whole tone of the meeting was altogether in favour of a war of extermination against the rabbits. ... Doubts about the working of the proposed Act. ... Proposed by Mr. Urquhart, and seconded by Mr. Barritt that a board consisting of ten members representing the district should be appointed a tribunal to act between lessees, occupiers, or managers, and the inspectors; such board would be able to judge the necessity for inspectors to prosecute any lessee. occupier or manager; ... have paid secretary ... meet monthly ... Proposed that Clause 23 be entirely struck out; the meeting is of the opinion that damages caused by the dogs would be greater than any benefit derived from their use. ...

Australian Town and Country Journal (NSW), 14 Apr 1883.

1884 Publican, Mitchell, helps out at the Post and Telegraph Office.

Pooncarie Correspondent, 26 Feb 1884.

Mr. Lobsey, the Post and Telegraph operator, has been almost blind for the last week or so. It is unfortunate he did not apply to Wentworth for assistance instead of having Mitchell, one of the Publicans, to help him.

Wentworth Telegraph and Murray and Darling News, 1 Mar 1884.

1885 Cricket match followed by a Ball at Pooncarie Hotel.

Pooncarie.

From our Correspondent 7 April 1885.

On Easter Monday a cricket match was played on the wharf reserve between two Elevens chosen by Messrs. Richardson and Dobsey, resulting in a win for Richardson's pick. The play was very good throughout, though the fielding might have been a little better, but want of practise and bumpy ground had a good deal to do with it.

A ball in the evening at the Pooncarie Hotel finished up a very enjoyable day. The rain has made a spring in the grass. Another rain like it is what we want.

[My Comment: David S. Mitchell was the publican at the Pooncarie Hotel 1883 to 1888. Rusheen.]

Wentworth Telegraph, 25 April 1885.

1890 Pooncarie Hotel for Sale.

For Sale.

The Pooncarie Hotel, River Darling, N.S.W.

For particulars apply to S.A. Brewing, Malting, and Wine and Spirit Company.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 18 Aug 1890.

[Ad repeated through to 26 Sep 1890.]

1896 Dance at Syl Byrnes' Pooncarie Hotel.

[Sylvester Byrnes was the publican 1893 - 1896]

Dance at the Pooncarie Hotel. The dance given by Mr. & Mrs. Syl Byrnes at the Pooncarie Hotel on the 25th May proved a great success. The ballroom was beautifully decorated green pine, mixed with coloured crinkled paper and flowers, the combination lending a charming effect. The dresses of the ladies were varied and pretty, and the floor in splendid order.

Among Mrs. Byrnes other achievements, she succeeded in securing the services of a splendid pianiste who played throughout the evening in an exciting manner and well marked time. At 12 o'clock a splendid feast was spread in the dining room, to which the "merrie dancers" did amply justice. Too much praise cannot be given to Mrs. Byrnes and her pretty assistant for the display they made in so beautifully decorating the table, and the manner in which they attended the wants of their many guests.

Dancing was afterwards continued until daylight put an end to the festivities, and thus ended one of the most successful dances ever held in the township.

Federal Standard and Western Districts Advocate, June 6, 1896.

1897 Norman McLeod takes over Syl Byrnes' Pooncarie Hotel.

Mr. Norman McLeod, for many years connected with this district, was in Wentworth this week. He has succeeded in securing the Pooncarra Hotel from Mr. Syl Byrnes who has retired to his homestead lease. Mr. McLeod has been associated with the various mail services of the Wentworth district for many years past, and is very popular with all classes of the community. Under his management the public will be certain of good treatment and the best fare at the well-known hotel, and we feel sure that he will make his venture a success. For a longtime past, Mr. McLeod has taken a warm and active interest in sporting matters at Pooncarra, and ably discharged the onerous duties of Judge to the Jockey Club established in the township for the past 18 years.

Federal Standard, Wentworth, Feb. 13, 1897.

1898 Whiskey stolen from McLeod's Pooncarie Hotel.

Pooncaria - John Jackson was charged with stealing two bottles of whisky, the property of Norman McLeod, Pooncara Hotel, and was sentenced to 7 days hard labour at Pooncaira.
Federal Standard, Wentworth, Sept. 10, 1898.

1899 McLeod of the Pooncaira Hotel gets Publican's Booth at the Racecourse.

Pooncaira

A meeting was held at Pooncaira **to form a Race Club**. Auctioneer Rankin disposed of the right of the (Publican's) Booth at the Racecourse, Mr. McLeod, of the Pooncaira Hotel, being the highest bidder, £5 being realized.

Federal Standard, Wentworth, Dec.9, 1899.

Mail Coach Hotel

Pooncarie, River Darling.

Licencee of Mail Coach Hotel.

Edwin John Weeks 1875 - 1876.

[Senior-constable Edwin John Weekes had been Gazetted on 10 May 1872 as being appointed as acting clerk of Petty Sessions at Pooncaria. Rusheen.]

Telegraph Hotel

McKinley Street, Pooncarie.

Licencees for the Telegraph Hotel.

John Perry 1877 - 1878

Neil Neilson 1879 - 1888

Thomas E. Randall (Randell) 1889 -1893

H. P. Richardson [Henry Prideaux Richardson] 1894

Morris E. Owen 1895

Richmond H. Perring 1896 - 1898

Martin W. Hegney 1899

Charles Garraway 1900 [to ?]

?? Former Mail Coach Hotel.

It has been suggested by Rob Lans, Thelma Smith and Bill Smith (*The History of Pooncarie and District*) that the Telegraph Hotel, on the corner of McKinley and Mallara Streets, was **the former Mail Coach Hotel**, renamed with the coming of the telegraph to Pooncarie.

[My comment: Below is the report of the progress of the Telegraph in the area. Rusheen.]

Dec 1877 Telegraph Wentworth to Bourke via Pooncaira next month (Jan 1878).

By the end of next month [Jan 1878], a new line of 500 miles will be brought into the circuit, and will connect Bourke with Wentworth, together with the intervening stations at Louth, Wilcannia, Menindee, and Pooncaira. In the same month seventy miles of additional line will be opened connecting us with the Queensland border via Bourke, to Rutherfords, and through the Warrego and Warrinoa districts. *Sydney Morning Herald*, 31 Dec 1877.

1896 Fire at the Telegraph Hotel.

The slumbers of the inhabitants have been rudely awakened by the cry of "fire" at an early hour yesterday morning. Old Steve, the hunter, being an early riser, noticed a glare of fire at the end of the Telegraph Hotel. He speedily raised the alarm, which brought forth the inmates and neighbours. There being a plentiful supply of water in the tanks and well, the fire was quickly extinguished. A new chimney is now necessary. A strange coincidence in the affair is that a wheelbarrow which was standing a short distance from the end of the kitchen was totally destroyed. The police are making investigations. The old man should now be good for a bag of flour. The premises are partially covered by insurance in the Mercantile Mutual office, for which Messrs. W. Bowring & Co. are agents. *Federal Standard and Western District Advocate*, Feb.4, 1896.

Ellerslie Inn (Ellerslie Hotel)

Darling River, Wentworth.

Licencees of Ellerslie Inn / Hotel.

Mrs. Rice 1869

Jonathan Smith 1875 - 1879

John Rice 1885 - 1888

Ann Rice 1888- to at least 1900.

About the Smith Family.

The ancestors of the Smiths of "Menincourt" came from Scotland in 1854. James Thompson Smith was born in Geelong in 1855. His father had the Beehive Store in Wentworth in 1865 and was reputed to have a wine shanty on the Anabranche. **Father and son built the Ellerslie Hotel about 1867**, before they both settled at "Balcatherine" in 1879, James on the eastern side, and his father on the other side. James Smith took up adjoining land in 1882.

Lans Rob, Smith Thelma, Smith Bill, *The History of Pooncarie and Districts*, No date, p.187.

Welcome Inn

Para East, on Wentworth to Pooncaira Road.

Licencees of the Welcome Inn.

William Brown 1878 - 1888

Ann Brown 1889
Henry P. Richardson [Prideaux] 1890 - 1892
John McGlinton 1893 - at least 1900.

1885 Welcome Inn Races.

The settlers near Para and the Welcome Inn held their annual races on Tuesday last, when there was a moderate attendance of spectators. Several gentlemen who went from Wentworth to attend the races did not express themselves as being highly pleased by the trip. The events were not closely contested and the weather was very disagreeable.

Hurdle Race

£10; Twice around the course.

Mr. G. White's Selector, 9st 7lb (Jackson) - 1st.

Mr. W. Clark's Darkie, 9st (Agnew) - 2nd.

Only two started. Darkie baulked and Selector won easily.

Maiden Plate

£8; Once around the course.

Mr. Jackson's Figit, 9st (Holmes) - 1st

Mr. R. Horne's Opossum, 8st (owner) - 2nd.

Only two started.

Welcome Handicap

£15; Twice around the course.

Mr. J. Rice's Mickey Free, 9st 5lb (Agnew) - 1st

Mr. Sutherland's Reporter, 8st 8lb (owner) - 2nd.

Mr. Jackson's Canary, 8st 12lb (Yob) - 3rd

Mickey Free won easily.

Wentworth Telegraph and Murray and Darling News, 29 Mar 1885.

1896 Welcome Inn Carnival Races.

Welcome Inn Carnival. Races and sports were held at the Welcome Inn on Boxing Day, when all the local peds and sports put in an appearance as well as many disinterested onlookers, not forgetting the ladies who turned out in force to grace the occasion

(10 horses in the Welcome Inn Handicap -Third - W. Ablett; 7 horses for the Hurdles; 5 horses for the Xmas Gift; 11 horses for the.....)

The Federal Standard, Jan.11, 1896.

1900 Welcome Inn Sports.

Sports were held at the Welcome Inn on Boxing Day. Christmas day was exceedingly hot, but during the night a cool change came up, and Boxing Day brought a few drops of rain and plenty of wind.

There was a fair attendance of sports comprising visitors from Cuthero, Wentworth, and surrounding districts.

Following are the results of Sports:-

Trial Stakes - J. Williams 1; C. Wells 2; P. Rice 3.

1 Mile Bicycle Handicap - S. Conroy 1; P. Conroy 2; E. Ewens 3.
Welcome Inn Handicap - A. Watts 1; A. Amey 2; J. Williams 3.
2 Mile Bicycle Handicap - P. Conroy 1; S. Conroy 2; E. Ewens 3.
Handicap Hurdles - F. Rice 1; C. Wells 2.
Three-legged Race - M. and F. Rice 1; W. and J. Williams 2.
Running Long Jump - J. Williams 1; A. Amey 2.
Hop Step and Jump - A. Watts 1; J. Williams 2.

A dance followed and was kept up till a late hour. The ladies were in the minority and those present had every chance of enjoying themselves.

The Federal Standard, Wentworth, Jan. 13, 1900.

1910 Sale of Welcome Inn to Mr. E. P. Richardson.

The well-known property, Welcome Inn, Para East, River Darling, together on the land on which it is situated, has been sold by Mr. J. McGalton, the present proprietor, to Mr. E. P. Richardson, of Burtundy Station (son of Harry Richardson - above), who will take possession on 1st of July. We understand that **the old and popular hostelry will be closed as a place of public accommodation on and after the above date.**

Federal Standard, Wentworth, June 25, 1910.

