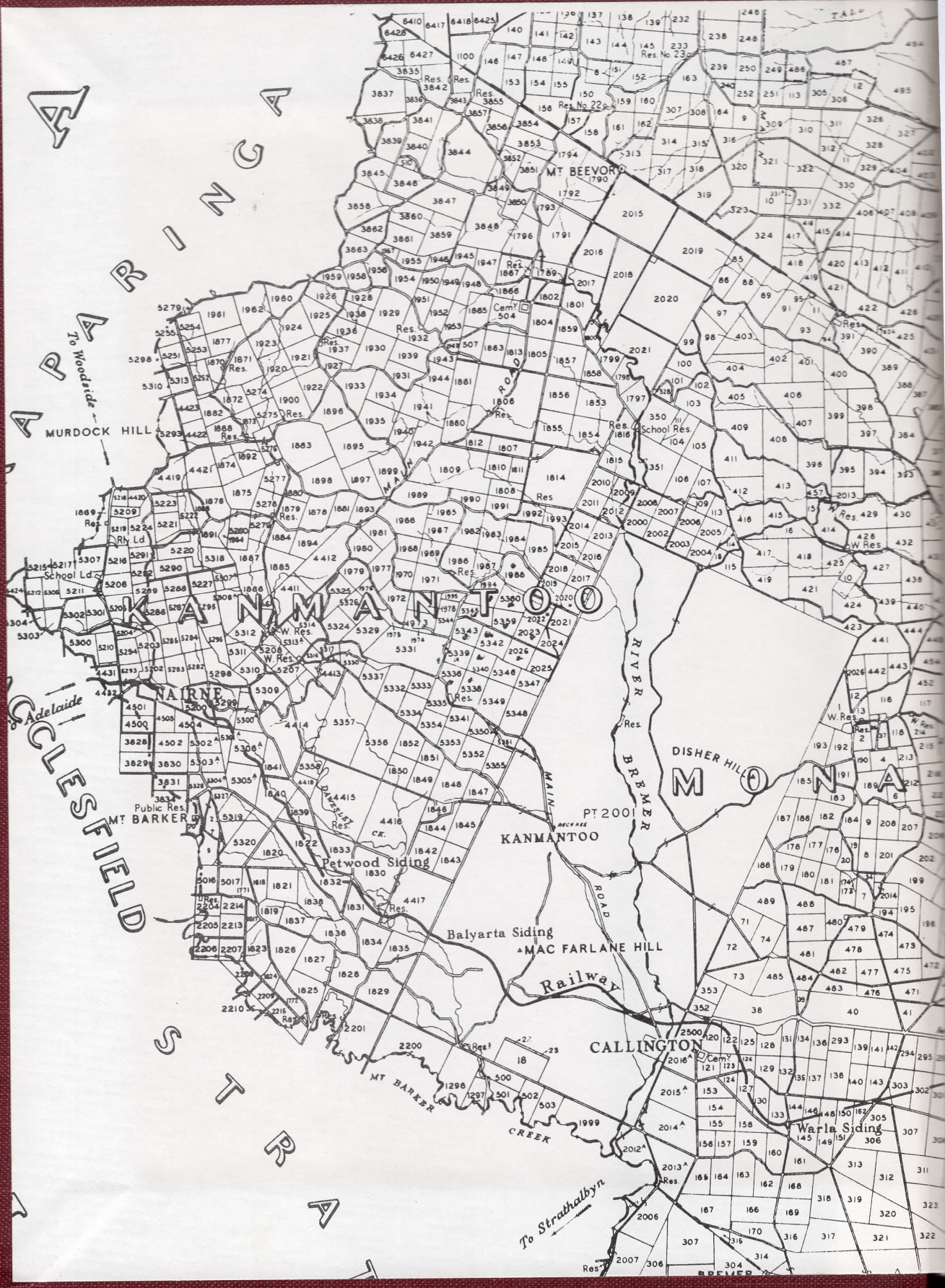


MILLBRAE
and its
Founding Family



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MAC FARLANE HILL

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MT BEEVOR

KANMANTOO

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KANMANTOO

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DISHER HILL

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Helene, John & Family - with best wishes
for Xmas and the New Year from
Mayhills. (Dec., 1973.)

MILLBRAE
AND ITS
FOUNDING FAMILY

DEDICATED
TO OUR
PIONEERS

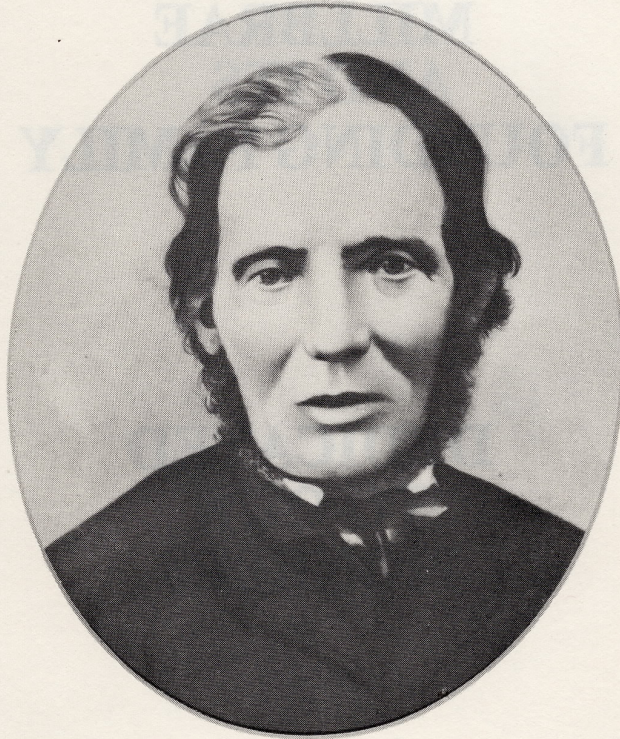
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**MILLBRAE
AND ITS
FOUNDING FAMILY**

**DEDICATED
TO OUR
PIONEERS**

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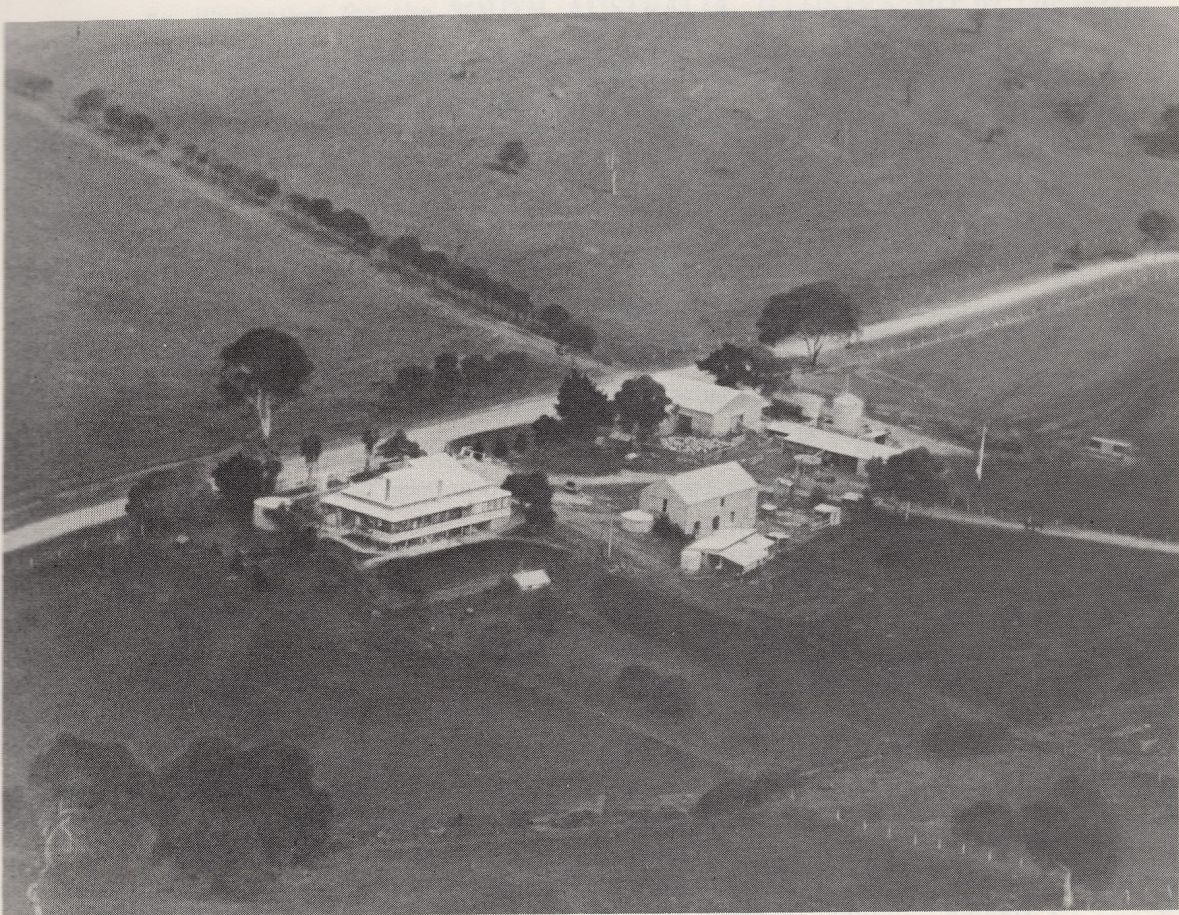
**THE FIRST
OF OUR
PIONEER FORBEARS**



RICHARD MILLS, THE ELDER

[Arr. Jan. 18th, 1838/

FRONTISPIECE



AIR VIEW OF MILLBRAE IN 1967

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My grateful thanks are due to various people who so willingly unearthed material for me:

1. To State Government Departments — The Lands Titles; to the S.A. Archives; to the Survey Dept. where Mr. Gapp introduced me to the First Survey Map; to the lands Department for maps and enlarged Air Views; to the Parliamentary Library for details of doings over particular years.
2. To the Officers of the Holy Trinity Church for the loan of a Photographic Block.
3. To the Vicar of Hadlow, who with the help of his daughter, culled information from Records that were not available to me.
4. To long-established Families in the Hundred of Kanmantoo who gave facts, figures and records that were available nowhere else.
5. And finally to my own family whose retentive memories reproduced tales of incidents of so long ago.

May Mills
19th July, 1973.

FOREWORD

Fifty years ago a celebrated South Australian biochemist, Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, ventured on a far-reaching prophecy.

The growth of synthetic chemistry, he opined, would ultimately solve the age-old problem of food production for mankind. His nutritional needs would be met in factories; he would live exclusively in cities, while the countryside from which subsistence had formerly been grudgingly wrung would be allowed to lapse into wilderness. The Race, now with increased leisure, would be free to indulge in the pleasures of Primitive Man once more, in this newly created waste, while retaining all the benefits of an old and complex civilization in the cities.

This engaging prospect has not yet come to pass, though we have made some faltering steps towards it. There has been an enormous increase in city dwelling; small holdings are merged into larger and larger units; absentee landlords multiply while long established rural families seek the suburbs; and the Tourist Industry pours its swelling thousands into what can still be found of Robertson's "untamed Nature."

All this, however, is a matter of very recent history and for the greater part of the period of 130 years reviewed by Miss Mills in this book, the land in Lower South Australia, and its survey, subdivision and settlement by relatively small holders, has been the overriding preoccupation alike of Governments, and of a large proportion of the population.

Miss Mills' theme has been the personal history of her family in South Australia since 1838, and the development of the Millbrae lands on the eastern foothills of the Mt. Lofty Range, and of the building up of the famous Millbrae Merino Stud. Her intimate and ingenuous human chronicle is chiefly intended (as she herself explains) for the younger descendants of the family, but it contains a great deal which will appeal to much wide circles. She has moreover harmoniously blended this aspect of her story with much of statistical and historical interest to students of land settlement here.

Over the years, many friends and relatives of her family have enjoyed the warm hospitality of their homestead. One of them, as a town-bred schoolboy in the first decade of this century, first discovered the charm and the challenge of rural Australia, in the lovely countryside of Millbrae and in the adjoining Kavanagh's Creek, and Bremer Range, and he here makes grateful acknowledgment of his debt.

May Mills has had a long life enriched by varied Public Services, and the writing of this book may justly be claimed as the latest of them.

H.H. FINLAYSON,
North Adelaide.
May, 1973.

INTRODUCTION

This has been written because of repeated requests from my family and friends for information about our forebears, their settlement in South Australia and the development of Millbrae.

There is no doubt that various ancestors had spread out over many parts of the world by the early eighteen hundreds — probably driven to this by the need to refurbish their resources when repeated wars, especially the Napoleonic Wars, had depleted both civic and domestic coffers.

Undoubtedly, too, they were influenced by tales of the wonderful opportunities in lands beyond the seas.

Naturally I have concentrated on the doings of the direct descendants of the two Richards, my great-grandfather and grandfather. But if other interested members of the family are keen for more details than I have had time to unearth, they will find an absorbing and exacting task awaits them.

To put things in their proper perspective, something of outstanding people and significant events has been included. Hence some mention has been made of Colonel Light and his few tragic years in South Australia; The S.A. Company with which my family had so many dealings over practically the whole of its more than a century of operations in the State; a particular mention of the Mount Barker Mineral Survey; of Matthew Smillie and his Special Survey and of the foundation of the township of Nairne; and finally of World War I.

Some Critics of today tend to decry Light as an inept bungler, and the S.A. Company as a grasping Company that fleeced the new Colony and its pioneers.

Possibly if those same critics could climb down from their lofty pinnacles and put themselves into the places and conditions of those days, they would, in Light's phrase — "Praise" instead of "Blame".

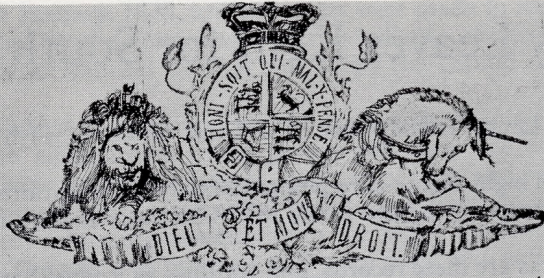
There were mistakes; grievous mistakes, and we of a century later can of course see them clearly. But would we, in spite of our increased knowledge, have done any better? Or even as well?

It is no light task to recreate the atmosphere and conditions of living of a century and a half ago; but to comprehend the difficulties and appreciate the achievements of those pioneers, this has to be done.

One has, indeed, almost to project oneself back in time in order to unravel the innumerable links that make up the great chain of events that still encircles us all.

I have realized my limitations for such a task — but nevertheless offer my contribution.

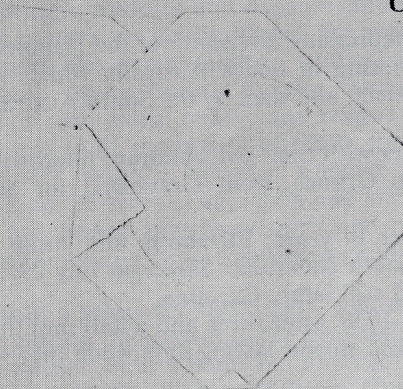
(sg.) May Mills



Land Grant.

South Australia.

COUNTRY SECTION



Know all Men by these Presents, that I,
Sir Henry Edward Fox Young, Knight, Lieutenant-Governor of
the Province of South Australia, in consideration of the sum of

Eighty pounds
Sterling, to the Colonial Treasurer, on behalf of Her Majesty,
paid by Richard Mills of various Farms

H. E. Fox Young

Do hereby, in name and on behalf of Her Majesty, by
virtue of the powers in me vested by an Act of the Fifth and
Sixth Years of Her Majesty's reign, intituled "An Act for
Regulating the Sale of Waste Lands belonging to the Crown in the
Australian Colonies," and of all other Powers me thereunto
enabling, Grant unto the said Richard Mills

All that Section of Land containing
Eighty acres, be the same little more or less, and numbered
2025 Situate in the Hundred of Hammarston
County of Port

the boundaries and lineal dimensions whereof are delineated in the Public Maps, Plans,
and Diagrams deposited in the Survey Office, at Adelaide, and in the Plan drawn in
the margin of these Presents, together with all Timber, Minerals, and Appurtenances,

To hold unto the said Richard Mills His
Heirs and Assigns for ever.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal, at Adelaide, this
Twenty day of February, One Thousand
Eight Hundred and fifty three.

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered, } *Chas. K. Richards*
in the presence of

I acknowledge to have received from the above-mentioned
Richard Mills
the before mentioned sum of Eighty pounds Sterling

£ 80 - 0 - 0

R. B. Jones

Treasurer.

Witness *W. M. ...*

CHAPTER I.

The Family Leaves Kent for South Australia

Photostats from the Lands Department of a Land Grant of 11th February, 1853, are here included.

Each of the original eight eighty-acre (approximately) Land Grants which still form a part of the present Millbrae property, is held in the MEMORIALS at the Lands Titles Office, Victoria Square, Adelaide.

Interesting and old as are these records, and thrilling as it must have been at last to obtain the Deeds, yet the doings and activities of the sixteen years preceding that first allotment, stand out with even greater significance, for they proved the courage, determination and staying power of the family.

Richard Mills, the Elder, and Sarah (nee Lincoln) his wife were yeoman farmers from near Maidstone, Kent, England.

As with everyone else in Britain they had suffered the depressing aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars, so that when they heard of the opportunities offering in South Australia which were advertised so widely, first by the Colonization Commissioners, and then by the South Australian Company, they decided to migrate.

So, on September 25, 1837, Richard and Sarah, together with their five children, boarded the Royal Admiral (414 tons), which sailed under Captain Grimes, from Gravesend for South Australia.

The children were: Mary; Richard (the younger), under 14 years; Elizabeth; and Anne and John, under 7 years. Three more children were born in South Australia: Sarah on July 29, 1842 (Registration No. 43), George on September 7, 1844; and still later, Caroline.

The Royal Admiral berthed off Glenelg on January 18, 1838, after three and a half months of voyaging with cramped quarters, poor food, few facilities and storms lasting days when they were all battened down.

It was a hard four months and one of those pioneers cogently remarked: "If we could withstand that voyage we surely can withstand anything this Colony has to offer".

A total of 208 passengers were abroad, and these included: Mr. Hanlin, E. Bowden, J. Tuckerell, Jacob Bowden, John Bowden, George Burford, John Collis, Richard Day, Levi Groves, James Turner, S. Tyrell, Samuel Walker, Chas. White, P. Pegler, Mary Ashley, D. Burford, Lydia Cross, James Groves, Eliza Harris, W. Pegler, T. P. Parker, Stephen Solly, H. T. Sparks, James Gregor, Mrs. James McLean, Henry Sparks, Thomas H. Sparks, Mrs. George White, Mrs. Charles Pearce, Sarah M. Hart, William Marshall, Mrs. T. Constable, Mrs. Anna Sparks, Mrs. Edgar Spicer (nee Hoskins), and William Jones.

(I include this list hoping that someone will be pleased to recognize the name of an ancestor).

CHAPTER II

The Arrival in South Australia

That day, the 18th January, 1838, Richard and his eleven-year-old son, also Richard, walked the seven miles from Glenelg to Adelaide to make arrangements to house the family and their goods.

Fortunately it was summer and the two Richards slept the night quite comfortably, without blankets, near where now stands a stone cairn to commemorate the site of the first school in Adelaide. This was in the slight hollow just opposite the site of Trinity Church. A week later they saw the Foundation Stone of that edifice laid.

Near this place, too, was the Commissioner's (J. H. Fisher) house, a reed-thatched one; and almost adjoining it, was Colonel Light's Headquarters.

Both of these buildings were later destroyed by a fire which started in the thatch of the Commissioner's house — a tragedy from which South Australia has never recovered, for most of Light's maps, records and works of art were burnt in that fire.

On the morning of the 19th January, 1838, arrangements were made to rent a tent near where they had slept; and then, having hired a dray, drawn by two bullocks, the two Richards set off to bring the family from the Royal Admiral to what was to be the capital of this land of their adoption.

Seamen pick-a-backed the children to the shore from the shallow shore-going boats, and soon the heavily-laden dray, filled with adventurous young people and their few precious possessions, made their way slowly to Adelaide, which still largely consisted of tents and wattle and daub (pisé) huts; but with an astonishing number of substantial buildings already up and occupied.

To those who had come from a farming community in the highly civilized Britain, that must have been a momentous ride. The road was merely a well-worn track with ruts deep enough, after heavy rains, to half submerge a dray and its bullocks, if it was unlucky enough to be forced into one.

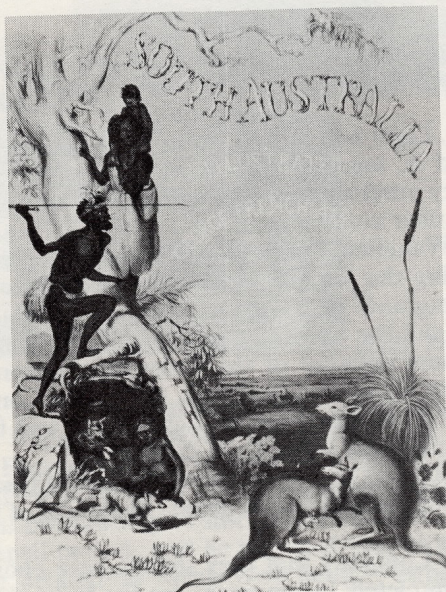
It well might have been that the children squealed with delight as kangaroos or emus crossed their path; or shivered with fear when a group of aborigines — complete with spears, boomerangs, waddies and dogs — emerged from the surrounding bush.

The parents, no doubt, viewed the evergreen bush-cover with mixed feelings, for nothing like the Australian gums, mallees, wattles, shea-oaks and their related undergrowth grew in their homeland, where the oak, the elm, the ash and other such beautiful deciduous trees flourished. But they soon learnt to love and respect the very different, yet very wonderful vegetative cover which was to be the breath of life to them in the years to come.

It is very doubtful, however, whether those two responsible young parents, Richard, 36 years and Sarah, 35 years of age, then had any idea as to how they would spend the succeeding years. Time has proved that their spirit and courage were indomitable; their ability to work and endure something we all might envy; and that they were worthy of the challenge that lay ahead of them.

Within a relatively short time, following the advice of the South Australian Company, the family betook themselves to the Brownhill Creek, where Richard, an experienced Kentish farmer and gardener, built a home out of stones of the hill-side, and grew plants, shrubs and vegetables for the rapidly developing Adelaide. Thus he probably was one of the earliest horticulturalists in South Australia. A cow and some fowls soon added to their living standards; and to that of many others. This move, too, enabled them to husband their limited capital.

Fortunately, among their precious possessions they had made room, when they left Kent, for seeds, a few bulbs and such hardy plants as the English ivy and honeysuckle. The offspring of some of the belladonna lily bulbs are still handed down as proud possessions and close links with the Kentish homeland; but the ivy and honeysuckle disappeared with recent generation changes at Millbrae.



Cover of "South Australia" illustrated by George French Angas.

CHAPTER III

Conditions in South Australia when the Family arrived

In order to understand the problems and difficulties which faced this young family, as indeed with most of the migrants, it is essential to know something of the happenings in the Colony during the three hundred and eighty five days prior to their arrival; as well as those of the next few exciting years.

Firm promises had definitely been made that land would be available almost as soon as the settlers landed. Consequently skilled and monied people were attracted, including a number of land speculators.

We can imagine the dismay of the settlers when they arrived and found that the rate of surveying had not kept pace with the needs of the incomers, and that they must wait an unknown time until land was available; and that they had to live as best they could in the meantime, using up valued capital needed to establish themselves on the land.

A very disgruntled community resulted and they did not hesitate to voice their dissatisfaction.

Money and food were scarce, as was labour and also means of transportation; and a truly chaotic state existed.

Whose was the blame has never really been established. Colonel Light was of course the Surveyor General, and the one appointed to site, plan and found the City, as well as to get the surveying done. Probably he, and he alone had the necessary knowledge for this task; but he was subjected to such criticism and opposition, even from Governor Hindmarsh himself, that his naturally weak constitution gave way under the strain.



Light's Sketch of the Site of Adelaide, 1837.

However, by the 3rd March, 1837, Light had not only won the battle of the siting of the City, but had also planned and surveyed it, together with more than sufficient land for the four hundred and thirty seven preliminary purchasers to make their choices from one thousand town allotments, as well as sufficient for their country sections.

These conditions were part of the Wakefield Plan which had been adopted by the Colonization Committee as the method of financing the project. Sufficient sales had to be made before any surveying was done and before any migrants were allowed to depart for South Australia. But the Colonizers by 1835 had failed to make the necessary sales, and a stalemate developed. Then George Fife Angas, the chief business member of the Colonizing Committee, resigned, and formed with Thomas Smith and Henry Kingscote, the South Australian Company, with a limited capital of \$200,000. Their methods of advertising soon brought results and the necessary number of sales was made. So the whole scheme was saved from disaster.

The Company having bought 13,700 acres at 12/- per acres and 220,000 acres of pastoral rights at 10/- per square mile, have since been condemned as greedy exploiters of the new land and the pioneers.

It was indeed unfortunate for the Company that they should have chosen as its first South Australian manager one who was completely incompetent for the task; and much damage was done to the Company's reputation before Samuel Stephens was replaced in April, 1838, by David

McLaren from the Head Office on London Wall.

McLaren was a good business man, and in a relatively short time had put the Company on a proper business footing — including the establishment of a Bank. He also settled the vexed question between Colonel Light and Governor Hindmarsh of the siting of the Port, for he quickly sized up the situation and built a road and a wharf (McLaren's Wharf) halfway between the disputed sites. These, with alterations and additions, have been in constant use ever since.

Within days of the Preliminary Purchasers making their choices of the available allotments and sections, the remaining 563 acres of surveyed land, were sold at auction for the wonderfully increased average price of six guineas per acre.

This done, it was generally expected that the surveys would be hurried along and that the clamouring of the migrants would cease.

Light certainly hoped to do this. But in his Brief Journal published June, 1839, he tells how impossible it was, for there was little food, less money and more people arriving daily — while the surveyors themselves would not work!

Dr. Grenfell Price supports Colonel Light's statement, for he says: "The chief culprits of this state of affairs would seem to have been the Colonization Commissioners who grievously underestimated the magnitude of the difficulties assigned to Colonel Light; and who sent the latter out on his task, ill-equipped — except in the matter of regulations — and inadequately supplied with funds."

A. J. Perkins in his "An Agricultural and Pastoral State in the Making", briefly sums up by stating that Light, besides being physically sick, was tremendously keen on his work and of such a temperament that he could not ill-do the task (that is, make running surveys), in order to hurry it along.

Such was the state of affairs in Adelaide when our family arrived in January, 1838.

They must indeed have been thankful to escape to the peace of Brownhill Creek where they could at least produce enough to keep themselves, while at the same time they conserved their rapidly dwindling resources. There they waited hopefully, within earshot, for their chance to make good on a farm of their own — something they had come around the world to do.

CHAPTER IV.

The Year 1838

This was an exciting and historic year.

It started well with the laying of the Foundation Stone of Trinity Church on January 28th, ten days after our family arrived; and that edifice rose rapidly upon its foundations.



Holy Trinity Church

As late as February, Governor Hindmarsh, and Stevenson, the Editor of the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register, were still demanding that Light move the Capital, already a flourishing centre, to Encounter Bay. — This soon proved to be an extremely foolish demand.

To the migrants, waiting to settle on farms, the most important happening of that momentous year was the successful overlanding of stock from Eastern Australia. First came Hawdon with cattle in the March-April period; and he reported that he had found no very great difficulties, coming as he had done, around the North-West Bend — either with wild dogs or with aborigines, nor yet with lack of feed and water; and he foresaw very few if any greater difficulties with sheep.

This announcement caused great rejoicings for the migrants had been fired with the idea of sheep farming by the South Australian Company's introduction of some Saxon sheep from Tasmania in June, 1837, and which were doing well. These sheep had been most romantically brought from Germany to Tasmania; — but that is a story in itself.

In May, Eyre came with another herd of cattle. But by then the thrill of the overlanding had somewhat abated and so Eyre's arrival was almost unnoticed. Indeed, he had great difficulty in marketing his herd. One would have expected that David McLaren, manager of the South Australian Company would have promoted such a sale; but for some reason he rather thwarted Eyre in his efforts, than aided him. This was incomprehensible in that the South Australian Company had largely been set up to promote the well-being of the growing State.

Captain Sturt arrived in August, 1838, again with a mob of cattle, but in contrast with Eyre's lukewarm reception Sturt was welcomed with open arms. But Sturt, of course, was the popular explorer of the Murray, and so was feted as a hero. Did Eyre reflect upon this when, a little later, he made his extremely hazardous and very valuable explorations to find a land way to Western Australia?

Anyway, advantage was quickly taken to use Sturt's knowledge and experience to settle the vexed question of Encounter Bay as the Site for Adelaide. His report strongly supported that of Light, for he duly condemned the site and nothing more was heard of the matter. Certainly not from the vitriolic editor of the South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register.

In the meantime, so many adverse reports had been made to London about the chaotic state of the Settlement that in July, 1838, Governor Hindmarsh was recalled and Governor Gawler appointed in his stead, not only as governor, but also as Resident Commissioner. Thus J. H. Fisher was also replaced. The Colony, knowing this, and that the new Governor could not arrive for several months, appointed a newcomer from Sydney, George Milner Stephen as Lieutenant Governor. G. M. Stephen did some good work in promoting the Police Force, but almost caused a scandal when he connived with several other prominent colonists to sell "the Green Slips". These were portions of the Sections which had been surveyed for the Preliminary Purchasers. Each of these sections was one hundred and thirty four acres in content, and when the ruling came that eighty acres should be the content of a section, there were of course fifty four acres surplus on each of the original ones. These surplus pieces were shown green on Light's map — hence the term "Green Slips".

With Governor Gawler's arrival in October, 1838, G. M. Stephens rapidly faded out of the picture.

Early in this year, too, G. S. Kingston, prompted by his own inclinations, as well as being encouraged by others, set sail in the Rapid for London, to report upon the terrible trials of the new settlement — to the Commissioners. He especially emphasized the surveying problems and difficulties. The result was that upon his return in July, there was further turmoil for he had brought with him instructions from the Commissioners that all the present surveyors were to be dismissed forthwith, that Light was to train a new lot, and that the future method of surveying should be merely a running one!

This caused a furore. Colonel Light resigned forthwith, and wrote a dramatic defence of his work and activities to the Authorities in London.

The surveyors, who were all very loyal to Light, also resigned, en masse. Colonel Light and Finnis then formed a private Surveying company, but because of continued ill-health, Light could do little more than act in an advisory capacity to the new firm.

Light's resignation did not reach London until December 1, 1838, and in the intervening months, local people tried to straighten matters out, for the whole community was stirred by the great injustice to Light. They held meetings and arranged for a petition seeking to re-instate Light, to be presented to the Governor — a petition that was signed but never presented! So nothing came of their efforts and the unqualified G. S. Kingston was installed to do the Running Survey.

Amazingly he managed to do this, leaving of course, many mistakes to be rectified in after years; but sixty thousand acres were thus surveyed and many of the migrants got out on the land, and things thereby improved immensely.

With Governor Gawler's arrival in October, Sturt was appointed Surveyor-General — an appointment which had to be changed almost immediately, as a letter from the Commissioners in London proved that they had appointed Captain Frome as Surveyor-General. However, Governor Gawler saw to it that Sturt was made Deputy Surveyor-General, and some of the family's first holdings were signed by him.

Such were the conflicts of that one year in South Australia.

To our family, apart from their arrival off Glenelg on 18th January, 1838, the most far reaching event was that Matthew Smillie, a solicitor from Leith, and Public Prosecutor in Edinburgh, had gone from Scotland, up to London, and there paid £4,000 down for a Special Survey of 4,000 acres — the Smillie Survey; the area to be chosen by himself when he arrived in the Colony, as he did early in January, 1839.

Chapter V briefly tells of this Survey and of the successes and tragedies that came to the Smillies in their few short years in South Australia; and of our family's association with them.

In October, 1839, Light died and his tragic death, followed by a very emotional funeral and his burial in Light Square, brought most of the hitherto disgruntled community to their senses.

CHAPTER V

Matthew Smillie and Nairne

On one lucky day in 1839, the South Australian Company (with whom the migrants kept in touch) suggested to Richard Mills that he might help one of their employees, Samuel Day, unload a lighter load of sheep.

These had been bought in Victoria (then still New South Wales) for Mr. Matthew Smillie who wanted them driven eastward over the Range to his Special Survey "6" (marked "8" on the First Survey Map), just east of Mount Barker.

Richard Mills at once realized that this was an opportunity not to be missed, for he would not only learn about sheep but also a good deal about the country that would be traversed. Little did he realize in embarking on this eventure that he was deciding his future livelihood, as well as that of many future generations of his family for the next hundred years and more.

Thus the lives of the Smillies and the Mills families became closely linked for a few important years.

Born in Leith, Scotland, Matthew Smillie had been a lawyer in Edinburgh for thirty years.

He married Elizabeth Corse Nairne after whom Nairne was named when M. Smillie founded it. There was one son, William, who was also a trained lawyer, and who was twenty six years of age when he came to South Australia with his parents.

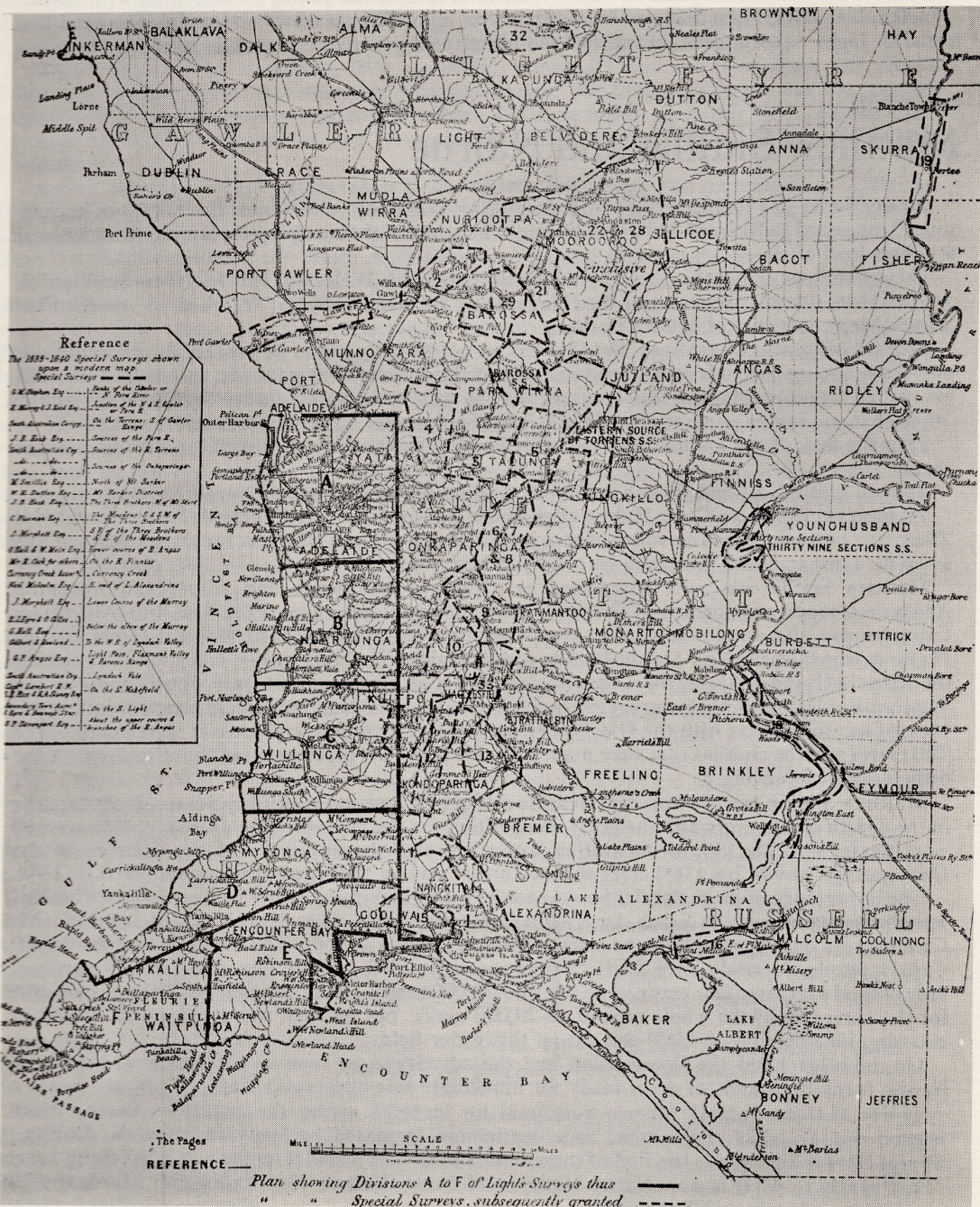
Matthew Smillie was soon recognized as a man of knowledge and vision; and when the Adelaide Council was formed in October, 1840, he was elected one of the first four Aldermen. Later, he was also appointed Chairman of the important Trust dealing with the Great Eastern Highway which was to link Mount Barker and Adelaide. This Committee met monthly between the years 1841 and 1845, in the Great Eastern Hotel at Littlehampton (still flourishing), on the Western Border of Smillie's Survey. In order to finance this road, tolls were exacted until 1847. Most of us are familiar with the Old Toll House at Glen Osmond, and have at least heard of the Toll Gates and the charges that were made, but this is not the place to tell of that Road and of the difficulties of financing it.

Matthew Smillie experienced considerable difficulty in getting his Survey done, simply because of the dearth of surveyors and the great competition for the few who were available. However, by working in with the South Australian Company and the surveyors of the Sources of the Onkaparinga survey, his 4,000 acres was well under way by 1841, and almost completed by 1844.

The importance of these Special Surveys to the young Colony must not be overlooked. The idea was the brainchild of the South Australian Company, when, as early as 1835, in London, that Company set out to popularize the sales of land in the new Colony. The idea was that for £4,000 Cash, a purchaser would have the right to choose any 4,000 acres in one piece, from a surveyed area of land aproximating between 15,000 and 20,000 acres. The purchaser was to be responsible for the surveying of the whole area of 15-20,000 acres; but he then was to have the benefit of choosing his selection of 4,000 acres from this wider field.

On the other hand the Commission had the advantage, as soon as the survey was done, of having many thousands of acres ready for immediate sale and occupation.

Thirty of these Special Surveys were paid for in 1839, giving the penurious Colony much needed captial; while at the same time, settlement increased by leaps and bounds. Dutton's Mount Barker Survey was the first of these, and Smillie's adjoined it on the east, stretching South East nearly to what is now Native Valley, and North East to Hay Valley and Murdochs Hill, embracing what is now Brukunga.



Eventually 5,000 acres was the total owned by the Smillies, father and son.

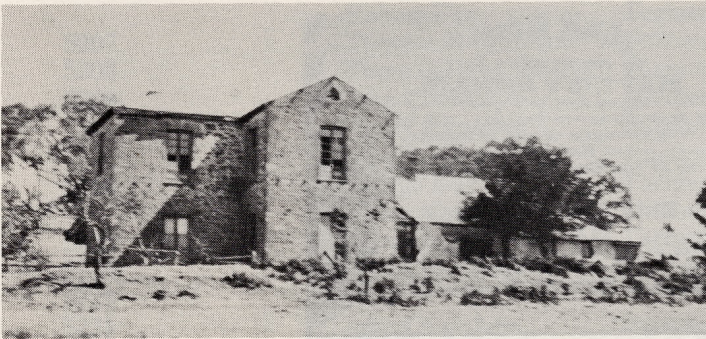
The Census of 1844 credits Smillie with having 1,661 ewes, 314 wethers, 29 rams, 100 lambs and 37 head of cattle — a very successful development. And surely part of this success was due to the Mills, father and son, who had shepherded that stock over unfenced and unknown hill and dale, defending the flock from all sorts of hazards, including wild dogs and aborigines. The aborigines were undoubtedly a peaceful tribe of nomads; but after all, sheep were “easy meat”.

By this time, too, Matthew Smillie had installed a number of tenant farmers on his various sections. This was a splendid move for these tenant farmers immediately built houses, erected fences and generally got the land into production in the shortest possible time. They, too, had all sorts of skills apart from farming, and so the little community was self-supporting, milling their own flour, making their own vehicles, ploughs, shoes and so on.

Samuel Day became one of those tenant farmers; but Richard Mills, had no wish to be a tenant farmer because as early as 1842, he had made his own selection of land and had arranged for his son temporarily to take his place in the employment of Matthew Smillie, so that he would be free to go to this Selection — only a few miles further east.

A list of these tenant farmers, furnished for the Real Property Act of 1861, showed how many of them eventually bought the farms they had rented, and how many of their descendants are able and respected citizens there today.

By 1844, Matthew Smillie's home “The Vallies” had been built amid beautiful surroundings, between Nairne and Hay Valley. The structure was two-storeyed and quite imposing. The stone used was a hand-quarried local one — mica schist; but strangely, no-one now knows exactly whence came those fine slabs, some of them as large as 4' x 2'6" x 4". Yet hand-made nails, used in their quarrying, are frequently found. Much of the house still stands, but the beautiful cedar staircase and woodwork is largely missing, for, it unfortunately bears signs of one, long, thirty-year period of neglect. However, it is now well-cared for.



*“The Vallies”
— a ruined Homestead.*

The marriage of William Smillie, to his cousin, was quite a social event in 1844, with many of the State's important people, including the Governor, attending the ceremony — which was performed by the first Presbyterian Moderator, The Reverend Haining.

But the next few years brought sad and even tragic changes to the Smillies. In 1847 Matthew Smillie died and was buried in the Nairne Cemetery, which he had donated to the District. In 1852 his son, William, died in Paris, and his young wife decided not to return to South Australia but to take her three children back permanently to the old home in Scotland. In 1857 a Private Bill was put through the South Australian Parliament to legalize the monies and investments going overseas for this young widow; but it contained a clause that in future such investments should be in South Australian or British Stock.

In 1861 Mrs. Smillie Senior (Matthew's widow), died and was buried with her husband in the Nairne Cemetery. Some years after Mrs. Matthew Smillie's death the Estate was finally wound up; and then, the son's widow in Scotland, made an affirmation to her Adelaide solicitors, Timeline and Von Truer, that all three of her children had died — one at eighteen years of age in Scotland, one at twenty in London, and the third, at thirty three years of age, in Florence, Italy.

Thus Matthew Smillie left no living descendants; but his vision and benefactions to the Nairne District should gratefully be remembered.

He it was who founded the charming and quaint little township of Nairne on Sections 5201, 5202 and 5203; which he donated. He added the Commonage (now possibly better known as the Golf Links) for the township's cows; and also the market Square where Tennis Courts and other



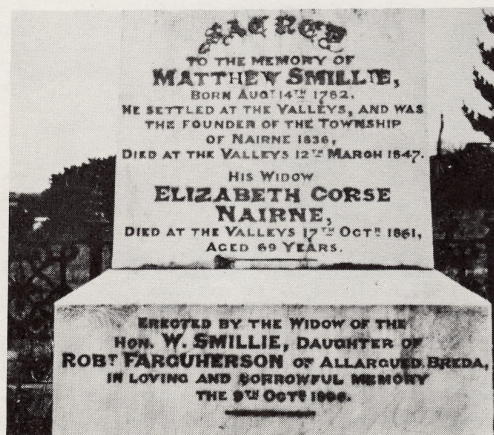
Nairne.

town facilities have been supplied.

In this Square is a marble slab bearing Matthew's name as the Founder of the town; but it was not until 1896 that any recognition was made over his grave. Then an ageing and sorrowful daughter-in-law in Scotland, authorized the erection of a very pleasing column in the Central Position in the Cemetery where Matthew lies buried. Inscriptions on this table tell something of these tragic happenings to the Smillies in their few short years in South Australia.

But Matthew Smillie needs no tablet to keep his memory green, for all around him are beautiful pastures for sheep and cattle, as well as the industrious and thriving farming community that he was instrumental in establishing some one hundred and thirty years ago.

Nairne itself, as a town, has had its fun and pleasures, its worries and its successes as the following brief summary indicates:—



Smillie Tombstone in the Nairne Cemetery.

1. The influence that Matthew Smillie's wife had upon the whole Community should not be forgotten. She lived on at "The Vallies" for fourteen years after her husband's death, taking a lead in all important issues: spurring the slow, encouraging the timid and helping the needy. But possibly she will best be remembered for the little weekly pageant of her attendance at the Wesleyan (now Methodist) Church Service. Seated in State, on a chair which was lashed securely to a bullock dray, with two magnificent bullocks on the pole, she was driven to church by her body-guard and general factotum, a huge African negro, suitably uniformed even to the grey, silk Bell-topper! "Ferguson" Mrs. Smillie named him; but whence he came or when he died no one seems to know.
2. Mining ventures in neighbouring areas have periodically stirred the little town. First came Kanmantoo copper with its smelters from 1846-1870; then the goldrush to Victoria in the early fifties almost depleted the town of its able-bodied men; the need for sulphur in World War II brought the pyrites mine of Brukunga; and now has come a re-birth of the copper mining at Kanmantoo.

3. In the late fifties (1856) R. D. Torrens made his initial speech in a country town, and at the "Crooked Billet" authorized his now world-famed Torrens Land Act.
4. Still later, during a severe drought, Charles Todd, with considerable success, urged the listening community to "Pray less and dam more!"
5. The links between Nairne and the Mills family have been unbroken since Matthew Smillie took up his Special Survey. In 18 53, Lot 129 (now 62), was indentured to Richard Mills, the Younger, as his town allotment when he purchased those sections that still form part of Millbrae. From a house on this allotment the young family of Richard, the Younger, rode across to Mount Barker for their educational needs. Later, the Oddfellows Hall was also built on this allotment; and still later, that Hall became the Soldiers' Memorial Hall of today. Finally the road to the Mount Barker Summit (nearer to Nairne than to Mount Barker) was opened by Alec Mills on January, 12, 1939, as the Nairne and Mount Barker Council's Centenary effort. Alec Mills, the then owner of Millbrae, was also the Chairman of that combined Nairne-Mount Barker District Council.

* * * * *

The following is a Schedule of Tenant Farmers on the Smillie's Estate on January, 20, 1882, when the Land was brought under the Provision of the Real Property Act, of 1861.

"We declare — that the said land is now occupied as follows: that is to say:—

<i>Section</i>	<i>Occupant</i>	<i>Calling</i>	<i>Address</i>
5200	John Hemmings	Farmer	Nairne
5204	Joseph Strange	—	Nairne
	John William King	Auctioneer	Nairne
5205	John William King	Auctioneer	Nairne
	George Day	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
	Robert Day	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
5207	Thomas Hawthorne	Farmer	Dawesley, Nairne
5208	Thomas Hawthorne	Farmer	Dawesley, Nairne
5209	John Chambers	Farmer	Nairne
	Henry Appleton	Farmer	Balhannah
	John William King	Auctioneer	Nairne
5216	George Day	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
	Robert Day	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
5223	John Chambers	Farmer	Nairne
5219	John Chambers	Farmer	Nairne
5221	John		
5221	John Chambers	Farmer	Nairne
5220	George Gale	Farmer	The Valleys, Nairne
	Edis T. Smith	Farmer	The Valleys, Nairne
	John Chambers	Farmer	Nairne
5222	William Harrier	Blacksmith	Penfield
	George Gale	Farmer	The Valleys, Nairne
5224	John Chambers	farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
	George Day	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
	Robert Day	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
5225	Edis Smith	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
	George Gale	Farmer	Hay Valley, Nairne
	John Chambers	Farmer	Nairne
5226	George Gale	Farmer	The Vallies, Nairne
5284	Gottlieb Jaensch	Farmer	Woodchester
5285	John Hemmings	Farmer	Nairne
5286	John Hemmings	Farmer	Nairne
5289	John Hemmings	Farmer	Nairne
	Edis Y. Smith	Farmer	Nairne
5290	Edis Y. Smith	Farmer	The Vallies, Nairne
5291	George Day	Farmer	Nairne
5292	Robert Day	Farmer	Nairne
	Edis Y. Smith	Farmer	Nairne

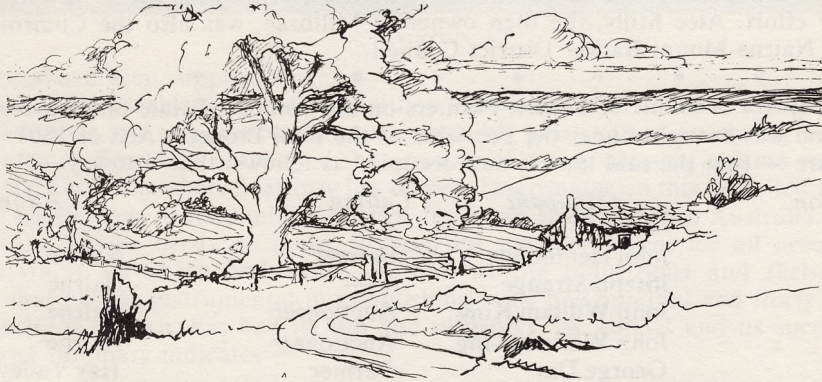
All which occupiers are tenants of the said Eliza Jane Smillie _____ and do hereby apply to have the pieces of Land described in the above declaration brought under the provision of the Real Property Act of 1861.

Dated at Adelaide this 20th day of January, 1882.

George Boothby
A. Von Treuer

CHAPTER VI.

The Old Garden and Black Hill Valley



Sketch of the Old Garden — with Slab Cottage imposed.

1842 brought to an end Richard, the Elder's, shepherding of Matthew Smillie's flocks.

Unlike Samuel Day, Richard Mills had no desire to become one of Smillie's tenant farmers, but was determined to settle on a site of his own choosing.

During the period that he had wandered with the sheep over hill and valley, in ever-widening stretches, he got to know the district as few did; and he had long since chosen the area which he considered would be ideal for his purpose. He felt, too, that he now knew the most important differences in climate and general conditions of farming in this new country, when compared with those of his homeland, and was sure that he could adapt himself.

The chosen area was on the outskirts of Smillie's boundary and was still so-called "Wasteland". That meant it was Crown Land and had not yet been surveyed, and with the continued demand for surveyors, was not likely to be done in the near future.

Thus to make sure of his choice he must act quickly and become a "Squatter", or Stockholder, for already people were settling themselves quite freely in the district.

"Squatting" created a problem to those who had to survey, as well as to those who had to sell the land and finally Governor Grey ruled that pre-occupation by squatters would give them first rights to purchase, when the land was ready for sale; and that solved many a difficulty. Richard was aware of this; so, indicating his intentions, and declaring his willingness to pay the usual agistments and rentals, he made his great decision and moved to what is now known as the Old Garden and Section 5360. There he set about preparing a home for his growing family (another daughter Sarah, was born on July, 29th of that year).

Incidentally the term "squatter" which started as a derogatory one, somewhere in the Eastern States, completely changed its connotation when "Squatters" proved to be some of Australia's most valued citizens.

In the meantime, Richard the Younger had grown into a strong, stout lad of fifteen years.

He had often been to "The Vallies" helping his Father with the sheep and when Richard, the Elder, decided to start on his own holding, he suggested that Richard, his son, might take his place shepherding the flock.

This was done, and proved a good arrangement for all concerned, for young Richard had grown tired of doing the odd jobs at the temporary home in Brownhill Creek; and especially of the daily minding of their own and neighbours' stock in what is still known as Dick's Gully. It was much more interesting to wander over the next Ridge to Glen Osmond and there watch the men

at work on the great new Hills Road, and to listen to their tales of strange birds and animals, of aborigines, and even of "bushrangers" who lived in "them thar hills".

The upshot was a clod fight with a neighbour who had reprimanded Dick for neglecting his cows!

Richard the Elder's big decision came in the nick of time to settle this dispute, for he was, from then on, able to keep a watchful eye on his son; and in between working for Mr. Smillie, Dick's help was invaluable to him.

So, Richard the Younger acquired not only a wider experience but also a greater responsibility, and grew and matured accordingly.

No doubt we would all have liked to have seen, as Richard and his family saw, that much-loved place in all its virginal beauty of an open woodland.

Tiny creeks, draining every valley, trickled almost continually eastwards into the larger North South stream which we now know as the Bremer River. Great gums, pink flowering, often with butts a yard or more in diameter, signalled gaily to one another across the lower reaches of streams and gullies. Higher up, during Spring, the golden wattle lit up certain favoured slopes; while sheoaks, on rocky, easterly-facing outcrops, soughed and sighed in the pleasant summer breezes, or lashed and raged with the westerly winter storms. Great sweeps of fine grasses clothed the open spaces — emerald green in winter and spring, merging to gold and brown in summer and autumn.

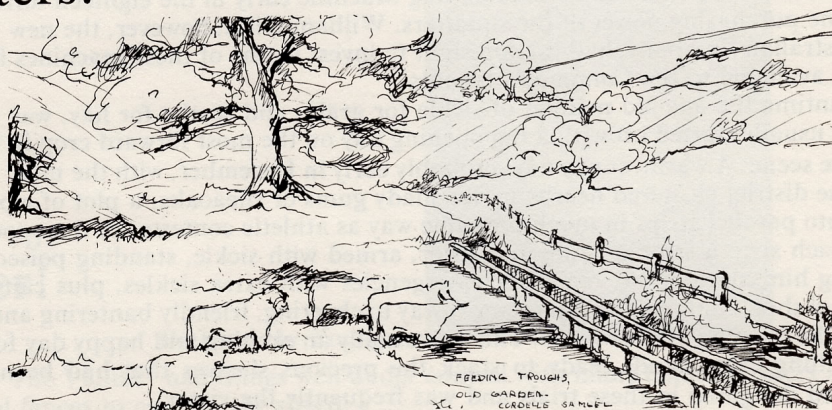
An occasional touch of wonder was added when a dainty, so-called native cherry tree, with its strange fruit with the stone on the outside, and parasitic on the roots of some nearby gum tree, struggled to survive — even after its host had given up the struggle.

Nowadays the creeks are not nearly so free-flowing for introduced plants, such as the long-rooted lucerne, the subterranean clover, ryes and hosts of others, have replaced many of the ephemeral native plants. Such introduced plants limit the surface flow of water. However, they have great economic value, and in themselves, are, in quite a different way, very attractive and beautiful.

Fortunately squatters were not allowed to cut timber indiscriminately, but only for their own immediate needs. Thus this little region was spared some of the terrible destruction that occurred only a few miles distant, when the demand for fuel for smelters came.

This region is still one of great beauty and great possibilities; and is still loved and cared for. Certainly there are fewer native trees and the land has been converted into more open country; but successive generations have done what they could to replace those things unavoidably destroyed.

CHAPTER VII Squatters!



Sketch of the Old Garden locality, with Feeding Troughs.

To these surroundings then, probably in early 1842, Richard brought Sarah and their family.

He had built a red gum slab cottage with stone fire-place and chimney from which a great chain was suspended to support the three-legged pot for boiling water. The whole was capped with a shingle roof and lined with calico ceilings. An almost continuously running creek was nearby.

We now speak of this as the Old Garden, on Section 5360; and some of us still remember fragments of that garden — an apple tree, and a honey suckle bush drooping over the dry stone wall. Looking down at us from his portrait on our wall today this early pioneer, with his penetrating eyes and aquiline features, more closely resembles a thinker or a poet than the yeoman farmer he claimed to be.

Family tales tell of his kindness and gentleness, as well as of his strong determination to overcome difficulties. He certainly protected, sheltered and provided for his family as adequately as was possible under very complex conditions. It is possible indeed that not even the backwash of the troubles that beset the Colony in those early forties, reached this family in its little haven in BLACK HILL VALLEY; for that was the name they gave to the area because of its outstanding physical feature. Anyway, they busily set about establishing themselves. The house had to be furnished and provisions made for keeping the food. Stone walls were built as fences to clear the land and keep the stock within bounds; as well as to protect the newly planted garden from their ravages.

Great feeding troughs (mangers) were constructed, for Richard was well aware that draught stock was not only in great demand, but was also bringing "big" money. As much as £110 was paid for a pair of well-broken (trained) bullocks.

One of these mangers was still in position in the early nineteen hundreds. As with the house, it was made of sawn red gum slabs which were strongly margined with rails to withstand the rough usage by cattle. It stretched across a small gully sheltered by several large gumtrees. It is a pity that it has gone for it was an interesting relic of life in those early years.

By 1844 other squatters had settled themselves in almost every likely place, while they, too, awaited the Survey. They built themselves small homes, largely of the stone of the area, and lived off the land much as had been the way in Britain, centuries before. Remnants of these early dwellings remain in rough piles of stones; or in the many old stone chimneys that still stand.

Some of these squatters drifted back to Adelaide when tested beyond endurance by hot spells, lack of water, flies and mosquitos, and the difficulties of providing and keeping food.

Those who remained, formed a fine little self-reliant community, each contributing something to the whole. There were boot makers, blacksmiths, wheelwrights; and indeed almost every tradesman's skill was there when it was needed.

Seeding and harvesting, those so essential occupations, made use of these skills. Single, and later double-furrowed ploughs were made, and though the long, straight furrows eventually proved harmful in that they started the gullying which we see today, yet those pioneers were unaware of causing future trouble.

Similarly, harrows, broadcasting bins and great strong boots were supplied — all very necessary pieces of equipment for the work that had to be done.

Harvesting really tested strengths and skills. Ridley had, after much trial and experimenting, both by himself and others, perfected the Reaping Machine early in the eighteen forties. But this was beyond the purchasing power of the squatters. William Giles, however, the new manager of the South Australian Company, had the foresight to invest in one of these machines for £50, and this he made available to the Company's tenants.

In the meantime the age-old method of sickle for grain, and scythe for hay, was used.

The season usually started off with a big opening day on the most forward crop in the district.

Imagine the scene: A warm, sunny day, probably early in December, with the men, women and children of the district clustered nearby under shady gums or sheoaks; a plot of ripened wheat marked off into parallel strips in much the same way as athletic contests are done today; and at the head of each strip a strong, young harvester, armed with sickle, standing poised, ready for action; behing him his sponsor, ready for emergencies with extra sickles, plus cans or jugs of drinks. A pistol shot! And the harvesters were away to cheering, friendly bantering and wagering. Finally came the toasting of the winner. This was usually an exciting and happy day for everyone, with many willing extra hands ready to stack the precious sheaves that had been harvested. Young Richard delighted in these trials and was frequently the victor..

Then came the threshing. For this, the day had to be carefully chosen, for not only must the day be dry and warm to keep the husks and straw brittle, but a gentle wind was essential to separate the grain from the chaff.

The threshing floor itself had necessarily to be carefully cleared and scraped clean beforehand.

When all was ready the sheaves were taken from the stack and spread evenly over the great floor space; around which men lined up — this time armed with FLAILS. These consisted of

broomstick-like pieces of smoothed timber lashed strongly together with thongs of leather. One stick was loaded at one end, with lead, to give weight to the fall. These flails were powerful weapons when wielded with strength and energy; and the grain readily cracked from the dry brittle husks. The flaying continued until it was estimated that the dehusking was complete.

The next important step was the separation of the grain from the chaff. Long-handled forks were used to stir the flayed heap so that the grain fell immediately to the floor, while the lighter "cocky" chaff drifted lightly before the wind, forming a heap at one side.

The grain was easily gathered into bags and stored, while the "cocky" chaff proved useful as a subsidiary stock food, and frequently for mattress filling! Nothing was wasted in those far-off days.

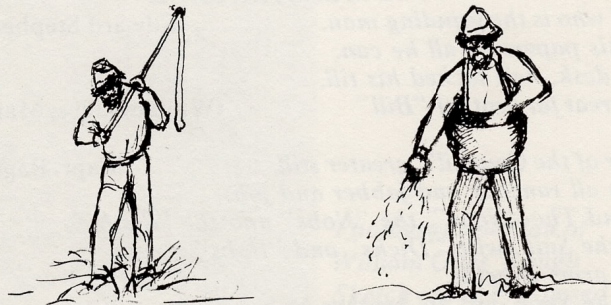
Such slow and laborious methods were soon out of date, and great tree-trunk rollers, smoothed, somewhat tapered, and often grooved, brought relief from the wielding flail.

Fixed to a swivel and firmly chained to the centre of the threshing floor, the roller was drawn by bullock or horse, thereby easing the labour for the men and speeding the process considerably.

Soon, too, hand-turned winnowers proved a much more efficient way of separating the grain from the chaff.

Thus those very early pioneers laboured and had their simple pleasures. Occasionally, they visited the nearest town to sell or buy their stock; and still more occasionally they made the long trip to Adelaide, on foot or by bullock dray, either to transact some business, or to see the Agricultural Show, as did Richard the Elder, in 1844, when the first Show was held on the park lands near the junction of North and East Terraces. A tableau of this Show, as described by William Giles in his monthly Report to the Headquarters on the London Wall, would surely be a great "draw-card" to present-day Royal Shows.

So life flowed along, more or less smoothly, during the very early "forties" at Black Hill Valley.



Sketches of A man with a flail A man Broadcasting.



CHAPTER VIII

Copper!

Richard the Younger

By 1844 "The Vallies" had things well under control with many tenant farmers who had built the essential fences to contain the sheep.

Young Richard, therefore, felt free to give his full time to helping his Father with the heavy and often dangerous work that he was doing with draught stock, as well as with sheep.

The two Richards, between whom there was a strong bond of affection, seemed naturally to complement each other. The Elder was now quite content to direct activities, while working away quietly at the essential endless tasks about the place. Whereas the Younger, strong and vigorous, was for ever eager to try every new thing that offered.

Indeed, from this time onward, probably from thirty to forty years, the younger man, now nineteen years of age, while deferring to his Father, yet became the central figure in most of the major activities of Black Hill Valley.

The BOOM of the Burra copper, in 1845, was irresistible to him as it was to most other able-bodied men in the Colony. However, he saw the wisdom of his Father's suggestion that he take the waggon and a team of bullocks and get a share of the very lucrative task of carting the ore.



Sketch of Bullock Waggon and Load of Ore.

So off he went, fitted out with the best team of oxen his Father could provide; and by the end of his first week he had earned the stupendous sum of £300. This was for carting one load of ore the ninety four miles from Burra Burra to Port Adelaide. We are not told how many such loads he carted; but we are told that every available farmer was soon at this task, for it was quicker and easier money than they could make at farming. We are told, too, that in the last six weeks of 1845 the average quantity of good quality ore carted to the Port was 88 tons 15 cwt; and that by January 21, 1846, the £5 Burra shares were selling at £25. We know, too, that this great find of copper at the Burra saved the situation as far as the young Colony's finances were concerned — taking it from near bankruptcy on to a sound financial footing. The following humorous skit, written by the Acting Colonial Treasurer, J. W. McDonald, tells something of the BOOM'S exciting days; and how all and sundry soon became involved —

THE MONSTER MINE

*Even "Teddy" who is the grinding man,
Has mustered his papers — all he can.
He's closed his desk, he's locked his till,
He's taken his great fat brother "Bill"*

(Edward Stephens, the Pioneer Banker)

(William Giles, Manager of the S.A. Co. —
weighed 21 stones)

*And a "Member of the Council", greater still,
Then away with all rancour and jabber and jobs,
The "Snobs" and The "Nobs", the "Nobs" and the "Snobs",
The "Lords of the Sail" with "Dicks" and "Bobs",
Their brotherly arms entwine.
And long may the Snob and his brother Nob
Grow fat on Monster Mine.*

(Capt. Bagot, a Pioneer Politician)

Twenty thousand pounds had to be raised for a twenty thousand acre Survey. The two parties concerned were the SNOBS (trades people and people of small means) and the NOBS, who were the Capitalists.

Such a sum was difficult to raise because of the bankrupt state of the Colony. Each party in turn, therefore, approached the South Australian Company asking for its help and co-operation. William Giles, manager, who was also very enthusiastic, in his turn, petitioned the authorities on London Wall for permission, not only to invest money, but also to take a prominent part in the mining venture itself.