1926 Henry P. Richardson - Obituary.

(Publican -Welcome Inn 1890-1892/3; Telegraph Hotel, Pooncarie 1894/5.)

Henry (Harry) P. P. Richardson was born at Avoca, Tasmania in 1843. The son of the Rev. William and Mrs. Richardson, he came to the Darling River region over 60 years ago (c.1866). Well educated, ambitious and virile, Mr. Richardson preferred vast empty spaces to town, he was the type of "Colonial" that did things and did them well, and helped to build the nation.

While still in his teens, he managed a farm called "The Boggs" in Tasmania, and his love of country life led him to accept a position on Lake Victoria offered to him by Mr. Gell. He brought two thoroughbred horses to the station, riding them from Bendigo. He became head stockman at Lake Victoria station, but soon after it changed hands, he left for Moorara station as overseer for Mr. H. Wreford, later becoming manager. He remained there until 1881, when he accepted a position as stock inspector under the NSW government, later becoming rabbit inspector, a position he held for many years. After leaving his government position, he went to Karpa Kora, Moorara's back station.

His widow is Mrs. Eliza Richardson nee Williams. His children are Mrs. Alfred Edward Ballantyne of Balmoral Station, Mr Prid. Richardson of Leopard Wood Park Station, Queensland, Edward Percival M. Richardson of Burtundy Station, Mrs. R. Cameron of Mildura, Mrs William O'Reilly of Prahan and Mrs. J. Crang of St Kilda.

Sunraysia Daily, Fri. Nov. 1926.

Roadside Necessity

Ilneery Point, near Burtundy

Licencees of the Roadside Necessity.

John Willis 1877 - 1879

John William Webb 1879 - 1881.

Burtundy Hotel

Burtundy Station, River Darling.

Licencees of Burtundy Hotel.

Edmund (Edward) Lewis Harrison 1867 - 1872

William Brown 1875

John Bailee Cameron 1875 - 1878

John Hippisley 1878 - 1879

John Rice 1881 - 1884

Henry Rope 1885

Catherine Kopke 1886 -1887

Alfred Clark 1888

John Hippisley 1889 - 1891

John Rice 1890 - 1891

William Ablett 1892 - 1896

John K. McMillan 1897

John Hippisley 1898 - to at least 1900.

Some differences in listing of the publicans for the Burtundy Hotel.

Both the Gazette and Dansie [Hotel manuscript held by the Broken Hill Library] agree that the Burtundy Hotel, at Ilinery Point on the Darling River about 48km north-east of Wentworth, was opened by Harrison in 1867.

Publicans and years of licenses vary often from then on:

Government Gazette (Dansie)

1867-1872/3 Harrison (Dansie: 1867-1872 Harrison) Gap

1875 Brown (Dansie: Brown 1875)

1875-1878 Cameron (Dansie: Willis 1877-1878. No mention in Gaz)

1878-1879/80 Hippisley (Dansie: Webb 1879-1880. No mention in Gaz)

1881-1884 Rice (Dansie: No listing)

1885 Henry Ropke (Dansie: Herman Kopke)

1886-1887/8 Catherine Kopke (Dansie: No listing)

1888 Alfred Clark (Dansie: Alfred Clarke 1888-1889)

1889-1891 Hippisley (Dansie: Hippisley 1889-)

1892-1896 Ablett (Dansie: Ablett 1893; Gap)

1896 John McMillan (Dansie: John K. McMillan 1896-)

1897 James McMillan (Dansie: No listing)

1898-at least 1900 Hippisley (Dansie: Hippisley 1898-1903)

1888 Burtundy Hotel for Sale.

FOR SALE

"The BURTUNDY HOTEL".

For further particulars apply to Owner, C. CLARK or J. EGG & Co, Wentworth.
Wentworth Advocate and Irrigationist, June 2, 1888.

For 1888 the Gazette has either Catherine Kopke or Alfred Clark; Dansie has Alfred Clarke. Yet in the 1888 advertisement above, **the owner is given as C. Clark.**

1896 A Pleasant Gathering at Mr. and Mrs. Ablett's Burtundy Hotel.

I now take pen to give you some idea of the good time Mr. and Mrs. Ablett of Burtundy Hotel provided for their many friends on Friday 27th. Notwithstanding it being two days after Christmas, the hotel was decorated with "evergreens" which abound on the Darling River. They lent a certain amount of charm and welcome but which were totally surpassed by the genial shake of the hands of our host and hostess. Mr Ablett, having collected a goodly amount of money, proposed to divide some in equal parts for horse and foot races, and the programme (which I must say was a liberal one) was got through without a hitch, every prize winner receiving their money and going away (after the dance) having no thought other than good wishes for the coming New Year for the Ablett family, one and all.

I feel I cannot do sufficient justice to the catering provided by Host Ablett, suffice is to say that those who wanted anything better would need use the proverbial Pears' Soap. In the evening the dance was well patronised, and really Mr. Editor, it is wonderful where all the handsome dressed young ladies appeared from. But all thoroughly enjoyed the dancing to the good music supplied by Messrs. W. Ablett (violin), J. McGilton and C. Coombs (accordion), which kept going well into the daylight the next day.

Following is the result of the Sports:-

Trial Stakes (Horses) - 1. Professor.

Burtundy Stakes - 1. P. Rice.

Burtundy Handicap (Horses) - 1. Melanah; 2. Professor; 3. Topsy.

Sheffield Handicap - 1. W. Ablett; 2. P. Rice; 3. W. Renfrey.

Consolation (Horses) - 1. Tommy Dodd; 2. Skipper.

Hop, Skip and Jump - 1. J. Neill.

Then came two children's races which caused great excitement.

On New Year's Day we again spent a jolly time having a **closely contested cricket match** in the afternoon, followed by a good game of Rounders in which most of the ladies joined; then came a good substantial supper supplied by Hostess Ablett to which good justice was done, and after a few more games in the moonlight we parted for our several homes wishing the evening had lasted longer.

Federal Standard and Western District Advocate, Jan.11, 1896.

1897 Burtundy Hotel Sports - Christmas Eve.

Being the anniversary of the annual sports, at an early hour the sporting gentry of the district begin to wend their way to the convincing ground adjoining the hotel. A very nice mixed programme was run through without a hitch, or nearly so, the only complaints being from a few.

At one o'clock 70 sat down to a free lunch, and I don't think I can be too Lavish in my praises of the hostess for the way she looked after the creature comforts unaided. She attended the table that was well supplied with delicacies as well as substantial viands. The host was indefatigable as Honorary Secretary as well as looking after the wants of the public. **Mr John McMillan**, as barman, was nonpareil. Allowing no-one to go thirsty who had the where-with-all to pay for it.

I think the various officers gave every satisfaction as there was no grumbling, and to finish the day's sport a very sociable dance was held and kept up until midnight.

Appended are the results;

Sheffield Handicap - 1. J. Ballantyne 2. J. Williams 3. J. Hippisley

Burtundy Gift - 1. W. Jackson 2. M. Smith 3. J. Ballantyne

Boy's Race - 1. S. Watts 2. S. Abblett 3. A. McMillan

Old Buffers' Race - 1. P. Rice 2. J. Smith 3. J. Hippisley

Flying Handicap - 1. Cameron's Rosebud 2. Mc Quarrie's Lone Hand 3. Abblett's Echo.

Burtundy Handicap - 1. Mc Quarrie's Reflection 2. Mc Quarrie's Lone Hand 3. Abblett's Echo

Trotting Race - 1. Mc Millan's Pearl 2. Cameron's Bustler 3. Hippisley's Topsy

Consolation Stakes - 1. Cameron's Bustler 2. Abblett's Echo 3. Mc Quarrie' Lone Hand.

Federal Standard and Western District Advocate, 2 Jan 1897.

1908 Burtundy Hotel for Sale.

For Sale or Lease (a splendid investment), **HOTEL**, together with **120 acres FREEHOLD LAND**, situated on the River Darling, half-way between Wentworth and Pooncarie.

The **mail coach** passes the door of the Hotel four times weekly.

This Hotel contains **parlour and dining rooms, bar, and 7 bedrooms; cellars, stables, yards, etc.** All recently repaired. Also, **Good Grass Paddocks** for Horses and Cattle; and the land about **half-mile of frontage to the Darling River.**

Sale price, £540.

Cash or terms.

For further particulars apply to W. B. Crang, Land, Stock, and Station Agent, Wentworth; or to **John Hippisley, owner of the property**, at the Hotel. If by letter address J. Hippisley, Burtundy Hotel, via Wentworth, River Darling.

Good fishing and shooting always to be had here on billabongs and river. The owner wishing to retire from business, would let to a suitable tenant on right of purchase.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 2 Apr 1908.

1910 Hipplesley still "at" Burtundy Hotel.

Farm Laborer Wanted.

Wanted for Harvest, Man used to Horses and Bl..., driving and cutting, to harvest about 130 acres of Wheat Crop for hay; good wages or contract. Apply at once to Office of this paper or to

John Hipplesley,

Burtundy Hotel, River Darling, via Wentworth, N.S.W.

Mildura Cultivator, 12 Oct 1910.

1925 Death of John Hipplesley.

Mr. John Hipplesley was found dead on his farm at Tlyney (sic) Point, River Darling on Sunday. He was aged 80 years. It is presumed that the cause of death was heart trouble.

Argus (Melbourne), Friday 28 Aug 1925.

Maid and Magpie Hotel [became Middle Yard Hotel in 1877]

Middle Yard, Darling River.

Licencee of Maid and Magpie Hotel.

John Fox 1875 - 1877

Became the Middle Yard Hotel.

Middle Yard Hotel [formerly Maid and Magpie Hotel]

Middle Yard, Darling River.

Licencees of Middle Yard Hotel.

John Fox 1877

John Hipplesley 1877 - 1878

Henry Smith 1879 - 1880

Richmond H. Perring 1896, 1898.

Death of Mr. J. T. Smith.

Another very old resident of the district passed away last Monday morning, in the person of Mr. James Thomson Smith, whose death occurred at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Newman, Wentworth. The deceased gentleman who was a native of Dundee Scotland, and was 69 years of age, was a colonist of 47 years standing, having arrived in Melbourne in 1852, shortly afterwards taking up his residence in South Australia. He resided for a time at Balhannah, and a few years later, in 1859,

came up to Wentworth, where he carried on the business of a general store-keeper for many years.....built one of the first houses..... Leaving Wentworth he took up his residence at Sturt's Billabong where he was engaged in hotel keeping, and afterwards went to Wilcannia. There he had a lot to do in the coach agency business and resided for a lengthy period, after which he **settled down with his son at Middle Yards, Darling River**.....Deceased leaves a widow, still in Wentworth with her daughter.....father of Messrs William Smith, Middle Yards, Sydney Smith, Cuthero, and Mrs. Newman, Wentworth, and there are also two other sons and 3 daughters living.
The Federal Standard, Wentworth, Nov. 4, 1899.

Tarangara Hotel

Tarangara [Station], Wentworth.

Licencees of Tarangara Hotel.

James Hooper Griffiths 1867 - 1870.

John Fox 1870 - 1871

On the map of 10,240 acre Tarangara Homestead Lease, held at State Archives, Kingswood, J. Griffiths is shown as the original holder of 40 acres of land, on the southern boundary of that Lease, and on an elongated block with a small frontage on the Darling River. Somewhere on that 40 acres would have been the site of the Tarangara Hotel. Normally one would suggest that the hotel was near the riverfront. However looking at the map you can see that the old stock route is slightly in from the river and would have been closer to Griffith's western boundary.
Rusheen.