This, the London Wall, being wary of mining ventures, would not grant.

With the Company's refusal to help, the NOBS and SNOBS sank their differences and together managed to raise the necessary £20,000 — but not to work the mine.

The area was then divided into North and South and Lots were drawn, The Nobs got the North, which proved to be the valuable area, and made fortunes. The Snobs got the South (Princess Royal Mine) which proved nearly worthless for mining. They sold it eventually for grazing purposes at 18/- per acre!

William Giles, who did not give up easily, and feeling very strongly that the Company had missed a great opportunity of helping both itself and the young Province, saw to it that London Wall learnt what it had missed. In each of his succeeding Monthly Reports he gave fact and figures of production, of the quality and quantity of the ore and of the rapid rise in the price of shares.

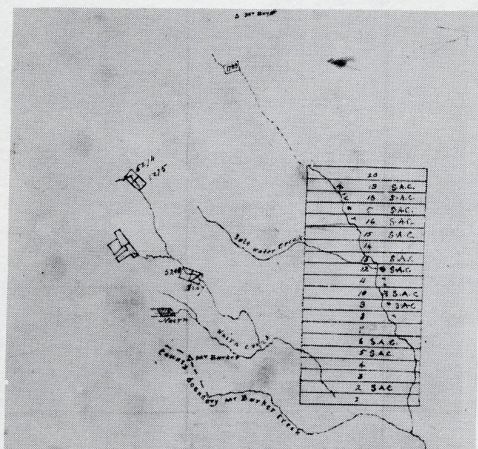
Thus, unwittingly he "softened" the Board Members for the next big excitement — KANMANTOO! Only three miles from the Black Hill Valley; and only 35 miles from Adelaide.

The Mt. Barker Mineral Survey and Development at Black Hill Valley

By 1845 the South Australian Company had certainly contracted the mining fever. On October 30 of that year, William Giles reported to the London Wall that because of a confidential report from the Company's two permanent miners, he and Mr. Dixon (their full-time Geologist) had gone to inspect an area five miles east of Mount Barker.

Consequently, after a meeting of the Board of Advice, a claim for a Special Survey of 20,000 acres had been made. Unfortunately, he had been notified on 1st November, that two persons, Duncan and Lachlan McFarlane had a prior claim for a portion of that area.

Things then moved very quickly, for, by November 8, William Giles and his Board of Advice had come to terms with the McFarlanes (and others) who had agreed that the Company, in the name of William Giles, should apply for the 20,000 acres; but that the McFarlanes (and others) should be entitled to 8,000 acres for £8,000; while the Company should get 12,000 acres for £12,000.



*Photographed Plan of
William Giles' Rough
Sketch of the Proposed
Mt. Barker Mineral Survey.*

The relative areas were to be decided by LOT.

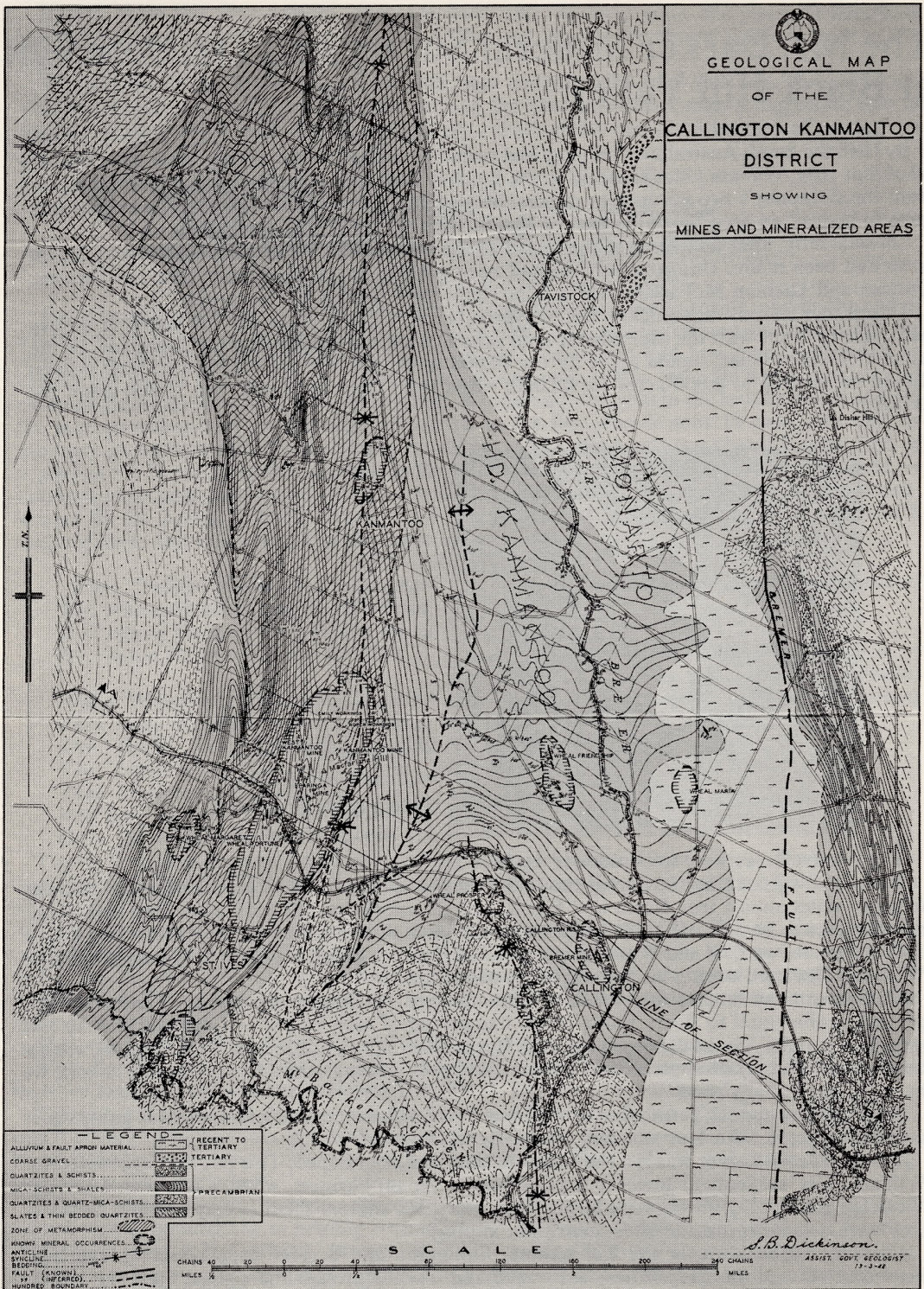
It was also agreed that the Survey should be roughly in the shape of a parallelogram running for eight miles almost true North and South, and for approximately four miles East and West; the total area to be subdivided into twenty sections, each of a thousand acres; the dividing line of each section to run East and West. (The appended plan is a rough copy of a very fragile one that William Giles used during his investigations of the claim.)

Excitement was intense and William Giles finished his Report by saying "I consider this property quite equal to Burra Burra which has proved of such value. —It appears that in less than four months, the ores shipped from the Burra Mine will yield £20,000. The Directors will not be surprised that my disappointment was most severe at missing such a Prize. However, I hope we have got one equally good."

After such an appeal, permission to mine was of course granted and much ore was gained over a period of years, with four smelters eventually treating the ore.

Yet the Special Survey was not the Bonanza that had been hoped. This possibly accounted for William Giles' subsequent advice to the Company's Tenant Farmers, when, a few years later, the Victorian goldmining booms were luring them away. He advised them to stay on their farms as they were a safer and surer investment than mining!

However, enthusiasm for the Kanmantoo, Callington and Bremer copper-mining, ran high between 1846 and the early fifties; but waxed and waned through the sixties, until the almost complete closure came in 1875. Intermittent mining did continue by various groups and individuals even up until 1900. Then, the almost zero price of copper forced complete cessation for nearly seventy years.



Geological Map of the Callington-Kanmantoo District —, original map in Geological Survey of South Australia, Bulletin No. 20. [by Courtesy of the Department of Mines South Australia —]

During the protracted period of great endeavour from 1845-1875, falling prices, rising costs, droughts and competition from the Victorian gold mining, forced both the South Australian Company and the McFarlane Group into the realization that the land must be sold for settlement.

Indeed, some of it had already been sold, and much more of it had been leased as grazing properties — a few hundreds here, a thousand acres there. Eventually, in the early years of the Twentieth Century it had all been sold, and this ancient land mass settled down, peacefully, as a farming and grazing district, with a scarred hillside here and a dump there, as the only reminders of the great effort that had been made.

The South Australian Company's decision to undertake the Mount Barker Mineral Survey had three far-reaching effects on the Mills family at Black Hill Valley:-

1. The immediate and insatiable demand for all that could be produced in the 1845-1875 period.
2. The expansion of their holding which came with the closing of the Mines in the very early years of the Twentieth Century.
3. The discovery in the early nineteen seventies that the copper-bearing reef, which had so excited William Giles in 1845, underlies not only Black Hill but also continues northwest through a number of the original Millbrae Sections — even running under the house and farm buildings — and that several important mining companies were competing for the Mining Rights.

So far-reaching have each of these effects been that some consideration must be given to each period.

By 1844 the house at the Old Garden had already become too small for the growing family and its needs.

Another son, George, was born in September of that year, and Richard, the Younger, was also permanently at home and demandingly active.

A bigger house and better facilities for living were obviously needed; so somewhere about 1845-6, along with the excitement of the opening of the Mines at Kanmantoo (only a few miles away), came the important move from the Old Garden (now Section 5360) over the low ridge of Rocky Nob, to the present site on Section 5359. This is almost in the shadow of Black Hill, so that the name "Black Hill Valley" was even more appropriate than before. (As will be shown, the name "Millbrae" was not adopted until some years later.) This move brought the family centre somewhat nearer the Mines, and certainly was generally more accessible.

There on a specially levelled area (now the Tennis Court) a *Pisé* house, with thatched roof, was built.

Large rooms with good windows were provided, plus such facilities as a brick oven, as well as the usual cauldrons for boiling water. The cauldrons were of course, suspended by chains from the chimney, over the fireplace. Such facilities, together with a good dairy, half underground (and still in existence), immensely improved the living and working conditions for the women; as did the building of a stone barn, with workshop and stockyards for the men.

A threshing floor and stock yard, sheltered by large gums, gave a big, open space for the tremendous tasks of harvesting grain and storing foddors — haystacks.

A sixty-foot deep well, with windlass, produced a goodly supply of water; but, unfortunately, the water was too mineralized for human consumption, so that a rain-water tank was also a necessity. However, the well water was of great value for all other purposes.

Finally, remembering their Kentish homeland, another garden was planted with all possible kinds of fruit, even to a Kentish cherry tree.

So the present Millbrae was born; and like a new-born child was not so-named for some time to come; and like a growing child, it, too, developed and changed with the years. Today, there is little left of those early buildings, for strong stone, and even more commodious rooms, have succeeded the *pisé* ones. Yet, to those who knew them, there are touches here and there: the present saddle room and stable are parts of the old barn, and the stockyard and threshing floor still provide a large, open, useful area between the woolshed and the house.

Memories, too, come back of a lovely rose garden in that same open space — but the 1914 drought destroyed that patch of beauty.

CHAPTER X

Gold!

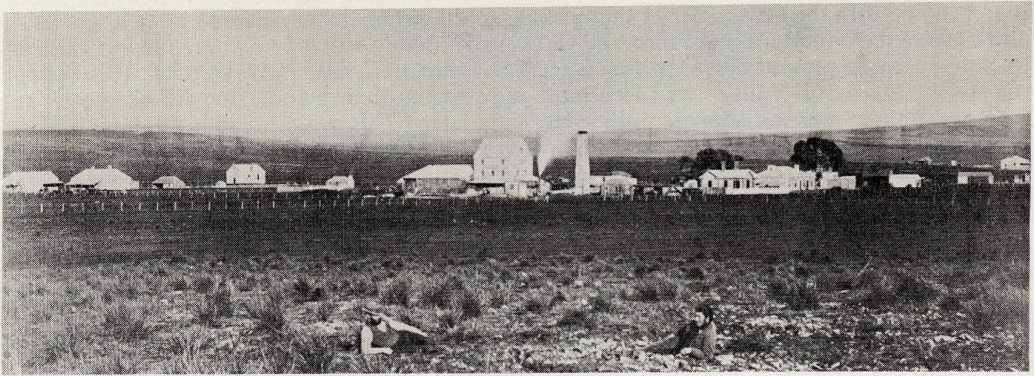
For the next few years life flowed along busily and satisfactorily at Black Hill Valley with the Kanmantoo mining area proving a lucrative market for all that could be produced on the farm.

Horses had been added to the stock-holding activities because with their greater tractability and speed, they were proving more popular than oxen. However, oxen for moving heavy goods, such as ore, were essential, and still greatly in demand for the next seventy or eighty years, at least.

The lower part of the Bremer Valley was a great centre of activity all through the 1846-1850 years, with new mines opening up in a number of places. During these years, too, the seasons were good and so a more affluent state of the economy existed, with rising prices for everything — especially for Labour. William Giles in his Report to London Wall, complained bitterly about the difficulties of getting and keeping labour stating, "I can only keep good men by building stone cottages so that the wives and families can be with them." In this way the small miners' villages of Staughton and St. Ives (long since gone) were built.

And again William Giles wrote, "Wages have risen from 30/- to 35/- to \$2-2-0 per week" and "Miners have become so independent that it is almost impossible to deal with them."

Transport, too, was costly and difficult, for with the wetter seasons, the poor roads were at times impassable; even horse riding became almost impossible. The considerable and persistent rise in costs quickly brought a swing back of the pendulum, so that by 1851, something approaching the crisis of 1841, was again hitting the young Colony. Prices then fell, prosperity declined, and houses became tenantless.



Callington Smelters.

To cope with its difficulties the Company between 1847 and 1848 thoroughly explored the possibilities of smelting; and by 1849 the first of four smelters, using local timber as fuel, was erected. This was the Bremer Smelters, on Section 5.

A Mr. W. Thomas, experienced in copper smelting in Chile, South America, was appointed Manager, and by November of that year, 1849, using only local wood as fuel, copper, smelted at the Bremer, proved equally marketable in Singapore with that from the Burra.

This success encouraged the early establishment of three other smelters, ending with that at Scotts Creek, Dawesley.

Then BOOM! 1850-1851 brought the GOLD finds in Victoria. So great were these discoveries at Ballarat, Bendigo, Castlemaine and many other places, that people were attracted not only from all States of Australia, but even from Overseas.

Chinese were smuggled in by the boat load to South Eastern Ports, and from there travelled overland to Victoria.

South Australia lost an average of one hundred a day while the rush lasted; with all

able-bodied men from Nairne and Callington, as well as some of the Kanmantoo miners, yielding to the new lure.

'Of course young Richard, now in his twenties, was in the vanguard of the rush; and found some of his Father's horses much speedier and more manageable than the bullocks he had used to cart the ore between the Burra and Port Adelaide.

Speed was essential, for this time Richard was determined to mine and not cart ore. Somehow he negotiated the unknown, trackless mallee scrub and almost waterless sandy wastes that barred the way to Ballarat; and there, along with hundreds of others he set to work. By 1852 he had had enough of mining and hastened home to Black Hill Valley with the grand sum of £900 to his credit.

Fortunately, on that return journey, Richard met none of the undesirables (including Bushrangers) who were, by this time, preying upon the streams of people still finding their way to those enticing fields. Fortunately, too, the troubles over the Miners' Licences and the consequent confrontation with the Authorities at the Eureka Stockade, had not flared up.

But it is possible that his gold came back to South Australia in Alexander Tolmer's Gold Escort, for a persistent tale of the making of that gold into some of the first "ingots" has come down through the generations.

The story of the production of the first "Ingots", and how they saved South Australia from yet another economic crisis can surely bear repetition. The First Gold Escort arrived in Adelaide on the 19th March, 1852, with practically the whole of the excited populace lining the route to welcome them. The value of this first spring dray load was £21,300.

The suggestion of an Assay and Coining was at first frowned upon by most of the leaders of the Community, including the Governor, the managers of the three Banks and the Treasurer, Colonel Torrens. All were doubtful about the legality of such a step. Then came the discovery that South Australians were selling their gold in Victoria, and even overseas, because in this way, they realized higher prices than South Australia could give.

A Bill to give legal value to gold by assaying and coining was framed, but with strong opposition both from within and without the Legislative Executive Council - again on the score of its legality.

However, the Crown Solicitor (Charles Mann) was approached and he saw no legal impediment to the passing of such an Act (the stamping of Ingots and accepting them as legal tender).

The Governor, Sir Henry Fox Young, even though he still questioned the legality, courageously gave way, because he realized both that the Colonists were all for it, and that this was the only way to save the Colony from bankruptcy.

The Bill then became an Act in record time, with the price of gold fixed at 71/- per ounce of 23-⁷/₈ carat.

Thus another economic crisis was averted in much the same way as copper had saved things a few years earlier.

Altogether, from March, 1852 to December, 1853, £1,666,210-6-6 worth of GOLD came to South Australia.

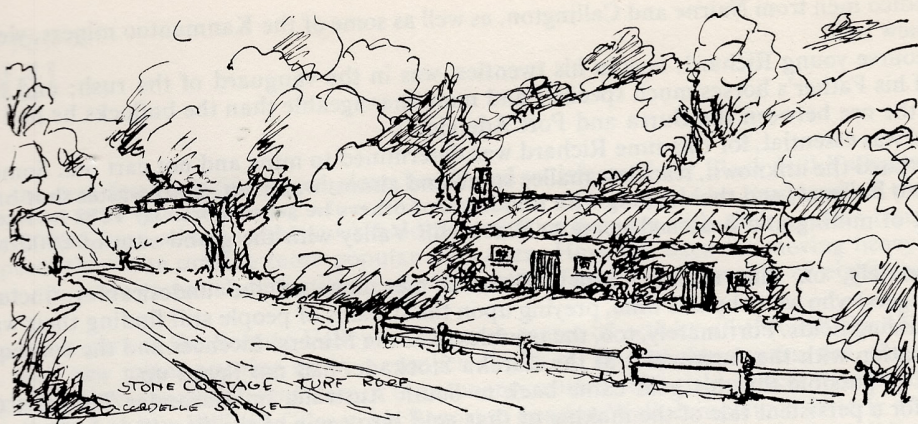
CHAPTER XI

A very special Survey, Wedding Bells and Native Valley

At long last, about 1850, surveyors moved into that strip of land that so vitally concerned our family. This was situated between the Mount Barker Survey (2001), and Smillie's Special Survey on the north-west of it.

Some sections had already been completed when Richard, the Younger, returned from Ballarat. Indeed, as early as the 1st November, 1850, a miner and publican of Adelaide, had already bought Section 2022. It was eighty acres in area and cost him seventy two pounds.

About this same time, James Forrest, a land agent, had also moved on to the land east of that occupied by the Mills family, and was negotiating for its purchase.



Sketch of Stone House on Section 2023, — 1840's-1900's.

Young Richard then acted quickly, and using his "pre-occupation rights", bought various sections of their Territory as they became available. The first of these was Section 2023 (still owned by the family and now called Watson's), which he obtained on the 11th February, 1853. It was also eighty acres in extent, and cost eighty pounds. On it was a long, low, white-washed, rough, stone house with thatched roof and bare rafters.

A squatter, Robert Henry and his family had built this and lived there while waiting for the Section he wanted — 2026 — which was a part of Black Hill itself. This, too, consisted of eighty acres and cost £80 and was sold to Robert Henry on February, 19, 1853.

This section was no longer Crown Land but an isolated outpost of the Smillie Special Survey. It had been surveyed as early as 1841. Did Matthew Smillie recognize the mineral potentialities of Black Hill and its surroundings?

And was Richard the Younger, treated as "the white-haired boy" by the Executors of the Smillie Estate when, in February, 1853, they sold to him Section 2023 and allotted him Lot 129 Nairne?

Probably no one will ever know the answers to these two questions.

On the same day as young Richard bought Section 2023, (11th February, 1853) he was also indentured with the town allotment, No. 129 at Nairne. Reference to this will be made in another chapter.

On the 15th February, 1853, James Forrest, the land broker, got control of the section he wanted and there built a red gum slab cottage with thatched roof; and made this his Headquarters.

This cottage was still in good condition, and in use as the farm home, until late in the second decade of the Twentieth Century, when a new house was built by the family of Mullins who had subsequently bought the property.

James Forrest, in the fifties, got control of a number of sections surrounding his original one. These included Section 2020 (now Burnbrae), which after many changes of ownership, was eventually bought by William George James Mills in May, 1905, thus becoming part of what, by that time, was known as Millbrae.

James Forrest named his holding SPRINGFIELD because of the good supply of fresh spring water in the creek that flowed past his house. This was the same stream that, less than a mile further west, also passed the Mills' homestead. Indeed, it was this stream that through the ages, had carved out the whole of Black Hill Valley, as it wended its way to the Bremer River some miles further East.

No more land from the Black Hill Valley was available for sale until June 29, 1854, when Richard the Younger, bought Sections 5360 (the Old Garden) and 5359 (the site of the present Millbrae homestead), for the increased prices of £100 and £207, respectively.

We can imagine young Richard's satisfaction when he paid CASH DOWN for those original Sections; just as we can surely imagine how Richard the Elder felt when his son handed him the DEEDS of the land which he had worked so hard and so long to possess. Indeed, he must have been as pleased as Jacob when at long last he had won his Rachel. (Old Testament Story).



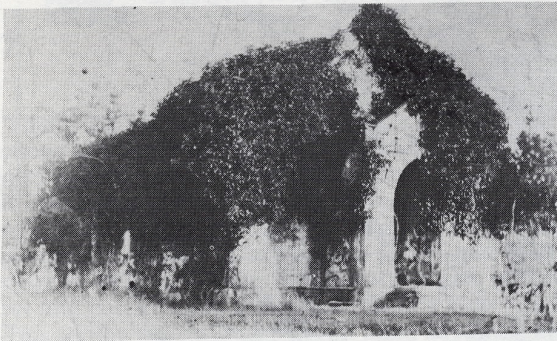
Military Manouevre Map. (by courtesy of The Army.)

Subsequent original purchases were made by young Richard between the years 1860 and 1883 — but for greatly increased prices. Unfinancial squatters had moved out and the land brokers, Peter Dowding Prankerd and Robert Stuckey, had moved in.

In the meantime young Richard had, very early in the fifties, leased the square mile of land adjoining that of his father's lease, on the north and north-west sides. There he settled down with his young bride, for Richard had wooed and won the neighbouring squatter's daughter, Anne Margaret Henry, a daughter of the Robert Henry who had bought Section 2026.

This Section, some years later, in July, 1865, Robert Henry, when retiring, sold to his son-in-law, young Richard.

Great were the celebrations at Black Hill Valley when, on October 26, 1852, young Richard and Anne Margaret were married in the Inverbrackie Church at Woodside, with the Presbyterian Moderator, the Reverend Haining, officiating. Sad to say this Church was destroyed by fire some years later, and is now but a heap of ivy-covered rubble.



Ruins of the Inverbrackie Church Woodside

The marriage of Richard and Margaret (as she was usually known) meant that from then onwards, this branch of the family became Presbyterians instead of Anglicans, as they had hitherto been. The Henrys came from a very strict Covenanting family who had fled from the Galloway Promontory, in Scotland, across the narrow strip of water, to County Cavan, Ireland. This was to evade the religious persecutions that came with the Restoration of Charles II, in 1660. The family claimed that flight was the only way to save themselves as they were of the Stuart Clan tracing their lineage back to Robert Bruce himself. The Stuarts of course were the butt of the Restoration Persecutors. This story I have not attempted to substantiate for "one cannot be responsible for one's ancestors and only partially for one's descendants!"

The migration of the Henrys from Ireland was for the same reasons as for most other migrants of the time — the parlous state of living conditions, together with well-advertised attractions (especially its warmer and drier climate) of this new land of South Australia.

This marriage also meant that young Richard would, from then on, be living in Native Valley and not in Black Hill Valley. Native Valley is parallel with Black Hill Valley, but longer and more open, and only a mile or two further north and north-west. It is so-called because the natives used it quite frequently as a gathering ground for their forays on neighbouring tribes, as apparently happened every few months. Stories are told of pitched battles behind the primitive Methodist Church at Nairne; as well as at other places. The last of these conflicts was between the Adelaide and Wellington tribes and it took place near the Flour Mill a few miles west of Mount Barker. So fierce was the contest that Police were sent from Adelaide to quell the disturbance.

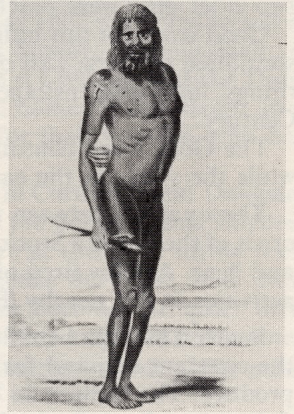
On the whole the natives were a peaceable lot of wanderers, coming and going on food-hunting excursions. Natural fauna abounded — kangaroos, emus, wallabies, opossum, spotted cats, bustards (native turkeys) and snakes galore, as well as hosts of other such delicacies which delighted the aborigines; and if an occasional sheep added a change of diet, no one really begrudged it.

But these natives retreated before the whites, largely because they could not understand their way of life; and certainly they could not withstand our diseases. Whooping Cough, Measles, Tuberculosis and so on, all took a heavy toll. Some of them were attracted to shearing and stock breaking, but generally they just drifted away to less populous parts. Now all that remains are a few relics here and there: After the 1944 flood, native ovens were unearthed, in perfect condition,

along the banks of Feirclough's Creek. But these, like those who had made them, also gradually faded away. Some snags were taken of these ovens, but sad to say, they, too, have been lost.

Along this same Creek (recently declared a Government Reserve), two lots of very primitive red ochre drawings may be seen in small, isolated caves. It is possible, however, that these drawings are the work of the earlier aborigines who were driven out by the tribes who occupied the country when white people arrived. Occasional native burial grounds have been found. The finding of one of these caused quite a stir, when the finder, a rabbitier, rushed into the Springfield Church, with the news, while a service was in progress. Investigations by the Authorities showed it to be an aboriginal burial ground.

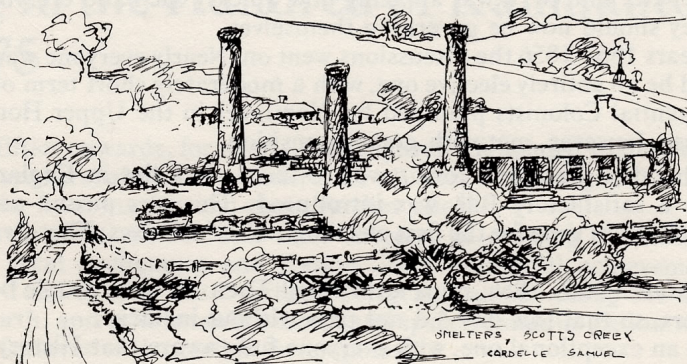
Now this Church, with its burial ground wherein twenty six of the early pioneers lie buried, is also gone and forgotten. But there, if one knows where to look, almost side by side, are two dedicated plots — one to aborigines; one to white people — and over their final resting places, quietly graze the neighbouring property owner's sheep.



Warrior of Mt. Barker. Warrior of Adelaide Tribe. Mintalta Coffin's Bay. Pattynni Coorong

CHAPTER XII

The coming of responsible Government to S.A. and other Developments in the Hundred of Kanmantoo



Sketch of Scott's Creek Smelters

A prosperous, peaceful and busy period followed the marriage of Richard and Anne Margaret in 1852.

The newly-married pair settled down in their "four-Square" pise house or what soon became Section 5339, for by 1854 this land, too, had been surveyed. Henry Appleton, a tenant farmer

with Matthew Smillie, had purchased it along with several other Sections. However, Henry Appleton was only too pleased to renew Richard's lease, for he, Henry Appleton, had other commitments and could not at that time farm this land himself.

In the meantime, Richard had bought some fine shorthorn cattle and built up a herd, which after a few years, was not only his pride and joy, but also the pride of the whole district. Strangely enough, up to this time, neither Richard the Elder nor young Richard, had gone in extensively for sheep in spite of their early training with Matthew Smillie's flock. That came much later.

In between managing his own affairs, young Dick always kept in touch with the family at Black Hill Valley, giving a helping hand whenever it was needed. The building of the new bluestone wing, with verandah, on the western side of the pise house, was one such time. Just when this was done is not clear, but most likely in the early "fifty" years, for the family then needed more room. Three young South Australians, Sarah, George and Caroline, had been added to the five who were born in Kent; and all were now growing up. Mary had already married; and John and the two elder girls were reaching adulthood.

Good stone for this building was found only a stone's throw from the site of the house and this simplified matters. This quarry in after years, proved a great asset for storing hay and all sorts of things, including ensilage when that fodder was first tried out in the early part of the Twentieth Century.

The Gold Rush continued all through the "fifties", with many discoveries over a wide area; while the yields in the earlier mines proved greater than had been thought possible.

The quarrels between the miners and the Authorities over the Licence Charges brought the crisis of the Eureka Stockade, but in spite of this, people continued to flock to the fields from far and near. As they tired of the hard work and the uncertainties, they either settled down to other activities in the nearby districts, or else drifted away to the other States.

South Australia benefited considerably from this unexpected influx of people, as well as from the constant demand for the necessary food supplies, such as wheat, flour, potatoes and dairy produce. The farmers in South Australia, including the two Richards, readily responded to this demand and great was the traffic, back and forth, across the border.

During this time, too, exploration in South Australia had temporarily nearly come to a standstill, and this gave the whole Province, especially the City, a chance to reckon up its achievements and made a more orderly arrangement of affairs.

The enlarged Legislative Council (1852) had functioned well and proved a splendid advisory to the Governor. But his was the full and final responsibility — a heavy load indeed. Sir Henry Fox Young, who had been so courageous over the Bullion Act, and who had since won regard of all, not only saw the necessity for establishing a full and responsible Government, but also pressed strongly for its achievement.

He supported the right of every citizen to have a say as to what form the Government should take, and how it should function, so that with his backing, the matter soon became the topic of conversation and debate. Indeed, it was amazing how quickly each and everyone was arguing as to how and why they should now be governing themselves.

All through the years 1852-1856 the discussions went on. Nearly everyone was satisfied that the Lower House should be an entirely elective one, with a moderately short term of office. But many outspoken and influential Colonists plumped for Nominees in the Upper House — with a long term of Office. These, however, met with great opposition.

The matter was bandied back and forth, even to the Authorities in England, until, in 1856, what seemed to be a satisfactory Bill, was introduced. This was passed and sent Home for ratification. It came back in time for the first elections of both Houses. These were held in March, 1857.

What a day that March 10th, 1856, must have been! Then, as now, people became very stirred over political matters, so that this day did not pass without incident.

But that day was an exceptional one, with everyone fully aware that History was being made; and that from then on, every one of them would be equally responsible for the Government of their own internal affairs.

That day really passed very satisfactorily, with the Members of the two Houses, The Legislative Council and the House of Assembly being duly elected in a way, and under a Constitution, that has only been slightly altered in the succeeding 115 years. But in this year of 1972, there are clamours for big voting changes for the Upper House, or Legislative Council.

Much to the sorrow of the whole community, Sir Henry Fox Young had been transferred to Tasmania in 1854 and so his was not the guiding hand in the culmination of this great achievement. His successor, however, was Sir Richard MacDonnell, and he concurred with all that Sir Henry Fox Young had done; and the move towards responsible Government continued unhindered.

Throughout this same period, copper mining and smelting in the lower Bremer Valley expanded, but not without considerable effort on the part of the South Australian Company, for they had already begun to realize that the Bremer Region was not a second Burra Burra.

The land for the township of Kanmantoo (a native word meaning a meeting place) had been set aside by the Company as early as 1846 but it was not surveyed until a Mr. Young did it ten years later.

Mr. Young also bought for himself quite a considerable area South West of the town and settled there. His son, later the Honourable H.D. Young, M.L.C., added a large vineyard and built a winery, all of which, his daughter, the present owner, still holds and manages.

Indeed, the Company and other owners of the Section 2001, as early as 1852 were glad to sell or lease, as occasion offered, a great deal of the Mount Barker Mineral Survey. Thomas Hair, in that year, leased a considerable holding East of Kanmantoo, and called it Crofton; and the Dunn Brothers leased the area adjoining Crofton on its North East side, and named it Bondleigh after their home town in Devon. There, the Dunn Brothers built a house for their parents, who had come out from Bondleigh to join them.

The small towns of Kanmantoo, Callington (named after Callington in Cornwall) and Dawesley (a very small residential village between Nairne and Kanmantoo where the Scotts Creek Smelters had been set up) all waxed and waned with the copper mines. They are at this time lifting their heads and showing signs of movement as the present copper resurgence develops. It is most probable that when this copper-mining episode ends, they will again become the quiet little agricultural havens that they have been for the last hundred years. But they may well be destined to become small out-lying "suburbs" of the proposed new City of Monarto — only a few miles further East.

It is very evident that in the Country, as well as in the City, the early Colonists were kept continuously on their toes, not only working hard at their tasks of producing food, draught stock, minerals and so on, but also keeping in touch with the over-all doings and developments in the whole Colony.

Richard and Anne Margaret's first child, Margaret Anne, arrived in 1855, and their second, John Richard Henry in 1857 and our Father, William George James, on the 7th September, 1859. In the next four years, two other children, Jean and Elizabeth were born — making a total of five children for Richard the Younger.

CHAPTER XIII

Farming in the Hundred of Kanmantoo, 1855-1875

From the late fifties onwards, for nearly twenty years, life tended to develop in the Hundred of Kanmantoo as elsewhere, almost to a pattern, for all were busily engaged in producing what they could, both for the local market and those further afield.

In 1862 Stuart's great efforts, and final success, in crossing Australia from Adelaide to Darwin, caused great excitement and elation. This wonderful achievement, ten years later, enabled Charles Todd to take the Overland Telegraph almost along the same route, and also from South to North; and so to establish direct and speedy communication with Britain — one of the outstanding features of Australian development.

The rapidly growing City of Adelaide, the Bremer (Kanmantoo) Mining Region and the Victorian Gold Fields still created a continuous and growing demand for food and stock, and great were the efforts to supply them.

Richard the Elder, had worked up a considerable connection both with the City and the Mines; but Richard the Younger, true to form, tried also to work up a connection with the South East as well as with the Western Victorian Mining area. To assist him in this, he rented sixty six acres at

Mount Gambier as a half-way house and stopping-off centre. But after six years he gave this up because of increasing home responsibilities.



*Ruins of Dunn's Wind Flour Mill,
Mt. Barker.*

Dunn's Windmill (Originally Nixon's) on Windmill Hill near Mount Barker, ground over half a million bushels of wheat in one season; even exporting flour overseas, as well as interstate. This flourishing business continued until modern power machinery made it uneconomic.

The Mill now stands as an interesting relic, sheltering some of the farming and milling equipment used in the pioneering days. It should also house the Hay Valley Millstone from Dunn's first flour mill there, and which played such an important role in providing food for Matthew Smillie's courageous pioneers. The stone lay for years by the wayside where it fell during a fruitless attempt to transport it to Windmill Hill. Maybe it is still there.

So absorbed was the whole Hundred of Kanmanto in its "busyness" that the news of the discovery of copper at Wallaroo in 1859 and at Moonta in 1863 and 1864, scarcely stirred a ripple on the even tenor of their ways. Yet men in their hundreds were attracted to Wallaroo and Moonta from many parts of the world; especially from Cornwall.

It is hard to believe that the mouldering wee village of today, with the enchanting name of Kanmantoo, was once a busy and prosperous town of eight hundred people, with a number of shops, Hotels and Inns. One of these Inns, The Spotted Dog, was particularly popular, with numbers of miners congregating there on their way home from work.

One evening quarrels arose, and Black Jack Kavanagh got the worst of the ensuing fight.

The next evening, his two sons, Young Black Jack and Red Jack (also miners), decided to avenge their Father's insult.

Red Jack was to keep watch outside the Hotel, and count the victims as they were thrown out; while young Black Jack went inside to stir up the fray.

Soon a body came hurtling through the window and Red Jack counted, "W.A.A.A.N.!" Shortly afterwards came another, so he shouted, "TWO!" But from the body came, "Yer Fule! It's ME!!"

Big, fair Mervyn Feirclough, six feet four inches tall and weighing nineteen stone, had been quietly seated in a corner until Black Jack stirred up trouble; then ———!

By the early sixties farmers generally had begun to realize two very important things. First that dry years, and even bad droughts, were part of the weather pattern of much of South Australia, and that they must be reckoned with; secondly that the intensive stocking and extensive wheatfarming were tending to destroy the centuries-old accumulation of stabilized ground cover. They realized, too, that the consequences were bad — a lower crop yield, poorer pastures and a quick run-off of ground water, which also speeded erosion. The remedies were not easy. To increase the size of the holdings, which would help, was almost an impossibility. Superphosphate to regenerate the soil, was then unknown; as was subterranean clover and most of the introduced pasture plants of today.

These difficulties and problems, however, were not fully understood until the bad drought of 1865 which depleted flocks and herds, reduced cropping nearly to zero, and forced many people off their holdings; and even closed some of the mines. Then in 1867, in what should have been a good year because of splendid rains, an outbreak of red rust ruined not only crops but also pastures. This was a terrific blow to farmers, stockholders and the State's finances and another depression set in, lasting into the early seventies.

Is this Nature's way of rectifying Man's mistakes?

But "hope springs eternal in the human breast", and as time went on, the afflicted people left in their hundreds to try their luck in the northern areas, which were then opening up for farming; and proving very popular.

Amongst these were a number from the Hundred of Kanmantoo, including the Ladymans (Senior), with Harry Hill and his wife Caroline (nee Mills), and family. They were later followed by Henry Ladyman (Junior), with his wife Sarah (nee Mills) and family.

All settled around Red Hill, Crystal Brook and Narridy.

Those who remained in the Kanmantoo District weathered their adversities and finally were able to buy some of the vacated land, thus enlarging their holdings so that there would be greater hopes of survival when the next drought struck.

Richard the Younger, was one of these.

Subsequently, these northern areas also showed signs of excessive clearing — especially of the native salt and other perennial bushes — and of intensive farming and stocking. Superphosphates, although now in use, were not widely known, and so, towards the close of the Century, when land around Katanning, Western Australia, was booming, another minor migration took place. The Ladymans (with Eliza Mills) from Red Hill, were some of those who bought land there, settled, and have farmed it successfully ever since.

Thus, the first family was spreading out — George to Victoria and three sisters to Western Australia.

CHAPTER XIV

Details of the First and Second Families at Millbrae 1860-1880.

(1) The First Family Grows Up and Disperses.

(2) The Pioneer Parents Die.

Throughout these years, natural progression had taken place with the families of Richard the Elder and Richard the Younger living on their adjacent selections in and around the Black Hill Valley.

Two of the elder girls of the First Family had married. Mary probably in 1845 and Anne soon after Richard the Younger in 1852. But not Eliza (really Elizabeth). She remained the home girl and eventually went, in the middle seventies, with a younger sister, Sarah Ladyman and her family to Red Hill, and then finally with that family when they moved to Carrolup, Western Australia, at the turn of the Century. There she died a few years later, but not before she had seen the Ladyman holding of Tennisdale well established, as well as several of Sarah's children married and settled in the surrounding district.

John, the youngest born of the Kentish children, had, at an early age also become a Stockholder, leasing a block of land adjoining that of his Father on the North East side. There he built a stone house on what later became Section 1988, which is known today as the Back Paddock. The ruins of this house still remain. In 1864 he married the daughter of a Nairne Creek farmer, Mary Ellen Todd, and they lived in the house on Section 1988. When this land was due for sale, John, having the rights of the "pre-occupier" to purchase, either did not wish to buy the land or was financially unable to do so, and Peter Dowding Prankerd with Robert Stuckey got possession. Some years later, in 1883, Richard, the Younger, added this block to the Millbrae holdings.

In the meantime John Mills had moved to the City and bought a house in Nelson Street, Parkside so that his family would have easier access to school. He himself engaged in share-farming at Long Plains and the surrounding districts where he is still remembered as an able and responsible farmer.

Some mention has already been made of Sarah, the oldest of the children born in South Australia — July 29, 1842. She married Henry Ladyman, youngest son of the Ladyman family (father, mother and four children) who had arrived in South Australia by the S.S. Lady Lilford,

on September 27, 1839. They had settled near Nairne and called their farm Ladyville.

Sarah Mills and Harry Ladyman were married at St. James' Church, Blakiston, on 4th March, 1863, and they set up housekeeping near Scotts Creek, Dawesley, where Harry was the manager of the Smelters. These closed in 1875 when the bottom dropped out of the copper market; but the tall brick chimneys, together with the slagged margin of the Creek, were outstanding features of the landscape until they were demolished somewhere in the second decade of the twentieth century. With the collapse of the copper mining and smelting, Sarah and Harry Ladyman followed their parents to Red Hill and bought a farm there.

George, the third son of the First Family, was born on September 7, 1844. As a very young man, he had gone to the South East and Western Victoria but he did not marry until 1871, when on July 27th, in Trinity Church, Adelaide, he married Harriet Hocking, daughter of N. Hocking of Bordertown, Tatiara. Their large family of seven children all grew up and settled in Victoria.

A century later, one of the great grandsons of George, made himself known to the descendants of Richard the Younger in South Australia.

Caroline, the fifth daughter, was born at Black Hill Valley on December 28, 1846. She twice married. Her first husband was Henry Hill of Callington, and brother-in-law of the previously mentioned Thomas Hair of Crofton, Kanmantoo. This pair, Caroline and Harry, also went north during the depression of 1867-1871. They bought land at Narridy and had three children, Walter, Sarah and Harry.

Then misfortune struck. Harry, while carting wheat, was caught in a storm, got wet through, and a few days later developed pneumonia and died.

Caroline, left a widow with three small children, let her farm to the near-by Ladyman family (her sister), and went to Adelaide to keep house for her brother John, who had also been widowed. On November 2, 1878, John bought home another wife, Catherine Masson, from Port Wakefield, and then Caroline returned to her farm at Narridy. There she met and married William Bryant: and six more children were added to her first three — making a total of nine for Caroline.

Children were indeed plentiful, for John, too, had a family of seven; three in his first marriage and four in the second.

Sarah, the pioneer Mother, died in 1867, at the age of sixty six years. She had been a wonderful wife and Mother, suffering patiently such trials and tribulations as come to but few; and living under such conditions as few could withstand. Thirty years after leaving Kent, she was buried in the Nairne Cemetery. In those thirty years she had made a home and reared a family of eight children, and in so-doing had created an atmosphere of calm and serenity which is the acknowledged and valued inheritance of some of her now innumerable descendants.

The Pioneer Mother's death brought many changes. Eliza (Elizabeth) the only unmarried daughter, had long since taken charge of the cottage at Nairne from which place the school-going children of both families, had set out each day.

Thus in 1867, the ageing Richard the Elder, was left alone. The only sensible thing was for Richard the Younger to move back to the home in Black Hill Valley, with his wife and family, and generally take charge. This he did, and almost undoubtedly, the homestead, from then on, was known as MILLBRAE; although the Death Certificate of Richard the Elder, in 1874, still gives the place name as Black Hill Valley. Much later, in the Twentieth Century, a Post Office was established in Native Valley, first at the "Creamery", and then at "Kains". Since that time the whole area has been known as NATIVE VALLEY.

It was a pity to drop the old name BLACK HILL VALLEY, for it was really historic; as well as descriptive.

Seven years after Sarah's death, her husband, Richard the Elder, also died and was buried beside her in the Nairne Cemetery.

Just where they lie is not now known, for, before headstones had been placed, all records of burial were burnt, together with the Nairne Council Chamber, where they were kept — for the Nairne Cemetery belongs to the District and not to a Church. The defaulting Clerk of the Council had so planned his escape to America that neither money, records, nor the man were ever found.

Incidentally, it is interesting to recall that Nairne was one of the first District Councils to be formed in South Australia, and that the first Official Map was signed in 1853, by the Chairman, Richard Williams, and the District Clerk, F.W.H. Philp. This map still exists.

Almost exactly a century later, in 1953, because of the increased size of holdings and the more rapid growth of Mount Barker, it was decided to close the Nairne Council as such, and to amalgamate with Mount Barker as the District Council of Nairne and Mount Barker.

BY-LAWS

OF THE

DISTRICT OF NAIRNE.

Whereas it is deemed expedient to enact by-laws for the good government of the District of Nairne— It is therefore enacted by the District Council of Nairne that the following shall be by-laws for the said district, that is to say—

1.—*To regulate the Slaughtering of Large and Small Cattle.*

1. It shall not be lawful to slaughter large or small cattle for purposes of sale or barter within the District of Nairne without first having obtained a license from the said District Council. The fee payable for such license shall be ten shillings yearly, or seven shillings and fourpence half-yearly, such license dating from the first day of July and expiring on the thirtieth day of June following.

2.—*Regulating the temporary leasing of Roads.*

2. It shall not be lawful for any person or persons to close any district road or roads, but the Council may permit the temporary closing of roads to any person whose land adjoins such road. Swing gates shall be erected at or near the end of the roads so closed, which gates must not be less than ten feet wide. The authority to close any road shall expire on the 30th day of June in each year.

3. Any person or persons damaging or leaving any gate open wilfully, or injuring any fences erected by authority of the Council shall, on conviction, be liable to a penalty of not less than one pound nor more than five pounds.

Any person or persons applying for the closing of any road or roads must obtain the sanction, in writing, of at least six *bona fide* owners or occupiers of land who may be affected by the closing of such road or roads.

3.—*For the Prevention of Nuisances.*

4. Any person or persons who shall allow any watercloset, pigsty, slaughter-house, or any other thing to become offensive, so as to cause a nuisance to the neighbours or the public, and who shall fail to abate such nuisance within three days after having received notice from the clerk or inspector to do so, shall forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than one pound nor more than five pounds.

5. The owners of any large or small cattle, or any other animal which may die in any street, road, or reserve, or on any land adjacent thereto, so as to become a nuisance, and who shall neglect or refuse to remove or bury such animal within twenty-four hours after having received notice of the fact, shall forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than one pound nor more than five pounds for every such offence.

6. Any person or persons who shall deposit, lay, or discharge any rubbish, broken glass, offal, dung, dead animals, blood, or any other refuse in any reserve within the District of Nairne other than in the place or places fixed by the Council, shall, upon conviction, forfeit and pay for each offence a sum of not less than five shillings nor more than five pounds.

4.—*Respecting Licence for removing Stone, Gravel, and Sand.*

7. Any person or persons who shall remove any stone, sand, gravel, or any other material from any reserve or waste lands within the District of Nairne, without first obtaining a valid licence from the said Council, shall on conviction forfeit and pay a penalty of not less than one pound nor more than five pounds.

Such license shall be annually 40s., half-yearly 20s., and quarterly 10s.

The annual licence for depasturing cattle shall be 3s. per head for great and 6d. per head for small.

The foregoing by-laws were duly passed at a meeting of the Council, held on the 8th day of September, 1879, at which all the members of the Council were present.

ARCHIBALD HAY, Chairman.

A. HENRY DUNN, Clerk.

By Command,
T. PLAYFORD,
Commissioner of Crown Lands.

Confirmed,

W. F. D JERVOIS, GOVERNOR.

Dunn, Printer, Mount Barker

The Education of the two families, 1860-1870's

The problem of educating the children of the First Family, as well as those of the Second Family, had been a great one. The solution was Block 129 (now 62), in the Nairne Township, which Richard the Younger had acquired when he bought his first section on 11th February, 1853.

A cottage on that block, with the now adult, Kentish-born Eliza (Elizabeth) in charge, meant that all the children of school-going age could get across to Blakiston where the St. James' Church Day-school (built in 1845) was held.

Later, for Secondary Education, the children of the Second Family rode daily to the Reverend Alexander Laws' fine Grammar School at Mount Barker.

The Reverend Alexander Law, a Presbyterian Clergyman, was a University man from Scotland.

Both he and his wife were cultured and keen teachers, as well as strict disciplinarians. The requirements for their family of five daughters and one son, set the standard of work to be attained by all students in the school. There was no "hanky panky" about getting work done, or of preparing it properly. From these two able people, teenagers learnt their Latin, did their mathematics, appreciated good English and generally inibed a fair knowledge of the Humanities. Inherited books and assignments are interesting relics.

The girls also had a grounding in pianoforte music, but from whom is not recorded. Certainly it found some talent.

The years at that school proved fruitful, for, in future years all five of those children did well.

Ann, the eldest, became the first teacher at Black Hill Valley in 1879. The school was named Springfield, but where it was held in that first year is not certain. Maybe it was at Millbrae for in the following year, owing to cramped conditions, it was moved to Springfield Primitive Methodist Church Building which was only a mile away; and which had been rented by the South Australian Education Department for that purpose.

Anne (Margaret Anne) taught thirty four children for a year for the grand sum of £19-11-0, all collected in threepences and sixpences (according to age) and brought weekly by the students if in attendance; or if not forgotten!

In the following year, 1880, when Anne was married to John Milne of Mount Barker, Miss L.M. Champion, who was soon to be her sister-in-law, succeeded her as Teacher at the Springfield School.

John, the next in age, at first tried his hand at farming but after a short period he gave that up and went in for surveying. Jean and Elizabeth, prior to their marriages, conducted a school at Redhill; while William went on to become a prominent farmer, pastoralist and Legislator.

When the Reverend Alexander Law gave up his School at Mount Barker, he bought a farm between Monarto and Rockleigh and there, he not only engaged in farming, but was also instrumental in building a fine Presbyterian Church for the District, and gathered a good congregation.

During this time it was a great pleasure for the Third Family (William's children) to know and visit the Laws, for by that time, Millbrae had extended East to Monarto. They had thus become neighbours even though somewhat distant ones. Tea Meetings at Laws' Church were great days, for it meant driving not only many miles to the Service, but also being invited to their gracious home for lunch or tea, with dainties especially prepared by the Misses Law.

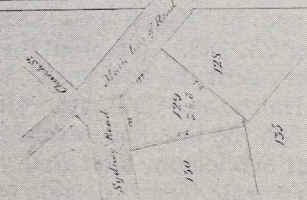
On a recent excursion to this district it was sad indeed to see that Church in a more or less derelict state, with its door and widows scorched by a bushfire, which had also burnt the surrounding fence and some of the headstones. This was a stark reminder that the era had gone when the local Church and School were the centres of all culture and social life in those more or less remote little places. Here, too, was yet another of those peaceful final resting places for those early, courageous pioneers. Their names are usually unknown or forgotten, but surely their efforts and achievements are honoured.

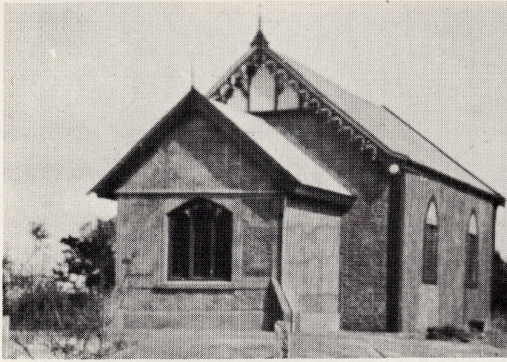
Since writing this, today's Government has announced the site for the planned New Town of Murray; and from the map given, it would appear that Laws' Church will either be on the boundary of the city or embraced by it.

Maybe someone will now be inspired to reserve it.

This Indenture

made the seventh day of July — in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty two **Between** George Jinkins and Robert Nairne both of the City of Adelaide in the Province of South Australia Esquires of the one part and Richard Mills the Younger of Black-shall Valley near Hammonden in the Province of the other part **Witnesses** the said Richard Mills is now entitled to a conveyance in fee simple of the piece of land and premises hereinafter described and assured in pursuance of a certain contract for sale thereof entered into by Elizabeth Smith's executors in which contract the whole of the consideration or purchase money was paid to the said Elizabeth Smith in her life time as the said George Jinkins and Robert Nairne do hereby admit and acknowledge but no conveyance of the said piece of land and premises hath ever been made or taken **Sub witness** the fee simple of the said piece of land and premises (inter alia) as now vested in the said George Jinkins and Robert Nairne upon certain trusts for sale and upon trust to convey the same to the several purchasers thereof **Sub witness** all Deeds and writings relating to the title of the said George Jinkins and Robert Nairne to the said land have been duly executed or deposited in the Registry Office of the said Province **Witness** this Substantive Witnesseth that in pursuance of the said contract and in consideration of the said purchase money having been so already paid to the said Elizabeth Smith decreased as aforesaid as the said George Jinkins and Robert Nairne do hereby admit and acknowledge and also in consideration of the sum of ten shillings Sterling now paid by the said Richard Mills to the said George Jinkins and Robert Nairne the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged They the said George Jinkins and Robert Nairne **do** and each of them **both** by their present grant bargain sell alien and release unto the said Richard Mills and his heirs **All that** piece of land containing two rods or thereabouts part of the section of land 345208 in the combined Special Survey on the shores of the Unkapaung and West taken by Matthew Smith which said section forms part of the Township of Gairns and which said piece or parcel of land hereby conveyed is by Attachment numbered 189th in the plan of the said Township deposited in the Lands Office at Adelaide and numbered 128th and which said piece of land abuts on or towards the North on the Road leading from Adelaide to the Plains on the North East also on the said main Road on the South East on Attachment 128 of the said Township or or towards the South West on Attachment 465 of the said Township and on or towards the West on Attachment 130 of the said Township as the said piece of land is delineated in the Map or Plan drawn in the margin of these presents and is therein edged with the color green Together with all edifices easements rights liberties and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining **Sub** all the estate right title and interest property claim and demand whatsoever both at Law and in Equity of them the said George Jinkins and Robert Nairne therein and thereto **To have and to hold** the said piece of land hereunto and assigns for ever **du Witness** the said piece of land hereby conveyed with the appurtenances thereto and to the use of the said Richard Mills his heirs and assigns for ever **du Witness** whereof the said parties to these presents have lawfully set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.





Law's Presbyterian Church, Monarto.

CHAPTER XVI

The Beginning of the Millbrae Stud and the Deaths of Anne Margaret and Richard, the Younger.

A year or two after his Father's death in 1874, Richard the Younger established a flock of merino sheep at Mill-brae and this really laid the foundation of the Millbrae Stud of future years.

Richard had previously kept and bred sheep, as well as cattle and horses; but in the year 1875, Richard seriously determined to breed a quality flock of pure merinos. With this end in view he purchased four hundred ewes from Donald McCuish who had a considerable property between Rockleigh and Monarto, on the slopes of the Bremer Range. The McCuish flock was noted for its quality.

At the same time, Richard also purchased the requisite number of rams from A.B. Murray's Tunkillo Stud. His next step was to send his son, William George James Mills north to Hallett's Winnininnie Station so that under the tuition of Robert Browne he would get a good insight into the business.

William profited considerably from this experience, but unfortunately had to return home after only a year or two at Winnininnie because of his Father's failing health. In 1880, at the early age of twenty one years he had to take complete charge at Millbrae.

He continued with his Father's set-up and used the McCuish and H.B. Murray strain until 1890 when he added stock from Alick J. Murray's Mount Crawford Stud.

Still later, purchases of the Peppin strain were made from the interstate studs of Boonoke, Wangarella and Bundemar, all of which lifted the standard of both sheep and wool until Millbrae Stud Stock were known and sold throughout the Commonwealth; and even to South Africa, before the ban was imposed.

For many years, Richard had also been the very active Chairman of the Nairne District Council. He organized the whole district in support of the then so-called Nairne Railway, and had the great satisfaction of seeing that project accomplished. The quickly-growing States were clamouring for easier and quicker interstate transport and communication; and what better form could that take than the train which could carry both passengers and the various heavy goods that were there to be carried?

By the early eighties the railway from Melbourne was approaching the South Australian border; and by March 14, 1883, it had reached Aldgate from Adelaide. Nairne got it on November 28, 1883 — a great day for Richard the Younger.

The very difficult and costly Hills Section took years to complete; especially that portion between Nairne and Callington where there is a sudden drop in elevation of over a thousand feet. But by 1886 the line had reached the Victorian border and was connected with the Victorian Section at Serviceton, later that year.

The first train from Adelaide to Melbourne went through on January 20, 1887 - a wonderful step forward for both States.

To
 The Chairman and Members of
 The District Council of Nairne
 Gentlemen

We acknowledge with pleasure the congratulatory address which you have so kindly presented in reference to the passing of the Hills Railway Act. It is peculiarly gratifying to us and we feel assured will be equally pleasing to those gentlemen who have so long and so dutifully supported the undertaking, to notice that it is conceived in no local or narrow spirit.

We join with you in hoping that the Railway will eventually become the connecting link between the two Colonies of Victoria and South Australia, but whatever differences of opinion may be entertained on this point we venture to say that no unbiased person acquainted with the Hill Districts their requirements and their climatic and other advantages will deny the just right of the residents or of the citizens of Adelaide and others to share in the benefits bestowed by means of the speedy communication, etc. insured by a Railway.

The Bill has been a long one, it has occupied the attention of several

Parliaments, as you are aware in 1874 a Bill was successfully introduced to carry the line on to the bridge over the Murray - unfortunately it subsequently miscarried or the Railway would now be an accomplished fact - it was strongly recommended by the Railway Commission that sat in 1875 and the returns laid before the last Parliament shewed that no less than ten surveys for the best route obtainable have been made. It is regrettable that these facts became misleading statements have been published in the public prints as to the authorisation of this line being a piece of "hasty legislation" - probably it has received more consideration than any other in the Colony, and the overwhelming majority in both Houses of Parliament testifies that it was recognised as a simple debt of justice.

We express you very sincerely for the compliment conveyed in the presentation of this address and particularly for the kind wishes in its concluding paragraph. We feel that we owe a great debt of gratitude to those who so faithfully supported our efforts in Parliament and it is to them more than to us you are indebted for the recognition of your just rights.

We are - No. 1. Chairman
 and Gentlemen
 A. H. Ramsay
 W. Mitchell

Copy of the Congratulatory Address to the Chairman of the Nairne District Council on the Occasion of the Opening of the Nairne Railway 1883.

Richard the Younger was probably the outstanding family personality of the one hundred and thirty years of their days in South Australia. He was entirely self-made in that he had only his own initiative and ability to help him on his way. His Father, Richard the Elder, had exhausted his capital in setting himself upon the land, and providing for his large family, in those chaotic early days of the Colony. Nevertheless, the strong bond between the two Richards meant that young Dick benefited mightily from his Father's advice and experience, which he was neither too egotistical, nor too proud to accept, and often to adopt. His great physical strength and ability to endure, along with his strong determination to achieve, gave him powers that few men possess.

From the age of twelve years, when he minded those cattle and sheep in what is still known as Dick' Gully, along the Brownhill Creek, saw the great Hills Road taking shape and listened to the exciting tales of the workmen, he knew that a sheep-grazing property in those hills was what he wanted. This desire was cemented with his years of experience at The Valleys (Smillie's Special Survey) when he wandered back and forth in the Hundreds of Kanmantoo and Onkaparinga learning to love the country.

But land and stock could not be bought without money, and so Richard slaved and saved, willingly and cheerfully, with the "wind-falls" of the Burra Copper carting, and the Ballarat goldmining, adding zest to his struggle.

The "nest-egg" grew; and when at last, in 1852, he got the opportunity to lease five hundred acres adjoining that of his Father, he seized it, got married and made sure that as the coveted blocks were surveyed, he would be there to purchase.

His foresight paid off and he acquired first one section and then another during the next thirty years. But the increased burden of production, with its hard work and worry, took its toll on his health, and he had to give in.

The Doctor's verdict was that he had several diseases, anyone of which would have long since killed any ordinary man - all the results of his strenuous pioneering activities. So he took the Doctor's advice, sold all but the original five hundred acres of Millbrae and leased that area to his two sons, William and John, giving them a start with four hundred sheep and a number of cattle and horses.

John soon gave up farming and sold out to his brother, William. John, took up surveying and spent several years in Western Australia, but returned to South Australia and married Mary Ross from Mount Barker. He finally settled down as Town Clerk of the Grange and Henley Beach Districts, and at retirement (there were no children) went with Mary to their property at Littlehampton. There, in that rural setting, they lived out their lives.

Richard, when he handed over Millbrae to his two sons, bought a cottage at Mount Barker and there he and Anne Margaret lived contentedly until she died.

Richard had not accomplished his ambition alone. His marriage to Anne Margaret Henry (Margaret as she was usually known) was a great success, for she, too, although nine years his senior, was ambitious, strong and made of really stern "stuff". She it was who realized the importance of Education for their children, and saw to it that they got the best that was then



Richard The Younger, his first wife, Anne Margaret and eldest daughter Margaret Anne, at the Mt. Barker Cottage.

attainable. She also kept all five of them on the straight and narrow path, making sure that they did not diverge from good Presbyterian precepts. Even Richard was converted to her way of thinking and living; and so the MILLS family, who had previously been Anglicans, became Presbyterians. In 1885, at the relatively early age of sixty-six years, when her family had all married and settled, Margaret collapsed. It was perhaps somewhat ironic that a staunch Covenanter must needs be buried in an Anglican Cemetery - St. James Church Cemetery, Blakiston. But surely, after such a useful life, she rests peacefully amid those lovely surroundings.

(NOTE: Anne Margaret's large bundle of family letters, dating from the early forties, and from as far afield as Iowa, U.S.A. and the United Kingdom, were mysteriously lost soon after her son, William George James Mills' death, in 1933. Those letters were invaluable as far as family information was concerned; and an irreparable loss to the researcher, for no amount of probing has unearthed that section of the family history. Maybe they will yet turn up!)

After Anne Margaret's death, Richard, in spite of his semi-invalidity, lived on for a further seventeen years.

He returned to Millbrae, temporarily, until a suitable house-keeper could be found to look after him.

During that time the last 2,000 acres of the Matthew Smillie Estate was offered for sale, and was largely bought by some of the fifty tenant farmers who had occupied it. That Sale must have brought cogent memories to Richard.

A Mrs. Anne Mollerus was found as a housekeeper for Richard and she proved her worth. Richard later married her and they lived happily together until he died in 1902. Anne survived him for a further twelve years. She had won the affection and esteem of the whole of her ready-made family.

During those years in retirement, Richard was the delight of his grandchildren, who vied with each other to stay with Grandpa.

His long, white beard, square cut and reaching almost to his waist, was the delight of the granddaughters who brushed it fondly, while he sang folk songs that he had learnt in his early youth in Kent.

Tales of the doings in the Colony in early South Australia also kept us all enthralled. Then, too, we were allowed to wander through his garden, pulling weeds and digging with him; and even to pick his precious miniature roses or anything else we fancied!

So, peacefully and happily, Richard's life of struggle, hardship and achievement ended; and he too, rests in that quaint and beautiful Blakiston plot alongside his Anne Margaret.

Courage had they, and foresight;
Faith and determination.
Theirs was a skill and adaptability,
Endurance and initiative
That conquered untold difficulties.



*Wedding Photo of
Richard The Younger
and Mrs. Anne Mollerus
— his second wife.*

To Farmers, Speculators, Investors and others.
SMILLIE ESTATE, NAIRNE.

- HOMEFIELD FARM: ••
- OVERSEAID HOUSE: ••
- PERENNIAL WATER: ••
- FERTILE SOIL: ••
- MAJESTIC CLIMATE: ••

JOHN PALTRIDGE has been licensed with commission from James, Wm. Smith and Co. from the Attorney for Mrs. J. J. Smillie to sell for and by auction.

2,000 ACRES Of the most Fertile Soil in all Australia.