Is there any relationship between the above mentioned John Fox, Publican of Tarangara Hotel 1870 to 1871/2, and the John Fox, butcher of Wentworth, who was declared bankrupt in July 1870 with liabilities of £375-7-0 and assets of £118-9-8??

Rusheen.

Insolvency in Sydney Morning Herald, 12 Jul 1871.

Darling Hotel

Licencees of Darling Hotel.

(Lethero, Darling River)

William F. Lehman 1869 -1881;

(Old Tarcoola Run)

Frederick William Lehmann 1883 - 1887

Charles Garraway 1888 - 1892;

(On Tarangara* on Darling River)

Garrett Byrnes 1892 - 1894;

(On Darling River, Wentworth to Pooncarie Road)
Garrett Byrnes 1895 - 1896
Charles Cox 1896 - 1897

(Near Conagee (sic), Darling River)
Nora Morpeth 1898 - 1899
John Topp At least 1900.

* My comment: It is very strange to see "Tarangara" as the address for the Darling Hotel 1892 to 1894. Tarangara was on the west bank of the Darling River. All of the other addresses as given in the Government Gazette refer to the eastern side of that river. Garrett Byrnes was my great grand-father and because of this I took very special note of the details shown in the Gazette. He did hold the Homestead Lease for Tarangara 1886 to 1896. There had been a hotel on the property 1867 to 1871. However nowhere else can I see any mention of the Darling Hotel changing location or of it being anywhere other than on the eastern side of the Darling River. Rusheen.

1896 Barge snagged near Charles Cox's Darling Hotel, Old Tarcoola.

Wentworth correspondent.

Still another barge with a valuable cargo of wool has been snagged and sunk on the Darling River, about one and a half miles this side of Charles Cox's Darling Hotel, Old Tarcoola, at a place known as Kapana. ...

Sydney Morning Herald, 6 Oct 1896.

1896 Man charged with entering a bedroom at Byrnes' Hotel.

Charges against McKinnon (at Pooncarie).

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 1 December 1896.

Quarter Sessions.

Wentworth, Monday.

A charge of **entering the bedroom of Olive MORPHETT, at Byrnes' Hotel, Pooncarie**, and attempting a criminal assault, was preferred **against William McKINNON, who pleaded guilty**. In extenuation, he said that he made arrangements with another girl to visit her room, but by mistake attempted familiarities with the girl Morphett. When he found his mistake he jumped through the window. The Judge said that had the prisoner given the girl any cause for shame he would not hesitate ordering a flogging. Sergeant Bear proved a previous conviction of 12 months imprisonment for horse-stealing in 1891. His Honor sentenced the accused to 12 months hard labour. Mr. CRANG appeared for the accused.

Sydney Morning Herald, Tuesday 1 December 1896.

[My comment: My ancestor, Garrett Byrnes, held the license for the hotel at that time. Rusheen.]

Southern Cross (Old Mallara)

Pooncarie district.

Licencee of Southern Cross.

Richard Collins 1876.

Yartla Creek Hotel (Polia)

Yartla Creek.

Licencees of Yartla Creek Hotel.

Maurice Mahoney 1870 - 1876

Annie Oliver 1889

Traveller's Rest Hotel (Cuthero)

Corona Point,

Licencees of Traveller's Rest Hotel.

Hen. Edgecombe 1870

Richard James Panter 1871

Geo. V. Hunns (or Geo. U. Hunn) 1872 - 1873

Henry S. Burgess 1874 - 1875

Richard J. Panter 1876 - 1880

Theodore Page 1878

William Alfred Fry 1881 - 1891

Eli Albert Barnfield 1892 - 1893+ (near Pooncarie) 1895 - at least 1900.

The Cliffs Hotel , Tolarno.

Tolarno, near Menindie.

Licencees of the Cliffs Hotel.

Arthur Britton 1866 - 1872

Frank Young 1872 - 1875

Margaret Young 1875 - 1876

Frederick Mudge 1876
William Goodland 1877 -1880
Edward Foulger 1881 - 1883
Rose Lester 1884 - 1886
William Agnew 1886 - 1887
William Field 1887
Tobias Martin 1887 - 1888
David Eastman 1888 - 1889
Edward Foulger 1889 - 1896
James Duncan Warren [as written] 1896
Warren James Duncan [as written] 1896 - 1897
William A. Field 1897.

The Reid Family of Tolarno.

In about 1862 (the Irish brothers) William and Ross Reid secured another property about 200 miles north of Wentworth to which the native term "**Tolarno**" was given. Not large at first..(but)...by 1864 the Reid brothers held pastoral leases over three-quarters of a million acres in the Darling District. Tolarno was the collective name for sixteen runs - Bolivia, Gunpanoola, Gal Gal Range, Gunpongulla, Huco, Morte, Malingah, Porcupine, Pruella, Tyndiah, Toorincaca, Underthee, and Outer, South, East and Warnbah Proper.....Annual Rent £412.....Carrying capacity 48,000 sheep and 2,560 cattle. With 45 miles of frontage to the Darling River itself, Tolarno Station extended 60 miles inland as far as Boolaboolka Lake, sometimes mistakenly called Bulla Bulla or Bulla Bullen Lake, which had a width of twenty miles. In addition, there were several smaller lakes supplemented by fifteen man-made tanks for sheep and eight for horses.

Ross Reid married Lucy Reynell in 1868 (and took her back to Tolarno). The house they built was large....The number of outbuildings scattered around "the big house" must have made the place seem like a small village. There were offices, stables, stores, bachelors' quarters, cart-sheds, a blacksmiths and a saddlers shop, and a chaff store. A new woolshed built ten years later cost £3,506. The station also owned two hotels - the "Victoria" and the "Tolarno" (??The Cliffs Hotel) - which were leased at £120 per annum in 1892 - and provided overnight accommodation for the steamboat passengers.

(In the late 1870s) Tolarno was valued at £152,625.
Moore Peter L., *Pride of the Hills*, p.19 & pp.24-25, p.40.)

Two hotels on Tolarno - The Cliffs Hotel and Victoria Hotel.

My comments:

There were **two hotels on Tolarno Station - the Cliffs Hotel at Tartna Point and the Victoria Hotel.**

Dansie (unpublished manuscript, held by the Broken Hill Library) has the red-gum slab Cliffs Hotel, opening in 1870, and being briefly called the Tolarno Hotel. The Cliffs Hotel on the south of Tolarno Station was actually Gazetted as opening four years earlier in 1866. The Gazette has no mention of the Tolarno Hotel. The Victoria Hotel opened in 1873. Dansie has the Victoria Hotel closing in 1904 with T. D. Kenny being the last publican.

1869 Bushranger shouts drinks and plays cards until midnight at the Cliff's Hotel.

Telegraphic News From our own Correspondent.

Another Mail Robbery on the Darling.

Wentworth, 8 Jan, 7.45 p.m.

Intelligence has just arrived that **Redford, the bushranger**, after sticking up the down-river mail on Monday last, pursued and overtook the up-mail (which had started some hours earlier) in Pile's Bend, and having rifled the mail-bags, without interfering with the passengers, rode alongside the mail as far as the Cliff Hotel, where he shouted all round, and remained playing cards until nearly midnight.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), Saturday 9 Jan 1869.

[Arthur Britton would have been the publican at that time.]

Another account of Redford's visit to the Cliffs Hotel appears in the *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 15 Jan 1869.

Menindie.

A Correspondent writes:-

I hasten to inform you of the robbery of the Wentworth mail to this town both on the down and up trips by the bushranger Redford. I do so in the hope that your journal will by my comments bring under notice what we have hitherto failed to do by direct communication with our own authorities - viz., the defective state of the Police Department on this river. New South Wales sends up to a town like Menindie a couple of police troopers; and having done so much I have no doubt that the head of the department writes the name of that town down in red ink as one that ought not to trouble or come under his notice for at least five years. This is what any old resident of the Darling is bound to suffer; for the troopers, once sent up, are left to their own inclinations, and it remains with the men themselves whether they will do their work or shirk it. I am glad that I can affirm that there are police officers on the river who are not afraid of that work, while at the same time I think there are others on whom the monthly visit of an Inspector would confer a material benefit, so far as the public is concerned.

Menindie of the present day is not the Menindie of of ten years ago, a fact that our Government cannot be brought to understand - that is, when we ask them for anything. I do not know whether at that period the Darling was ever visited (I mean quarterly) by an Inspector, if so, how it is that while everything else on the river has been progressing the police alone should retrograde? We never see one of those officials now.

You will learn the particulars of the robbery of the down mail ere this reaches you. There is quite a panic here amongst the business men and others, and from what I hear some are supposed to have lost, namely, Mr. A. Rossoleo alone having remitted over £800. Under our verandah you hear of acceptances and cheques, &c., as having been posted by that mail from all quarters. There was only one passenger besides the driver in the mail, due at Menindie on the 7th instant - Mr. McRae, of Tooralle. When about four miles from the cliff a horseman rode up, and presenting a pistol at the driver's head, told him to bail up, and sung out, "Now then, Mr. McRae, jump out, I have been waiting for you for the last three days; hand me out you money." Mr. McRae got down and handed Redford his pocket-book, requesting, as a favour, that after he had taken whatever money was in it, he would return the book to him on account of private memos. Redford, after looking over it, asked where was the money he had got for the sheep sold in Wentworth, and upon being told that it had been sent to Melbourne, seemed very much disappointed, and told McRae that he made sure of getting it on him. He then ordered the mailbags to be thrown out, and proceeded quietly and deliberately to cut them open, and sort those

letters he thought likely to contain money, but it was evident that he could not read writing, for he called to McRae to come nearer to him, and be his clerk, saying, "I'll have a gentleman clerk for once in my life," and handed him a cheque, and asked him whether he thought it was any good. Strange to say McRae saw that it was a cheque of his own going from one Bank to another. Redford asked what was the meaning of the stamp in the middle of it, and McRae told him it was a dishonored cheque. Whereupon he was throwing it away, when McRae asked him to allow him to put it back in the envelope. He kept McRae reading letters and cheques for over an hour, and took his word that cheques bearing the Bank stamp were dishonored ones, and remarked that what with the low price of wool and the dry season, all the squatters were going insolvent. Having asked the driver if he had any money, he said, "Yes, silver." He told him to put it back, as he did not want to rob him. He then began to search the parcels in the coach, asking the owners' names, and their probable contents. Coming to a carpet-bag, and hearing that it belonged to a trooper stationed at Pooncaire, he took it out, and told the driver that there would be a better man in the clothes in half an hour than ever was in them before. He then told McRae to hold the ribbons while, Moodey, the driver, picked up the letters and put them back into the mail bags.

He told them they might go, saying, "I'll pull you up before you get to the Cliffs Inn; I'm going to stop there tonight." He left them, taking the trooper's carpet-bag. He again got up to the mail within 200 yards of the public-house, Brithew's (sic) Mallee Cliffs Hotel, and riding up to the door, told every one in the house to come out onto the verandah, and then sung out for McRae to shout for all hands, telling him that if he had no cash his name was good. After getting McRae's drinks he ordered every one into the house again, getting off his horse, asked the landlord to bring a feed for his horse. He tied his horse to a post, came inside, sat down, had some dinner, and made himself quite at home, telling everyone that he was not afraid there. He played cards and shouted drinks, and said that the police were a lot of muffs, and that he could have shot Sergeant Carter as he rode by when he was hiding only that he did not care about attempting it, as Carter was the only man he was afraid of. He said he was at the Mannum Races, and that he would have stuck up the whole town if he had only another revolver; and that he had lost his opera-glass on the course, and as yet there had been no one to claim it. After stopping about six hours he got his horse, and after galloping round the house disappeared; but before he went he entered the driver's bedroom and shook hands with him, and bid him good night.

The thermometer is 112 degrees in the shade.

Our Wentworth letter of January 12 says:- I am happy to report that the Darling mail arrived tonight without having a visit from the gentleman who saved us the trouble of opening our letters last week, and some of us the trouble of counting our remittances for that week.

The above is part of a larger article entitled "Bushranging On The Darling." This has been included in my section on Books and Articles.

About Arthur Britton.

Arthur Britton married Mary Albert in 1864 at Yelta Mission, across the Murray River from where the town of Wentworth was to develop. Mary J. Britton died in August 1915, aged 73 years, in the Broken Hill District.

Children of the marriage were:

- 1865 (Wentworth) Catharine B. Britton who married in 1886 in the Silverton District to Ernest Geyer.
- 1867 (Wentworth) Blanche Britton who married in 1886 in the Silverton District to James Kearns.
- 1869 (Wentworth) Mary Britton.

Funeral Notice for Mary Britton.

The Friends of Mr. and Mrs. George Chatfield and Mrs. Geyer are respectfully informed that the remains of their late mother (Mrs. Britton) will be removed from Mr. George Chatfield's residence, Pell-street, off Gypsum-street, tomorrow, at 2 o'clock for interment in the Roman Catholic Cemetery. J. Polkinghorne & Co. Undertakers.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 30 Aug 1915.

Dec 1871 Britton insolvent because of losses at Cliffs Hotel

Insolvency Court.

Surrenders.

Arthur Britton, of the Cliff's Hotel, Menindee, licensed publican.

Cause of Insolvency: Heavy losses in business.

Liabilities: £770-6s-0d

Assets: £325-1s-6d

Deficiency: £445-4s-6d

Official Assignee: Mr. R. H. Sempill.

Empire (Sydney), 18 Dec 1871.

Arthur Britton - 1st dividend of 1s 10 13/32d in £
Empire (Sydney), 25 Jul 1872.

Arthur Britton - 2nd plan, dividend 2s 11/16d in £
Empire (Sydney), 28 Jul 1873.

1872 Mallee Cliffs Hotel - A wretched roadside inn.

A Tour to the South.

The Murrumbidgee - Balranald to Wentworth.

Australian Town and Country Journal, 28 Sep 1872.

... A few miles further off the road is Tapalin, Mr. John White's sheep station, under the superintendence of Mr. Alfred Cotter. After leaving this station I had a long dreary ride of eighteen miles - through water the greater part of the way, and without a single habitation. The Mallee Cliffs' Hotel was then reached. This so called hotel is a wretched roadside inn, where the liquor is the worst stuff that I have ever tasted, and the food was badly cooked, but the charges were first-class. I was glad to get away in the afternoon and rode ten miles further, or fifty miles from Euston that day. It was just nightfall when I got to McFarlane's station [Mallee Cliffs station], and was most hospitably entertained there. The ride was a long one, and far worse than double the distance over good roads. All short tracks were abandoned in consequence of the rain.

Mallee Cliffs station receives its name from mallee scrub, where the Murray waters, coming in contact with a bend in the river, break the banks, which presents high cliffs overhanging the stream.

Mallee Cliffs station has an area of 230 square miles, and a frontage of sixteen miles to the Darling. It is owned by M. and R. McFarlane. Mrs. McFarlane was the first white woman on the Darling. ... [My comment: Frank Young might have been the publican at the time, Britton having been declared insolvent because of losses involved in running the hotel.]

Pre-1877 John Little Thompson held Mallee Cliffs Hotel??

An Old Colonist

A Fatal Fall

The City Coroner held an inquest at the Lion Hotel, North Adelaide, upon the body of **John Little Thompson**, who fell from the balcony of the hotel on Friday, and sustained injuries which caused his death.

John Little Thompson, son of the deceased and landlord of the hotel, identified the body as that of his father, who was 62 years of age. Up to Wednesday last he had been a resident of Kent Town, but on that day, acting upon medical advice, he came to the hotel. He was generally very feeble and unable to use his legs, the result of blood poisoning. Last saw him alive on Friday at about 1.45 p.m. The deceased occupied an upper bedroom, which led into a passage, and from there it would be an easy matter to reach the balcony. Witness had occasion to go out, and returning a few minutes later his sister met him at the door and said "Father is killed." Had no idea how his father reached the balcony, because owing to his infirmities it would scarcely be possible for him to do so unaided. A large porter box stood on the balcony at the spot from which the deceased fell, and witness surmised that his father, in his eagerness to watch the movements of a cockatoo which had escaped from the hotel, climbed upon the box, became giddy and fell. The deceased was a sober, steady man, and had never been heard to threaten to do away with himself. After the fall he did not speak. Several bones were broken and there was an abrasion over one eye. The accident occurred at 2 o'clock and at a quarter to 6 death took place.

Maud Violet Thompson, corroborated her brother's evidence, and added that she assisted her father from his bedroom into the passage, but not on to the balcony.

Frederick William Cameron, an intelligent lad of 10 years, gave unsworn testimony as to having seen the deceased fall on the pavement, and Robert Leonard Cullen stated that he and two associates carried the unfortunate man into the hotel.

The jury returned a verdict of accidental death, no blame being attached to anyone.

The **late Mr. Thompson was a very old colonist**. He arrived in South Australia in the *Buffalo* in 1836 with his parents, who took up land at Flaxman's Valley, near Eden Valley. In 1856 the deceased was engaged in station pursuits at Mount Arden in conjunction with his brother James. **He made several trips through the north and down to the Great Australian Bight with McKinley, the explorer**. About 1866 he went **to India** by the *Matilda Athol* with horses for the **Indian remounts**, and upon his return visited Guichen Bay, being in this district at the time of the wreck of the ill-fated *Admelia*. He was also a great **friend of the poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon**, and had a very lively recollection of Gordon's great jump at Mount Gambier, being present on that occasion.

In 1868 he left South Australia for **Kulnine station**, Victoria, in the employ of Mr. J. Crozier as head stockman. He was reckoned in those days an exceedingly able horseman. He remained for two or three years at the station, and then went to **Kulkyrie station**, Victoria, contracting with Mr. Seth Miller to

destroy and clear the station of wild cattle, which at time were very numerous and a source of trouble and danger to station owners. He shot with his revolver over 2,000 head on this station, and afterwards went to New South Wales, **TAKING THE MALLEE CLIFFS HOTEL**, where he remained for about two years; subsequently **building the Golgol Hotel**, near Mildura [John Little Thompson is said to have built the Gol Gol Inn in 1877]

From there he purchased the **Strathmore estate** on the River Darling and about 20 miles from Wentworth, residing there for about 10 years. He sold the estate to James Ormond, of Tapio station, in December 1896, and returned to Adelaide. For about 10 months prior to his death Mr. Thompson had not been connected with any business and suffered from blood poisoning. Mr. Thompson reared a family of nine boys and four girls. His wife, Jemina, was the fourth daughter of Mr. Charles F. Lowe, of Mount Barker.

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon in the West-terrace Cemetery.
Chronicle (Adelaide), 23 Apr 1898.

My Comment: I don't have him as a licensee of the Mallee Cliffs Hotel.

1883 Mallee Cliffs Hotel changed hands and closed up.

Wentworth, June 29.

The Mallee Cliffs Hotel, about 40 miles from Wentworth, has changed hands, and is now closed up. Australian Town and Country Journal (NSW), 7 Jul 1883.

[My comment: In 1883 the licence went from Edward Foulger in 1883 to Rose Lester in 1884.]

Tartna Point and the Baker and Barraclough Family.

The license for the Cliffs Hotel at Tartna Point, Menindie was surrendered by William Field in June 1898. Ted and Ettie (nee Barraclough) Baker then moved there, and it became the basis for their property Harcourt.

Barraclough, Linda and Smith, *Kapana, A Place on the River*.

1899 Mallee Cliffs Hotel destroyed by fire.

The Mallee Cliffs Hotel was destroyed by fire on Saturday. The origin of the fire is not known, but incendiarism is suspected. The hotel was one of the early-day landmarks, having been erected in the sixties, and had of late been closed. An enquiry will be held. The premises are believed to have been insured.

Australian Town and Country Journal (NSW), 4 Nov 1899.

Victoria Hotel

Tolarno Station.

Licencees of the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno.

William George Clark 1873 - 1876
Joseph Capstick 1877 - 1881
Richard Lester 1881 - 1885
Eva Lester 1886 - 1888
Robert Agnew 1888 - 1891
Henry Buck 1891 - 1893
Robert Agnew 1893
Eva Agnew 1894 - 1897
James Duncan Warren 1898 - 1899
James Dick Arnold at least 1900.

1875 and 1877 Birth of daughters to wife of Publican.

CLARK - On 13th September, at the Victoria Hotel, near Tolarno, River Darling, wife of William G. Clark, birth of a daughter.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 23 Sep 1875.

Another daughter, 3 February 1877.

South Australian Register, 24 Mar 1877.

1880 Death of brother of Mrs. Capstick of Victoria Hotel.

Deaths

SAUERWALD - On 1st October, at Kapunda, Theodore, youngest brother of Mrs. W. G. Clark, Port Augusta, and Mrs. Capstick, Victoria Hotel, Tolarno, aged 19 years. Capstick

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 28 Oct 1880.

1884 Death - Ferdinand LESTER.

Wentworth Telegraph, 29 March, 1884.

(Rusheen Craig - August 2006.)

On Thursday afternoon the body of Mr Ferdinand LESTER was buried in Wentworth Cemetery. The deceased, who was well known and respected in the town, was **the brother of Mr R. LESTER of Tolarno**. He **drove the coach for several years between Wilcannia and Wentworth**, but of late has been driving in the Paroo country. Through **drinking bad water** he contracted the disease, hydatids, which carried him off at a comparatively early age. His funeral was attended by several prominent citizens. Mr McHENRY (in the absence of Father Campion) read the funeral service.

Oct 1886 Cats to try to destroy rabbits at Tolarno.

Menindie, Monday.

Shearing has finished at **Moorara** on the 18th instant. **Tolarno** expects to cut out on Tuesday next. Not as much difficulty has been experienced this year with the shearers as was expected.

Three hundred DOMESTIC CATS have been turned out by Mr. Reid within the last week on the frontage country of his **Tolarno run, to assist in the destruction of rabbits**. Another consignment is expected up next week from Adelaide.

The Sydney Mail, 30 Oct 1886.

1888 Distance from Wentworth.

Tolarno Owner - Reid

51mls above Pile's station Cuthero

360mls. above Wentworth

Next station upriver is Dunne's Netley (5 mls above Tolarno and 365 mls from Wentworth).

Wentworth Advocate, 14 Jun 1888.