The Property comprises part of Sections 5200, 5201, 5202, 5203, 5204, 5205, 5206, 5207, 5208, 5209, 5210, 5211, 5212, 5213, 5214, 5215, 5216, 5217, 5218, 5219, 5220, 5221, 5222, 5223, 5224, 5225, 5226, 5227, 5228, 5229, 5230, 5231, 5232, 5233, 5234, 5235, 5236, 5237, 5238, 5239, 5240, 5241, 5242, 5243, 5244, 5245, 5246, 5247, 5248, 5249, 5250, 5251, 5252, 5253, 5254, 5255, 5256, 5257, 5258, 5259, 5260, 5261, 5262, 5263, 5264, 5265, 5266, 5267, 5268, 5269, 5270, 5271, 5272, 5273, 5274, 5275, 5276, 5277, 5278, 5279, 5280, 5281, 5282, 5283, 5284, 5285, 5286, 5287, 5288, 5289, 5290, 5291, 5292, 5293, 5294, 5295, 5296, 5297, 5298, 5299, 5300, 5301, 5302, 5303, 5304, 5305, 5306, 5307, 5308, 5309, 5310, 5311, 5312, 5313, 5314, 5315, 5316, 5317, 5318, 5319, 5320, 5321, 5322, 5323, 5324, 5325, 5326, 5327, 5328, 5329, 5330, 5331, 5332, 5333, 5334, 5335, 5336, 5337, 5338, 5339, 5340, 5341, 5342, 5343, 5344, 5345, 5346, 5347, 5348, 5349, 5350, 5351, 5352, 5353, 5354, 5355, 5356, 5357, 5358, 5359, 5360, 5361, 5362, 5363, 5364, 5365, 5366, 5367, 5368, 5369, 5370, 5371, 5372, 5373, 5374, 5375, 5376, 5377, 5378, 5379, 5380, 5381, 5382, 5383, 5384, 5385, 5386, 5387, 5388, 5389, 5390, 5391, 5392, 5393, 5394, 5395, 5396, 5397, 5398, 5399, 5400, 5401, 5402, 5403, 5404, 5405, 5406, 5407, 5408, 5409, 5410, 5411, 5412, 5413, 5414, 5415, 5416, 5417, 5418, 5419, 5420, 5421, 5422, 5423, 5424, 5425, 5426, 5427, 5428, 5429, 5430, 5431, 5432, 5433, 5434, 5435, 5436, 5437, 5438, 5439, 5440, 5441, 5442, 5443, 5444, 5445, 5446, 5447, 5448, 5449, 5450, 5451, 5452, 5453, 5454, 5455, 5456, 5457, 5458, 5459, 5460, 5461, 5462, 5463, 5464, 5465, 5466, 5467, 5468, 5469, 5470, 5471, 5472, 5473, 5474, 5475, 5476, 5477, 5478, 5479, 5480, 5481, 5482, 5483, 5484, 5485, 5486, 5487, 5488, 5489, 5490, 5491, 5492, 5493, 5494, 5495, 5496, 5497, 5498, 5499, 5500, 5501, 5502, 5503, 5504, 5505, 5506, 5507, 5508, 5509, 5510, 5511, 5512, 5513, 5514, 5515, 5516, 5517, 5518, 5519, 5520, 5521, 5522, 5523, 5524, 5525, 5526, 5527, 5528, 5529, 5530, 5531, 5532, 5533, 5534, 5535, 5536, 5537, 5538, 5539, 5540, 5541, 5542, 5543, 5544, 5545, 5546, 5547, 5548, 5549, 5550, 5551, 5552, 5553, 5554, 5555, 5556, 5557, 5558, 5559, 5560, 5561, 5562, 5563, 5564, 5565, 5566, 5567, 5568, 5569, 5570, 5571, 5572, 5573, 5574, 5575, 5576, 5577, 5578, 5579, 5580, 5581, 5582, 5583, 5584, 5585, 5586, 5587, 5588, 5589, 5590, 5591, 5592, 5593, 5594, 5595, 5596, 5597, 5598, 5599, 5600, 5601, 5602, 5603, 5604, 5605, 5606, 5607, 5608, 5609, 5610, 5611, 5612, 5613, 5614, 5615, 5616, 5617, 5618, 5619, 5620, 5621, 5622, 5623, 5624, 5625, 5626, 5627, 5628, 5629, 5630, 5631, 5632, 5633, 5634, 5635, 5636, 5637, 5638, 5639, 5640, 5641, 5642, 5643, 5644, 5645, 5646, 5647, 5648, 5649, 5650, 5651, 5652, 5653, 5654, 5655, 5656, 5657, 5658, 5659, 5660, 5661, 5662, 5663, 5664, 5665, 5666, 5667, 5668, 5669, 5670, 5671, 5672, 5673, 5674, 5675, 5676, 5677, 5678, 5679, 5680, 5681, 5682, 5683, 5684, 5685, 5686, 5687, 5688, 5689, 5690, 5691, 5692, 5693, 5694, 5695, 5696, 5697, 5698, 5699, 5700, 5701, 5702, 5703, 5704, 5705, 5706, 5707, 5708, 5709, 5710, 5711, 5712, 5713, 5714, 5715, 5716, 5717, 5718, 5719, 5720, 5721, 5722, 5723, 5724, 5725, 5726, 5727, 5728, 5729, 5730, 5731, 5732, 5733, 5734, 5735, 5736, 5737, 5738, 5739, 5740, 5741, 5742, 5743, 5744, 5745, 5746, 5747, 5748, 5749, 5750, 5751, 5752, 5753, 5754, 5755, 5756, 5757, 5758, 5759, 5760, 5761, 5762, 5763, 5764, 5765, 5766, 5767, 5768, 5769, 5770, 5771, 5772, 5773, 5774, 5775, 5776, 5777, 5778, 5779, 5780, 5781, 5782, 5783, 5784, 5785, 5786, 5787, 5788, 5789, 5790, 5791, 5792, 5793, 5794, 5795, 5796, 5797, 5798, 5799, 5800, 5801, 5802, 5803, 5804, 5805, 5806, 5807, 5808, 5809, 5810, 5811, 5812, 5813, 5814, 5815, 5816, 5817, 5818, 5819, 5820, 5821, 5822, 5823, 5824, 5825, 5826, 5827, 5828, 5829, 5830, 5831, 5832, 5833, 5834, 5835, 5836, 5837, 5838, 5839, 5840, 5841, 5842, 5843, 5844, 5845, 5846, 5847, 5848, 5849, 5850, 5851, 5852, 5853, 5854, 5855, 5856, 5857, 5858, 5859, 5860, 5861, 5862, 5863, 5864, 5865, 5866, 5867, 5868, 5869, 5870, 5871, 5872, 5873, 5874, 5875, 5876, 5877, 5878, 5879, 5880, 5881, 5882, 5883, 5884, 5885, 5886, 5887, 5888, 5889, 5890, 5891, 5892, 5893, 5894, 5895, 5896, 5897, 5898, 5899, 5900, 5901, 5902, 5903, 5904, 5905, 5906, 5907, 5908, 5909, 5910, 5911, 5912, 5913, 5914, 5915, 5916, 5917, 5918, 5919, 5920, 5921, 5922, 5923, 5924, 5925, 5926, 5927, 5928, 5929, 5930, 5931, 5932, 5933, 5934, 5935, 5936, 5937, 5938, 5939, 5940, 5941, 5942, 5943, 5944, 5945, 5946, 5947, 5948, 5949, 5950, 5951, 5952, 5953, 5954, 5955, 5956, 5957, 5958, 5959, 5960, 5961, 5962, 5963, 5964, 5965, 5966, 5967, 5968, 5969, 5970, 5971, 5972, 5973, 5974, 5975, 5976, 5977, 5978, 5979, 5980, 5981, 5982, 5983, 5984, 5985, 5986, 5987, 5988, 5989, 5990, 5991, 5992, 5993, 5994, 5995, 5996, 5997, 5998, 5999, 6000.

— PLAN —
 OF THE
SMILLIE ESTATE,
NAIRNE,
 TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
On Saturday, November 6th, 1886,
 BY
JOHN PALTRIDGE.

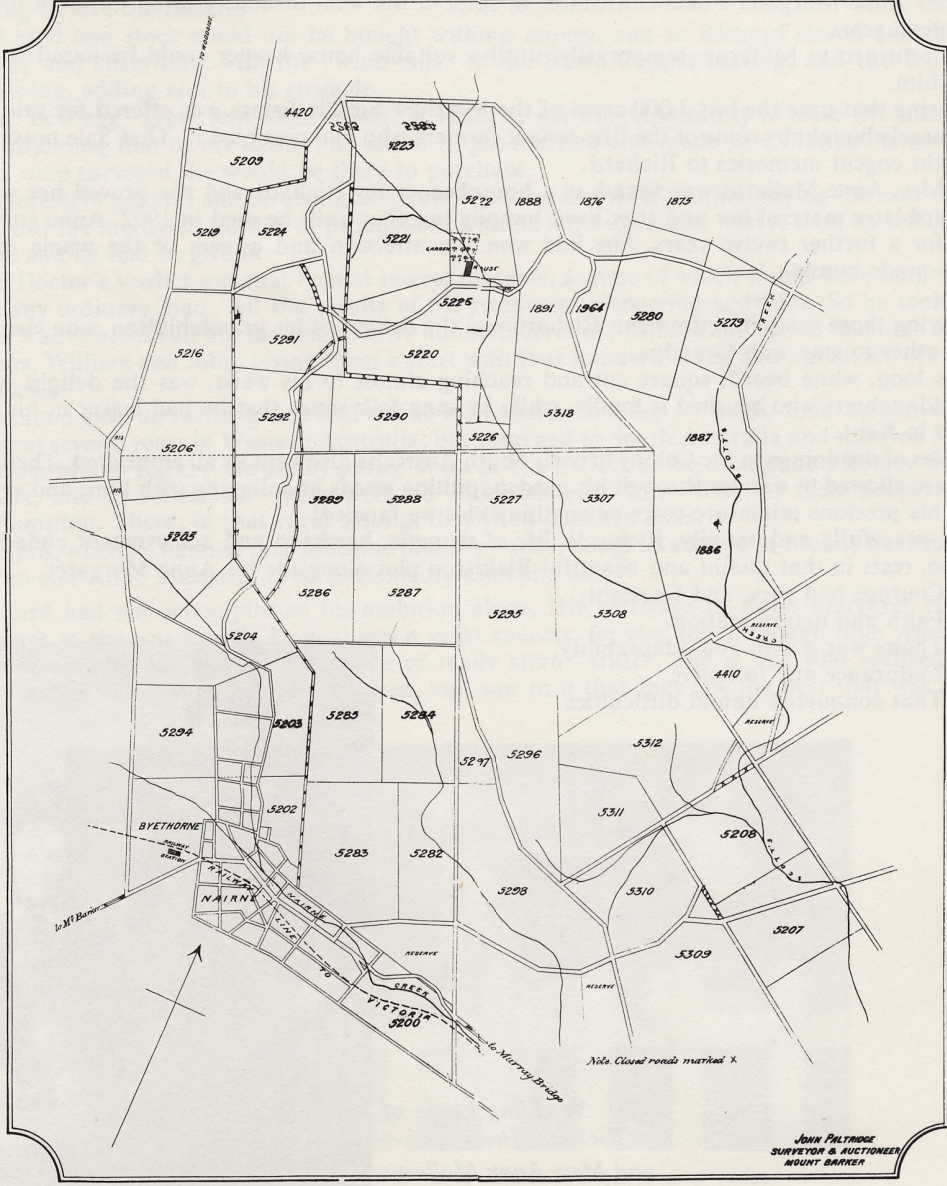
The Estate has been divided into
COMPACT FARMS
 Comprising 5-100 Acres apiece.

As stated in the foregoing Plan, the above is the only one of the several plans which it is the duty of the Auctioneer to show to the public, and the only one which is a permanent record of the actual survey and measurement of the land to be sold, and it is the duty of the Auctioneer to show the same to the public, and to receive the bids thereon, and to sell the same to the highest bidder, and to execute the necessary documents for the purpose.

The Auctioneer would impress upon the public that the above is the only plan which is a permanent record of the actual survey and measurement of the land to be sold, and it is the duty of the Auctioneer to show the same to the public, and to receive the bids thereon, and to sell the same to the highest bidder, and to execute the necessary documents for the purpose.

TERMS: 25 per cent cash, balance may remain on mortgage for 2 years at 7 per cent, to commence in May 1887.

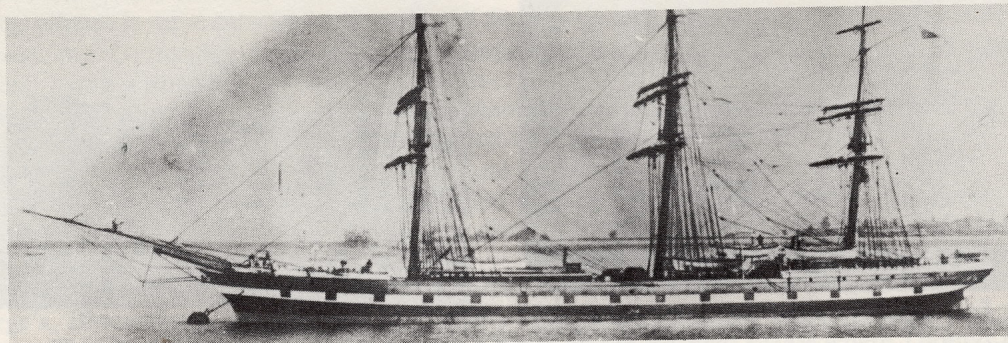
For Plans and further particulars apply to
John Paltridge, Mount Barker, S. A.
 Auctioneer, Surveyor, and Valuer.
 Charles J. Price, Mount Barker.



Note: Closed roads marked X.

JOHN PALTRIDGE
 SURVEYOR & AUCTIONEER
 MOUNT BARKER

The Champions arrive in South Australia, 1878



Picture of the Hesperus, 1878.

“Be squat and eat your wittles and don’t go werrikinyer Ma!” (Translation): “Be seated and eat your food and don’t go worrying your Mother!”

So spake the county lass who was nurse-maid to the large family of children of Thomas and Sarah Champion (nee Surguy) on the eve of their departure for South Australia, by the Hesperus, from Plymouth, on October 24, 1878. Lizzie Martha (16 years), Ellen F. (14 years), Finetta (12 years), Thomas (10 years), Evelina (7 years) and Harry (4 years) ever remembered that voyage with their parents, and their arrival in South Australia, later that year. A brooch, made of three of the silver coins of the Realm, was struck as a memento of the voyage. One of these is still in my possession.

Thomas Champion, a successful builder and architect, had in 1877, suddenly found life difficult because of a rampant and incurable malady; but also because, in his endeavour to make life secure for his family, he had lost heavily on the Stock Exchange.



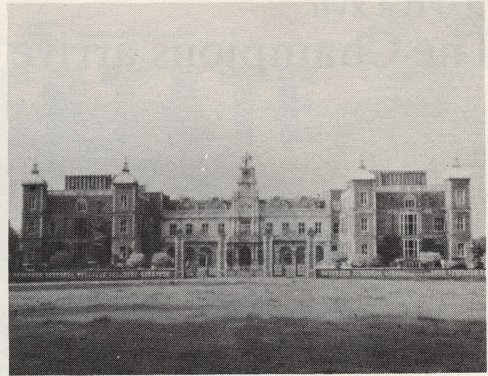
*Thomas Champion, Junior,
and his Parents —*



Thomas Champion Sen.



*and Martha Hilliary Champion
[nee Gutteridge].*



Memorial CARD of Thos. Champion's Burial
in St. Etheldreda's Church.

Picture of Hatfield Manor.

He and Sarah therefore decided that they would go to South Australia where prospects were good, and where their children would grow up under better conditions than was possible in Britain.

A cousin, J.B. Champion, a banker, had already done this, and strongly advised that they follow suit.

So they booked their passage by the Hesperus and really thoroughly enjoyed the voyage, Lizzie Martha conducting lessons for the migrant women at one end of the ship, while her Father did likewise for the migrant men, at the other end.

The children romped and entertained not only themselves with their brightness and gaiety - Ellen and Finetta indeed became the toast of the ship because of their abilities to entertain.

During the voyage, Sarah gave birth to her seventh child, George, who unfortunately was sickly, and who died six months later.

The Champions were met at the boat by their cousin, J.B. Champion, who had already obtained a roomy house for them on the Unley Road, just opposite St. Augustine's Church where two of the girls became members of the choir.

In later years this house was demolished to make way for the Soldiers' Memorial Gardens of today. J.B. Champion was also instrumental in introducing Thomas Champion to those who would be able to use one with his qualifications; and soon he was at work on the Southern Block of the Treasury Building, and also the Viaduct. But by 1880 his health had rapidly deteriorated and in that year he was buried alongside his infant son, George, in the West Terrace Cemetery.

Sarah, left a widow on limited means, had the problem of bringing up her six young English children as good Australians. Subsequent years proved that she did this well; and she, herself, was the pride and joy of her family until she died at Millbrae at the grand age of 82 years, and was buried with her husband and son in the West Terrace Cemetery.

Something of the Family History of the Champions is perhaps important here; for Lizzie Martha Champion was to become a dominant figure, and Mother of the nine children, which later formed the Third Family at Millbrae.

The Champions originally hailed from Cornwall where records at Penryn, Mylor and Illogen show them as active and respected citizens all through the seventeen and eighteen hundreds. Some, at least, were merchants, running their own boats which traded with France and coastal West Africa in wines, tropical fruits and so forth. Stories are told of this trading. One tells of a large fob watch proudly hanging from a palm tree, outside a chieftain's hut; while the former owner of the watch went off quite satisfied to clutch a dagger with hand-carved ivory haft!

The years and the wars saw the Champions spreading out to various parts of Britain, including London and Hertfordshire.

Our particular interest is in Thomas Champion, the maternal great grandfather of my generation. He left Cornwall during the Napoleonic Wars, served in the Navy as a midshipman, contracted yellow fever and was nursed back to life on a Hospital Ship in the Thames, by one Martha Hilliary Gutteridge, daughter of a well-known family from Watford, County Hertford.

Martha Hilliary Gutteridge was not only a trained nurse, but was a fully qualified Chemist -

indeed, the first woman Chemist in Britain - but was not allowed to practice, for, in those days, only men had that privilege.

Incidentally, she had two brothers who were surgeons - one on the Bellerophen. His name, among others, is on a column in the crypt of St. Paul's as having served his country well.

These two Gutteridge surgeons were especially interested in proving how the bloodstream worked, using a donkey to prove their theories.

Someone of course reported them to the Authorities for practising vivisection. Before they were apprehended, they fled to Paris and petitioned that Government to help them.

The surgeons were tried in their absence and condemned to serve two years in gaol.

However, the French Government interceded with the British Government; the sentence was rescinded, and the Gutteridges were congratulated on their findings and given a considerable pension to continue their work.

Thomas Champion and Martha Hilliary Gutteridge were married at the Parish Church of St. George's, Bloomsbury, on the 14th December, 1824, with witnesses James Adams and Sarah Hilliary. They then went to live in the Keeper's house on the Hatfield Estate where Thomas was in charge, both of Hatfield House and of the Estate, his office being an annexe of the Great Library in Hatfield House. There was romance attached to his burial. He had been buried in the Old Cemetery at Hatfield; but some time later, a daughter, who was an abbess, had his body disinterred and re-buried in the very old, historic Church of St. Etheldreda, in London.

It was amid such surroundings that our Mother, Lizzie Martha Champion, spent most of her school holidays, soaking up not only the atmosphere of that beautiful place, but also much of British History; of which her grandparents were great exponents.

Thomas Champion, Father of Lizzie Martha, was the son of Thomas Champion who lived at Hatfield.

He became a surveyor, builder and architect, starting his career as such, at Essendon, Hertfordshire, where Lizzie Martha was born and christened.

He, too, in his young manhood, served his turn as a midshipman in the Navy, spending one three-year period continuously at sea. During that time, the taking of Canton in 1858, came about. Young Thomas was directly under the control of Lord Cecil (later Lord Salisbury, Prime Minister of England) probably because he was the son of Thomas Champion in charge of the Hatfield Estates; he might even have been part of Lord Cecil's special body-guard, as the following incident seems to indicate: Lord Cecil was in Command and his headquarters were in a large cotton warehouse, Canton. To that place an eminent Chinese, and his lady, were brought, as prisoners. Lord Cecil's response to this was, "We can't take these people prisoners. Go and procure peasants' clothes". This was done; the grateful pair willingly changing their Mandarin's attire for that of the simple peasant, leaving their own apparel in exchange.

Most of this was later presented to the British Museum; but Thomas Champion was given a set of filigree ear-rings and brooch to commemorate his part in this little drama. These were inherited by his eldest daughter, Lizzie Martha, who made the three pieces over to her three eldest daughters. Excepting for the brooch (a Mandarin's head with a ruby tongue showing from a laughing countenance) which was lost after the death of Everlina (the eldest daughter), these pieces of jewellery are still proudly held and guarded.

When Thomas Champion, Junior, returned to Britain from his period in the Navy, he married Sarah Surguy in St. Stephen's Church, Coleman Street, London, on the 2nd June, 1861. Sarah's father had died before she was born - the last of a long family. He, at his death, was Foreman of the Catherine Docks, London. His paternal forbears had been people of prominence in Poland, but had fled that country for political reasons.

Sarah Surguy's Mother, was drowned in the Thames after taking her seven-year-old daughter to school. The ferry gangway slipped, precipitating all those on it into the Thames. Sarah's Mother was sucked under the ferry and was drowned - leaving Sarah an orphan.

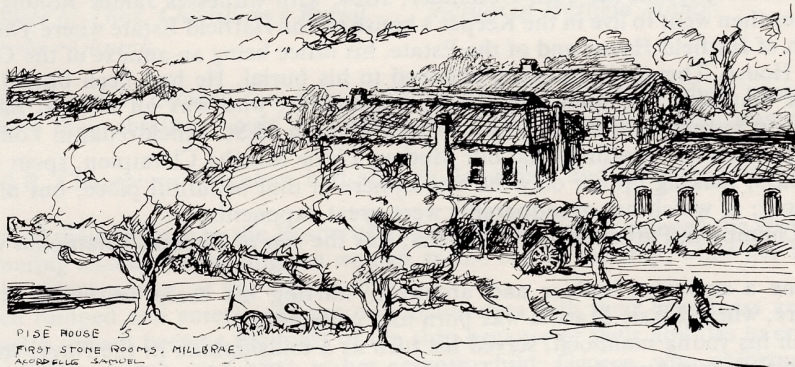
Her elder brother, Edward, who was married and had children older than Sarah herself, took charge of her. Edward was a musician who had a large family of twenty-one children — two of them thus qualified for the Blue Coat School.

Each of these children was musical; and each in turn became a member of the Father's Orchestra. One was the Trumpeter in the Queen's Own Band; and on all ceremonial occasions his silver trumpet heralded the Queen's approach. Such was the background of Lizzie Martha Champion who married William George James Mills in Christ Church, North Adelaide, on July 19th, 1882.

And such were the tales that Sarah Surguy-Champion told her teen-age granddaughters while she sat in the Millbrae kitchen and supervised their cooking efforts; for Grandma was a great cook, and lived at Millbrae in her declining years. Every one of those nine children who made up the Third Family, willingly took turns at looking after Grandma. They loved to listen to her songs (she had appeared at the Albert Hall on several occasions), her recitations or her stories. Are grandparents of today still the source of knowledge and inspiration as were our paternal Grandfather and Maternal Grandmother?

CHAPTER XVIII

Changes are Brewing at Millbrae



A sketch of this area with buildings imposed — according to the memory of the oldest member of the family.

Reference has been made to the Springfield School (Chapter XV) and an outline of the Champion Family (in Chapter VII), therefore it is sufficient here to state that when her Father died in 1880, Lizzie Martha Champion immediately offered herself as a teacher to the South Australian Education Department which had been set up five years earlier (1875), and a Training College for Teachers in 1876

An interview with the Director of Education proved that her knowledge was satisfactory in all but Australian Geography. All she knew of that was that Australia had one great River, the Murray, and that Adelaide was the Capital of South Australia! This lack was apparently no deterrent, for the examiner laughingly said that she could get her students to teach her about Australia! She was forthwith appointed to Springfield School, Black Hill Valley.

This was a great responsibility, for she had to open the School in the Primitive Methodist Church which had been rented for the purpose. The cramped conditions where the school had previously been conducted necessitated this change.

So this young English girl of eighteen years, set off on the new Hills train as far as it would take her towards Black Hill Valley. There, at a temporary siding, somewhere west of Aldgate, the twenty year old William George James Mills was waiting to meet the New Teacher and to see that she got safely to her destination. As the train pulled in, William called out, "Is there a Miss Champion here?" And a small frightened English voice replied, "I am Miss Champion." "Well I've come to take you home," was the cheerful reply; and soon young William had her tucked snugly into the bullock dray for that long drive "home".

Little did that young girl then realize that it was indeed to be her home for over fifty years; and that her widowed Mother and family would all benefit from her great venture.

Thus began a romance that not only led to marriage but also to a long, happy and successful sojourn in a new Country.

After a short period at Millbrae, arrangements were made for Lizzie Martha to board with Mrs. Frederick Lines, whose husband had that year brought Section 2022.

On this Section, in the shelter of lovely native gums and introduced pepper trees, with the

essential near-by creek, stood a low, long, pisé house with thatched roof. Other rooms of stone and brick had been added at the rear of the thatched house.

This holding has been bought and sold, a number of times since it was first surveyed and sold to Richard Carlington, miner and publican of Adelaide, on November the 1st, 1850. Successive owners were Slattery 1869, Lines 1880, Hoad 1893, Ennis Brothers 1902, Formby 1903 and finally William George James Mills in 1905. It was then named "Burnbrae" and has remained a part of the Millbrae Estate ever since. For years, during the school-going period of the Fourth Family at Millbrae, Burnbrae (Section 2022) served as a schoolroom for the whole district. In recent years, however, a Methodist Youth Group has been given permission to convert the empty house (the pisé one had long since been demolished) to their needs for holiday camping for young people. It is to be hoped that eventually one of these groups will be encouraged to rebuild the old brick oven which was destroyed during the conversion; and which was so essentially a part of the pioneering scene; and which was incidentally the last remaining one in the district.



William George James and Lizzie Martha in their early forties.

Strange to relate, a great grand-daughter of Mrs. Lines, the wife of a prominent citizen in Hobart, in recent years inquired from me as to whether it was possible to find out where her forbears had lived in South Australia. It is a little world!

There on Section 2022, with the Lines Family, Lizzie Martha ("Lizzie" from her maternal Grandmother, Lizzie Court, who was Aunt to Percy Bysshe Shelley; and "Martha" from her paternal Grandmother "Martha Gutteridge") settled down happily, walking the mile to Springfield School, over hill and dale.

She enjoyed teaching her little brood — miners' children (Feircloughs, Kavanaghs and others); those of tenant farmers (Watsons and Browns), as well as a number of "birds of passage." The sixpences and threepences were collected weekly from those in attendance, as they had been by her predecessor, Anne Mills. But fortunately her salary was not entirely dependent upon those pittances! None of the Millbrae family was in the School, for they were beyond the Primary Stage and nearly through the Laws' Mount Barker Grammar School. Indeed, Richard the Younger, had negotiations in hand not only to sell Lot 129 at Nairne, but also to purchase a house at Mount Barker, ready for his retirement from Millbrae. So, on the 12th March, 1880, Lot 129, part Section 5202, was handed over to the Trustees of the Loyal Flinders Lodge No. 8A00F, of Manchester Unity, Nairne. A hall was afterwards erected on it and on July 24, 1946, this Hall became the Nairne Soldiers' Memorial Hall of today.

In the meantime, the wise Mrs. Lines, sensing romance in the air, suggested that Lizzie Martha should get busy and learn everything possible about housekeeping.

Under the able tutelage of Mrs. Lines, Lizzie wrestled with bread-making and the use of the great brick oven; learnt to milk cows and make butter and cheese; to salt meat — even bacon; to make jams and preserves and all the hundred and one things that were then, and still are, a necessary part of running a farm home in South Australia.

William George James Mills and Lizzie Martha Champion were married by Dean Marryat in Christ Church, North Adelaide, on the 19th July, 1882, with witnesses Ellen and Finetta Champion.

This city-bred girl quickly adapted herself to Australian conditions; but it was a far cry to London and her years at Stockwell Girls' College; to her girl-hood home in Ely with its glorious Cathedral and where, from Dr. Chipp, its organist, she learnt music; and from Hatfield and the

wonderful holidays she had spent there with her grandparents. Nevertheless, with few regrets, she settled down, learnt all that was possible, including riding horseback (side-saddle of course; and her saddle is still in a good state of preservation), and generally fitted herself into this so very different community.

And the community welcomed her; rejoicing in her knowledge of music (her piano was brought from England on the *Hesperus*, and still is in excellent heart), of world affairs, and of her ability to tell them of things of which hitherto they had had little chance to learn.

The district was proud, too, that their own country-bred William (the third generation of the family in Australia) could not only stand up to changes and new ideas, but also showed judgment and finesse in his dealing with people and things in general. This included his young wife, who with her mercurial temperament and dominant personality, needed, at times, not only guidance, but also considerable checking; something which taught William to control his own naturally quick temper.

William and Lizzie Martha settled in at Millbrae after their marriage and Richard the Younger and Anne Margaret retired to the newly purchased cottage at Mount Barker.

CHAPTER XIX

1882-1902 at Millbrae

In the early years of their marriage, Lizzie and William learnt many things: to work and enjoy work; to take the bad with the good; to be active members of the community as well as a self-supporting family unit — and hosts of other things.

Soon, too, they learnt to bring up a family of children — nine all-told — who arrived in the usual bi-ennial sequence of those times. All were born at Millbrae, and in a period of eighteen years: Evelina on October 9, 1893; William Champion on April 15, 1885; Richard Surguy on December 11, 1886, Jack on September 12, 1888; May on July 19, 1890; the twins Margret and Alec, on August 16, 1892; Thomas Bruce on May 10, 1894 and finally Lizzie Hilliary on August 24, 1900.

Fortunately, in those far-off days, help in the home was obtainable. A woman in the house was another pair of eyes to watch the children; and this help, with a boy to do the odd jobs, made things relatively easy.

They were all happy together in spite of the severe drought conditions, followed by a State-wide depression, that prevailed almost throughout their first ten years of marriage.

The year 1885 was a particularly bad drought which tried the mettle of everyone, numbers of young people leaving in desperation for the newly-found Broken Hill Silver-lead mines.

The second year of their marriage brought a tragic happening; the stacks of hay, which were the chief source of their income, were burnt to the ground. There was then a constant and growing demand for chaff to feed the workers' horses as the railway approached and passed on, as it did to Nairne in 1883, and to Bordertown in November, 1886; with the first train from Melbourne to Adelaide in January, 1887.

The spreading knowledge of the use of Superphosphate, together with better machinery such as the stump-jump plough, the binder, the horse-driven chaff cutters and so on, had enabled the farmers, in spite of the dry years, to increase their acreages under crops, so that they could take advantage of the railway market.

The burning of the stacks was therefore a terrible blow. How they got alight in the middle of the night, during the cool weather, was never really established; although a black tracker revealed that a small herd of cattle had been driven into and out of the stack yard, by a man riding a pony shod with inverted shoes! Suspicions of course were aroused, especially when a near-by blacksmith reported that he had been asked to take off such a set of shoes from a pony on the following day. But no real evidence was forthcoming, and the loss of the hay had to be suffered stoically.

The story of the purchase of the first binder in that district is quite illuminating. Richard the younger, had early realized the great advantages of this machine and arranged for its purchase.

The great day of the Trial arrived, with the usual assemblage of the whole district to watch proceedings. But the expert to start the machine, had not arrived. Finally, Richard declared he

would start it himself.

He started off with great aplomb, to the tune of clapping and cheering. But soon came the sharp turn around the big old sheoak — and before Richard knew what was happening, both he and the machine were entangled in its branches.

The expert did finally arrive; but only to tow that beautiful new machine ignominiously away!

Anne Margaret, wife of Richard the Younger, and grandmother of the new family at Millbrae, died at Mount Barker in 1885. That meant that Richard necessarily spent much of the next several years back at Millbrae.