1890 Manager of Tolarno open for Re-engagement.

Sheep Station Management - G. S. Kempe, Manager of Wood's Point Estate, S.A., 1882 to 1885, and Tolarno, River Darling, 1886 to 1890, is open for Re-engagement. References. Address Henley Beach. *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 17 Sep 1890.

1892 For Sale - Tolarno Station and the Victoria Hotel and Tolarno Hotel.

Friday, 25 November 1892.

The Tolarno Station,

Situated on the

River Darling,

About 80 miles from Broken Hill,

And 30 miles from Menindie.

Dalgety and Company Limited (in conjunction with Elder, Smith, and Company Limited) will offer for sale by Public Auction, at the New Wool Exchange, Sydney, on Friday 25 November, 1892, at half-past two p.m., by order of the mortgagees,

The well-known

TOLARNO STATION

Consisting of

479,409 acres of leasehold area

467,164 acres of resumed area

11,711 acres of freehold area

958,284 acres or thereabouts.

Together with the following stock -

66,000 ewes

10,000 wethers

36,000 mixed weaners

6,000 lambs

650 rams

Total 118,650 (more or less).

Also about 300 cattle and 214 horses.

The property has a frontage of 45 miles to the Darling River, and the back country is watered by lakes (one of which is about 20 miles in circumference) and by the creek connecting the lakes with the Darling. There are 15 sheep tanks, ranging up to 21,000yards (original capacity), and eight small tanks in horse paddocks.

Three of the large tanks are fitted with McComas water lifters and troughing, and there is material for fitting of three others. The other improvements are very complete, comprising a comfortable homestead, with vegetable and fruit garden, water laid on from engine pump and cisterns, with all the necessary out-houses, offices, stables, stores, bachelors' quarters (detached), cart-sheds, blacksmith's and saddler's shops, chaff store, &c., woolshed for 52 shearers, with iron roof, fitted with Ferrier's improved short-bale press with sliding boxes; large wool-room, scouring plant, shearers' huts with all necessary yards, &c. There are seven sets of drafting yards and 18 camping and mustering yards situated at convenient places on the station; also two out-stations with all the necessary houses, yards, men's huts, &c., and six boundary riders' huts on the station. Most of the tanks are fenced in with wire fencing and netted. There is about 184 miles of wire fencing (6 wires) on the boundary with Moorara and Albermarle stations, and about 354 miles (5 wire) sub-divisional fencing, and 20 miles netted round horse and ram paddocks.

The station is divided into 27 large paddocks and 14 smaller ones, besides cultivation and horse paddocks. The Victoria and Tolarno Hotels, which are substantially built houses with kitchen and outbuildings, belong to the station, and are at present let for £120 per annum. The expenditure on improvements on this station from 1873 to 1893 is estimated at £28,617. There is also a very extensive plant, including three steam-engines, scouring plant, steam press and dumper, three Ferrier's presses, centrifugal wool-drier, one Robinson screw-press, one Tiffin hand-boring plant, with rods and tubes; one Williams patent tank-cleaning plant, one double-action deep well pump for steam power, a strong iron punt, two Lascelles poison distributors, ploughs, scoops, bullock and horse waggons, drays, and all useful rolling stock, tools, &c.

For further information apply to
Dalgety and Co. Limited, Melbourne and Sydney;
Elder, Smith, and Co., Adelaide.
Solicitors - Knox, Gwynne, and Hargraves, King William-street, Adelaide, S.A.

Argus (Melbourne), 15 Oct 1892

[My comment on **fencing at Tolarno**: That adds up to at least 558 miles of fencing. The distance all the way from Sydney to Bourke is only 420 miles; so the fencing on Tolarno could reach from Sydney to Bourke and have enough left over for another fence from Sydney to Orange (132 miles). Amazing what they achieved!]

1894 Death of Agnew licensee of Victoria Hotel, Tolarno.

The Acting Coroner (Mr. E. O'Donnell) received a telegram from the Menindie police to the effect that Robert Agnew, licensee of the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno, died on the 12th instant, after a brief illness (the *Grazier* reports). As there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, the acting-coroner dispensed with an inquest, and forwarded the usual order for burial.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 21 Apr 1894.

The *Horsham Times* of 1 May 1894 adds the information that Robert Agnew was aged 32 years; and a native of Horsham.

[My comment: You will see that his wife took over the hotel and held it to her death in 1898 - see below.

BDMs give the father of Robert Agnew as William and the mother as Ann.]

1895 Agnew's Homestead Lease and Victoria Hotel for Sale.

Probate in the Estate of Robert Agnew, deceased.

On 16th April 1895, I will sell by public auction, at the Courthouse, Menindie, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, under instructions from the Agent for the Curator of Intestate Estates -

(1st) All Right, Title, and Interest of the Curator of Intestate Estates of and in all that **Homestead Lease** containing 10,240 acres, more or less, being H.L. 97-13 [See my comment on this below], situated in the County of Livingstone, being about half a mile from Tolarno Home Station, and having a frontage of about three-quarters of a mile to the River Darling, with fencing valued at about £300 thereon.

(2nd) All Right, Title, and Interest in the Goodwill and License of the **Victoria Hotel**, Tolarno.

Conditions of Sale.

Terms: 25 per cent cash; the balance to be paid upon completion of purchase.

The above is a splendid investment, and intending purchasers would do well to inspect.

D. Edwards,
Auctioneer.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 5 Apr 1895.

[**My comment:** The Homestead Lease **could not be HL 97-13**. This would indicate a Homestead Lease granted in 1897 and the Probate was being granted in 1895. If you refer to my work on the Homestead Leases you will see that it was 1893 when Robert Agnew's application number 92-13 was granted Homestead Lease 1224, Land District Wilcannia, County of Tolarno, Parish of Tartna. The description above of "County of Livingstone" by 1894 now applied to the correct area.

Also of interest - I have heard that Homestead Leases were "sold" rather than the official version of straight transference. Agnew's probate is the first time I have seen evidence that **the Homestead Leases were sold**. Unfortunately I cannot find any further details of the sale.

Rusheen, March 2013.]

1894 About 150 "free laborers" at camp near Victoria Hotel.

Mr. A. J. Hall, who is appearing for the defence in the cases against the men charged with the Rodney intimidation and other offences, left the Hill again this morning to attend at the adjourned hearing at

Pooncarie. This is the second batch of accused; the first, with the exception of Watts, "the rep.," were acquitted. Watts is out on bail, an appeal having been decided upon. The appeal will be heard before Judge Gibson, at Wentworth.

Detective Roche has been scouring the upper river country in his search for the men charged with firing the *Rodney*.

The Darling is now falling fast, and it is pretty certain that several of the stations which had delayed shearing will have their wool stuck. It is no doubt on this account, and because the "free laborers" are, generally speaking, doing slow work, than a large number of sheep are being travelled away. Momba has just sent down to Mutooroo nearly 12,000 sheep.

Shearing is proceeding with 40 shearers and 32 rouseabouts under the P. U. agreement at Tolarno station, the board being occupied largely by the men who were brought part of the way up the *Rodney*. Mr. I. Gordon is over the shed, and Inspector Cotter has charge of the police there, now numbering about 22, though at times there have been as many as between 60 and 70 thereabouts. **The camp is about three miles below the station and half a mile from the road, near the Victoria Hotel. The camp consists now of under 150**, many good men having left in search of other sheds when they found that shearing had actually begun under the P. U.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 24 Sep 1894.

1894 Bonnor (Rodney Outrage) caught at Victoria Hotel.

T. Bonnor has been arrested at near Tolarno and charged with being concerned in the firing of the *Rodney*. Brought before Mr. H. Hughes, J.P., he has been remanded for eight days.

Bonnor shore at Albermarle and, having cut out, went down the river and dropped in at the Victoria Hotel, on Tolarno. There he fell in with a number of "free laborers" who were brought up with the *Rodney*. Subsequently Tipper, who gave evidence in the case before, suspected that Bonnor was one of the storming party and gave information to that effect.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 15 Nov 1894.

1895 Quin advertises for a General Servant for Victoria Hotel.

Wanted, good General Servant; must be good cook and laundress; wages £1 per week; for Victoria Hotel, Tolarno. Apply P. Quinn, Southern Cross Hotel.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 5 Jan 1895.

1895 Attack on young girl at Victoria Hotel.

Broken Hill, March 28.

At the Quarter Sessions today the principal sentence was that of four years' imprisonment passed on Walter John Jones for breaking and entering. **John O'Brien** stood trial for the **charge of assaulting with intent Leah Shaw, aged 12 years**. The girl, who lived at the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno, where the accused was employed, was aroused from sleep by someone in her bed. She sprang out, but the man, who proved to be O'Brien, pulled her back. He eventually allowed the girl to go without harming her,

and she ran screaming in her nightdress to a cottage a quarter of a mile away where her mother lived. The accused was sentenced to two years and six months imprisonment.
South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide), 30 Mar 1895.

1895 Pigeon Match at Victoria Hotel postponed.

The pigeon match at the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno, has been postponed till July 25. The prize money has likewise been increased from £15 to 20 guineas. The promoter is Mr. D. B. Dunn.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 4 Jul 1896.

1897 Coan attacked Gallagher at Victoria Hotel.

James Coan, a powerful and athletic looking man, was charged with unlawfully assaulting Henry Gallagher at the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno, on the 19th instant. The evidence went to show that a dispute arose about a bottle being thrown; and when Coan demanded who threw it, Gallagher in jest admitted he did, although as a matter of fact he did not throw it. As the penalty of his jest he was set upon by Coan, who knocked him down by dealing right and left in succession, dragged him outside, and kicked him on the ground. The bench regarded the kicking as brutal, cowardly, and unnecessary attack upon the complainant, and committed Coan to Broken Hill gaol for two months with hard labor.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 27 Oct 1897.

1898 Death of Mrs. Agnew of the Tolarno Hotel.

Mrs. Agnew, of the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno, was a passenger by the river steamer Emily Jane recently. She was travelling to Adelaide to seek medical advice, but took a sudden turn for the worse, and died near Polia woolshed. Her remains were interred at Pooncarie. The deceased was a very old resident of the lower Darling.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 24 Mar 1898.

[BDMs show Evaline Agnew dying 1898; Father Terence J.; Mother Margaret.
In 1887 Robert Agnew married Evangeline Lester , Wentworth district]

1900 Victoria Hotel to be sold.

Victoria Hotel business at Tolarno is to be sold.
Federal Standard, Wentworth, April 1900.

Wanted to Sell, the BUSINESS of the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno Station. For full particulars apply J. D. Warren, Tolarno, near Menindie.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 23 Apr 1900.

My comment: James Duncan Warren held the publican's licence for the Victoria Hotel 1898 to 1899/1900.

1902 Stealing Provisions from the Victoria Hotel.

On June 28 last the cellar of the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno, was entered by thieves and a quantity of provisions and some liquor were stolen there-from. The licensee, Patrick Curran, locked the cellar door about 7 o'clock in the evening, and on going to the place the following morning noticed the imprints of a pair of hobnailed boots on the cellar floor and the absence of a particular ham and a number of other articles. He followed the tracks to a camp on the river bank, and from there to Tolarno station, where he heard that two men were camped some distance off. The camp was found and searched, and a ham bone and other articles were discovered there and identified by Curran as his property.

The camp belonged to **Edward Marcus**, alias S. E. Millard, alias "Bluey," and **John Norton**, who were arrested and charged with breaking and entering. On being brought up at the Menindie Police Court, Norton admitted he had stolen the articles, but said that he had not broken anything to get into the cellar. The charge was now altered to one of larceny; and accused pleaded not guilty. They were undefended.

After hearing the evidence, the jury returned a verdict of guilty, and accused were remanded for sentence.

There were two other charges against the accused - one for having broken into the shop of Donald Hooper in Argent-street and stolen razors, cigars, &c., the other having stolen certain articles of clothing from a hut at Mulculca station.

Prisoners were sentenced each to 18 months' imprisonment with hard labor.
Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 12 Aug 1902.

1905 Death of Kenny, proprietor of Victoria Hotel.

Death from Heart Disease.

Our Menindie correspondent writes: -

T. Kenny, proprietor of the Victoria Hotel, Tolarno Station, died on Saturday night of heart disease. He leaves a widow and one child. Mr. Kenny was highly respected by his many friends, and great sympathy is felt for his widow.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 26 Jan 1905.

[BDMs show Thomas D. Kenny died in the Menindie District area in 1905; Father was Thomas; Mother was Mary.]

1907 Edwards, licensee of the Victoria Hotel, is recovering.

Mr. H. J. Edwards, licensee of the Victoria Hotel, who has been seriously indisposed for some time, is reported this morning to be progressing towards recovery as favorably as can be expected

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 20 Jul 1907.

1910 Jones gives notice of application for License for Victoria Hotel.

Sixth Schedule.

Liquor Act, 1898.

Notice of application for Publican's License.

I, George Daniel Jones, of Tolarno, River Darling, near Menindie, in the State of New South Wales, Boarding House Keeper, do hereby give notice that I desire to obtain, and will at the next licensing Court, to be holden at Menindie on 31st day of October, instant, apply for a certificate authorising the use of a PUBLICAN'S LICENSE for the premises situate at TOLARNO aforesaid, and to be known by the sign of "The Victoria Hotel," consisting of six bedrooms and three sitting rooms (exclusive of the accommodation required for my family), together with stabling and conveniences, in compliance with section 24 of the Liquor Act, 1898.

Dated the 7th day of October, 1910.

GEORGE DANIEL JONES.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 13 Oct 1910.

Jan 1911 100 Miles of Flame near Wentworth.

100 MILES OF FLAME.

GREAT FIRE NEAR WENTWORTH

BIGGEST FOR FIFTY YEARS.

Wentworth, 10 January 1911.

A most disastrous bush fire is raging on the back country of the Mallee Cliffs station; the recently acquired property of Messrs. Chaffey, Salmon, and Dunne; also of the Moorara, Tolarno, and Cuthero stations, and the adjoining lands known as No Man's Land.

It was at first thought that all the back country from the bore near Euston to Arumpo, the back station of Tarcoola, including Prunnie, Frank's Plains, and Turlee was on fire, and that several homesteads were burnt out, including those of Messrs. Watts, Borrman, Hippisly, Weaver, Williams, and Barnfield, but telephone communication proved otherwise.

The fire is supposed to have started on the Mallee Cliffs station, about 15 miles straight back from Mr David Wicket's lease on the River Murray, and out back, taking in No Man's Land and extending towards Arumpo, at the back of Tarcoola station, on the River Darling, and at the left to within five miles of the Wamberra boundary, the property of Mr. S. Byrne. That portion is being handled by 100 men, whilst at Euston the men have mustered strong to beat it at their end. At the back all the hands from the back stations are pouring in, armed with all the latest fire-fighting appliances. With this, together with assistance from the Darling settlers, residents from Wentworth, and Mildura, and on the River Murray, the fire should be beaten all round. It is 30 miles long and 20 miles wide, and is estimated to be 100 miles round.

Crowds of volunteers are ready to exchange places with those at the scene of the action. The provision difficulty prevents the forces already there being more than doubled. It is the biggest fire seen here for 50 years, and if prompt action had not been taken it is thought the whole of the Lower Darling on the eastern side would have been burnt out. News is anxiously awaited from those in charge of the fire.

The fact of Tapio and Turlee being in the immediate vicinity of the fire would lend color to the rumor that Tapio station, the property of Mr. E. A. Barnfield, is on fire, but fortunately the stations are many miles apart, with Wamberra in between them. If Tapio station had got alight, then all the adjoining leases would most assuredly have gone too. A rumor that the fire had broken out between Avoca and Moorna station boundaries proved untrue.

Poverty Bay Herald (New Zealand) 19 January 1911.

See also The Cliffs Hotel.

Harp of Erin (Netley)

Menindie - Wilcannia district.

Licencees of the Harp of Erin.

(Mullah Cullah)

Charles Henry Medlicott 1869 - 1875

Henry Traynor 1876

Ellen Adams Treanor 1877 - 1878

Henry Church (at Menindie Road, Netley) 1879 - 1880

Sylvester Byrnes 1882 - 1885

David Calcott 1885 - 1887

George Tainsh 1887 - 1888

Tobias Martin (at Mullah Cullah) 1888 - 1890

Anders Pederson 1888 - 1891

Charles H. Medlicott 1891 - 1893

Francis E. Dominish (at Netley Station, Darling River) 1895

Matthew Charles Raven (at Netley, near Menindie) 1896

Charles Robert Raven 1897 - 1898

Patrick Joseph Kenny 1899 - to at least 1900.

1893 A man killed at the Harp of Erin Hotel.

A man named Thomas Ferres [Thomas Ferris - in later reports] was killed at the Harp of Erin Hotel, Netley Station, near Menindie, during a drunken quarrel with another man named Stevens [James Stevens - in later reports]. It is stated that an old grievance existed between the men. Stevens has been arrested on a charge of manslaughter.

Argus (Melbourne), 3 Jan 1893.

1894 Dominish takes over the Harp of Erin Hotel.

Harp of Erin Hotel,

Netley Station.

River Darling.

All debts contracted after this date to be paid and received by me.

Frank Dominish, 9 July 1894.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 20 Jul 1894.

1894 Drowning of Miss A. C. Raven.

The body recovered.

The body of the young lady, Annie Cox Raven, who came to a sad death by drowning through the upsetting of the hawking boat, Eva Millicent, on the Darling River, on June 29, was discovered floating down the river last Friday evening, October 26, at about 6 o'clock, by Mr. Dunn and Mr. O'Brien, of Netley Station. The body now awaits the inquest at the Harp of Erin Hotel. It is stated that when taken out of the water the body was like marble, and not disfigured in any way. Even the clothes were intact; only some of her hair was missing.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 29 Oct 1894.

[BDMs show the father to be Matthew C. Raven, and the mother Martha.]

1896 COACH LICENCE BROKEN HILL TO HARP OF ERIN HOTEL.

Licensing Court.

A stage carriage license for a vehicle **to carry three passengers** from Broken Hill to the Harp of Erin Hotel, Netley station, was granted to Charles Raven.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 20 Aug 1896.

1898 COACH BROKEN HILL TO HARP OF ERIN HOTEL, NETLEY AND TOLARNO STATIONS.

Coach Arrangements

between

BROKEN HILL and MENINDIE

Harp of Erin Hotel,

Netley and Tolarno Stations.

Leaves Centennial Hotel, Broken Hill for Menindie on Saturdays at 9 o'clock, leaves Menindie for Harp of Erin Hotel Netley and Tolarno Stations on Sundays returning from Harp of Erin Hotel to Menindie on Wednesdays at 12 o'clock; leaving Menindie for Broken Hill on Thursday at 6 o'clock.

Barrier Miner (Broken Hill), 1 Aug 1898.

1899 Death at Harp of Erin Hotel from sunstroke.

On the 19th February, at the Harp of Erin Hotel, Netley Station, River Darling, N.S.W., from the effects of sunstroke, Lancelot Godfrey Thomas Whitfield (Tich), the second son of the late H. A. Whitfield, of Cuthero Station, River Darling, N.S.W., in his 20th year. Buried at Cuthero.

Chronicle (Adelaide), 11 Mar 1899.

[BDMs give the father as Henry A. Whitfield, and the mother as Mary A. Whitfield]

1869 LYNE DIED OF EXHAUSTION NEAR POONCAIRA (POONCARIE).

A man named Richard Lyne died from exhaustion near Pooncaira in the South Western district. The parties who found the poor man used every possible exertion to save his life, but in vain.
Sydney Morning Herald 27 Feb 1869.

Shocking Death in the Bush.

The Darling Downs Gazette and General Advertiser (Toowoomba, Qld.), 10 Mar 1869.

On Sunday, the 31st January, Messrs. Peppin's (of Wanganella) overseer left the **Gall Gall Range Station for Manfred (forty miles)** to procure meat &c.; when in the Mallee, about nine miles from the station, he met a man sitting down. He got up and asked the overseer how far it was to Mr. Peppin's station, and the answer was "nine miles." The overseer thus writes:- "The wanderer then asked if I had any water, and I gave him what I had. He said he would reach all right.

On arriving at Manfred I learned that he would not take anything to eat or drink with him when he left there. I left as soon as I could get some meat on Monday evening, and took water and food with me, in case the man was still on the road. Another man had also started. I came up on him about 3 in the morning; he was lying not far from where I had first passed him. As he could not go on I gave him what I had to eat and drink; but he could not get on my horse; so I returned home and took out the cart and brought him in.

We gave him broth and gruel, and he at first seemed better, but then gradually worse, but he did not think he said he would die. On Wednesday I told him I thought he would die, as he appeared to be getting weaker. On Thursday I had to feed him with a spoon, and when away my wife attended to him; but with all care he died on Friday morning about half-past 2. I reported to the Pooncarie Police, and have buried him.

I find that he was **a native of Liverpool (London)**, and that he was baptised on 30 June 1809, at Christ Church, Liverpool. His name was **Richard Lyne**. I have written to his friends at home, and I will send them some papers and a watch, &c., left, which he wished me to do. The man had **been lying about the road, it seems, nine days**, and only for the showers he must have perished sooner. He should have been able to travel forty miles with the showers he had without any difficulty.

1869 POLICE, BUSHRANGERS AND SLY-GROG SHOPS, WENTWORTH /POONCAIRA (POONCARIE) AREA.

From Pastoral Times.

From a Correspondent on the Darling.

I forward you this communication with a view to point out some of the abuses that exist down here; the facts stated are by no means overdrawn, but far below the actual state of matters, the sly-grog shops are a subject of notoriety - these men carry on their calling without let or hindrance in broad day; for instance there are four shanties and three licensed houses within a distance of thirty miles - this, you must admit, is a very bad state of matters.

Then again as to the police, they are in a most disorganised state. The case referred to was a case that happened to one of my men - in order to make sure of capturing the culprit, the case was reported both at Pooncaira and Wentworth, so that if the man had gone either up or down the river the police would have a good chance of getting him, and moreover, I put the police on his track, and told them where his tracks had been seen going up the river, and this is a country so bare that a man's tracks could be followed everywhere. The police, however, take a ride out for a few days, and not finding their man, return again, on their way back one might needs call at a public-house, and remains there drinking for two or three days, while the other amused himself kangaroo hunting.

Sydney Morning Herald 29 Apr 1869.

1869 POST OFFICE ESTABLISHED AT POONCARIE.

NEW POST OFFICES [include] -

On the 16th instant a post office will be established at Pooncarie, between Wentworth and Menindie. Gazette, 6 July 1869.