He would sit for hours, helping where he could with the lesser chores (ironing, vegetables and such) while he told his daughter-in-law fascinating tales of the doings of the early days in the young Colony.

Ironing, by the way, was a heavy task, for white pinafores, often beautifully trimmed with embroidery, were worn by the girls while the boys had washable blouses, as well as shirts. Both Lizzie and William listened carefully to Richard's advice and encouragement, for they both respected his judgment and experience; so that when he advocated replanting the garden, they got to work. After all it was still his property!

The newly-formed Agricultural Bureau was approached and the information thus obtained, together with Richard's recollections of his early Kentish training, saw a large garden grow and flourish. The Old Sugar Pear of the First Garden, formed the centre-piece of the new one; with the faithful old well near-by.

For the next thirty years at least, this garden became the great joy and playground of the whole family.

How the children romped through and around the trellis of grapes with its Muscatels, Black Princes, Ladies Fingers, Crystals and Currants; or played hide and seek under the square block of sweet waters, crystals and black and brown frontenacs; or alternatively used it as a pleasant retreat with cushion and book on a hot summer day.

As teenagers, certain tasks were allotted to them. It was fun to pick pears, apples, apricots, plums and so on, even if the boys did, at first, insist on climbing the trees and pelting the fruit at the girls below — girls who soon learnt the art both of catching and climbing, and of picking and pelting!

One experience in this garden was unforgettable. As the years passed, pests such as starlings arrived. The old muzzle-loader gun was kept behind the kitchen door with strict instructions to the boys to keep it loaded; and to me to fire it off at intervals to frighten the marauding birds.

One day the gun was twice-loaded and when it was eventually fired, girl, birds and everything around seemed to come tumbling down at once!

But now the garden has gone and lucerne flats are in its place. Maybe the filling in of the old well cause a rise in the mineral content of the ground water that trees could not take. Maybe they just died of old age; but while it lasted that garden brought pleasure and plenty to more than a generation. During these years, other gardens flourished on the creek flood-plains of neighbouring farms. The Hoads, the Downings and the Woolleys all had good and large gardens. Two of them were especially successful, producing commercially. One (Downing's) even succeeded so well that a proper storage for apples had to be erected. But these gardens, too, are now gone. Even with modern machinery, fertilizers, and the specialized knowledge of today, there has been little or no resurgence of gardening in this district. Pests, diseases, the intense work and cost of labour, make it more economic to produce other things such as sheep, cattle and wheat.

Life at Millbrae, as everywhere else, was not without its hazards and its excitements. With neither telephones nor cars, poor roads (few were then Macadamized) and the nearest Doctor about twelve miles away, it was difficult to get help in times of crises.

The usual childish epidemics were taken as a matter of course; but when accidents or serious illnesses occurred, ingenuity was needed to get the necessary help; and if that was not possible, then to do without it.

Broken arms, a broken leg, a three-inch splinter from a broken ladder in the fleshy part of the thigh (fished out with a bone crochet hook while the patient was unconscious), a nearly full bottle of aconite pilules swallowed by a three-year-old boy (with the problem of keeping him awake for many hours), a baby with convulsions, and last but not least, a bullet through the head of a teen-ager — fortunately with little damage done. All these and many others occurred.

The "Bullet" incident was quite dramatic.

The setting was Millbrae Homestead on a black night in the Michaelmas holidays, with the

rain pouring down. Log fires burnt gaily in both sitting and dining rooms, with the parents in the sitting room, and the teenagers, as usual, esconced snugly before the fire in the dining room.

The two younger boys were home for the school holidays. Alec was cleaning his new treasure, a miniature repeating pistol, ready for the next day's SHOOT. Suddenly, it accidentally fired and with that pistol-shot rang out an agonizing cry, "Father, I've shot Tom!"

All was consternation, with the rain flooding down, and the horses turned out into the open paddock.

Subsequently, it was ascertained that the bullet had passed from cheek bone to cheek bone, seering a passage behind the nose and doing little harm.

But Alec, nearly demented, ran like a hare for the horses. Down the lane he went, jumping the creek and throwing the pistol in the deep pool as he did so. It was later retrieved and is in the possession of one of the family.

The horses were at last found (but not by Alec) and the Doctor finally contacted, with his cheery statement, "Well, if he isn't dead now, then you needn't worry!"

Neighbouring troubles were similarly dealt with. A call for help and the horses were saddled or harnessed to search for the missing child, to treat those who had drunk kerosene, or to help when babies arrived ahead of schedule; and so on, ad infinitum.

Lizzie Martha's widowed Mother, and her family, were not neglected. A comfortable cottage for her Mother was found in Nairne, and Millbrae was "open house" for Lizzie's sisters and brothers. The girls married early. Ellen to a neighbouring farmer, Thomas Woolley; Evelina to James Hatt, a man interested in mining investments, first at Kanmantoo and then at Broken Hill; Finetta, the acknowledged belle of Adelaide for several years, married Ebenezer Finlayson, a member of Mitcham's pioneering family. The two young brothers, Thomas and Harry, loved the life at Millbrae and spent as much time as possible, there. But when the Kalgoorlie Gold Rush came, in the middle nineties, it drew them like a magnet.

Thomas, the elder of the two, was twenty four years of age and engaged to be married. He died of typhoid in the Kanowna Hospital in August, 1897, during the outbreak of that disease. Harry then returned to South Australia just in time to enlist in the Mounted Section of Volunteers for the Boer War.

Upon his return in the very early nineteen hundreds, rumours of a gold find at Tarcoola were rife, and away he went. Maybe it was his vivid stories (he was a clever raconteur) of the interior, that in later years inspired his nephew, Hedley Finlayson (one of Finetta's sons) to do his phenomenal journeyings into the interior and write his excellent and authoritative book, — "The Red Centre."

Two of Harry's stories stayed with we youngsters:-

Referring to the lack of rain and the shortage of water at Kalgoorlie, he told how, one day a shower came. Immediately all sought to use this as an impromptu shower bath. They soaped themselves well, only to find the rain had ceased! (The wonderful pipe line that now supplies Kalgoorlie and the surrounding districts was not then constructed.)

Another of Harry's stories was centred on the siege of Ladysmith. Food was worse than short. However, some meat was doled out to Harry's group, but they threw it away saying it was unfit for human consumption. Four days later, that meat was retrieved and eaten with relish!

Upon his return from Tarcoola, Harry married his sweetheart, Minna Boase, a near neighbour of his Mother at Nairne. The newly wedded pair settled down on Harry's farm at Echunga and reared a fine family of seven children.



Photo of the Mining Camp at Kalgoorlie in 1896.

Expansion of Millbrae 1890-1900

The 1890's were much more prosperous than the 1880's, although there were ups and downs. Indeed, 1891 was a severe drought everywhere; with 1896 also very dry. However, the rest of the decade was reasonably good to splendid, with 1890 and 1894 being exceptionally good years.

This gave a great lift to the farmers; and William George James was quick to take advantage of it, for, by then, he was a mature man with ambitions and ideas.

Ever since the purchase of the foundation flock from Donald McCuish in 1878, Donald had been a great friend of the family — especially of William, whom he on one occasion, advised,



William George James Mills at this Period.

“Use men; use money and materials; and don't spare yourself!”

Thus in the early nineties when Donald's property was offered to him on lease, William was only too pleased to accept the offer.

The distance of this property from Millbrae (situated north of the proposed new City — Monarto) was somewhat of a problem, but with good horses it was not an insurmountable difficulty; and sheep did not need daily attention. The new venture prospered. But one day, early in 1894, while riding homewards from this property, William became concerned at the heavy, threatening clouds over the hills west of Kanmantoo. As he approached that town, whose main street is really a converted creek bed, he rode into a wide stream of water almost up to the horse's belly.

A little further on, he was astounded to see his binder (which he had left for repairs at the local blacksmith shop) come sailing gaily along on the stream to meet him. Alarmed at what he might find at Millbrae, three miles further north-west, he spurred his horse forward. At Millbrae he found the home creek was awash from hill to hill, almost covering the old dairy, and even lapping the ground floor of the house itself. The door of the dairy (half underground) had been forced open by the flood, and all unsecured objects had drifted away. This included the big old wooden churn which was large enough to churn seventy pounds of butter at one “hit”.

Next morning this churn was found nicely balanced on top of one of the submerged vines lower down in the garden.

Such floods are of course rare, and apart from washaways and damage to fences, they really leave behind a legacy of ground water and silts that do untold good for years ahead.

At least once a year, we children were taken on an all-day picnic to the Wombat Scrub, over the Bremer Range on the western boundary of the McCuish property. How we revelled in that day! Some of us drove with Mother in the wagonette, drawn by a heavy horse; while the rest, the older ones, were privileged to ride in the big old dray (again drawn by a draught horse) in the charge of one of the older brothers and “Sissy”, the eldest of the family. What fun it was to bump over the tussocks that grew on the sandy patches at the foot of the range; or be permitted to get out and gather wild flowers, which were just as lovely, but frequently quite different from those on the

hills and slopes at home. Occasionally a kangaroo, or even an emu, would be seen; and nearly always one or more wombats retreated into their large holes as we crept up to peep. Only once did we get as far as the mallee hen's nest with its mound of twigs and clay that formed an incubator to hatch its eggs.

One day while gathering flowers, Tom, the youngest boy, and then about three years of age, stooped and picked up two rather deadly tussock snakes and came running to his eldest sister with "See Sissy. Pretty things!" She did not lose her presence of mind, but grasped his wrists and quite calmly said, "Open your hands, Tom!" He obeyed, the snakes dropping at "Sissie's" feet. One was quickly despatched but the other slid rapidly into hiding.

This was the last occasion for these picnics, for shortly afterwards the property was relinquished; probably because the nearer South Australian Company properties (parts of the original Mount Barker Mineral Survey) were being offered for lease on Right of Purchase terms; but more of this in the next Chapter.

Towards the close of the 1890's the Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated. In the Hundred of Kanmantoo, the celebrations took the form of a combined Schools' Picnic. The Schools assembled near the entrance to the Plantation, formed into a Procession, and with flags flying, marched through the great gums to the open space beyond. There refreshments were distributed and Medals presented. This was followed by a couple of hours of organized games and "a good time was had by all".

How many, I wonder, can find their Jubilee Medal? Or even remember that day?

Years later, a good farm house was built on that open space east of the Plantation; and still more years later a great, great, grandson of Richard the Elder, bought the property. Now when I visit there, I cannot help recalling what a day of excitement that Jubilee Day was to a seven-year-old child.

CHAPTER XXI

The Homestead and its surroundings

It is doubtful whether any one of those many members of the five families who have been reared there, really know the history of the growth of the present Millbrae homestead and its farm buildings. But they surely will be interested in it; and so for their sakes, I include the following brief details, referring them to the information already given in Chapters VII, IX and XII.

By the nineties the house at Millbrae had again proved too small for the growing Third Family because the old pisé house, with its thatched roof, was much the worse for wear.

After serious discussions with Richard the Younger, it was decided to demolish the pisé and add some more stone rooms to the three that had been built about forty years earlier when Richard the Elder's family were dispersing and Richard the Younger's family was arriving. In the middle nineties then, four stone rooms were built onto the Eastern wall of the three original stone ones. The stone steps, where we tiny children had been allowed to sit and play under the eyes of Mother at work in the pisé house kitchen just opposite, were also demolished.

The new structure was two-storeyed because of the slope of the land. It consisted of a storeroom and a boys' bedroom on the ground floor, with a dining room and another bedroom above these, but on the same level as the earlier stone building. A verandah on the South side, linked up with the one already on the west.

The south-east corner of this southern verandah was temporarily enclosed to form a kitchen, with the pump from the underground tank also enclosed for convenience.

This meant there was now a solid house with seven rooms.

An open square, with a flight of stone steps led up to the entrance in the Northeast corner of this square.

Still later in the nineties, two more stone rooms filled in this space — an office below, and another bedroom above. A large detached brick kitchen was then built off the southern paved verandah, and the verandahs extended to all four sides, one forming a balcony on the Eastern



Photos of the back and front of Millbrae House at this period.



two-storeyed part. An annexe on the South side of the kitchen housed the great brick oven and laundry facilities — a large bench with three large ten and twelve gallon galvanized tubs plus a copper nearby.

A few years later the level space where the old pisé had been, was converted into a Tennis Court — at first just an earthen one, but soon grassed, for a twenty thousand gallon squatter's storage tank had been erected on a near-by height, to which the windmill pumped the water from the Millbrae Creek, which was fed by springs. This supplied enough water for most purposes. The balcony overlooked the Court and from that vantage point many closely-fought contests, both between the members of the family, and with neighbouring Tennis Clubs, were watched.

Years later, when the Fourth Family were in occupation, further changes were made. The separate brick kitchen was linked to the main building with a small bedroom between, the brick kitchen becoming the laundry, bathroom and toilet. A new and larger kitchen on the southeast corner, completely covered what had been the underground tank, which now was made into a cellar.

Finally, another southern verandah was added to make the structure again a complete whole.

In the meantime, the very early stone barn, built by Richard the Elder, had been absorbed into the two-storeyed building, with stables and housing for harness and vehicles on the ground floor, while the upper one functioned as a hay loft and chaff shed. The large loading aperture in the South wall often proved useful as a goal when the family was in the mood for, or found time for, a game of "footie".

A modern milking shed and smithy, flanked by fowl sheds, a bull yard and vegetable garden, tied this up with the original old lane, old garden and the house area.

Another large collection of buildings on the rise north of the old threshing floor and hay yard (later my rose garden) consisted of the woolshed, the holding sheds and housing for farm implements.

A dipping plant with bricked draining and drafting yards centres this cluster of buildings, which were separately and gradually acquired over a long period of years.

Enclosing this last mass of buildings were strong fences with great yards to hold mobs of sheep during shearing, crutching, classing or dipping. One interesting feature of this fence is the black wall of large rectangular blocks of slag — a relic of the Scotts Creek smelting, and a constant reminder of the very different activities of over a century ago.

These slags, too, were also used originally for quite a different purpose. They had formed a strong, clean pavement from the road into the Springfield Primitive Methodist Church. This indicates that that building was erected in the late eighteen fifties; and indicates, too, something of the period when those twenty six pioneers were buried in the Church's surrounding acre.

There seems to be no record of those dates, nor of those names; but when the Springfield Church was demolished and the structural parts sold, the blocks of slag were purchased by the then owner of Millbrae, for he saw how they could be put to a good use, as well as preserved.

So this simple, comfortable, composite old home with its extensive farm buildings, was built with much pride and effort over a period of more than a century; and has been the joy and sanctuary of five families. Let us hope that in spite of the present resurgence of mining at Kanmantoo, and the knowledge that the ore-bearing reef underlies not only Black Hill but also the Millbrae house and buildings, that this will not preclude future generations from living in this peaceful and pleasant place — while they still engage in their age-old occupation of farming.

THE BRICK OVEN

It is fitting here perhaps to describe the uses of the Brick Oven. Every pioneer woman on the land knew how important it was to have a brick oven built as soon as possible. Iron camp ovens of course served a useful purpose, and still do for campers today, but they were not in the same category as the brick oven, in which, at one baking, supplies for days ahead could be cooked in an hour or two. Let me describe it: A solid brick or stone base, usually about three feet high and six feet long by four feet wide, was made. A concave brick structure, rising in the centre to two feet six inches surmounted and enclosed this base. A hinged iron door, about eighteen inches square, was set in the front wall.

To heat it, saplings of wood six to seven feet long were prepared; and when the fire was lit in the oven (usually with a shovel full of coals from the kitchen or living room fires) the saplings were added.

When the roof was white hot and the fuel reduced almost to ashes, the oven was ready for use. A long-handled shovel, about seven feet long, scooped the residue of coal and ash into the fire-bucket — always safely guarded because of fire danger.

In the meantime the food had been prepared, shall we say on a Saturday morning, for the week-end?

A great dish containing a leg of mutton for Sunday's cold dinner, two loins for cold meat, for tea (and maybe breakfast), with a shoulder, to be served hot for Saturday's dinner; all with potatoes as the surround. A variation was for the potatoes just to be baked in their skins on the floor of the oven, and these, cut open and served hot with butter, salt and pepper, were delicious.

This great dish was placed first in the very back of the oven, for it took the longest time to cook.

Then came another large baking dish of pears, apples or quinces (according to the month and the season) to bake for desserts, or to be eaten by the boys for supper! Another large pie dish probably held creamed rice or sago — also for desserts or supper as required. Then the bread went in; probably ten loaves, each weighing about three pounds, and taking about an hour to bake; the meats and desserts about one and a half to two hours. Most interesting of all was the assortment of pastries, biscuits, scones and cakes — each placed near the front of the oven — according to the minutes required for baking. Peeps through the half-opened door established whether or not all was well and how soon each different thing needed attention and removal.

The whole process of making and baking (apart from the bread which was set overnight and "proofed" before breakfast) usually took about two hours; and there was enough prepared food to last a family of ten over the week-end.

One of our City friends, watching this procedure, suddenly exclaimed, "Why, it is a Fairy Godmother! It delivers anything and everything one could possibly want, at the moment requested!"

In later years makes of power stoves were in use in country kitchens; but even so, when goodly supplies of food were needed in a hurry, the brick oven always came back into action.

Incidentally the long-handled shovel sometimes served a different purpose; a loud yell from the old dairy, where shallow pans of milk were being skimmed by Margret (Rit), brought me running, for I knew that yell meant a snake. As we almost tumbled down the steps into the dairy, the snake, a large brown one, started wriggling into what we thought was a mouse hole. With the hot shovel I pinned his rear portion against the wall, while Rit hammered at it with her broom.

Suddenly, we were startled to see the snake's head had darted out of another hole about three inches away. There were apparently connecting tunnels! But this was his end, for with his head available we soon despatched him

CHAPTER XXII

The Education of the Third Family

By the turn of the Century the Third Family was nine strong, literally as well as numerically, and the problem of their education was an ever-present one; but not in the same sense that it had been with the First and Second family.

In the eighteen-seventies, State Education, with a Department to deal with it, had been established. But it was not easy for that Education Department to cater for the small, drifting and changing populations of the country districts of those days.

After the South Australian Company had given up its mining at Kanmantoo, intermittent mining went on in the District until 1900, with frequent changes of miners and their families.

It had also taken many decades for those in authority, as well as the farmers themselves, to be convinced that it was not possible to live adequately from the one, two or even three eighty-acre sections as was customarily done in their homeland where a very different climate, with an assured rainfall, made this possible.

Consequently, as new Counties were opened up or as mines such as Broken Hill (1885) were found, there was a continuous drift from these farms.

Those remaining, if they could afford it, bought the properties of those leaving, hoping in this way to make their own survival more secure.

Numerous old relics of stone houses are a mute testimony to this struggle by those early colonists — a struggle which continued well into the twentieth century.

All this added up to something that was unpredictable and a real "headache" to the Education Authorities. The included Table shows that from 1878, when Anne Mills opened that first school in the Black Hill Valley, and was followed by Lizzie Martha Champion, there was a succession of teachers at Springfield until 1903, when the school became a "half-time" one.

This meant that two schools were being run with one teacher, who drove week about from Monarto (the site of the proposed new city — Murray) to Springfield.

The children in alternate weeks were set work to be done at home; which work had to be passed in when the Teacher returned the following week. The method was not unlike that used by the Correspondence School and the School of the Air of today. Those families whose parents were able and keen, did remarkably well, for the system developed initiative and self-reliance; but not all families had that necessary oversight at home.

From the included Table it may also be seen that this arrangement lasted for a very short period, the school finally closing in 1903, when parents had to make other arrangements for their children's education.

The Millbrae family was lucky, for the Native Valley School was within driving distance. A schoolcart (Masher Dray) was bought and "Old Topsy", a half draught, was trained to take the children there and back.

What years of fun and games they were, for Topsy was most temperamental and always in complete control.

She had had her shoulder broken while still a foal, but recovered except for a limp. This limp came and went according to whether we were proceeding up the long Davis Hill to school, or going homewards down that same hill. The Hill was so-called because a Mr. Davis ran a wine shop halfway up, just where both man and beast naturally stopped for a rest.

It took a lot of encouragement and about one hour of time to get Topsy over that five-mile stretch each morning; but about twenty five minutes sufficed to cover the same ground on the homeward journey each afternoon!

Neighbours warned Father as to the dangers of that drive but he merely smiled and said, "Don't worry. Those youngsters can look after themselves". And we did.

"Lifts" were given to other children along the route, and fruit was distributed from the box

which was always in the back of the cart, filled with whatever was in season — grapes, apples, pears, stone fruits and so forth, from the grand old home garden.

Sometimes the reins were loosely thrown over the dashboard, sometimes over the brake handle, and occasionally, one or the other would elect to drive and hurry Topsy along; but all the urging in the world made little difference to our pace. There were of course no such hazards as motor-cars and trucks, but an occasional bullock team and dray would bar our way, for Bullocky Billy lived near the school, and there were still some heavy "jobs" for him to do.

Should anyone suggest using Topsy for any other purpose than that of going to school, they had a sad and sorry time trying to force her on the way. Eventually she was pensioned off into the best paddocks.

At Native Valley we certainly got a good drilling in the three "Rs". Our teacher, a middle-aged woman, was a strick disciplinarian and if we did not come "up to scratch" with our set work, then it was look-out! For instance, every spelling error for the older children meant that one hundred words and meanings had to be written out and learnt. A test followed. All recess periods were given over to this work, and of course after school as well if they were still not complete.

The teacher certainly did not spare herself, for she personally wrote the words in Memo Books, and there was a Memo Book for each erring child. Consequently there were few errors, and work was generally of a high standard. How does this method of teaching spelling rank with those of today? Other subjects were similarly organized and supervised. But there were no frills — just Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Grammar and Composition, Drawing, Geography, History and Handwork.

For Secondary Education there was nothing for it but to send the children to boarding school. With nine children this was an undertaking of some magnitude. There were no such things as High Schools, with school buses transporting the students to centres, as there is today.

Ways and means could not be found to send Everlina (Line), the eldest of the family, to boarding school and I suspect also, that she was very useful at home. I don't think she ever really forgave her parents for not giving her that opportunity. However, she was the adored "Sissy" of the whole family, married early, and was a revered wife and the mother of a fine family. Could anyone do better?

William Champion ("Boy" to the family) was sent off to Dr. Byard's Hahndorf College. He boarded at the School from Monday until Friday and then walked across to Mount Barker to spend each week-end with his grandfather, Richard the Younger.

On Saturdays, William spent the day with Mr. Dutch, who had a splendid Foundry at the Mount. What 'Boy' learnt there, proved of inestimable value over the next thirty years, for he was able not only to do the repairs to his own farm machinery, but very often he went to the aid of his neighbours as well. Indeed, both for himself and others, one good machine was often made out of the "bits and pieces" of several discarded ones.

Those week-ends at Mount Barker were not only fruitful for the engineering knowledge that "Boy" gained, but also for the history — for history it was — which he learnt of the early colonization of South Australia.

He listened, enthralled, to those two experienced old pioneers, Mr. Dutch and Richard the Younger, tell of the doings of their very early years in South Australia. Fortunately, some of this filtered through to his brothers and sisters; and later on, to his own children.

Richard Surguy and Jack, in turn, went off to the School of Mines, Richard gaining a scholarship to Roseworthy Agricultural College and Jack later specializing in woolclassing — a very necessary accompaniment to stud sheep-breeding.

Alec and Thomas became boarders at Prince Alfred College, as did the three girls May, Margret and Lizzie Hilliary at the Methodist Ladies' College.

At these fine centres of learning they certainly had a good basic training for their subsequent careers; but they also benefited mightily from the close and constant contact with able and cultured men and women; as well as from their guidance in all fundamental things — including manners, dress and little courtesies.

Undoubtedly this Secondary Education was a drain on resources, and lucky were we to have parents who recognized its importance, and saw that their children did, too!

Undoubtedly, too, the children are the parent's responsibility. But in the complexities of present day living, maybe the time has come when Courses of Study, dealing with various phases of child upbringing, should be freely available to parents.

They certainly need help and encouragement in their all-important task.

SPRINGFIELD SCHOOL

This was added to the list of provisional schools at the close of 1878.

It was under the supervision of the Nairne Board of Advice.

In 1881 it was moved from the original building to the Primitive Methodist Chapel because of lack of accommodation.

The figures given in the column "Average" attendance should be read as total number of pupils instructed up to and including 1889.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Average Attendance</i>	<i>Salary</i>
1879	Anne Mills	34	—
1880	Anne Mills	—	—
1881	L.M. Champion	34	—
1882	Mary Millican	32	—
1883	Mary Millican	36	—
1884	Lizzie Forsyth	36	—
1885	Lizzie Forsyth	—	—
1886	Lizzie Forsyth	23	8
1887	Lizzie Forsyth	24	8
1888	Pauline Schach	19	8
1889	Pauline Schach	—	—
1890	Sydney Timothy-Keighley	17	—
1891	—	—	—
1892	till 1899 Mabel Bell	—	£66 p.a.
1900	Margaret Nancarrow	13.9	—
1901	Margaret Nancarrow	13.2	£72 p.a.
1902	Helen Hopewell	12.7	—

Closed at the end of 1903. During 1903 it was a half time school, sharing a teacher, Mary A. Winch, with Monarto.

CHAPTER XXIII

Millbrae thrives in the early 1900's

Federation in 1901 made a wonderful start for the new Century. Indeed the Commonwealth never really looked back after Federation, in spite of the dreadful drought of 1914, the great depression of the very late twenties and early thirties, and two world wars.

Lizzie Martha and William George also had an auspicious start for their second twenty years of married life, with activities and interests opening up in all directions. Probably the 1900-1914 years were the busiest in their whole lives, for it was a period of great expansion for Millbrae; and in addition, two of their sons and a daughter married during that time.

But in December, 1902, that grand old pioneer, Richard the Younger died.

He had indeed achieved what he had set out to do, for never once had he deviated from his determination at twelve years of age to buy land and create a farm.

Never once had he let up in his efforts to attain that goal, even though those efforts ruined his health by the time he was fifty years of age.

He it was who had laid the foundations of Millbrae by acquiring those first early sections; and of the subsequent stud merino flock (which William so ably developed) with his purchase of good merinos from Donald McCuish; and finally of the house itself when he built those first three stone rooms that still form an important part of the house today.

But Richard had foresight as well as determination and grit, for he specifically had his son trained to carry on where he left off; and when, because of ill-health, at the early age of fifty years, he had to hand over to his son (then only twenty years of age), he was satisfied that all would be well.

In the years that followed, he was proud to see that son mature and develop even beyond what he had hoped for him. He was pleased and proud, too, of his attractive daughter-in-law and her

young family. Few are given the time to see their plans so fully mature, and so, after twenty three years of invalidity, Richard the Younger, died happy.

His old friend, Thomas Hair, who had taken up the Crofton property in the same year as Richard had purchased the first Section of Millbrae, acted as his Executor.

William had some time previously accepted the South Australian Company's offer of a Right of Purchase Lease, first of Kavanaghs and then of Bondleigh. These were five of the northern-most thousand-acre divisions of the Special Mount Barker Mineral Survey, 2001, which had proved such a great disappointment to William Giles (the Manager of the South Australian Company), in that the Copper Bonanza he had hoped for, had not materialized. To William, who was now realizing his potentialities, this was his great opportunity to make Millbrae into the fine stud merino grazing property that he really desired.

Like his Father, Richard the Younger, he was ever on the lookout to purchase land when it became available and whenever he could raise the where withall. But he was also well aware that his sons were growing into manhood and that he must make provision for their future, as well as to keep them gainfully occupied during their teenage years.

So when Burnbrae (section 2020, (mentioned several times previously), with a habitable house, was for sale in 1905, he did not hesitate to buy it; especially as it linked the Millbrae area with the newly-purchased Bondleigh and Kavanaghs.

Then in 1906, another small property, Moore's, a few miles Northwest of Millbrae proved a temptation, and he bought that too, even though ready cash, as always, was somewhat difficult to raise.

These different properties, at higher and lower levels, were a natural corollary one to another: Millbrae, in the centre, was on the lower, easterly slopes of the Mount Lofty Ridges where it was neither so wet nor so cool as was Moores (Murdochs Hill), six miles further northwest; neither was it so rugged and dry as was most of Kavanaghs and Bondleigh, six miles east of Millbrae.

Thus a variety of pastures and terrain was obtained — a great advantage during the varying seasons.

Incidentally, the small farm (Moores) at Murdochs Hill, has much historical interest because Andrew Murdoch, after whom Murdochs Hill was named (and eleven feet higher above sea level than Mount Lofty), purchased the original Land Grant when it was first surveyed in 1841.

Andrew was the son and heir of John Murdoch who had arrived in the Colony at the same time as Matthew Smillie, but he died soon after his arrival and was buried in the West Terrace Cemetery.

Sometime later, because of further deaths and successions to this property, an affidavit as to John Murdoch's identity was required; and the Reverend Thomas Quinton Stow (the Stow Memorial Church is named after him) wrote:—

To Andrew Murdoch, Esq.,

Stockholder,

Craigdarroch, Mount Barker.

Felixstowe,
Near Adelaide,
June 20, 1856.

Sir,

I remember well the arrival of Mr. Murdoch in the Colony at the same time with Messrs. Smillie and Son.

I recollect also very distinctly attending the Funeral of Mr. Murdoch in 1839. I took part in the Devotional Service at the house in the lower part of Grenfell Street, and afterwards walked to the Cemetery.

I am, Sir,
Yours respectfully,
Signed: Thos, Quinton Stow.

The goodly stream, the Bremer, ran right through the Bondleigh and Kavanagh properties from North to South; and the properties themselves were in the Centre of the Bremer Valley.

West of the River, the terrain was extremely rugged, but on the East of it, especially under the lee of the Bremer Range, there was much good arable land on the down-faulted Block of the Old Peneplain. There, the ancient rock masses, had been covered with limestone and other deposits of a middle period in time — while under the sea. Patches of very recent wind-blown sands, had banked up against the Bremer Scarp after a later uplift.

This variety in soils, produced a variety of native plants and trees. In the sand grew quite large stands of native pines, white-ant-resistant, and of considerable size. These, together with the black peppermints on the Scarp and the mallees and wattle on the flats, formed a valuable supply of various timbers and firewood.

William George instinctively knew how he would use these assets; with the good house at Bondleigh, a ruined cottage (which could be restored) at Moores (Murdochs Hill) and a solid camping hut which he would build on the Back run (as that far distant part of Kavanaghs was named), he could set not only his own family of boys to work, but he could also permanently employ those two splendid local men, Charles Skinner and Levi Bott. This he did. And work they all did!

CHAPTER XXIV

The First Decade of the New Century at Millbrae

Motor vehicles in this first decade were only spoken of with bated breath, and we wondered whether they really would become all-purposes vehicles.

People, even in some parts of the City and Suburbs as well as in the country, had to provide their own transport, horses and horse vehicles being the usual means.

We were lucky with all the activities at Millbrae if there were enough horses and vehicles to go around; otherwise it was "foot-slogging".

Soon the Hut at the Back Run took shape, stone being used for the walls and pine logs for structural supports. A large room with one end wall set out as a fireplace, was the result. Large fires were kept going for boiling water and drying clothes, as well as for warmth. Early one morning, we at Millbrae, were awakened by the campers driving in, each wrapped in a blanket. They had set their damp garments to dry before going to bed, and after a few hours were awakened by the odour of burning in a smoke-filled room. Their clothes had all been burnt!

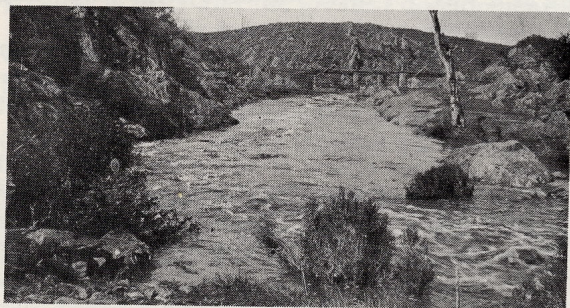
This Hut proved of great use for many years, for the "boys" lived in it during tilling, harvesting and such like activities, only returning home for the week-end recreation (usually Tennis) and for fresh supplies of food.