Maitland Mercury & Hunter River General Advertiser, 8 July 1869.

My Comment: The Post Office List appearing online at www.premierpostal.com/cgi-bin/wsProd.sh/Viewpoed.w has the Pooncaira Post Office opening on the 16th July 1869 (as above). It closed on 30 June 1874.

It then reopened on 1 April 1878.

From the news item included above in the hotel section on this page you will see that Mr. Lobsey was the Post and Telegraph Officer at Pooncarie in 1884; he was blinded for a week. Rusheen, Mar 2013.

1874 SHEEP-STEALING.

During the hearing of a police charge information reached Pooncaira that there were traces on the boundary fence showing that sheep had been removed from the run in such a way as to cause suspicion that they had been stolen by men who were fencing.

Sub-Inspector Carter, who happened to be at Pooncaira watching the other case, at once took the matter into hand. The Wentworth Police Magistrate being there also, the warrant authorizing a search was issued. The Inspector, accompanied by the Superintendent of Tarcoola Station, Mr. W. McPherson, and a mounted constable, with the black tracker who originally reported the occurrence, forthwith started.

They travelled all night and reached the Snuggery Camp, under the charge of Mr. J. M. Byrne, who rendered every assistance. They got to the place where the sheep were alleged to have been stolen, tracked them for five miles, and came to the fencers' camp, where they found the carcasses of three sheep in salt. They discovered the skins of four sheep, bearing the **Tarcoola brand**, and a boy at once candidly told the circumstances under which the animals had been taken.

Three men, **Cameron, Colburn, and Gidder, were taken into custody**, and the case was heard at Pooncaira on Thursday, February 12, when the defendants were committed for trial. Cameron, who was the contractor for the fencing, was not connected with the actual seizure and stealing, and was only accused of receiving.

The police officers deserve praise for their promptitude. They travelled nearly thirty miles, and reached the camp at dawn, so that there was no slowness of foot. It being borne in mind that now all sheep on the Darling River runs are turned loose, it will be recognised that there is little actual superintendence, and the settler must trust to the honesty of people passing through the stations.

South Australian Register, 20 Feb 1874.

1875 MARRIAGE OF MARY ANN CHAPMAN OF POONCAIRA.

WINTERBOTTOM - CHAPMAN

On 3 Dec, at Kensington, by license, by Rev. W. Nicholls, John Thomas Winterbottom, of Wentworth, to Mary Ann Chapman, of Pooncaira, River Darling.

South Australian Register, 1 Jan 1875.

1876 POONCAIRA 200 MILES ABOVE WENTWORTH. DISTANCES OF OTHER TOWNS.

After leaving Wentworth the first town on the Darling is **Pooncaira, 200 miles** above.

Menindie is 439 miles above Wentworth, and **Wilcannia**, which claims to be the chief town of the Darling district, and which is a thriving place, about **700 miles**. **Louth is a small settlement 1,174 miles** above Wentworth, and the township of **Bourke, which is not far from the Queensland boundary, 1,337 miles**.

These are of course the **distances by water**.

The Argus, 12 Feb 1878.

1876 COST OF PROPOSED RAILWAY TO POONCAIRA.

Sayings and Doings in the New South Wales Parliament.

... from Nap-nap, at the junction of the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee, to Pooncaira, on the Darling, £715,000.

Brisbane Courier, 2 Aug 1876.

Nov 1876 Viability of such a railway link.

The Government proposes to construct the trunk line to the neighbourhood of Junee, and then, giving the important town of Wagga Wagga the "go-bye," to carry it to Narrandera, and then to pick it up again at Pooncaira! Did his friend Mr. Robertson think the people of this colony were mad? Did he think that the squatters of the Darling and back Lachlan, having got their wool to Pooncaira on a railway constructed at our expense, were then going to tug against the stream all the way to Narrandera for the pleasure of unloading and loading it at the latter place, and still further gratification of forwarding it to Sydney **when they could send it from Pooncaira to Melbourne, not a third of the distance?**

Sydney Morning Herald, 6 Nov 1876.

1878 TEMPERATURE 125 DEGREES IN THE SHADE.

The weather during the week has been extremely hot, the thermometer in some instances registering over 125 degrees in the shade. Stock movements are nil, in fact, in the present state of the country it is almost if not quite impossible to travel. Our Menindie correspondent writes:- "Mr. H. F. Battersby started some time ago from Caulpaulin Station with 385 head of cattle for the Melbourne market. He got down as far as Pooncarie but received a telegram there to take the cattle back to the station owing to the bad state of the country on the Lower Darling and Upper Murray Rivers."

Wilcannia Times, 17 Jan 1878.

1880 THREE YEAR OLD DIES OF SUNSTROKE AT POONCARIE TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

Death.

On 3 January, at Telegraph Office, Pooncarie, from sunstroke, Oliver Edward **MASON**, aged 3 years. Sydney Morning Herald, 5 Jan 1880.

[BDMs show the 1880 death with the father as Walter and mother as Emma.

In 1877 Oliver Edward is shown as being born to Walter George J. Mason and Emma Susan Mason in the Gundagai district.

In 1871, in the Macleay River district, Walter George John Mason married Emma Susan Crispin.]

and

Jun 1880 **Exchange of appointments in the Electric Telegraph Department.**

Mr. W. G. **Mason**, station-master at Pooncarie
to exchange with

Mr. M. [T.?] Canty, lines repairer at Gundagai. W
Sydney Morning Herald, 5 June 1880.

1881 PROPERTY AT WILCANNIA IN GEYER'S WILL TO JAMES BYRNES OF COONARGEE NEAR POONCARIE.

Applications made to bring the lands under the provisions of the Real Property Act.

MDXXVII. An undivided moiety or half a share of and in 2 roods and 7 1/2 perches, and two roods and 7 perches - being **allotments 7 and 8 of section 3, town and parish of Wilcannia**, and county of Young.

Applicant - **James Byrnes of Coonargee** near Pooncarie.

How title claimed - Trustee **under the will of Emil Frederick Christian Geyer.**

Caveats may be dated to 23 July.

Sydney Morning Herald, 25 Jun 1881.

1881 POONCAIRA TO MENINDIE AND DISTRICT, RIVER DARLING, BY THE RAVEN.

Town and Country Journal, 6 August 1881, p.267

See illustrations [3 Sept 1881].

1881 Sketches of Pooncarie and District.

[Red folder labelled Newspaper articles. About a third of the way through. Copy sketches]

VILLAGE OF POONCAIRA (Pooncarie).

Pooncarie and Vicinity, Darling River, New South Wales.

1. The township of Pooncarie.
2. Wardinbro, Selection on the Darling.
3. Steamer at Woodcutters' Camp.
4. Blacks' Burial Place near the Darling.

Pooncaira is a very nice place indeed! I spent a pleasant fortnight there (stuck in the rain), although the people down in Wentworth said two days were enough to kill any man from town. I think the inhabitants of the "federal city" are possessed by the green-eyed monster, and are beginning to look with envy at the rapid strides which this "little paradise" has made of late. I had been waiting to leave here by the coach for some days, but, upon hearing that all the seats for the next two or three weeks were engaged, was glad to avail myself of the opportunity of being driven up **to Menindie, a distance of 85 miles**, by Mr. Nichols, a selector in the district; the last coach to pass Pooncaira *en route* for Menindie being monopolised by a commercial traveller and his traps.

All along this road feed is springing up grandly, clothing the landscape in a garment of bright green, in place of the dull neutral tint, which was the invariable rule before the rains. There are only two stations on this road, viz., **Moorara**, 16 miles from Pooncaira, belonging to **Messrs. Barrit and Wreford**; and **Tolano [Tolarno]**, 30 miles from Menindie, the property of **Messrs. W. and R. T. Reed** - both of sheep stations; the latter is now managed by **Mr. John Emery**, but for many years previous it was under the management of **Mr. John Owen**, who has along with some of the members of his family taken up a selection on the run.

Menindie, like Wentworth, situated on the west bank of the Darling, is the furthest from Sydney of any town on that river, namely, 850 miles. The banks here are very steep, so that when the river is low, as at present, it is no easy matter getting a vehicle onto the punt. As we arrived here after dark, we agreed with the puntman that it was the better part of valour for us to leave our buggy behind and cross without it, which we did. Not so a "flash" bagman who was travelling this road some time ago, driving a four-in-hand; he, wishing I suppose, to show off his skill, and thrusting aside with disdain all cautionary advice or offers of help, started down the bank, and losing command of his horses, they rushed over the length of the punt, and, like the divine of old, were drowned; he, hapless wight (sic), was fished out by his late advisers, who chaffed him most unmercifully, but he, "had never a word to say." His "flashness," let us hope, had departed for ever.

The **population of Menindie is 100**, more or less, and this reminds me that one of the storekeepers who accepted the post of **census enumerator for the district**, which he expected would not be much beyond the immediate neighbourhood of the town, was both surprised and disgusted to find that it extended from Menindie to the South Australian and Queensland borders, taking in both Wilcannia and the diggings; in fact, **an area larger than Great Britain**.

Higgledy-piggledy is the only phrase which expresses to a nicety the manner in which the town of Menindie is laid out (?) [as written]. Perched on a collection of little sandhills, which effectively raise it above all floods, it is composed of buildings, most of them brick, which, judging from their appearance might have been dropped by chance, like a collection of children's toy bricks, and there left, every person having built his house exactly where he pleased, irrespective of all order; even the Government have not escaped the general mixing, as they have erected **the court-house in the centre of one of the main streets**. By far the most **handsome building** in the town is the post and telegraph office, which has just been completed, the contract having been on hand for two years. As will be seen from the sketch, it is covered by an "umbrella roof." Mr. Holding, the post and telegraph master, tells me that the internal arrangements and ventilation leave nothing to be desired, but there is no doubt that the two or three feet added to the verandah would be an improvement.

The want of a bank is much felt, those at Wentworth and Wilcannia being the nearest. It is **no uncommon thing, I am told, to have no cash whatever in the town**, cheques and I.O.U's. being the only medium of circulation. Inspectors of different banks have passed through at times, but "somehow, they didn't see it." The consequence is that many of the shearers and other station hands, instead of calling in at Menindie for the purpose of getting any little thing they may want at the stores, and eventually knocking down the whole of their cheques - they rarely, if ever, go to the town with the direct intention of doing this - set out for either Wentworth or Wilcannia, much to the disgust of the local bonifaces. They don't always arrive at their destination, though; circumstances, in the shape of way-side shanties, sometimes intervene.

In marked contrast to the post office is **the courthouse**, a brick building, which I before said was erected in the centre of one of the main streets. The police magistrate, Mr. Hutchinson, was kind enough to show me the interior of this splendid edifice. It is actually dropping away piecemeal, and I feel assured that the time cannot be far distant when it will come down bodily when least expected, at which time let us hope the Colonial Architect won't be in it. The police barracks, too, are a full quarter of a mile away, which is not exactly good management.