Moores (Murdochs Hill), too, was restored quite quickly, the cottage there also catering for such seasonal work as tailing and crutching, which could thus be done without trailing the stock back and forth.

Charles Skinner and his young wife, were also installed in the good stone house at Bondleigh; and Levi Bott, who lived relatively near, came and went each day.

This was an important arrangement for father, because of his extensive business and other outside interests, was much away, and he knew that these able young farm men would be a good stabilizing force for the "boys". They were all young enough to enjoy one another's company and to appreciate the occasional pranks that were perpetrated upon one another.

In 1906 there was also the work and excitement of building the Bondleigh Bridge across the Bremer River, just south west of the house. This bridge cut the distance for vehicles from over seven miles, to something less than two — a considerable advantage.



Bondleigh Bridge, 1907

"Boy", who was now twenty one years of age, knew that in a few years he would be taking over Bondleigh, and so he was very keen to see the bridge built. Beside which, he had gained ideas while spending his Saturdays with Mr. Dutch. So, plans were drawn, the site chosen, and work begun. Great supporting pillars of stone and cement were built upon massive rock in the creek bed; and these formed the base of the bridge. Native pine logs made a network for the cement

roadway spanning the pillars; and rough pine posts, laced with fencing wire and netting, completed a safe passage way.

Thus a dream came true. It may not have been an engineer's dream, but it did all that was expected of it for a number of years. Then, a flash flood in 1913, brought down a great wall of water many feet high. Swirling in this water were great dead tree trunks which banked up against the bridge.

The inevitable happened, and we watched the sad sight as the bridge gave way.

It was never rebuilt for with speedy cars and the change of ownership, there was not the quantity of traffic from Millbrae to warrant it; and the old ford adequately served as a stock crossing.

All this development meant "busyness" for the women and girls of the family, as well as for the men and boys. Sometimes two camps would be going at one time; and often only twelve hours' "notice" was given for sufficient supplies to be ready, for two or three men, for a period ranging from two to five days.

That meant hustling and bustling. Bread had to be baked; and bread takes many hours to rise, before it can be "proofed" into the tins prior to baking.

Meat in bulk had to be cooked (often two sheep per week were used) as well as the accompanying pastries, cakes, biscuits and such other portable foods. Finally, the whole was suitably packed, along with the requisite butter, jams, cheese, tea, sugar and all the many other items that make up our daily cuisine. And woe betide us if we omitted any one thing — especially salt and blankets! The good old drip safes, kept permanently at each camp, were worth their weight in gold, for with them, the campers could keep their food in an edible state. Sometimes, such as at shearing, the work was centred at Millbrae and then the work of the women was even heavier, for there was more cleaning, more meals to be set and cleared away, and so on and so on. Sometimes a cook was found for the shearing period, but mostly they were as scarce as gold, and so, we did it all ourselves.

Shearing in those days usually lasted about a month for there were only blade shears and they are much slower than the machine-propelled ones.

Imagine the cooking for ten or twelve men (frequently more), day in and day out for several weeks on end, with a men's dining room to service, as well as the family one.

The usual routine was breakfast at 7 a.m. with porridge, bacon and eggs (or the equivalent) and tea and toast; at 9.30 a.m. "billy" tea with fresh scones or rolls, and biscuits, was served in the shed; at twelve noon, a hot dinner with meat, vegetables and sweets, was put on in the dining rooms; at 3.30 p.m. "billy" tea with sandwiches and cakes went up to the shed, and finally at 6 p.m. the evening meal of cold meats, salads, sweets and bread with jam and cream was served.

Mother was a semi-invalid for several of these years and could only do the over-seeing and such light tasks as mending. Everlina had married and gone, so all this was accomplished by three of us — myself (16-17 years), a neighbour's daughter of the same age, and a neighbour's son, 15 years of age, who did the running, fetching and carrying.

Later, when she left Boarding School, Margret joined in the fray. Lizzie Hilliary, of course, was still a very young child whom we all spoilt atrociously. But her turn came later!

We all enjoyed this life, strenuous and exacting as it was, for there was always the jolly "sing song" in the evening probably preceded by a set of Tennis.

We had early been trained to work, and had learnt that discipline was essential to accomplish one's tasks. We learnt, too, that there was a joy in work; and to be proud of a task well done.

Father was genial and had a fine sense of humour, but he was also a strict disciplinarian, and unremitting in his demands that we accomplish well what we were set to do.

Mother had not Father's easy, masculine command, and her efforts at discipline often varied from one extreme to the other. However, we seldom kicked over the traces, for we well knew that behind Mother was Father, and he always insisted that Mother was in control, and that we must see reason and obey her. So life went along on the whole, harmoniously and well.

Father had begun exhibiting sheep as early as 1890. In that year he entered several sheep in the Mount Barker Show, but came home more than a little downcast for his sheep had not even been mentioned.

But that experience taught him what he must do, and he went immediately to Alick J. Murray, of Mount Crawford, and bought a stud ram of the Peppin strain.

Subsequently, he bought many sires, travelling as far afield as Long Reach in Queensland, to Perth and beyond, to Tasmania, as well as to Victoria and New South Wales in his search for

them; as well as to sell the resultant progeny.

He bought, in particular, rams from Boonoke, Bundemar, Wanganella, Merrivale and several other prominent interstate studs.

From then on his success was phenomenal — most of it being due to his personal supervision of the whole flock. He became a keen contestant in most interstate Sheep Shows as well as in Adelaide; and was very successful both with fine and medium fine-woolled sheep, gaining prizes (with many champions) both for the sheep, and the quantity and quality of wool produced by each sheep.

There is no need to enumerate these successes here, for particulars may be found in the yearly publications of the South Australian Merino Shep Breeders' Association.

Thus William George James Mills made himself and his stock, widely known and had no difficulty in selling all his surplus sheep — both ewes and rams. Buyers came from all States as well as locally. On an average of about twice a week those buyers had to be met at the nearest railway station — Nairne eight miles away; and had to be returned there at the end of the day. For that purpose, as well as for general use, eight stout ponies and a hooded buggy (back to back seating), were kept. Four black Arab ponies were bought from "Wally" Thomson, up the river Murray, just north of Mannum, where he bred them. Two palaminos came from Maidment's Stud at Strathalbyn and two bay cobs from a near neighbour.

The task of meeting the trains and driving the buyers back and forth usually fell to me; and it was one I enjoyed. Only twice were there difficulties — once as I was leaving Nairne for home, the frisky palaminos reared, and before I knew what was happening, both ponies were on the same side of the pole. Willing help was at hand and those ponies were soon back in position. There were no speed limits, so I gave them their heads and we arrived home in double-quick time.

The other occasion was one morning when I had negotiated the long Davis Hill, I realized something was amiss with the trap, and was amazed to see that the right front wheel was on the balance.

The pace, luckily, was slow, so with a steadying hand on the reins, I jumped, almost avoiding the falling wheel. Again, help was at hand; the wheel cap was found, affixed, and away we went, still in time to meet the train.

Looking back, I wonder that there were no real casualties, for the roads were rough, and the work continuous.

When cars really did "arrive" those buyers were brought straight to Millbrae from Adelaide, by the firms concerned; but this did not happen until the second decade. By that time, Father had also bought a car, a Chevrolet from Cheneys, who imported them from U.S.A. Cheneys had an impressive building on the corner of Wakefield Street and Victoria Square. There, we girls found it convenient to meet Father after a day spent at music, singing and elocution lessons which were continued after leaving boarding school.

It was all so much easier than harnessing the ponies, driving to the railway and then catching a coach home in the evening.

The coming of the motor vehicles certainly eased the work on the farms, and so, somewhat regretfully, our ponies and traps were phased out.

Without doubt, this first decade of the new century witnessed the greatest expansion, the greatest activity and the greatest development at Millbrae — either before or since.

This was partly due to the cumulative effects of the pioneering in the previous sixty years; but it was also partly due to the strong, able and willing work force provided by the Third Family at Millbrae.

But most of all it was due to the great organizing ability and the dedicated efforts of William George James — son of Richard the Younger.



Sheep at Millbrae.

Recreations, Weddings and other outside activities, 1900-1914

Both Father and Mother were public spirited and moved with the times, each working enthusiastically in the Community's interest.

When the Blakiston Butter and Cheese Factory was mooted (and later its subsidiary, the Creamery, at Native Valley), Father supported the scheme whole-heartedly for he realized what a valuable asset it would be to the many dairy farmers in the district.

Similarly, he was active with the District Councils of Nairne and Monarto through which districts his property ranged; and his Chairmanship and Counselling were given over a long period.

As the local Chief of the Independent Order of Rechabites, he was largely instrumental in getting that Order to erect the small Bondleigh hall at the foot of the Bremer Range near the junction of the over-passing road to Rockleigh and the one from Callington. This Hall served not only the Rechabites, but also every other organization in the surrounding district, including the local Agricultural Bureau which started there in 1890.

Isolated as it was, it also became a centre for recreation; and frequently resounded to dancing and good concerts, at which local as well as City talent performed. For one of those concerts, some of us elected to finish the chores at Millbrae and then go across to the Hall. The car, with most of the performers, took the long way around. As we rounded Rushy Gully on Kelly's Creek, cart, Topsy and all passengers overturned into the rushes. There was nothing to do but extricate ourselves from the rushes and mud, push the cart and horse back on to the track and proceed on our way. We called at Bondleigh House as we passed, and spruced up as well as we could. No one noticed our mud-splattered attire, and we were in good time for the overture!

For years, now, that Hall has been the property of a near neighbour who uses it for storing fodder, and even for shearing.

But no one seems to know what became of the piano we thumped so hard!

In reality the coming of the car was the death knell of that Hall, for, with cars, people drove to the nearest town for their amusements. It was much easier than making their own.

Outdoor sports were very popular with us all. Some of the boys were Cricket fans and spent their Saturday afternoons at that game; but the rest of us played hard and fast, if not scientific, Tennis.

That court at Millbrae got a real thrashing, for we seized every opportunity for a set, and on week-ends it worked overtime. Frequently we invited neighbouring clubs for a game, and that meant twenty to thirty for tea, as well as afternoon tea, and a "sing-song" with supper afterwards. They were joyous days and evenings with the Old Globe Song Book, and other such collections of songs, also working overtime.

Occasionally we returned these visits, but farm chores such as feeding stock and milking, kept such return visits to a minimum.

Once a year, too, the parents held an At Home Day when representatives from nearly every family in the District came for the whole day. These At Homes later developed into Field Days, with Stud Sheep set out in pens for viewing. That pleased the men!

Riding parties were popular on Sundays. Sometimes when Anniversary Services were held at neighbouring Churches we would attend these. Today it would cause a stir to see five or six members of the congregation arrive in riding attire.

The girls then of course rode side-saddle and the necessary long riding habits were draped over our arms when we dismounted. But no one then took any particular notice. Of course, later, as the fashion changed we rode astride; but it is very interesting to see that side-saddles for women, are again becoming fashionable.

Homeward bound from one of these afternoon jaunts, my mount, a blood mare, suddenly took the bit between her teeth and raced for home. One of the party was alarmed and came racing after me; but he only stimulated my horse to further efforts. Down that Davis Hill we galloped at "break-neck" speed; but I managed to pull her in before we reached the sharp turn at the Creamery; and there we drew breath, both horse and rider, while we waited for the others to catch up.

Soon, too, came weddings — three of them. Everlina was the first in April, 1906. She married at Millbrae, Hugh Ross Patterson, one of the pioneering family of Pattersons at Monarto.

Through all the passing years only two weddings have been held at Millbrae. The first was Father's eldest sister, Margaret Anne, who married John Milne on July 14, 1880, with the Reverend Alex Law as the officiating Presbyterian Clergyman.

Lina's wedding was in the same room, twenty eight years later. And what celebrations there were, for Finetta Finlayson (Auntie Nettie) was M.C. and she saw to it that everything did indeed go "Merry as a Marriage Bell". The Celebrations over, Lina and Hugh drove off in a new, yellow, hooded buggy drawn by a fine pair of chestnut horses. Where they went for their honeymoon we were not told, but in the late Spring following their wedding, I drove down to Rocky Gully to visit them at their farm, The Pines, only three miles west of Murray Bridge. That drive has remained in my memory, for, as I turned off the Main Road into the Rocky Gully track, (it could scarcely be called anything else) one of Nature's glorious gardens spread out before me.

Low, rounded, grey-blue bushes of a flowering compositae, pink, white and mauve, were in all directions; and these were interspersed with pink, red, white and yellow everlastings as well as tall bully buttons, and spider and hooded orchids. Here and there sandy patches were lit up with spreading scarlet runners, while round patches of flat cranberry bushes, formed small pieces of prickly "lawns".

Flanking this feast of colour and beauty the mallee scrub spread out on all sides with a large, rounded granite tor peeping through. Great boulders from the tor had broken off and slithered down on all sides, while clusters of native pines and flowering wattle glowed from the sandy bases.

The palaminoes seemed to sense my absorption (possibly because of an involuntary restraint on the reins) and walked ever so slowly and carefully along the track to our destination — a mile or two further on.

Two more weddings were celebrated in the next few years — that of William Champion and Clarissa Mary Hall in the small Anglican Church at Belair on the 30th March, 1910; and that of Richard Surguy and Barbara Mary Hogg on the 25th February, 1911, in the lovely old St. Michael's Church at Mitcham.

Father had arranged for William Champion ("Boy") to take over Bondleigh, and there he and Clarissa Mary lived out their lives, rearing a family of seven.

Two of their sons, Robert Bruce and Ronald Graham inherited the property, which, only in recent months, has finally been sold out of the family.

Richard Surguy and Barbara Mary spent their married lives on Eyre Peninsula, for Father in 1909, after travelling with Dick in a camel-drawn buggy almost throughout the County of Jervis, had backed Dick in the purchase of a property at Elbow Hill in the Hundred of Hawker. This property later reverted to Father, for Richard had been attracted to a large holding of "bush" country near Iron Baron. This, together with adjoining properties, is still run by two of Richard Surguy's sons.

With Father's death in 1933, the Elbow Hill property was sold to George Champion Mills (eldest son of William Champion), who with his wife and family continue to battle, more or less adequately, against the very dry, uncertain climate — an occasional bumper season cheering them on their way.

The fourth member of the Third Family, Jack, had by 1910 also grown into manhood. He was especially interested in the newly-developed Lower Murray Irrigation Areas. Again with Father's backing, in 1912 he made his selection at Myponga, driving there and back from Millbrae while he got things going. It was a sight to see those beautiful creatures, the palaminoes, rearing in tandem harness, as Jack drove off in his sulky; but we often wondered whether he would arrive safely.

The World War I tragically closed this venture. Jack, unmarried, enlisted early, was mortally wounded at Norieul on 11th April, 1917, and was buried in the Military portion of the St. Sevieres Cemetery, a few miles south of Rouen in France. We saw his grave and took a photo of it in 1962. The Myponga property was of course then sold.

There were no more weddings and "settlings" until after World War I. In the interim, Millbrae had to be re-organized, for, with Bondleigh gone, and the four eldest members of the family also gone, adjustments had to be made and more outside labour employed.

So ended a period of happy and strenuous activity and progress. But the destruction of Bondleigh Bridge by a flash flood in 1913, seemed to foreshadow trouble and disaster to come;

And trouble and disaster there was indeed, for 1914 brought not only our worst drought, but also World War I.

CHAPTER XXVI

Drought, Mice and War — 1914-1918

Early in 1914 farmers everywhere realized that DROUGHT was about to strike again.

Even those who had made it a policy to store fodders for such a tragic event were eventually at their wit's end to keep their stock alive. But those who had wearied of well-doing and had finally sold their fodders, were sad and sorry people.

Water was of course of paramount importance; and it was also the greatest problem to supply.

At Millbrae, where the property was divided into many paddocks for good grazing, they were either watered by creeks, dams, wells or bores; and it was constant work when drought set in, not only to change the stock about, but also to deepen creek-pools, wells and bores as the ground water level continued to lower.

Then, too, around the water supplies, the stock trampled pastures to dust; and in a starved and weakened state, the worst affected, lay in the dust as near the water as possible, and refused to move. Consequently dead and dying beasts had to be "fished" out of troughs, or the muddy rims of dams and disposed of; it was a devastating experience, day after day, to skin and bury such poor beasts.

A never-to-be-forgotten sight and sound, was that of streaming, bleating sheep, or lowing cattle, coming from all directions to follow the fodder-laden vehicle as the "tipper" gently trickled the precious grain from the bags; or spread the sheaves of hay as economically as possible.

Another pathetic sight was to see the animals "hoofing" at roots of trees and shrubs, or even where grass had been, in order to gain a little nourishment.

The lopping of sheoaks, some mallees and gums saved the lives of thousands of sheep and cattle, but it was a sad sight to see the decapitated skeletons of the trees — which of course did not sprout until the rains came again. Sheds that had been roofed with straw (a common practice in those days) often proved a God-send. The original cowshed at Millbrae was one such, and its roofless state was a stark reminder of the drought during the next year or two — until things improved.

Father was one who firmly believed in storing for the future; and eventually, as the drought ended, he was able to help others, including the Misses Laws of Monarto, who, when a load of hay was driven into their yard, knelt down in the dust and thanked God for Willie Mills.

But of course Millbrae suffered with everyone else. Stock were weakened and decimated; studs rendered unsaleable and the whole flock generally reduced to a lamentable state.

Did the City folk really comprehend the magnitude of this calamity? Probably not, for even the water restrictions, which had to be imposed, were often infringed. One bath a week was stipulated, but in boarding houses one often heard the showers working overtime, long after midnight, when the users thought it would not be noticed.

One good result came from this great catastrophe, and that was the hastening of the construction of the Millbrook, the Tod and the Warren Reservoirs.

Australia's capacity to recover from drought is truly remarkable, and when the good rains of 1915 set in, pastures leapt to life; and stock responded equally well. So the trials of the 1914 drought, receded into the background, temporarily at least.

But drought was not the only disaster in 1914, for in that year World War I burst upon us! The four succeeding years were indeed a nightmare to everyone.

And what was it all about? Memory boggles for a moment; and then it all comes flooding back; the aggressions and ambitions for trade and territory of various European nations had not really been quelled with the 1871 Treaty; for those nations kept "sparring" with one another and making alliances — this group aligning itself with that group, until it was difficult to know which nation supported which.

Two such alliances were Germany and Austria on the one side, with France, Russia and later Italy, opposing them.

The inevitable happened, and a conflict was assured when some unknown Serb murdered an almost equally unknown Austrian-Hungarian Arch-Duke. Retribution was immediately demanded, and allied nations were whipped up for their support.

Britain did her utmost to keep out of the conflict and to bring the quarrel to the Conference Table. But Germany, with her great re-organized Army and rebuilt Navy, was itching to show her powers — and so Belgium was invaded.

The fat was then in the fire, for Britain had a Treaty to support Belgium in the case of invasion. Thus Britain was literally forced into the War — a War which became world-wide; again because of the interactions of still other alliances and treaties.

Within months, two opposing lines of Nations faced one another across NO MAN'S LAND, an area that extended from the French and Belgium Coasts to the Swiss borders; an area behind which men lived in dug-outs opening on to muddy trenches, where miles of duck-boards gave an uncertain foothold. Lice, rodents, poor and scanty food (a slice of cheese spread with plum jam was a luxury), plus the mud and rain, made living conditions a literal hell on earth.

And what heroism and ingenuity were seen everywhere — at Ypres, along the Somme, at the great Battle of Jutland; by Allenby and his men laying that famous aqueduct to Jerusalem; by the Russians in the siege of Stalingrad; and perhaps most of all by the ANZACS at Gallipoli.

Britain with never more than three weeks' food supply on hand, had her back to the wall; and, as always, she depended on her ships and navy to see that food supplies got through — from Australia, from Canada, from Africa; indeed from anywhere that she could get it.

Germany, knowing all this, concentrated on sinking those ships of supply. She invented SUBMARINES and TORPEDOES and made submarine bases such as Zeebrugge, from which she could attack Britain's sea-lanes.

Britain responded with MINES — hundreds of miles of them throughout the British Channel and the North Sea; and saw to it that her merchant ships travelled in CONVOYS with warships to protect them.

Then in 1917 came the Russian defection and the Russian Revolution. This was a great blow to the Allies for it released all those German forces from Russia on the East, to strengthen those on the west.

But with America's entry into the War in 1917, and with Britain's invention of TANKS the tide turned.

Allenby and his men had already taken Jerusalem and quelled Palestine and Syria; then Italy defeated Austria; and so on and on the victories came, until on November 11, 1918, Germany signed the Armistice.

The Treaty of Versailles followed and the boundaries of many countries of Europe were changed. (I have included this outline of World War I, knowing full well that many young people of today, know little more than that a War occurred. Our family is no exception).

And what of our family at Millbrae during those terrible four years? Mother had completely recovered from her long illness and had regained her old strength and vigour. Was this the result of her Doctor's prescription: a raw egg to be swallowed whole (minus the shell of course) followed by a small glass of stout each mid-morning? Did this also contribute to her longevity, for she lived on until 1961, almost reaching her century?

In July, 1914, I went off to train as a teacher, for, as always, teachers were in short supply. Margaret stepped up to take my place as a mainstay in household affairs, and she stuck at the task until 1920, when she, too, went off to the City; but to train as a Nurse.

In 1916 Lizzie Hilliary left boarding school and joined Margaret at Millbrae and so lightened the load.

Sarah Surguy Champion (Mother's mother) died in September, 1914, at the age of eighty two years and was buried in West Terrace Cemetery, where her husband had preceded her thirty four years earlier. Sarah Surguy had finally lived at Burnbrae, Section 2020, where Father and Mother could look after her more easily in her old age. Some of we youngsters visited her there daily to make sure she had supplies. We loved the mile jaunt there and back; but we also loved Grandma's tales of London, Hertfordshire and Ely as well as those of her experiences in South Australia in Colonial Days.

Tom (Thomas Bruce), enlisted early but was fated never to get away. In those early disorganized days of recruiting, he, along with many others, contracted, at the Mitcham Camp,



*Sarah Surguy Champion —
widow of Thos. Champion Jr.*

that dread disease CEREBRO-SPINAL Meningitis. No Serum was then available and Tom died.

Gone were the days when in neighbouring milking stalls (there were no milking machines then) we whiled away the time in discussions as to what should and should not be done to put the world right; gone were his dreams of becoming a lawyer and a figure in the land; and gone was our fine young brother. That bright, strong boy of twenty was buried in the family burial ground at Blakiston, near where his pioneer grandparents rested.

Jack and Alec enlisted next, and much of their training was done on the Salisbury Plain (England). Mother delighted in their letters which described various famous places she had known so well in her girlhood; and she treasured the scraps of holly, ivy, and so on, that were enclosed.

Then came France and the trenches. Before the Battle of Bullecourt and Norieul Jack, Alec and Hugh Kelly (an old school "pal" from Prince Alfred College) volunteered for a particular machine gun section, needing three men to each gun. Only volunteers were taken for this. At the offensive, near Norieul, Jack, being tall (over six feet), was mortally wounded at the beginning of the "hop-over". The other two had to leave him. They unstrapped his section of the gun, and went on. Hugh was the next to fall — also fatally wounded; and a little later Alec's right shoulder joint was completely blasted away. But he was amongst the fifty who reached, and held, the objective until reinforcements arrived.

Alec was taken back to London and there in St. George's Hospital, over a period of ten months, he underwent operation after operation to give him some resilience and use in his right arm — possibly with a good deal of benefit, for in after years, was able, partly to use the arm. In 1918 he was invalided at home, and great was the rejoicing as we drove, in the well-filled Chevrolet, down to meet the boat. Unfortunately on that well-known Davis Hill, who should get in the way but Bullocky Will with his team! In his haste to move his bullocks, he cracked his whip soundly, not realizing that the lash had entered the back of the car, and wrapped itself around the neck of one of us. That neck, however, was strong, and although a great red weal showed up brightly for days, no real harm was done. But the incident did somewhat dampen our spirits.

Alec's shoulder eventually permitted him to use his arm for some things, but he never could raise it, nor use it for anything strenuous. He persisted until he taught himself to use his left hand and arm almost as effectively as he had originally used his right, playing Tennis and doing all the usual things about the farm. But when breaking-in horses, he strapped his right arm to his waist so that he would not, involuntarily, try to use it.

What courageous and adaptable people came out of the War!

During all this time, the work at Millbrae, as on most farms, went on with such a will, and such intensity, that in spite of a greatly reduced labour force, with inexperienced women willingly undertaking to work at whatever was possible, production increased enormously. Of course, after the 1914 drought, the seasons were on the up grade, until 1916 ushered in a bumper year. Indeed, because of the better seasons, plus the great determination to help Britain, great prosperity abounded.

Just as Britain and America responded to the call for more and better ships, motor vehicles and war machines, even aeroplanes, so the far-flung Commonwealth Countries responded to the call

for more and more food supplies. Even the mice plague that followed the Great Drought, did not deter the output over-much; but possibly few people realized the extent and dreadfulness of that plague.

In the few months when it was at its worst, it was almost intolerable to pass a haystack, wheat stack, or a stubble paddock because of the stench. Great Warrens, ten to twelve feet high, riddled with thousand of mice holes, were to be seen throughout any stubble in the afflicted areas. Conditions were just as bad in wheat storage sheds, no matter how strongly built, nor how well protected and kept. At night, in lantern light, I have seen great rivers of mice rushing up the corners of sheds where wheat was stored; and have taken part in the efforts to destroy them.

Two people stood with leather thongs (made like a cat-and-nine-tails) at each corner of the barn, and beat continuously at the streams, while men shovelled the resulting carnage into barrows and wheeled it away for burial.

At the end of a week, only corners of the five hundred bags could be seen poking through the great mound of wheat where the bags had been stacked.

I have heard also, mice racing continuously around the lintels of doors and windows; and felt them crawling over me at night, frequently having to brush them from head and face as I tried to sleep.

The mice finally disappeared as quickly as they had come — probably into the sea, for they were traced as moving in a great cavalcade from North to South.

People questioned Father as to how he had kept Millbrae moderately clear of the plague. Did he do this? NO! Did he do that? NO! What then did he do? In a laconic way he replied, "I kept forty nine cats, and didn't overfeed them!"

But, of course, with his re-organization, he had concentrated on sheep-grazing rather than wheat growing, and that meant less storage of fodders to attract those dreadful little rodents.

Father took Alec into Partnership almost immediately upon his return and wedding bells rang again as he married Phoebe Matilda Blacket, eldest daughter of the Reverend John Blacket, Methodist Minister at Salisbury, South Australia.

This was on October 29, 1919, and once again the house at Burnbrae, Section 2020, was put to good use, for Alec and Phoebe settled in there for the first few years of their married life.

CHAPTER XXVII

S.A. Politics between 1899 and 1933

Father's involvement in political matters started even before the turn of the Century; and throughout the period 1900-1914 politics seemed to obsess us all.

Indeed, from our earliest years, after tales of the early Colonial days, politics and community needs were the "hot" topics of discussion when there was time to dawdle over a meal. Consequently, we children grew up taking those matters as a natural part of living.

When momentous events happened, such as that of Egerton Lee Batchelor, a Labour M.P., being taken into the Holder Liberal Ministry (1899) as Minister of Education and Minister of Agriculture, we were not only made aware of it, but also the reason for it — the disagreement between the Liberals and Conservatives over the £20 franchise clause for the Legislative Council.

How history repeats itself! But few take any notice; or heed a warning. This and other minor differences were magnified into major ones which kept these two factions apart for years to come — in spite of their very similar and very important policies.

A very strong parallel can be drawn between this and what is happening today between the Liberal-Country League and the Liberal Movement. Even the various proposals to bring about unity, or the opposite, were almost identical. Read the following and think back to various press and television announcements of only a few months ago:—

- (1) The necessity for a close liaison between the Liberal Members of Parliament and the Organization.
- (2) The desirability, or otherwise, of the Executive having power to compel the resignation of Members.
- (3) The advantages, or otherwise, of the exercise of the franchise being made compulsory.

But these suggestions were made in 1906; and this is 1973!

While Federal matters adjusted themselves in the first decade of the new Century, Ministries and Governments in South Australia were in and out in quick succession.

Liberal F.W. Holder, after a few months in office, resigned to enter Federal Politics and E.L. Batchelor was dropped by Holder's successor, John Greely Jenkins. J.G. Jenkins, in turn, resigned to become Surveyor General and Richard Butler (father of the later Richard Butler), a Conservative, was appointed Leader (1905).

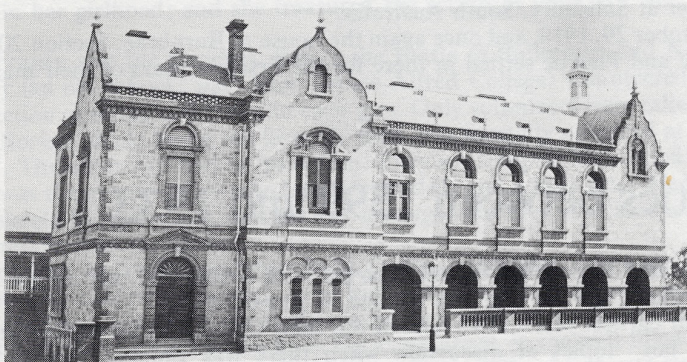
But Labour, spurred on by the displaced E.L. Batchelor, produced Thomas Price, who scored a great victory over Butler. Thomas Price then formed a Labour-Liberal Coalition. This lasted, and did well, for four years; everyone respected Thomas Price and his efforts for the State. But Price died in Office in 1909 and Archibald Peake headed the following Coalition Ministry — but without Labour Representation. The resultant disgruntled Labour Party then produced clever, Cornish John Verran who became a thorn in the sides of Liberals and Conservatives alike until 1910, when his tactics brought about Peake's resignation. Verran was then of course, sent for, and became Premier, continuing in Office until 1912.

In that year, 1912, Veran over-reached himself. Thinking to gain full power, he had forced a dissolution, but was defeated.

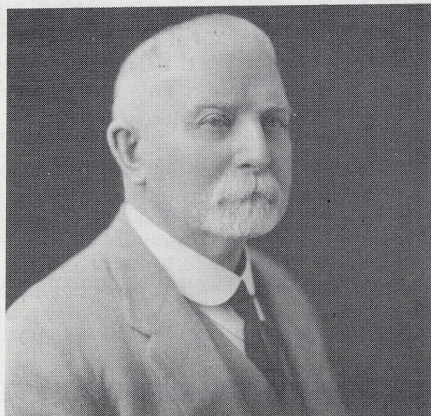
Peake returned to power and lasted until 1915, when Crawford Vaughan, the Labour Leader, was returned; only to fall in his turn, in 1917, when Labour Members split on the Conscription issue.

The Liberal-National Coalition which followed (again under Peak's Leadership), went on until 1920.

During all these years, the country people, farmers in the main, felt that they were not getting a fair deal; and so by 1906 they had formed a pressure group called the Farmers and Producers. Farmers are difficult to organize simply because of their isolation, and this attempt to unify themselves had little success. However, in 1916, another attempt was made and they called themselves the Farmers and Settlers' Association.



Picture of Parliament House which later became the Legislation Council Chambers.



At first this Association had no thought of political representation, but they soon changed their minds when they found that they had no hope of getting their ideas across without direct Representation in Parliament.

So, in 1918, William George James Mills, the President of the Farmers and Settlers' Association, was elected to the Upper House, and Hedley Chapman, another active Member of the Association, to the Lower House.

This success made Labour, Liberals and Conservatives alike, sit up and take notice; and soon propositions to exchange votes at the next elections came from all sides.

In 1919 the Farmers and Settlers' Association changed their title to that of Country Party, and announced its aims of putting more and more of its members into Parliament.

In the 1921 Elections, Malcolm McIntosh, McMillan and T. Hawke were also elected to the House of Assembly, with Malcolm McIntosh as Leader, and W.G.J. Mills as Chairman of the Party.

These 1921 Victories gave the Country Party the Balance of Power. Surely this was a great achievement in three years! They were followed in 1924 with the election of P. Blesing to the Legislative Council; and in 1927 Archibald Cameron started his brilliant twenty-nine years of political life — first in the State Parliament (1927-1934), and then in the House of Representatives from 1934-1956.