There is **great need for a lands office here**, as people from 60 miles below Menindie, wishing to transact any business with that department, have to travel all the way to Wilcannia which makes a distance of **160 miles journey**, and if they don't happen to be in time have to wait a week. This is rather

hard, especially on people wishing to take up selections; but **since the Albert goldfields have been proclaimed, a great portion of the west bank of the Darling is now debarred from selection.** These goldfields start at the N.E. corner of the county of Menindie, on the river, about 14 miles above the town, thence due west to the S.A. boundary, thence north along that to the Queensland border; from there E. to Hungerford, thence by a line S. to the starting point on the river; they **cover an area of about 42,000 square miles, whilst the goldfields proper are probably not more than 400 square miles.**

There is a Government school in Menindie under the superintendence of Mr. James Willoughby, but the attendance is, I believe, very small. Since the courthouse was no longer allowed to be used for that purpose about seven months ago, there has been no Sunday school held here. This, I should think, is a misfortune, judging from the way in which I heard a promising boy of about seven summers give vent to a string of oaths, of which the typical "bullocky" might truly be proud. There is no Protestant place of worship in Menindie, but to the credit of the Roman Catholics, who are by far the smaller and poorer part of the community, be it said, they have a nice little brick church. The building is there, yes; but it's going to rack and ruin for want of being used, and is now given over to the white ants.

Another instance of this is **the hospital**, which at one time must have been a very comfortable building. It is about three quarters of a mile outside the town, and is now the refuge for loafers; in other words, a den of thieves, some of whom have lately changed this residence for the neighbouring lock-up. By them the place has been **reduced to a mere shell**, all the woodwork, from the doors to the window frames, having been burnt by fire; the walls, too, like those of our friend Gus (may he pardon the simile), are covered with works of art of perhaps not the most edifying character; also the breathings of unknown poets, of which the following, evidently written by a disappointed Mount Browner, is a sample -

I'm a new chum that I own

Coaxed by Trollope from my home (sic)

He told me it was a land of gold

But, so help me Bob, I have been sold.

There have been several attempts made to resuscitate the hospital, but without success, the chief cause of this being a want of outside support, many of the neighbouring squatters refusing to give anything whatever towards this purpose. I send a sketch of it taken from a distance, as it does not improve upon too close inspection.

In addition to the line of **coaches** which run **weekly between Wentworth and Wilcannia**, passing through Menindie, there is **a weekly coach to Terowie**, the present terminus of the South Australian main north railway, going via Mount Gipps, a small township of about three buildings in the Barrier Ranges, distant from Menindie some 75 miles. About 30 miles on this road is a quartz reef of pure white stone, near which a police station is erected. In the neighbourhood of this there is a splendid limestone. The contractor for the post and telegraph office, running short of lime, and the river not being navigable at the time, sent out teams to this place, fetched in a quantity, made a kiln, burnt it, and pronounced it the best he had ever used, and he was a man who had large experience in the building of State schools in Victoria.

I have seen examples of **galena from the Barrier Ranges**, the Government analysis of which shows **70 per cent lead and 3 per cent silver.** It is however, impossible to say what quantity exists, as no real investigation has yet been made. There is a private individual at work there now who has made a contract to have 100 tons of it carted down to the Burra, a distance of 270 miles, at £4 per ton. An old resident of Menindie, about 12 years ago, loaded a barge with 30 tons of this metal from the same

locality, and, as time was no object, let it drift down to Wentworth - it took three months - whence it was taken by steam to Adelaide, and eventually to England, where, after paying expenses, a small margin of profit was left. Deposits of copper, too, have been got at easy depths, showing a percentage of 75. In some parts of the Barrier Ranges, especially on the southern slopes, the quartz boulders present, from a distance, the appearance of long rows of tents. It is, however, of the kind technically known as "hungry quartz."

The journey from Menindie to Adelaide by this route is accomplished in the short space of three days, at the cost of only £5. There is a weekly coach from Mount Gipps to the diggings. Some time ago a coach was advertised to run between Menindie and Mount Browne; in fact, one or two did start, but for want of encouragement they have been discontinued; they would most likely be running now if it was generally known that there is not more than 20 miles difference between this route and that from Wilcannia to the goldfields. Whilst I write a party of six or seven are just starting out for there, taking with them a waggon and six horses, and also a plentiful supply of provisions, which are just now very scarce on the field. May good luck attend their efforts.

Menindie is noted from the fact of **Burke and Wills** having made it the starting point for their last fatal expedition in 1860. Several relics in the shape of camel shoes, waterbags, &c., have been picked up by residents. Forty miles on the Mount Gipps-road is a cave, in a spur of the ranges, known as "Burke's Cave." Here these gallant explorers camped for some time. It has since been used as a kitchen by a man settled there called Glendinning. About a quarter of a mile outside the town situated on the plain, is a grave of one of the Afghans employed by the explorers to look after the camels; two of his countrymen came down from Wilcannia purposely to put a fence round the last resting place of their friend. One of the residents of this town, who, by-the-bye, is a bit of a botanist, is going to plant a couple of Tasmanian gums here, which, being on a somewhat bare plain, will act as a landmark after the fence has disappeared. Several of the camels, intended for use in the expedition, are still at large in the district; two or three were caught not long ago by the Afghans employed for that purpose, but this is a matter of no small difficulty, as horses cannot be persuaded to go within a mile of them so great is their fear of these "ships of the desert," whom they can smell from an incredible distance.

In Menindie are four public-houses and two stores. Mr. W. C. Young, one of the storekeepers, acts also as the local auctioneer and commission agent. Judging from the number of waggons which I have seen taking in stores, &c., at his place before starting for the diggings, the success or failure of these I should think must be of considerable consequence to him as well as to the whole town. When I arrived at Menindie, the annual races, at which over £500 were given in prizes, were just over, everyone interested having "cleared out" to Wilcannia for the races there.

Seven miles from Menindie is **Kinchega Station, the property of Mr. H. B. Hughes**. This station, which is under the superintendence of Mr. H. T. Phillips, extends from the Darling to the South Australian border. **Albermarle Station**, 18 miles from Menindie, is **the property of Messrs. J. and J. Phelps, and is managed by Mr. F. E. Vandeleur**. There are several fine lakes on this run, which, except in unusually dry seasons, may be depended upon for water. These proprietors of both these runs have expended a lot of money in improvements.

I walked out the other Sunday two miles and a half to have a look at the **Menindie Lake**, which has a circumference of about 50 miles; there was no water in it at the time, but I am told that when full, it will keep the river up for three months, there being a very deep, narrow creek of the same name running from it into the Darling. I send a sketch of a bridge over this, which I would care about crossing when it was running a banker.

There is one thing I should mention before winding up, although it has not come under my personal supervision, and that is, **the pollution of the Darling by wool-washing**. This arises from washing the wool in the river, instead of being at the trouble of pumping the water up; the consequence is that last year tons' weight of poisoned fish floated past Menindie, giving forth the **villainous stench that only decaying fish** can, whilst the river itself on calm days was covered by a thick scum altogether unfitting the water for any domestic purposes. Although, as I say, I have seen nothing of this, I have received the information on the most unquestionable authority.

My next letter will be from Wilcannia, which is, if I may believe all I hear, "the future inland capital of N. S. Wales," and at the same time the "fastest" town in Australia. As regards the latter characteristics, I shall soon be able to judge for myself; the other I must leave for time to prove.

1885 THE MINISTERIAL PARTY IN THE SOUTH-WEST.

... visited **Burtundy**, leased by **Hon. T. F. Cumming** ... covers 130,000 acres, extending along 30 miles of the western bank of the Darling. 10,000 sheep at present on the run, which carries 15,000 in a fair season. The rainfall on this run has only been 2.33 inches up to date, spread over six days. No tanks are necessary on this run, which only extends eight miles back from the Darling, but numerous tanks are constructed on it.

Arumpo run, comprising an area of 170,000 acres, and extending 30 miles back from the Darling, is also leased by Cummings, but the run does not adjoin Burtundy. The country along the latter is very poor, little or no feed being visible along the line of route. It was said that the soil was not bad, and that with a good rainfall it was fairly productive. ...

Tarcoola was next reached. The area of the holding which includes Tarcoola and Panban, is 500,000 acres, only about 2000 acres of which are freehold, the remainder being leased under the Land Act of 1861. Three years ago 87,000 sheep were shorn on this station, but now they only muster 30,000, and 15 acres only keep a sheep in good condition. The rainfall on the run this year was two and a half inches. **Managed by Michael Darchy, brother of Fritz Darchy manager of Oxley run**, which was passed on the way to Balranald. Ministerial party slept at the station and **driven to Pooncarie** the next day.

Sydney Morning Herald 13 May 1885.

1886 POONCAIRA COMMONS TRUSTEES APPOINTED.

Government Gazette.

David S. Mitchell,

Alexander Rankin,

William Ferguson,

Neil Neilson,

Henry S. Burgess.

Sydney Morning Herald, 10 Feb 1886.

1891 COST OF FARES BY STEAMER.

For Wentworth, Pooncaira, and Menindie -
The Fast Passenger Steamer WARADGERY

will leave Murray Bridge on Saturday, 28th inst., and Morgan on Monday, 2nd March, after arrival of Adelaide train, for above Ports, arriving Wentworth Thursday, Pooncaira Friday, and Menindie Saturday.

Quickest dispatch on the River.

Fares - To Wentworth, £3; Pooncaira, £4 12s. 6d.; and Menindie £6.

Note - The above Steamer will make regular Fortnightly Trips between Murray Bridge and Menindie every alternate Monday. Full particulars on application to

Alfred E. Randell,
Royal Exchange, Adelaide.

South Australian Register (Adelaide), 27 Feb 1891.

1900 YEWIN'S DIRECTORY OF LANDHOLDERS POONCARIE DIVISION.

Name of Landholder - Postal Address.

Agriculturalists (Wheat, Maize, Barley, Oats, Potatoes, Tobacco, Sugar, Grapes, Orchard, Other Crops); Dairy Farmers; Graziers.

MENINDIE POST OFFICE

- Nicholls, W. H. C. - Timpunga.
Grazier.

POONCARIE POST OFFICE.

- Australian Mortgage, Land, and Finance Co. - Tarcoola, Pan Ban, and Arumpo.
Wheat, Barley, Other Crops, Grazier.

- Barnfield, Eli - Coona Point, Cuthero.
Wheat.

- Barrett, Charles - Mallara.
Grapes, Orchard, Grazier.

- Barrett & Wreford - Moorara.
Wheat, Grapes, Orchard, Grazier.

- Bath, James. H.[written as Bath, Jas. H.] - Ringwood.
Grazier.

- Byrnes, S. - Wicklow.
Wheat, Grazier.
- Garroway, Charles [written as Chas.] - Menda.
Wheat, Grazier.
- Manby, James -
* in Grazier column
- Morphett, Nora -
Wheat.
- McCleary, John -
* in Grazier column.
- McGregor, John S. - Reedy Point, Mallara.
Grazier.
- McKay, Alexander - Sandy Point, Cuthero.
Wheat.
- McLeod, Norman - Aukindie.
Grazier.
- Perring, Richard H. - Cuba.
* in Grazier column.
- Pile Bros. - Cuthero.
Wheat, Grazier.
- Porter, Mary - Wondinbro.
Wheat, Grazier.
- Rankin, Alexander - Federal Farm.
* in Grazier column.
- Richards, Charles - Selma.
Grazier.
- Richardson, Edward P. - Wolverton.
Wheat, Grazier.
- Ward, Thomas - Eulo.
Grazier. Watson, William - Hackney.
Grazier.
- Westhead, Joseph -
Oats, Grazier.

- Williams, Henry - Darlington.
Wheat, and * in Grazier column.

Yewen's Directory of Landholders of New South Wales, 1900.