An Alliance between the Liberal and Country Parties in 1927, won the elections, and Malcolm McIntosh was appointed Commissioner of Public Works and Minister of Education and P. Blesing as Minister of Agriculture.

By 1929 the Great Depression was a National Emergency; and, in the face of it, minor differences were forgotten and all worked solidly and harmoniously for the common good. By 1932 the Liberals and Country Party united to form the Liberal-Country Party and were very successful at the 1933 elections.

In those same elections, a young man, Thomas Playford, entered Parliament for the first, but not the last time, for in 1938 Thomas Playford became Premier of South Australia, and remained the Leader for the next thirty three years. Even the Opposition acknowledged this young man's ability, one of their prominent members stating that he was a better Labour Premier than they could produce!

But now disharmony reigns again. Will it take another national calamity to make the various factions sink their differences and unite for the good of all?

Maybe another Statesman will emerge.

CHAPTER XXVIII

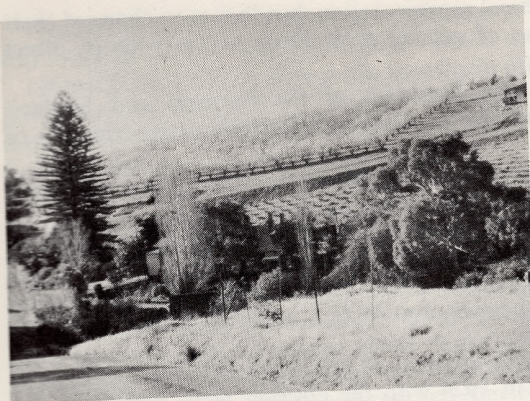
The move to Sturtbrae and Soldier Settlement

During all this political activity things at Millbrae had not stood still. Margret in 1919, decided that it was her turn to branch out on her own so she went off to the City, and trained as a Nurse, leaving Lizzie Hilliary as the only member of the family at home with the parents. Alec's home-coming from the War had almost co-incided with Father's election to Parliament in that same year, and Alec was taken into Partnership as W.G.J. Mills and Son. For five years after this, Father travelled up and down to fulfil his Parliamentary and other duties (he was also a Director of the Primary Producers' Bank) while Alec, in spite of his severe war injuries worked himself into a full knowledge of the great Stud Sheep business into which it had grown.

When Father was satisfied that Alec could manage, he bought himself a small farm quite close to Adelaide, stretching across Shepherds Hill Road, and named it "Sturtbrae". Had he known then that it had previously been called "Windsor Farm", that name would probably have been retained.

There, at Sturtbrae he developed a fine-woolled merino Sheep Stud, not in competition with the partnership, for that was a medium fine-woolled one, but entirely separate from it; and as a hobby to keep himself healthy and sane while he continued his heavy Parliamentary work.

The mammoth move from Millbrae was made in 1923. Father had lived all his life at Millbrae and Mother for over forty years; so that it was a considerable undertaking. But they settled down on the slopes overlooking the City, joined in the District activities and were popular and happy.



Sturtbrae, July 1966.



Sturtbrae, July 1965.

A year or two later, a Section at Happy Valley (the original home of the Chandlers after whom that Hill is named, was on this Section) came on the market, and as this land was only seven miles from Sturtbrae Father bought it, for he had realized that the Sturtbrae property was somewhat small for his plans to develop a stud.

As Father, Mother and their youngest daughter, Lizzie Hilliary, had vacated Millbrae, Alec and Phoebe and their family, moved in from Burnbrae, thus making the Fourth Family and the Fifth generation in residence there.

Wedding bells rang again soon after the move to Sturtbrae had been made, for Lizzie Hilliary was married in Scots Church, North Terrace, Adelaide, to Ronald Redvers Loveday, a young Imperial Air Force Pilot who had come to South Australia after the War, to settle.

They made their first home at Loveday, on the River Murray, and were among the early settlers on the rapidly-developing irrigation areas on the Upper Reaches of the Murray in South Australia. Later, they sold their block at Loveday and bought land on Eyre Peninsula, where they farmed until World War II threatened. They then sold their farm and moved to Whyalla; and there they lived until recent years, when Ron's Parliamentary duties (he had been elected to Parliament as a Labour Member) assumed such heavy proportions that a move nearer to Adelaide became essential.

Their family of seven children were, by this time, all married and holding quite important professional positions in various parts of Australia.

When Father and Mother moved to Sturtbrae, at their request, I sold my house at Blackwood, bought a car and went home to live, for we all realized we needed one another.

So 1923 and 1924 brought great changes to Lizzie Martha and William George James, whose years were now mounting.

Parliamentary duties were extremely heavy for all Members of Parliament, for, with the end of World War I, our returning men were anxious to get married and settled as soon as possible; the Government, too, realized its great responsibility, not only to settle them quickly, but also to give them the best opportunities they could.

Pumping stations on the Lower Murray Reaches opened up good prospects for a number, while new developments north of Mannum, almost to the Victorian Border, set men clamouring for blocks there. But these were costly and huge undertakings, for it meant Locks and Weirs, as well as storages such as Lake Victoria; and that, and other side effects, meant that co-operative agreements had to be reached with Victoria and New South Wales. However, the first Lock was opened in 1920, and others soon followed. All such undertakings meant work for the returned men while they awaited allotments.

Then, too, the subterranean clover and top dressing with mixed fertilizers, including molybdenum, on such areas as the Coonalpyn Downs, with soldiers doing a great deal of the work, also eased things considerably while the great undertakings were developed and made ready for occupation.

Similar great works were done on Eyre Peninsula where thousands of acres of mallee scrub were cleared, and great galvanized iron sheds were erected as a nucleus for the necessary farm buildings. At one end of these sheds, space was enclosed for living quarters; while at the other, storages were provided for super, grain and farm machinery. Fences were erected, stones cleared

(if that proved essential) and the land cultivated and sown to pastures. Again, the returned men were allowed to choose their own allotments, and work on these while they were being developed. And they were paid while doing so.

The demand for more and better roads, including bitumen roads (the first in 1923) came with the sudden increase in the numbers of cars as soon as the War was over. This, too, meant more and more work for repairs, service stations and such-like things.

A fresh impetus was also given to industries — in Adelaide, Port Pirie, Whyalla and wherever a suitable location could be found.

Thus this period of 1918-1929, was one of great activity for every one, with the Government working under great pressure — but with the compensation that prosperity reigned.

Nevertheless, while all this important work was proceeding, the various factions in Parliament were still more or less at logger-heads.

The Country Party's response to this was to organize themselves as effectively as they could. Fathers, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers and friends all combined to put the Country Party Platform before the Public.

My part was to use my car during holidays to organize certain distant Country Districts. With the aid of a map or two and a friend to accompany me, we spent a month in Alexandria, a month in Flinders and a week in Albert.

It was fun finding our way from place to place in those great Electorates; and writing "umpteenth" letters to various people arranging meetings and places to stay. There were no hotels, and certainly no motels, where we went. Sometimes we slept on stretchers in the great shed; sometimes we had the best bedroom; sometimes there was water only for human and animal consumption and none for washing and bathing. Once we had butter that children had walked miles to get from a neighbour, in temperatures over the Century. It was the first butter that family had had for months; and of course it was oil when the children reached home.

What we two learnt about pioneer farming in those days would fill volumes; and what we saw and learnt of those daring young farmers and their equally courageous young wives made us realize that the spirit that brought those first pioneers in the early eighteen hundreds, was still with us.

How fervidly we were able to tell of these things upon our return to the City! Naturally we got our representative elected, for no one else had sent two women to see and learn of their difficulties.

CHAPTER XXIX

The Development of Sturtbrae; the opening of Parliament House, Canberra, the Great Depression and the Death of William George James Mills

Alec's management of Millbrae was excellent and the stud business flourished.

Three of the original sections of Richard the Elder and Younger's leaseholds came on the market in 1926, and the Partnership bought them. In 1962, long after Father had died, the remaining sections of these leaseholds were up for sale. These, too, Alec purchased, thus getting back the whole of the great square block of land that the family originally leased.

Once again the house on Section 2020, Burnbrae, came into use. Children from all around, including those from Millbrae and Bondleigh, had reached school-going age. The Education Department was approached, the house offered as a schoolroom and residence, and a teacher was provided.

The Burnbrae School was continued until all the children had grown beyond the Primary stage.

At Sturtbrae, work went on apace. Six paddocks were made, the creek diverted so that foddors could be planted, and a six-foot dog-proof boundary fence was erected.

The eighty acres at Happy Valley were similarly developed and absorbed into the Sturtbrae menage.

The new Chevrolet Sedan wended its way almost daily to Adelaide, picking its path through hundreds of deep pot-holes in the rough and neglected South Road; while my car turned north eastwards, also almost daily to Unley High School. No one minded those rough roads, for they seemed a part and parcel of a country person's being. Besides, there were the lovely almond groves, vineyards and market gardens on all sides, and these, with the Mount Lofty Ridges backing them, were interesting and beautiful.

1927 brought an exciting event — the Opening of Federal Parliament House in Canberra, by the Duke and Duchess of York — later King George and Queen Elizabeth.

Father, as a Parliamentarian, had invitations for two; but as he could not get away, he made arrangements for me to attend — along with a friend.

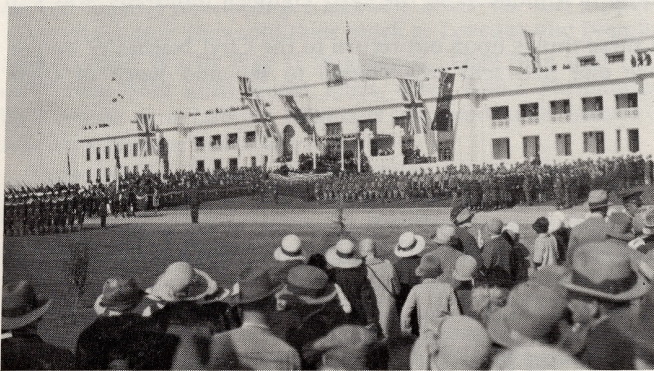
Accommodation was provided for all who had been invited, and we were among the lucky ones, for Canberra at that time had few buildings such as Hotels and Motels, and so thousands had to camp out on such selected places as Capital Hill.

We were accommodated in a comfortable wood and iron house that had been one of the homes for a family who had been employed by the original Station Owners.

In the front two rooms were William (Billy) Morris Hughes and his wife. My friend and I had a bedroom next along the narrow passage, with the dining room opposite ours. One of the Chief Building Constructors and his wife, had the room beyond ours, while the people in charge had temporary premises in the backyard. On several visits since, I have tried to locate that house, but roads and other structures in their thousands, have long since wiped away all traces of the roads and houses of that time.

We scarcely did more than pass the time of the day with "Billy" Hughes and his wife, who were extremely busy all the time. We were sorry for that, for after all he was one of Australia's outstanding citizens and characters.

But the Construction Chief, and his wife, dined with us; and when they learnt that we could



The Opening of Parliament House Canberra 1927.



*The Review before the Duke
of York.
The Duke takes the Salute.*

each drive a car, an old T Model Ford was lent to us for the duration of our stay. In it was drove to the Molonglo Valley, as well as to all the great festivities for which we had invitations. There was the great Levee and Reception as well as the actual opening of Parliament; the great March Past with aeroplanes flying in formation overhead; the Dedication Service, held on Rottenbury Hill, where it was hoped, and is still hoped, that a fine Cathedral will some day be erected; and so on and on until we were literally worn out with our activities and the excitement of it all. No two women ever had a more thrilling holiday; and even though we have both on several occasions since, seen and admired the magnificent developments that have taken place, yet we will always remember Canberra as we saw it during the opening ceremonies in 1927.

Soon after this great occasion, the disastrous Depression (1929-1933) struck Australia. No one escaped its dire effects. City or country, rich or poor, all were drawn into that inescapable net of frustration, where lack of work, lack of money and real hardship kept every one worrying as to when and how it would all end.

A dole was issued and distributed to the needy so that the necessities of life could be purchased, and hundreds of men were permitted to camp along the River Torrens in any tents or shacks they could erect.

Underdeveloped land was purchased in the Hills — at Bridgewater, along the Onkaparinga, indeed in many places; and this was made available to the homeless and needy who were encouraged to clear the land, keep fowls, a cow, grow vegetables and to do anything that would help to keep the wolf from the door, and give them healthy and gainful occupation.

Some of those people eventually bought those blocks and have become fine citizens of those localities. Here at Sturtbrae, land and water was made available to previous part-time employees, the young men growing and marketing such things as lettuces, tomatoes and cucurbits. The Civil Service voluntarily took a cut of 12 ½% in their salaries to help with the finances. Appeals from newly-settled country districts came thick and fast. One woman wrote saying that she had to clothe herself and her children in washed flour bags.

It was all so pathetic, so terrible and so distressing. But each and every one in this National Calamity did what was possible to ease the situation and keep people from despair.

Those years of distress, along with the great battle of the various Political factions to find a platform that all could endorse, and be happy to endorse, were a tremendous strain on an ageing man; and when he saw that the Depression was being overcome, and that a solution had at last been found to the political struggles, he himself gave up the struggle.

William George James Mills, the understanding husband and Father, the genial, good-humoured and honest Legislator, the able, determined farmer, who had built up one of the foremost Merino Sheep Studs in Australia, died on September 20, 1933.

We buried him in the Family Grave at St. James Church, Blakiston; and on his tombstone we inscribed:—

“He was a Man endowed with Strength and Might.
Courage was His, and Power; yet mingled there,
Honour was found, with gentleness and truth.
Revered by all he journeyed thus through life.”

CHAPTER XXX

Conclusion

It would be invidious for me to discuss the doings of the present Members of the Family; or of the immediate past ones, for they are as yet far too personal.

However, to round off this account of achievement during more than one hundred and thirty years, I will briefly record the twentieth Century Marriages, Deaths and changes of ownership of properties so that Posterity (if anyone else should decide to chronicle events) will have an easier task than I have had.

Provision had been made in Father's Will for Alec to buy Millbrae. But to do this Kavenaghs, Murdochs Hill (Moores) and Sturtbrae had to be sold.

So Father's Death brought great changes, with Millbrae considerably decreased in area.

The Depression was still with us and markets were few and far between, especially for such a property, as Sturtbrae which was too small for the "big man" and too big for the "little man". But the end of the Depression came and at last everything was wound up.

The two unmarried daughters bought Sturtbrae, thus providing a home for Mother as well as for themselves. Mother lived on to the ripen old age of ninety-nine years and seven months before she gave up the struggle to live; and she, of course, was buried alongside Father at Blakiston.

The activities at Sturtbrae in the forty years from Father's Death until the present day, would make a story in itself, for it would tell how two women brought Sturtbrae out of the Depression, formed a Merino Sheep Stud, planted an almond orchard, weathered the dreadful World War II years and their after-effects, and finally subdivided the property into one of Adelaide's large and attractive suburbs.

These two women, now octogenarians, live on in their century-old home, surrounded by the large garden that they themselves have created over the intervening years. And there we leave them.

Alec and Phoebe, with their family of four, lived on at Millbrae until the children had all grown up; then they retired to their new home at Kingston Park, leaving their second son, Alec Richard (Dick) to manage Millbrae. Their eldest son, Thomas Blacket, served in World War II and upon his return to civilian life, married Janet Bartholomaeus. This pair bought themselves a farm at Tintinara (a part of the old Tintinara Sheep Station) where their family of five is fast growing up.

Patricia, the eldest daughter, married George Holmes (also a returned man) and they settled on a farm at Geranium; and now their three children are making careers of their own.

Elizabeth, the youngest daughter, trained as a nurse and Deaconess and then married Phillip Wildman — a technician from Melbourne. They built their home at Seacombe Downs and their five children are fast progressing through Primary and Secondary Schools.

Dick (Alec Richard) remained at Millbrae and married Esther Hannam, a great granddaughter of one of the Bremer's pioneering families. They moved into occupation at Millbrae when their parents retired to Kingston Park.

Alec died on September 9, 1967, aged seventy five years; and was buried in his family grave in the Nairne Cemetery. His wife, Phoebe, had pre-deceased him by two years.

At Alec's death, Dick (the third Richard at Millbrae) became the sixth generation and the fifth family) in residence there.

Alec had made it possible, as had his Father before him, for Dick to pay out the Legatees and death duties, and assume Ownership of Millbrae.

And there we leave Dick, Esther and Family struggling with Mining Companies, restricted in their doings by such things as wheat quotas and City Regulations (they are now within six miles of the New City, Monarto), coping manfully with falling wool and sheep prices and with a family of five who are rapidly growing up.

The recent sudden boost in wool and sheep prices must be more than welcome to them.

The other Members of William George James Mills' family who were still living at his death were Everlina, William Champion, Richard Surguy and Lizzie Hilliary.

Lizzie Hilliary and her husband, Ronald Loveday, moved to Adelaide from Whyalla and built a house on one of the Sturtbrae blocks; and there they are kept busy with their garden and civic and political affairs.

William Champion died suddenly on May 20, 1941; his wife Clarissa Mary had pre-deceased him by some years. William's children nearly all served in World War II. His daughter, Hirell, became an Army Nurse and Matron. One son, Ian, was killed at El Almain; and all three of the other sons, as well as a son-in-law, saw Service, but returned safely to resume farming.

Richard Surguy (Dick) also died suddenly on October 20, 1944. His wife, Barbara Mary, the wonderful mother of eleven children, still survives. Two of their sons also served in World War II; one, Jack, was lost when Rabaul was over-run by the Japanese.

The descendants of each of the three older members of this family have now reached the seventh generation in South Australia.

Farming, however, is no longer the exclusive occupation of this large and growing family although it still occupies the greatest percentage of the present generation; their activities extending from the South East through the Coonalpyn Downs to the Murray Mallee, back to the centre at Black Hill Valley and Kanmantoo, over the slopes of the Range and on to Eyre Peninsula.

But many have branched out into almost every avocation. There are three Doctors of Philosophy, one Medical Doctor, one University Tutor, one Architect, one Research Librarian, four Teachers, four Nurses and one Commercial Air Pilot. As yet there are no Lawyers, but there is one in the offing!

Again, as with the farmer representatives, these members of professions have spread out — this time around the world in their search for knowledge; to Britain (from whence we came), to Canada, to the United States of America, to New Zealand. But all have returned, or are returning to Australia, or its fringes, to apply their knowledge. Two are in Canberra; two in New South Wales; one in Victoria; two in Perth; one in Noumea; two in Darwin; two in Adelaide; and, until recently, one in Papua-New Guinea.

Others are now entering the technical field; and it is likely that with the rising costs of settling on the land, more will undertake this very necessary work.

And so we leave them endlessly forging new links, but still bound by the old ones — to one another, to Britain, to Australia and to the rest of this narrowing world. But —

“People will not look forward to posterity, who never look back to their ancestors.”

(Edmund Burke)



Aerial View of Sturtbrae and its surroundings

Hadlow — From Whence We Came

In recent weeks, in quite a romantic way, I have gained information from Kent as to the more exact 'stamping ground' of our family ancestors.

A New South Wales representative of the Mills fraternity was also seeking information as to his forebears, and we met in the 'dungeons' of the Registry Office in Flinders Street.

He disclosed that he had unearthed that some Mills at least had come from Hadlow. Back came a letter in answer to my query from the Vicar at St. Mary's, Hadlow Church, stating that the Church Register showed that in 1799 on December 27th a William Mills married a Rose Wells; and also that a baptism took place on December 25th 1803 of Richard Mills, son of Rose and William.

That Richard and Rose were the parents of Richard the elder, who left Kent on September 25th, 1837 — our pioneering great grandfather.

Did Rose Wells come of that family of John Wells who in 1897 left an annuity of £1 per year out of little Goblands Farm, Hadlow, for the purchase of bread for distribution annually to the needy on each 1st January:

The Vicar of Hadlow also stated that all Church Records prior to 1836 were placed in the Kent Archives at Maidstone, and that they went back to 1538.

In these, the earliest entry that probably relates to our family, is that of the marriage of one ROGER MYLLES and JOAN PYNSON on June 1st, 1561. Although there are a number of gaps, some of them lengthy ones, yet it seems fairly certain that this 1562 entry is the forerunner of our family; the MYLLES of 1562 becoming the MILLES of 1624 and finally the MILLS of 1726.

The following is a brief resume of a pamphlet relating to Hadlow and St. Mary's and their origins.

For over a thousand years there has been a Church on the present site in Hadlow. It was mentioned in 975 A.D. when it made a contribution to the Rochester Cathedral; and is also recorded in the Domesday Book of 1085 A.D.

Hadlow is a very ancient settlement of the Wealden Forest on the gravel banks of the Medway; and was probably first settled by Belgic invaders about 100 B.C.

The Romans, in turn, occupied it, for their coins and pottery have frequently been found. The Saxon Invasion of 449 A.D. caused much more of the surrounding upland region to be cleared and occupied, and DENS for the grazing of herds of swine were made. These 'dens' ultimately became villages and Manors.

With St. Augustine's introduction of Christianity in 597 A.D. many churches were built, mostly of wood which was freely available. Hadlow was probably one of these, and it stood until 1018.

In that year the DEN was granted to Eddera, the Queen of Edward the Confessor, and she probably had the Church rebuilt in stone, for the bottom half of the Tower is of that period. The Normans made additions to both the Tower and Nave.

In the 12th Century, the Lord of the Manor, Richard de Clare, probably rebuilt the Church before he granted it to the Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem in 1166.

From the Norman Conquest to the 18th Century, Hadlow had no resident Lord of the Manor. It had been held with Tonbridge Castle and the land was owned by numerous yeomen and husbandmen.



The centuries that followed saw the Church fall into considerable disrepair because the laymen had not the means to keep it in good order.

However, in the 19th Century, bit by bit, the necessary repairs were made.

Of the 12th Century Church, the Chancel Arch, South Wall, half of the Tower and the West Wall, now remain.

In 1936, when the Church Roof, as well as the Church, were restored, the Saxon Doorway was uncovered, and on each side of it, in the stone-work, are inscribed Crusaders' Crosses. The Hadlow Township of today is a thriving one of about three thousand people and is the centre of a hop growing district. It is closely linked with both the city of Tonbridge (23,000) and Tunbridge Wells (40,000 and famous for its Chalybeate Spring and Pantiles) each only a few miles away.

Since World War II, a fine Agricultural College to serve all Southern England, has been built at Hadlow. And now the surrounding farm land has been declared reserved for farming, free from city subdivision for all time, so that this great College will have access to the practical work on farms. Our early agricultural ancestors would surely have approved!

ADDENDUM II

Our Neighbours

Had I less years behind me, and more time at my disposal, I would include something of our neighbours at Millbrae, for, in the Country where distances are great, and the population scanty, the interrelations between neighbours is a very important part of living.

The exchange of help and advice in times of stress and emergency make for lasting and sound friendships, just as the reverse applies with clashes of interests and accepted behaviours. Fortunately few of these indiscretions occurred, although, flashing through the mind come memories of the shooting of "Kilauea", one of Father's favourite hacks; the unauthorized "borrowing" of rams at mating time, and their mysterious reappearance some months later; of petty thieving from fowl yards and storerooms; and even of straight-out sheep stealing and cattle rustling. One man living in a remote, well-watered gully in the Bremer Range had only four cows; but they regularly reared twenty calves each year!

That gully was locally known as Rustlers' Gully until recent years, since when it has falsely become Russell's Gully.

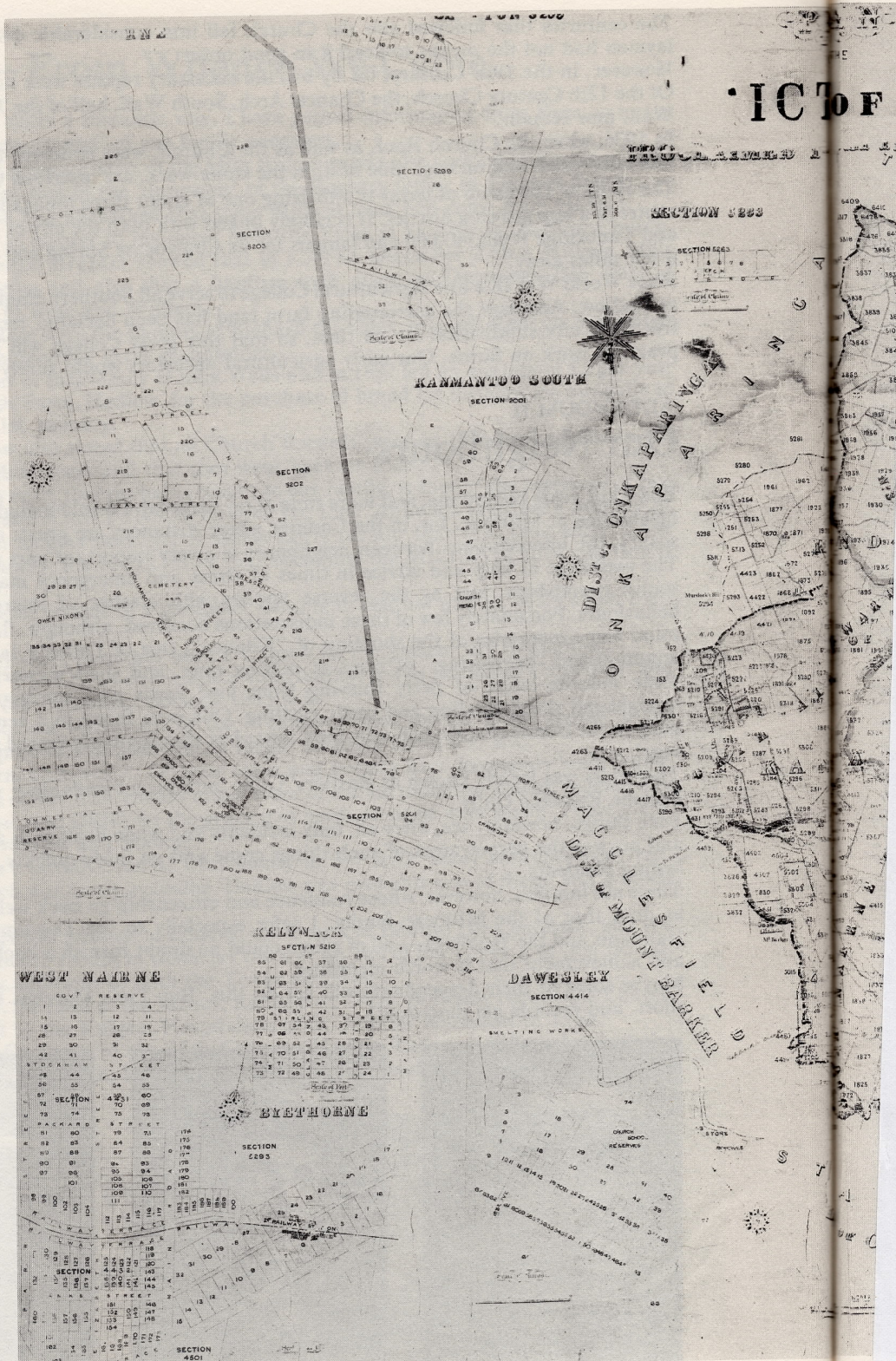
Such things, however, are, after all, only incidents and when dealt with are soon forgotten; and anyway the perpetrators of such things come and go fairly quickly, seldom becoming lasting residents.

There are families, however, whose residence and citizenship go back well over the century, as does that of the Millbrae family. I refer especially to the Downings, the Hays, the Hannams and the Woolleys — all of whom could no doubt furnish a background of history and achievement that is worth recording.

Maybe some of their descendants will yet do this. But Time Marches On, memories are short, and records get destroyed!



War Heroes — Jack, Alec and Thomas Bruce Mills — 1914-1918.



First map of Nairne District Council 1853.

The MILLS FAMILY TREE.

(Original information in MAIDSTONE ARCHIVES.)

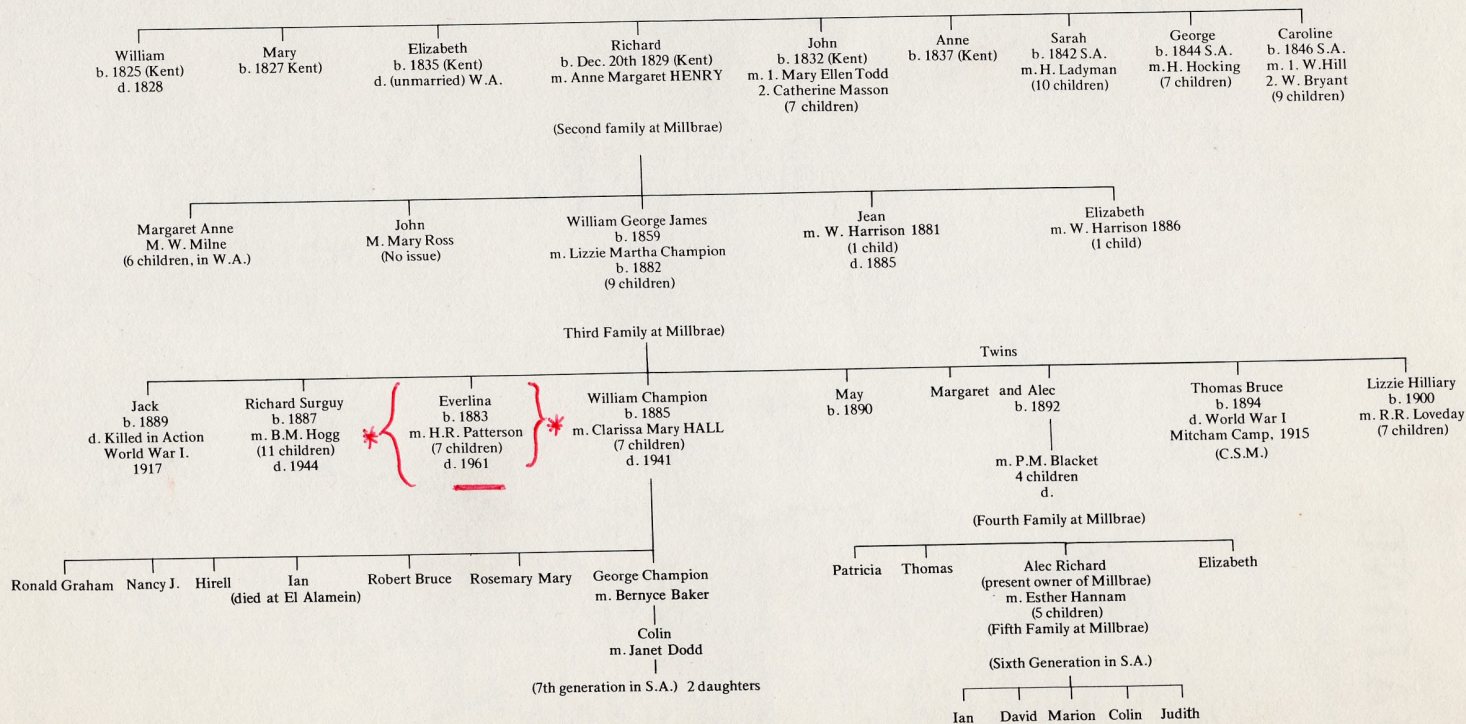
(Probable) 1561 **ROGER MYLLES m. JOAN PINSON**

(Certain) Dec. 1799 **William MILLS m. Rose WELLS.**

Richard MILLS m. Sarah LINCOLN (First Family at Millbrae)

b. 1801 m. 1822

arrived S.A. by the ROYAL ADMIRAL, Jan. 18th, 1838.



The CHAMPION FAMILY TREE

Richard CHAMPION & ANNE CHAMPION

b. 1737

d. March 17th, 1827 (90 yrs.)

b. 1739

d. 10th Dec. 1827 (88 yrs.)

Both interred in MYLOR CHURCH, CORNWALL

and were GRANDPARENTS of

Thomas CHAMPION & Ann Frood COCKING

m. 2nd Jan. 1797 in ILLOGEN CHURCH, (and later buried there).

